

The **S**abbath
*News for and about
Seventh Day Baptists* **R**ecorder April 1998



**Dig
right
in!!**

**How you can
get involved
with your**

SDB Boards and Agencies



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

You're Invited!

To celebrate the 35th anniversary of the ordination of

Pastor Joe A. Samuels

on Sabbath, April 18, 1998
Dinner: 2:00 p.m., & Program
at the Plainfield SDB Church
Plainfield, NJ
(908) 753-1312

Historical Society Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Seventh Day Baptist Historical Society will be held at the SDB Center in Janesville, Wis., on Sunday, May 3, 1998, at 2:00 p.m., in connection with the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors.

The Society serves the denomination in the collection, preservation, and communication of SDB history. As a membership corporation, its work is financed by membership dues, endowments, contributions, and the sale of its books.

Any member of a Seventh Day Baptist church may become a Contributing Member for a \$10 annual fee, or a Life Member for \$100, payable to the Historical Society at the SDB Center, PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547.

Important addresses for the Women's Society:

- Robe of Achievement applications:
Elizabeth Bidwell, Chair
Box 136
Shiloh, NJ 08353
- Monthly newsletter:
Patricia Cruzan
39 Manners Road
Ringoes, NJ 08651-1717
- Tuition applications; SCSC or other donations:
Marie Davis, Treasurer
38 Cook Road
Bridgeton, NJ 08302
- Info on SCSC:
Charlotte Chroniger
Box 145
Shiloh, NJ 08353
- General information or to host the next Board in 2000:
Ruth Probasco, President
858 Barrett Run Road
Bridgeton, NJ 08302

Our Kirkwood, MO church has moved

Visiting the St. Louis area?
Join us for worship in our new church home.
From I-270, turn east on Page Blvd. After crossing Lindberg Blvd. (hwy 67) it's about two blocks on the right side of the street.

We meet at the:
Salvation Army Center
10740 W. Page Blvd
St. Louis, MO

Sabbath School 2:00 p.m.
Worship 3:00 p.m.
Come see us soon!

The Sabbath Recorder

Establ. 1844

April 1998
Volume 220, No. 4
Whole No. 6,828



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

Dig right in!

A special issue showing how you can get involved with your SDB Boards and Agencies

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Service is our ministry

The General Services office is unique among our denominational agencies, in that we are purely a service agency. We provide services to other boards and agencies, and to churches and individuals.

General Services works closely with all of the other boards and

Center. In preparation, hosting arrangements are made in cooperation with members of the Milton and Albion, Wis., churches.

When requested, the Center assists in obtaining the best air fares and flight times for General Council members. It's not always

Although we do a lot of "business," we believe we're involved in a ministry—one which is vital to the denomination.

agencies, helping them carry out their specific ministries. Our service to individuals is in the area of subscriptions and processing orders for tracts, videos, etc. Actually, General Services helps to link all of our ministries together.

The question has been asked, "What in the world do those people in Janesville do?" We're happy to answer that.

The responsibilities of our Janesville staff include arranging housing and travel for various board meetings; mailings; maintaining a master address list; editing and printing *Lead-Line*; processing subscriptions; providing secretarial services; accounting; receiving and distributing the denominational budget; maintaining correspondence files; computer services; assisting Host Committees; communication with ecumenical groups; and maintaining the Center building.

As you look at the various services performed here, you will also get a glimpse of your workers who serve so selflessly.

Hosting and travel

Many meetings are held at the

easy to mesh travel and housing arrangements.

Mail services

In the mail room, Rosie Geske can be found literally buried in mounds of mass mailings, all of which had to go out "yesterday." Rosie processes bulk mailings for *The Helping Hand*, *Lead-Line*, *The Sabbath Visitor*, every member mailings, and *The Sabbath Recorder*. In addition, she receives orders for tracts and videos, and processes them for shipment.

There are volumes of regulations which the postal service expects us to follow, and Rosie knows them all!

Master mailing list

In order to better serve Seventh Day Baptists, we have a master address list which contains the names and addresses of all Seventh Day Baptists, including their church membership. As part of her job as financial secretary, Jan Ehlers maintains mailing and subscription lists. She also maintains the master files from which we run labels for *The Sabbath Recorder*,

The Sabbath Visitor, every member mailings, and other print jobs.

Lead-Line

Lead-Line is a four-page monthly newsletter intended to inform our church leaders about denominational activities and programs. It also distributes information for the Women's Society and Missionary Society on a routine basis via inserts.

Leanne Lippincott, who edits the publication, is always interested in receiving news which would be of interest to other SDBs. This is also one of the tools we use to communicate how the Denominational Budget is doing as the year progresses.

Secretarial services

As you might assume, there is a great need for secretarial services for our executives. Rosie Geske, Meleta Babcock, and Jan Ehlers



Rosie Geske keeps all the mail moving out of the busy mail room.

perform those important tasks. The Memorial Fund has the greatest need, and Jan and Meleta provide this service. There are numerous letters and minutes to type, checks to mail, and reports to file. Rosie handles all the mail for the executives.

Accounting and computer services

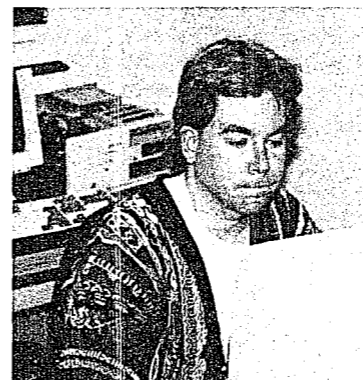
Jeremy Howard maintains the computer system, inputs the accounts payable and receivables, and runs the monthly and year-end financial statements for all the Center agencies. It is a massive task, which Jeremy is more than capable of handling.

The payroll for Center employees and COSAR retirees is also run on the central system.

The Denominational Budget figures are entered monthly by Jan, and distribution of the income is made to the agencies for their use. This is the money which comes from churches and individuals in support of the budget adopted at General Conference.

Correspondence and communication

The need for communication is great, and it is our aim at the



Jeremy Howard hard at work in the accounting department.



Calvin Babcock (seated) never lacks for advice. Suggestions come from (l. to r.) Meleta Babcock, Jan Ehlers, and Leanne Lippincott.

Center to communicate the needs, blessings, hardships, and services of the denomination. A great deal of correspondence with churches, ecumenical organizations, agencies, and individuals is handled with expediency by the staff. It is important to us that we keep in touch with you.

Currently, we receive a considerable amount of e-mail (mail electronically generated and transmitted via computers) from all over the world. We are also on the World Wide Web. Those two "addresses" are:

E-Mail—
sdbgen@inwave.com

SDB Web site—
www.seventhdaybaptist.org

Host Committee

Each year, a Conference Host Committee is secured through the cooperative efforts of the hosting Association and the General Services Administrator. Let's face it. It's when we come together in July or August that we feel part of a larger family. At Conference, we see that Seventh Day Baptists can make a difference.

Center building

The Lord has provided us with a beautiful building in which to carry out our work for all of you. The Center staff sees that the building is cared for, while Calvin Babcock oversees its maintenance.

All of our services are held together by Calvin, who is the General Services Administrator. It is his responsibility to see that we have the necessary resources to perform our individual tasks, and that those tasks are done well and on time. He is an encourager of the gifts we each possess, and he helps us put them to use.

As a family, the Center staff enjoys working together, with the Lord as our guide. Each week, during Wednesday morning chapel, we take a few minutes out of our busy schedules to pray for the specific needs of our churches. We also share our own joys and burdens, and pray for others in need.

Although we do a lot of "business," we believe we're involved in a *ministry*—one which is vital to the denomination. We invite you to pray for the work which is carried on here. And come visit us if you happen to be in the area!



To go and make disciples

by Kirk Looper

As Executive Director of the Missionary Society, I am kept humble by the abundance of work that is being done by so many leaders, both national and international, to keep our message alive and moving. I marvel at the time the field workers and Conference leaders put in to make sure the projects and visits are successful.

National

The continued success of the national field is accomplished by our field workers, Russ Johnson and Ron Elston, who put in long days and travel many miles. The techniques used vary greatly, depending upon the project location and the group involved.

The type of project often dictates specific boundaries. We tend to separate the projects into three types: church planting, church development and growth, and church evangelism outreach.

• Church planting is actually going to a location to start a

church. This may be done by a field worker or someone designated by the Missionary Society. Developing the project would include locating the proper place for the church to begin, moving into the area to better study the location, publicizing the group, training a local leader, and helping to complete the proper registration forms for the state as well as recognition by the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference. At present, we have one of these projects in Rome, N.Y.

• Church development and growth means that the field worker is to assist a group that is interested in starting a church in their location. After clear evidence of interest through prayer, correspondence, and telephone calls, the field worker visits the group and helps them develop their project. Notice that we said *their* project. The people involved in the group own the project; the field worker is only there as an advisor.

We do have a Field Development Team available to lend support during the project. The team donates their time and legwork during the final phases of advertisement and with the initial meeting. With this type of project, the field worker is expected to spend a limited amount of time on site since the group, and the sponsoring church, is expected to do most of the work.

• Church evangelism outreach projects have to do

with the small church or group wishing to grow. They feel that the surrounding area is populated sufficiently to supply new members to their church.



In this type of project, the field worker visits the group or church and discusses different ways in which the work could be developed. They will also share strategies which may determine if they can have a successful growth program, and what it will cost them in finances as well as in labor. Evangelistic services have been very successful in some areas and not so successful in others.

Whether you are working to start or develop a church in an area, a project may be a possibility. Interested groups and churches need to contact the Missionary Society (address back cover). A field worker will be notified to contact you and look into the possibilities.

International

On the international scene, our work includes ministries in many countries and in many ways. We may be involved in helping to start churches, or helping to support projects in fairly new or established countries.

In each case, the amount of our support depends upon the response



Rev. Mukumbo and Evelyn, his wife, stand at one of the six wells drilled by the SDB Conference of Zambia.



These Zambian Christians earned the right to wear special uniforms of service.

of the people in established Seventh Day Baptist Conferences. So, when we say "the Missionary Society" is supporting projects or countries, we are speaking of the Conference members in many countries.

The Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society does not have funds just sitting around waiting for someone to support. Most of the fund is set up for specific purposes. Some monies have been given as a support element for the Society and only the income can be used. These funds carry about two-thirds of our annual budget. The rest of the budgetary funds come from donations, membership fees, and Memorial Board contributions.

Except for the budgetary items, we act as a flow-through organization. This allows more of the donated funds to go to sister Conferences and churches. It means that each of you who donate will not need to spend the money on wire transfers and checks to go overseas. We can collect the funds and send one transaction and better ensure its arrival.

The projects that we support

may seem like simple projects in our way of thinking. But when we view them through the eyes of those in other countries, they are huge.

Because of increasing inflation in many of the countries, and lack of available food and clothing in others, our support helps many of our brothers and sisters to enjoy better living conditions. Even when

we send seeds for their gardens, we are contributing much; boxes of clothing help considerably.

In the agricultural project in Zambia, they need seed, fertilizer, tools, and a vehicle in which to carry the produce to market. We

In several Conferences, we help with the care of orphans and widows. Members send enough funds each year to help support a couple of pastor's widows and families. At least one person sends in funds to help retired pastors. Gifts have helped to construct orphanages in several countries.

Projects dealing with the physical health within our sister Conferences and churches are popular. Pharmacies (clinics) in Rwanda and India, medicines in the Cameroon, and clinics and medicines in Malawi are some of the most evident. We continue to look for funds to help support the hospitals and clinics in Malawi, Rwanda, India (both Conferences), and the Cameroon.

Invitation

We invite everyone who is interested in the success of our work

**We may be involved
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countries.**

have been sending seed and some money for fertilizer and tools, but the funds necessary for a vehicle have not appeared.

This vehicle will also be used by the coordinator when he travels the hundreds of miles to teach, guide, and encourage the churches in Zambia and, to some degree, in the Congo. It will also be used to transport people to their annual Conference.

throughout the world to contact the Missionary Society. So many projects are trying to be done.

We praise God for those willing to sacrifice to see that some of that work is accomplished. We also praise God for the work that He is going to see completed through the prayer and support that is given in His Kingdom. *SP*



Upholding pastors and churches

Eddie Henry, in his younger years, summarized the work of his father, Rodney Henry, Director of Pastoral Services and Dean of the School of Ministry: "You have a great job. All you do is talk to your friends on the telephone and play with your computer."

There is a good deal of truth in Eddie's evaluation of my job. I am friends with most of the people I work with on the telephone. Also, I do enjoy all of the writing of lessons and materials that I accomplish on the computer. The telephone and the computer (with e-mail) are vital links to those with whom I minister.

On a typical Monday morning, I might receive a call from an anxious pastor who had a very difficult meeting with his diaconate. A seminary student, nervous about graduating and finding a pastorate, calls to unload. The chairman of a pastoral search committee calls, requesting ministry profiles on six pastors. This a T.I.M.E. student, behind in his work, calls to give reasons and promises.

As Director of Pastoral Services, I carry out my responsibilities under the guidance and direction of the Council on Ministry (COM). Chairman Edgar Wheeler provides us with stability, leadership, and wisdom.

Other Council members include Gordon Lawton, Lorna Graffius, Norman Burdick, Bernie Wethington, and Luan Ellis. These members are serving you to *promote, educate, and sustain* the ordained ministers of the Seventh Day Baptist Conference.

The Council on Ministry provides unique programs to train and encourage Seventh Day Baptist pastoral leadership.

Seminary Education Program

The Seminary Education Program exists to provide trained pastoral leadership, missionaries, and church planters for the SDB General Conference by helping students obtain a Master of Divinity degree. We assist students finan-

The telephone and the computer with e-mail are vital links to those with whom I minister.

cially with tuition support and a small support stipend. We also provide close ties to a local Seventh Day Baptist church and pastor.

COM financial support for seminary students is unparalleled when compared to other denominations. Seminary deans are thoroughly impressed with the quality of our Seminary Education Program.

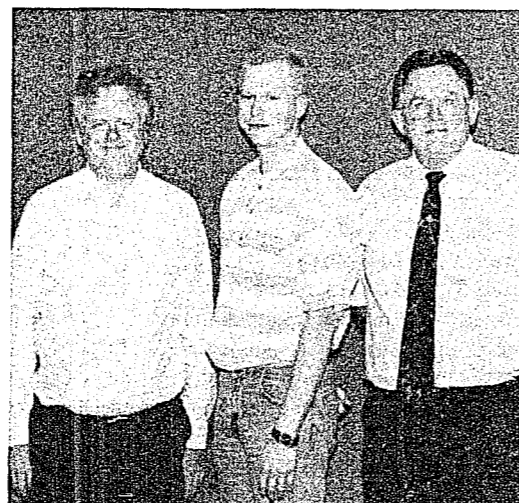
Nello Carmichael is over halfway through his program at Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. He is working with Pastor Wethington and the White Cloud SDB Church. Scott Smith has moved to Nortonville, Kan., where he will work with the church and commute to his new job in Kansas City. He is starting a new Master of Divinity

program at Bethel Seminary in St. Paul, Minn., which will allow him to work by computer. Matt Berg is planning to begin his theological studies in the fall of 1998. These three theological students will impact the Council on Ministry budget for a few years.

Training in Ministry by Extension (T.I.M.E.)

The T.I.M.E. program provides theological and ministry training for pastors and church planters (and their spouses) who are not able to attend seminary. This training is taken to the students, with a minimum amount of disruption to their lives and ministries. Twelve training modules are spread out over the four years required to complete the program. Each module consists of six weeks of home study, a weekend seminar, and two weeks of in-church implementation.

Our T.I.M.E. program was developed by Seventh Day Baptists, for Seventh Day Baptists. This model of training pastors is being used in several Conferences around the world.



Hard-working Summer Institute students Bill Burks and Nello Carmichael (l. to r.) pose with instructor Rodney Henry.

Sergei Bogolepov of Novosibersk, Russia, completed the T.I.M.E. program and is now working to plant a church there with assistance from the Memorial Board and the Missionary Society.

In the United States we have three students in the T.I.M.E. program. Chris Mattison from the Saleville, Pa., church is almost finished. L.B. Lee Jr. is starting a new church in Colorado Springs, Colo. Bill Burks is the assistant pastor of the Little Rock, Ark., SDB Church.

Summer Institute

Since our seminary students attend schools of various traditions, we have specialized courses to teach Seventh Day Baptist distinctives. Summer Institute is a three-week course which alternates each year between teaching Sabbath Theology, and SDB History and Polity.

Those in the Seminary Education Program are required to attend these Summer Institutes. The course is taught at a graduate school level, and seminary credit is given to the students. Summer Institute is also a requirement for those seeking accreditation as a Seventh Day Baptist pastor.

In-service education

The Council on Ministry seeks to renew and enrich a pastor's professional training through continuing education opportunities. To do this, financial assistance is available for pastors to attend seminars or workshops that will enhance pastoral skills or knowledge.

Pastoral search

The Director of Pastoral Services assists those churches seeking pastors, and helps pastors who are seeking churches. Pastoral Search

Guidelines, as well as a great deal of support materials, have been developed to assist churches in the pastoral search process.

Ordination, accreditation

The Council on Ministry is responsible to assist pastors and churches in matters related to ordination and accreditation. The Council sends a representative to ordinations for observation and assistance. When accreditation requirements are met, the Director of Pastoral Services should be contacted for an application.

Mentors for new pastors

New pastors need the consultation of a more experienced pastor. The more experienced shepherd can help the new pastor adjust to new challenges as they arise.

Pastors' expenses to Conference

The SDB Memorial Fund is sponsoring a new program which provides financial assistance to enable pastors and spouses to attend Conference. The guidelines for this program are available from the Director of Pastoral Services.

New worker orientation

The purpose of New Worker Orientation is to provide an introduction into Seventh Day Baptist life and ministry for extension workers in church planting situations. There are several students in various stages of work.

Pastors' Conference

The Council on Ministry facilitates a biennial Pastors' Conference. This is a continuing education event which also provides worship and fellowship to rejuvenate Seventh Day Baptist pastors. On

We need your help

- 1) Pray for and encourage your pastor.
- 2) Assist your pastor in attending continuing education opportunities.
- 3) Pray for our ministry students in all of our training programs.
- 4) Contribute to the denominational budget or designate your gifts to a specific Council on Ministry program.
- 5) Pray for Rodney Henry, Director of Pastoral Services and Dean of the School of Ministry.

May 18 to 20, we will be hosting a Roundtable of Theological Discussion for Seventh Day Baptist pastors. This will be three days of presenting and discussing theological papers.

It is a pleasure being the executive for both the Council on Ministry, and the Committee on Support and Retirement ("COSAR"). We have a broad array of programs designed to serve the needs of Seventh Day Baptist pastors.

The Council on Ministry is pleased to fulfill its part of the overall ministry of Seventh Day Baptists. For more information on our ministries, please contact the Director of Pastoral Services. *SR*



To publish glad tidings

"Do you have any information about Seventh Day Baptists and what they believe?"

"I'd like to hear more about this Saturday Sabbath stuff. Could you send me some material?"

"Our church wants to run an ad in our local newspaper. Any ideas?"

"My mother is losing her eyesight. Do you have the *Sabbath Recorder* on tape?"

Yes. Yes. Yes. And, yes.

We get plenty of these requests. And we can say "yes" to even more.

Our Communication Council is geared to serve all Seventh Day Baptists in their desire to promote the cause of Christ, His Church, and His Sabbath. We're happy to share with you the many ways we do that, and how you may get involved.

Our Purpose

The purpose of the American Sabbath Tract and Communication Council, a service arm of the SDB General Conference and its related agencies, is to:

1. Provide informational and educational materials to help local churches in their tasks of worship, education, fellowship, and missions.
2. Produce materials that represent Seventh Day Baptist life and thought to the public.
3. Promote communication among Seventh Day Baptists.

To accomplish this, the Council:

- Publishes *The Sabbath Recorder* magazine
- Produces tracts and other publications
- Provides audio-visual resources
- Promotes Sabbath-related materials

History

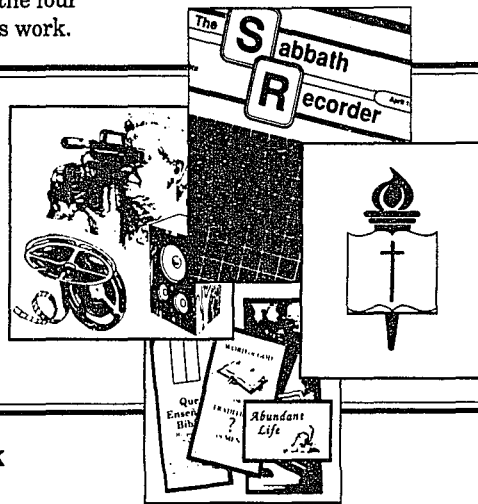
Following a rich heritage as an independent agency, the American Sabbath Tract Society merged with the General Conference to become a Council in 1986. At that time, the Society's 30-member board was trimmed to 10 Council members. Six are elected by Conference delegates, while the other four members chair the standing committees. These committees oversee the four major areas of the Council's work.

service at the Center, heading up all the paste-up, color-cutting, and camera work.

Circulation of the *Recorder* reaches most of the 50 states and Canada, and travels to over 40 countries worldwide. Annual donations toward this ministry cover about half of the costs; the remainder is subsidized by the Council.

When time and money permits,

We desire to communicate clearly the Seventh Day Baptist message.



Committees and Work

—Sabbath Recorder

The largest undertaking of the Tract and Communication Council (TCC) is the monthly publication of *The Sabbath Recorder*. Through this outreach—one of America's oldest continuing religious periodicals—the Council desires to inspire and inform SDB members and friends around the world.

Sabbath Recorder Committee members consult with and give advice to the editor, and are responsible for official statements of editorial policy. David and Doreen Davis of Seattle, Wash., co-chair this committee, made up of members from our Pacific Northwest churches.

Director of Communications Kevin Butler devotes about two-thirds of his time as *Recorder* editor. Assistant Editor Leanne Lippincott is in her 16th year of

Editor Butler travels to churches across the country, informing members about the work, but more importantly, to get the "pulse" of the readers. We need your input to ensure that our work is serving you.

Please let us know how our monthly themes have affected you. Or, if you have suggestions for future topics. Remember to send us your local church news, and, please, keep us informed of any address changes.

—Electronic Media

With today's constant change in electronic media, this committee is undergoing some reconstruction.

We are in the process of upgrading our computer equipment to aid in our print production. But we also

want to build our own Web site and have a separate e-mail address to correspond with our readers and customers.

The former AudioVisual Committee spent many hours transferring missionary slide programs onto video. These programs are still available to show at your church.

A video introduction to SDBs, "Called Together," was a major project of this committee. Copies are only \$5—order yours today.

Because most of our churches have access to a Christian bookstore, we are slowly getting out of the "business" of stocking and loaning Christian videos. We plan to retain the most popular programs, yet even these may be phased out over time. You may receive a tape on loan just by asking; your only cost is mailing the tape back to us (library rate—cheap!).

—Publications

Members of this committee, now based in Columbus, Ohio, work on the production and distribution of tracts and other literature, and recommend new material for publication. Dean Fox chairs the committee.

Thanks to a generous grant from



Assistant Editor Leanne Lippincott.

the Memorial Fund trustees, we have updated many of our tracts with glossy, colorful reprints. Written and designed by and for SDBs, these tracts concentrate on the Bible message and the good news of God's Sabbath.

Committees oversee the four major areas of the Council's work.

The Center moved to Janesville in 1982, so if your material still has the "Plainfield, N.J." address, it might be time to update the tract rack. You are welcome to send for free samples of our newest pieces.

—Sabbath Promotion

This committee, headed by Rev. Larry Graffius of the Marlboro church in Bridgeton, N.J., promotes the observance of the Bible Sabbath and assists our people in its promotion.

Each year, the Sabbath Promotion Committee organizes Sabbath Emphasis Day (this year renamed "Sabbath Renewal Day"). All of our church groups receive special bulletin covers and a packet of materials geared toward the year's Sabbath theme. Included is a sermon, children's message, responsive reading, and the Conference President's Sabbath testimony.

Chairman Graffius has also spent many hours writing a new book on the practical aspects of Sabbathkeeping. The 200-plus page book, *True to the Sabbath, True to Our God*, is slated for printing this summer. It will sell for \$9.95, with proceeds to be split between the

current budget and future printing projects.

We also sell merchandise which features our SDB logo and name. From colorful lapel pins and tie clasps, to coffee mugs and decals, we can provide you a way to get your church noticed.

The Whole Council

Our Council members represent us in the local church and Association, sharing our purpose, goals, and strategies with others. Members remain alert to SDB communication issues that should be addressed by the TCC.

Faithful elected members include Joel Osborn (chairman), Phil Burrows (secretary), Cheri Appel, Andy Samuels, Jim Skaggs, and Jeanne Yurke.

We are all involved in the goal setting, long-range planning, policy making, and evaluation of our work in relation to its purpose.

The TCC also coordinates the printing end of nearly all of the materials published by SDB organizations. This includes *Lead-Line*, *The Helping Hand*, *The Sabbath Visitor*, Yearbook and annual reports, Conference programs, letterheads, and more. Using desktop publishing programs on a Macintosh computer, we provide camera-ready copy to local print shops, and can run many in-house items on the General Services' Risograph copier.

We stand ready to help you with your local communication needs. Please let us know how we can serve you. You can help us by sharing your suggestions, needs, and feedback.

The Council desires to communicate clearly the Seventh Day Baptist message. We can do that, with your help. **SR**



These women not bored

Through God's leading, members of your SDB Women's Society Board of Directors are seeking to minister to the women of our churches, our families, and our communities. No one person can do the job by herself. It takes all of us doing our part for ministry and service.

We appreciate Board President Ruth Probasco, who uses her administrative skills for the Lord.

The Women's Board, located in New Jersey, oversees a number of special projects and ministries. We want to make sure that all of our Seventh Day Baptist women are informed about the opportunities available to them, and the possibilities for them to reach out to others.

Tuition Fund

Marie Davis, Women's Board treasurer, is chairman of the *Tuition Fund* Committee. The fund provides financial help (up to \$75 per applicant) for pastors' wives who wish to attend a spiritual retreat, Bible seminar, etc. The budget allows for up to four women to benefit each year, once their applications have been approved. Tuition applications are available from Marie (address inside front cover).

Robe of Achievement

Every year at Conference, the Women's Board presents the *Robe of Achievement*. This award goes to a Seventh Day Baptist woman who has faithfully served her Lord, her church, and the denomination in an outstanding way.

Since 1964, 44 women have been recognized for exemplary service. A Seventh Day Baptist church or individual may nominate a woman for this honor. The Robe of Achievement Committee evaluates the nominations and makes the final

decision. Nomination forms are available from Elizabeth Bidwell, chairman (address in front).

Conference

The Women's Board provides money to fund the *Conference Nursery* and arranges for the *Women's Banquet* at Conference. The Board also distributes the monies designated for the *Love Gift*.

Those women who attend the Women's Interest Committee at Conference choose people or ministries who will receive a gift of money to encourage their ministry or to give them additional money for medical bills, etc.

Also at Conference, the Women's Board sponsors a *Craft Sale*. Friends from our churches bring crafts to sell, with the proceeds going to Summer Christian Service Corps.

"SDB Woman"

A monthly newsletter, "SDB Woman," is professionally edited and produced by Pat Cruzan. It's distributed from the SDB Center in Janesville, Wis., as an insert in *Lead-Line*, the denomination's newsletter.

Our intent is that the women's keyworker or pastor in each church will make copies and distribute them to the women in the congregation. Church news and other contributions are welcomed by Pat (address in front). We also sponsor a one-page article in *The Sabbath Recorder*. News for this page can be sent to Donna Bond, editor (address in front).

Zambia

In recent years, the women of our society have shared their abundance with our SDB sisters in Zambia, Africa. Countless pounds of sewing supplies are sent directly to them for their vocational training.

In 1997, women throughout the denomination were asked to donate the cost of one spring outfit so SDB women in Zambia could have distinctive uniforms. This project was overwhelmingly successful—over \$1,200 was collected. We later sent them a used treadle machine on a matching funds basis with the Missionary Society.

Summer Christian Service Corps

The biggest project the Women's



Board is responsible for is Summer Christian Service Corps.

SCSC began in 1964 when four young people from Milton, Wis., traveled to Metairie and New Orleans, La., to do door-to-door evangelism and lead Bible studies. Since then, 343 young men and women have served our churches and denomination through this summer ministry program.

The SCSC Committee, chaired by Charlotte Chroniger, evaluates applications from college-aged volunteers and from host churches. The committee chooses a training site and training coordinator, who then chooses his or her own staff.

Young people selected for SCSC have intensive training through Bible studies, role playing, music and craft classes, and interpersonal exchanges. This helps prepare them to continue training in their host churches as they teach Sabbath School and/or Bible School; lead music, crafts, or worship; serve on a camp staff; and enjoy other activities as requested by the church.

SCSC team members do not receive any salary; however, a scholarship is available from the SDB Memorial Fund Trustees for team

members who successfully complete the initial training program and 200 hours of hands-on training with the host church. (Scholarship applications are available along with SCSC applications.)

The host church provides them with food and housing for the duration of the project, which lasts four to five weeks.

The Women's Board, through the contributions of our local women's groups and through individuals, funds the SCSC program.

The largest expense for the program is travel—flying the young people from their homes to the training site, and from the training site to the project site. Training materials, food for training, and insurance are also paid for by the Women's Board.

a fund-raiser designated for SCSC? Contributions can be sent to Marie Davis (address in front).

The investment you make in the life of a young person will be multiplied as another servant for the Lord is trained through this special summer ministry.

Facing the new millennium

Finally, the Women's Board is looking for a new home. Founded in 1884, the Women's Board has "moved" every 10 years since 1950. Board locations have included Michigan, Southern Wisconsin, Colorado, Southern California, and New Jersey.

Please consider, prayerfully and carefully, whether women from your church or Association could serve the Lord in this way

**Through God's leading,
we are seeking to minister to the
women of our churches, our
families, and our communities.**

In 1997, the SCSC Committee asked each applicant to raise \$200 of his/her own support. A total of 21 young people raised \$4,000, bringing SCSC "out of the red" for the first time in several years. We plan to continue this practice in 1998, to ensure the future of the program, to broaden the base of our contributors ("new money"), and to give "ownership" to the young leaders involved.

The cost of placing one SCSC volunteer on the field is over \$1,000, so we continue to need additional funds. Could you commit to giving a little each month for SCSC? Could your church or your local women's society hold

for 10 years, beginning in 2000. For further information, contact Ruth Probasco at (609) 451-6844 (address in front).

As you can see, the Lord has given us wonderful opportunities to serve Him and His people. We can, as Seventh Day Baptist women, make a difference for the Lord in people's lives.

Members of the Women's Board are so thankful for all of your contributions—monies given, prayers offered, love and encouragement administered. We are also grateful that you've given us the opportunity to serve you. May the Lord bless our efforts for Him. **SR**



Past Robe recipients: Madeline Fitz Randolph, Mabel Cruzan, Audrey Fuller, Yvonne Stephan (committee member), Doris Fetherston, Mae Bottoms, and Betty Pearson.

Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education, Inc.

DIRECTORS

Children

- Children Conference
- Pre-School
 - Kindergarten-1st
 - Primary 2-3
 - Junior 4-6
 - Music
 - Recreation

The Sabbath Visitor

NURTURE SERIES

The Sabbath

- Pre-School
- Primary
- Junior

Missions & Ministry

- Pre-School (dev.)
- Primary
- Junior

Youth

- Youth Conferences
- Junior High (grades 7-9)
 - Senior High (grades 9-12)

SDBYF USA & Canada

- Conference Activities
- *The Beacon*

Pre-Conference Retreats

- Youth (ages 15-18)
- Young Adult (ages 18-29)

YF Leadership Resources

- Youth
- Advisors

Camping

- Resources
- Workshop

NURTURE SERIES

The Sabbath

- Junior High
- Senior High

Missions & Ministry

- Junior High
- Senior High (dev.)

Stained Glass

Sabbath School

CALLED

Church Administered Lay
Leadership Education

NET RETREATS

Natural Evangelism Training

Scripture Memorization

Sabbath School Teacher
Crystal Apple Award

Rex Zwiebel Lecture

PUBLICATIONS:

The Helping Hand
Seventh Day Baptist Heritage
Baptism
The Teaching Leader

WORKSHOPS:

TLC: Teaching Learning Community
Planning Christian Education
Sabbath School:
• Growth
• Superintendent
• Teacher Lesson Preparation
Diaconate

Executive

- Coordination & Supervision
- Committees
 - Executive Director
 - Personnel

Young Adult

Conference Activities
Resources

Facilities & Finance

Budget
Investments
Facilities
Fund Raising



A history worth recording... and reporting

"A people who have not the pride to record their history will not long have the virtues to make history worth recording; and no people who are indifferent to their past need hope to make their future great."

—Source unknown

For nearly three and a half centuries, Seventh Day Baptists have been recording their history of a covenant people based upon the concept of regenerate membership, believer's baptism, congregational polity, and the scriptural basis for belief and practice.

They have presented the Sabbath as a sign of obedience to God's commandment, reaffirmed in the teachings and example of Jesus and the New Testament Church. In addition, the Sabbath has been an important ingredient in the covenant relationship of a people who have survived great odds because they have not been indifferent to their past and continually search its relevance for the future.

The Historical Society is heir to generations of records and other reminders of the past. It continues to add to this store of information so that it may be used effectively to communicate the past and give insight for the present and the future. The Historical Society's Mission Statement adopted in 1989 highlights four principal areas of service:

- maintaining a repository for safekeeping and easy access to significant documents relative to the Sabbath and Sabbathkeeping Baptists;
- continuing research into the roots and history of Seventh Day Baptists;
- interpreting the significance of the past for both present and future;
- communicating this through

such means and resources as books, articles, pamphlets, and other print media, answering requests from other agencies, churches, or individuals, and representation in denominational and interdenominational meetings and publications.

Repository maintenance

General Conference has designated the Historical Society as its official keeper of the archives, and encouraged its related agencies and member churches to place significant records with the Society for safekeeping and easy access.

Ownership of the records can still remain with individual churches, but for purposes of research, there is great advantage in having the records of churches and significant families in one location. The history of each church is also the history of the denomination and its families.

In addition to these records on file, a number of the more significant records have been microfilmed with the originals stored in acid-free archival containers.

When General Conference moved its offices from Plainfield, N.J.,

to Janesville, Wis., in 1982, most items in the valuable Sachse collection—including primary records from the Ephrata Cloisters—were placed on loan with the Pennsylvania Historical Society, where it would be more accessible to researchers. This material has been microfilmed with proper notation of ownership by the Historical Society.

Other significant documents have been microfilmed and made available by the archives of the Southern Baptists at Nashville, Tenn.

Research

Although the archives are maintained primarily for Seventh Day Baptist history and understanding, they serve a much broader clientele.

In 1996, Harry Langworthy's book, *Africa for the African, The Life of Joseph Booth*, was published posthumously.

In his acknowledgment, Langworthy stated that, "The institution from which I received the most material and the most positive cooperation is the Seventh Day Baptist

but does receive facilities and services in exchange for work rendered on behalf of all Seventh Day Baptists.

The Historical Society is governed by a five-member Board of Directors elected at the Society's annual meeting. The current Board is composed of S. Kenneth Davis, president; John Bevis, first vice-president; Norma Rudert, second vice-president; Ruth Burdick, recording secretary; and Thomas Merchant, treasurer. The staff: Don A. Sanford, historian; and Lillie Pizza, library assistant.

The SDB Historical Society is a membership corporation which had its origin as the "Committee on Denominational History," established by the 1863 General Conference and incorporated as an independent society in 1916. Membership is available to any member of an SDB church recognized by General Conference, upon payment of \$10 annual dues, or a life membership fee of \$100.

The Society is supported largely by endowment giving of the past. It receives only designated giving from the Denominational Budget,

Historical Society. This study would have been impossible without their contribution."

The extensive collection of Sabbath material has been researched by Sabbathkeepers from other denominational connections. A Seventh-day Adventist student from Japan spent considerable time at the Center researching his thesis on *Ellen G. White's Views of the Sabbath in the Historical, Religious and Social Context of Nineteenth-Century America*.

Another doctoral candidate from Andrews University relied heavily upon our resources for his thesis, *A Comparison of the Sabbath Theology of A.H. Lewis and J.N. Andrews*. The Seventh Day Baptist historian participated in the five-member panel to review and vote on its acceptance.

A number of college and high school students have requested research help for assignments in religious or historical papers. Several religious courses in colleges require students to write about some denomination other than their own. Baptist students are particularly drawn to research Seventh Day Baptists.

The Society would encourage more Seventh Day Baptist students to supplement their secular history

by studying the faith of their own ancestors which had an influence upon local and national history.

Much research has also been done for local churches celebrating significant anniversaries, as well as for other agencies and committees of the denomination. Genealogical research continues to occupy much of the attention of the Historical Society. The Seventh Day Baptist home page, along with several local church pages on the Web site, and the ready availability of e-mail correspondence, alerts an increasing number of people to their Seventh Day Baptist biological roots. Even though some may know little of their spiritual roots, an answer to their request often brings a discovery and appreciation of their religious heritage.

Interpretation

Over the past decade, research has led to the production of books, articles, pamphlets, and programs interpreting Seventh Day Baptist history and heritage. *A Free People in Search of a Free Land*, originally written in 1975 and reprinted by the Historical Society, traces the migration of Seventh Day Baptists and interprets its meaning on churches and individuals.

The 1992 comprehensive book, *A Choosing People: The History of Seventh Day Baptists*, interprets over three centuries of history within the context of the environment which helped shape it. *Conscience Taken Captive* recasts that history for the more casual reader as an introduction to SDBs.

A companion volume, *Greater Than Its Parts*, interprets the polity and organization of the denomination, particularly for new members or those coming from a more authoritarian background.

In 1995, the Historical Society


published the book by James Siwani entitled, *The Unknown Made Known: The History of Sabbathkeepers in South Africa*. Former Historical Society librarian, Janet Thorngate, assisted in the editing and formatting of this book which interprets an extended history in times of extreme political change.

Communication

An important by-product of the preservation, research, and interpretation of this "history worth recording" is the challenge to communicate it to those who otherwise might be uninformed or indifferent.

For over 11 years, monthly "Pearls from the Past" columns have appeared in *The Sabbath Recorder*; books have been distributed, both at home and abroad; contributions have been made to other books, magazines, and papers across denominational lines; and participation in ecumenical conferences and programs for historical or genealogical societies have all provided opportunities for communicating history.

One of the greatest challenges in this era of telecommunications is answering the questions of those who are becoming aware of Baptists who observe the Biblical Sabbath. Many of the requests ask specific questions concerning family history, beliefs, differences with other Sabbathkeepers, or location of nearest churches. Personal responses, drawing upon the resources of the Historical Society, supplement the sending of other material.

In many of these cases, the Historical Society acts as the representative voice of Seventh Day Baptists. This is a privilege and responsibility which is not taken lightly. 



Historian Don Sanford consults records stored in the Center vault.



Past, present, and future vision

The Seventh Day Baptist Memorial Fund provides assistance and services to local churches, denominational boards, agencies, and individual SDBs. The Memorial Fund represents a partnership of past, present, and future vision for God's Kingdom.

Through the generous gifts of Seventh Day Baptists in the past, today's income helps to fill needs above current denominational giving. During 1997, over \$635,000 was distributed from designated and discretionary income.

Today, this same concept of gift giving continues as SDBs contribute to future needs. More than \$180,000 of new endowments and additions were received last year.

Special purpose funds

Special purpose funds currently benefit missions, ministerial training, Christian education, scholarships, minister's retirement, and local churches.

Several years ago, a concerned Christian established a fund to assist the visually impaired. From this gift, numerous Seventh Day Baptists have received funds for eye surgery and other visual needs.

Another fund was established to assist Association and local church camping programs. Grants have



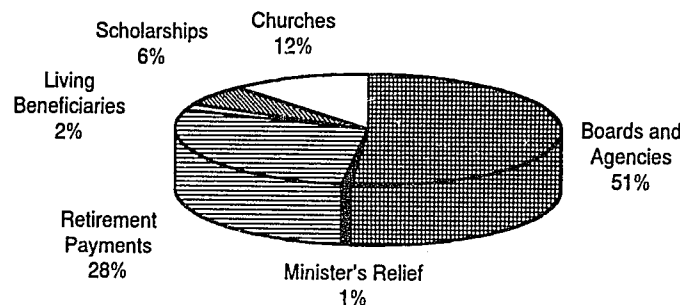
Owen Probasco has served as president of the Memorial Board since 1974.

funded improvements at camps across the nation.

A fund honoring Lois Wells, a well known SDB music educator, was established to assist Christian young people preparing for careers in music education.

The Trustees recently established a program, administered by the Council on Ministry, to assist small-

Scholarships are based on "summer equivalents" of extended service, but may extend for longer periods of time. Church activities, such as choir membership or Sabbath School teacher, are not considered dedicated service. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the Trustees evaluate applications to provide assistance.



Over \$700,000 of designated or discretionary income was distributed in 1996.

er churches in encouraging their pastor and his or her spouse to attend General Conference sessions. The benefit to the local church, the pastor's family, and the denomination is significant from the fellowship and spiritual uplift of the Conference experience.

The Trustees have also implemented a program to assist our retired ministers—and any minister's widow—to attend Conference in recognition of past contributions, the potential for continuing contributions, and the limited resources.

College scholarships

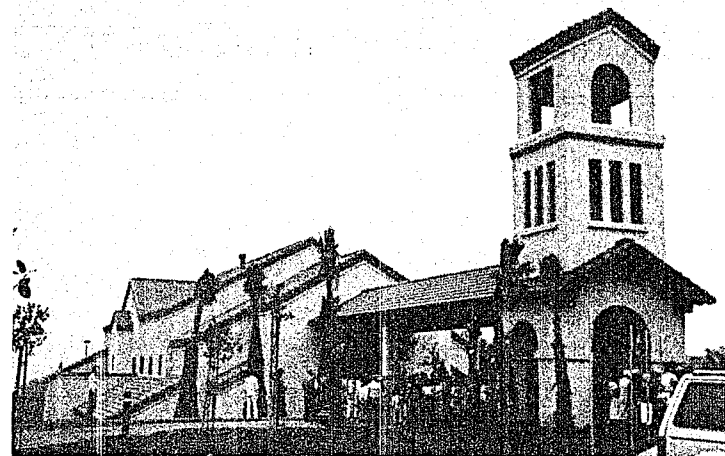
Through designated and discretionary funds, the Trustees now provide over \$40,000 in scholarships for dedicated service by Seventh Day Baptist young people each year. These dedicated service projects have included Summer Christian Service Corps, or service to a denominational agency or a local church.

Each dedicated service project must have an identified supervisor who provides a written evaluation of the service rendered before a scholarship is granted.

Help for local churches

The Trustees help local churches in several ways. Low-interest loans are available for the purchase or renovation of church facilities, parsonages, and camps. The local church is asked to submit project plans including construction costs and impacts on the church's budget. To ensure the continuing integrity of the Fund, we require a mortgage for all such loans. Loans to churches and camps currently total more the \$1,448,000.

As part of the Board's stewardship to God, and the overall needs of SDBs, the Trustees may limit the amount of funds or projects supported in any church. Assistance may include project evaluation, loans, or matching funds.



The Riverside, Calif., church received Memorial Fund help with their new building.

Matching-fund gifts have been made to many local church outreach programs. These have included special evangelism programs, community youth activities, and camping.

Several special purpose funds have been designated for specific educational grants. The Schenectady Church Fund is one such gift designated for educating lay people to better serve Christ. Grants from this fund have supported Natural Evangelism Training (NET) sessions in churches across the denomination.

The Trustees have developed partnerships with many local churches in the past and stand ready to form partnerships with other local churches. New partnerships may include projects similar to those described above or new types of projects.

Adding to permanent funds

Local churches, boards, and agencies of the General Conference have begun placing their endowments and permanent funds with the Memorial Fund for professional management. The church or agency determines how the income will

be used. It can be returned to the contributor, reinvested, or used for purposes chosen by the organization.

Since the Memorial Fund serves as a custodian of the funds, the original funds and any income can be withdrawn at any time by the local church or denominational agency.

gift value is paid to the donor for the remainder of his or her lifetime, based on established tables approved by the IRS. The remaining principal becomes a permanent endowment of the Memorial Fund, and the giver can specify how the funds and income are to be distributed.

How the Board works

Trustees are elected for three-year rotating terms by General Conference. Their focus includes investing the endowments, distributing the income, and conducting workshops on Christian financial planning. Since a limited number of Seventh Day Baptists attend the General Conference sessions, the Board travels and meets in local SDB churches.

Our quarterly Board meetings are held throughout the denomination, one of which is held in conjunction with Conference. Last year, visits included Toronto, Canada; Daytona Beach, Fla.; General Conference in Lindsborg, Kan.; and

Special purpose funds benefit missions, ministerial training, Christian education, scholarships, ministerial retirement, and local churches.

The Memorial Fund offers several ways for SDBs to create a permanent remembrance of someone special through a gift or a portion of an estate. A donor can create a named fund and specify its purpose, or leave its use to the discretion of the Trustees.

Individual Seventh Day Baptists are now establishing Annuity arrangements with the Fund. An agreed sum of money is given to the Fund, and a percentage of the

Salem, W.Va. These visits serve to increase local understanding of the work of the Memorial Fund and help us get acquainted with local church members.

If your church would like to host a quarterly meeting of the Board, please contact the SDB Center in Janesville, Wis., or any Board member who stands ready to assist in the growth of the Kingdom of God. *SR*



the BEACON

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

April 1998

Prayer in school?

Now I sit me down in school
where praying is against the rule;
For this great nation under God
Finds public mention of Him odd.

Any prayer a class recites,
now violates the Bill of Rights;
Any time my head I bow,
Becomes a federal matter now.

Teach us of stars or pole and equator,
but make no mention of their Creator;
tell of experts in Denmark or Sweden
but not a word of Eve or Eden.

The law is specific,
the law is precise,
Praying out loud is no longer nice.

Praying aloud in a public hall,
upsets believers in nothing at all.

In silence alone can we mediate,
and if God should get the credit,
well, that's great.

This rule, however, has one gimmick in it,
you have to be finished in less than a minute.

So all I ask is a minute of quiet,
and if I feel like praying then maybe I'll try it;
if not, O Lord, this one plea I make
Should I die in school,
my soul You'll take.

The author of the poem is anonymous. It was dedicated to the students in Kentucky who were recently killed during a prayer group meeting.—Jeremy Bullinger

"Beacon" readers!

Send your YF stuff to new "Beacon" editor:

Jeremy Bullinger

PO Box 339

BERLIN, NY

12022-0339

or e-mail to bitman2000

@juno.com



SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST GENERAL CONFERENCE
186TH ANNUAL SESSION 1998
WEST VIRGINIA WESLEYAN COLLEGE
BUCKHANNON, WEST VIRGINIA
JULY 26 - AUGUST 1, 1998

The President's Page

by John D. Bevis

Seventh Day Baptists consider the Bible to be our guide in daily Christian living as well as the only source for our doctrine. Our Statement of Belief says it well: "We believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God and is our final authority in matters of faith and practice. We believe that Jesus Christ, in his life and teachings as recorded in the Bible, is the supreme interpreter of God's will for mankind."

A very important part of our weekly worship experience is Bible Study time in Sabbath School.

We have always been students of the Word. Some 40 years before Robert Raikes organized the first Sunday School, Seventh Day Baptists were studying God's Word together in Sabbath Schools. About 1740, Ludwig Hocker organized a Sabbath School at Ephrata, Pa., for German Seventh Day Baptists.

We are thankful today for the ministries of our Board of Christian Education and the material they make available to us for Bible Study and Sabbath School.

For many, one of the blessings of attending General Conference is the time we have to study God's Word together. As you make plans to be at Conference in West Virginia this year, I want to share with you the topics for the daily morning Bible Studies. We are indebted to Rev. Rodney Henry, Director of Pastoral Services, for pre-

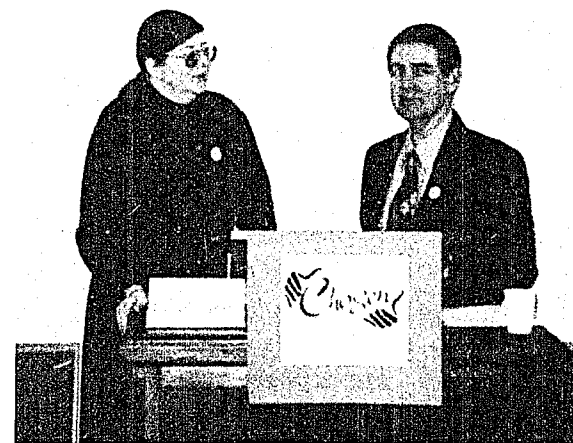
paring the topics and related texts for the week.

Leading off our week of Bible Studies will be Pastor Larry Graffius of the Marlboro, N.J., church. His Monday morning study is entitled "Chosen for Service," based on 1 Corinthians 16:15-18. Following on Tuesday is Pastor Jeanne Yurke of the Raritan Valley, N.J., church. Her study topic is "Chosen for Holiness," with Hebrews 12:10-14 as the study text.

"Chosen for Worship" is Wednesday's study, based on the passage in Romans 12:1-2. The pastor of the White Cloud, Mich., church, Pastor Bernie Wethington, is the presenter. Pastor Mynor Soper of Texarkana, Ark., will guide our thoughts on Philemon 1:4-7 as we consider how we are "Chosen for Sharing Faith."

The week of studies concludes on Friday morning as we look at John 15:9-17 and the topic "Chosen to Love and Be Loved." This study will be led by Lonnie Hendrix, moderator of the Paint Rock, Ala., church. Bible Study classes will continue on Sabbath morning as the Board of Christian Education leads in Sabbath School for all ages at 9:00 a.m.

Our Bible Studies are yet another blessing in store for those in attendance at Conference this year. Be in prayer for the leaders, that God will guide as they prepare these studies in His Word. And may we all: "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15). **SR**



Pastor Jeanne Yurke visits with President John Bevis following a Conference presentation at the Raritan Valley, N.J., SDB Church.

We're expecting you in West Virginia!

from the Conference Host Committee

West Virginia Seventh Day Baptists are preparing for your arrival in July. Conference is earlier than usual this year, July 26 to August 1, but we'll be ready to welcome you.

If you came to Conference three years ago, you already know that the campus of West Virginia Wesleyan College in Buckhannon is an ideal location for the week-long sessions of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference, USA & Canada. Imagine yourself in Sabbath worship with over 900 SDBs, your voices mingling with the magnificent pipe organ to fill the cathedral-like chapel with praise to God.

Wesley Chapel will again be the meeting place for major business and worship services. The dormitories, cafeteria, gymnasium, and other meeting rooms are all easily accessible around the level central rectangle. We emphasize "level"—a rarity in these hills of Appalachia where summers are warm but nights can be cool.

All meeting and eating rooms are air-conditioned but none of the dorms. Yet no one can predict whether you'll need a blanket or a fan.

Come to Conference

Each month, President John D. Bevis has been reminding us that we are "A Chosen Generation." From across the country, Seventh Day Baptists will gather to celebrate that truth and to examine what it means in this century and the one to come.

The facilities of Wesleyan College are conducive to our traditional type of family conference. A nursery (much larger than in '95) for the youngest, areas for children's

conferences and youth activities, recreational spots inside and out, fellowship places from quiet luncheon rooms off the cafeteria to a snack-bar coffee house—it's all here.

Count the cost

Conference costs less than last year—even less than three years ago! (We've learned from experience.) Registration for the whole week is \$32.00 for adults, \$10.00 for children (age 5-11). By the day, it's \$4.50 and \$1.50. If you're under 5, everything is free.

Dorm lodging will be the same for adults or children in beds—\$65.00 for the week. By the day,

it's \$9.50. Children may sleep for free on the floor. There are several air-conditioned efficiency apartments: two-bedroom (four single beds, couch, and floor space) for \$50 a night; three-bedroom (five single beds, couch, and floor space) for \$75.00 a night. Linens are not provided on campus; you must bring your own sheets, towels, pillows, etc.

Meals in the cafeteria will cost \$102.00 for adults for the week, \$83.00 for children (5-11). By the day, they are \$15.25 and \$12.50.

Reserve your place

Official registration forms and detailed information will come in your May *Sabbath Recorder*. July 1 is the deadline for pre-registration. After that, it will cost an extra \$10.00.

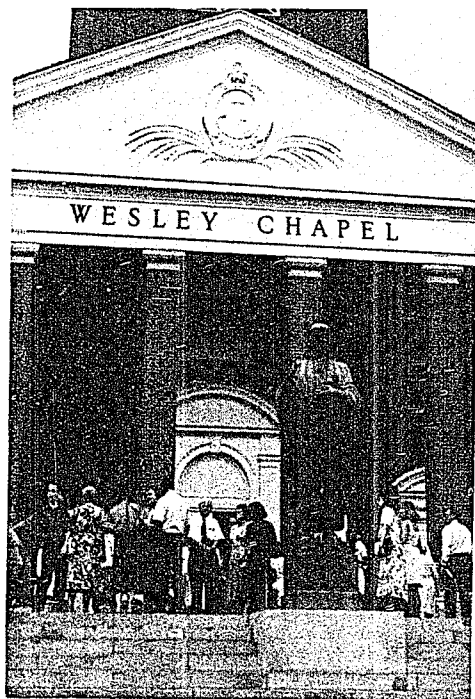
If you come in an RV, parking spaces will be available on campus, with electrical hook-ups and access to bathroom facilities in an adjacent building. Request them on your registration form (\$7.50 a night). Full hookups are available in nearby parks (listing in next month's *Recorder*.)

Off-campus housing is also available in nearby motels, and in bed and breakfasts. Some will be listed in the May *SR*.

Plan your travel

If you plan to fly to West Virginia, make reservations through to Benedum Airport in Clarksburg, W.Va. The Host Committee will arrange ground transportation (at pre-established times) from the airport to the Conference site (a 35-mile drive south of Clarksburg).

Young people arriving by
cont. on page 26



Wesley Chapel provides a comfortable location for plenary sessions, as well as a cathedral-like atmosphere (with stained glass windows and magnificent pipe organ) for worship services.

Gone fishin'

by Pastor Larry Graffius

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men" (Mark 1:17).

The Marlboro Fishing Expedition is our church's response to the call of Jesus. The goal of our community visitation program is to contact every home within three miles of our church.

First, we want to introduce our church and our ministries. We also want to offer our service in whatever ways we can for the spiritual needs of the people of our community. We want to get acquainted with our neighbors, and to encourage them to call on us when they have a need. We want to build a reputation in our community as the people who care, who share, and who are there when they need us.

In Luke 5:4ff., Peter, James, and John had been fishing all night and caught nothing. They were tired and discouraged. The next day, Jesus told them to "launch out into the deep and let down the nets for a catch." They were somewhat reluctant to go back out.

"Simon answered, 'Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything.'"

It was daylight. From their experience it seemed like a poor time to go out. Moreover, going into deep water was not recommendable. They knew where the good spots were, and this was not one of them!

But Peter offers the response that Jesus was looking for and still seeks from us: "Because you say so, I will let down the nets."

It is the response of obedience. He challenges us to set aside our own doubts and fears and simply obey the directive.

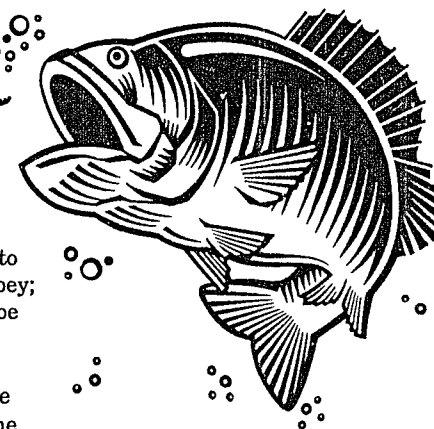
And in doing so, we take our cue of faith from Jesus Himself. Notice He didn't say to just "go try again."

He told them to let down the nets "for a catch." Jesus knew what the results would be. We must put our trust in Him.

We are not responsible for the amount of fish that are caught. We are simply responsible to "launch out" and to "let down the nets." We are to obey; "trust and obey." The Lord will be responsible for the results.

Our visitation teams were in place and began in January. One night (or afternoon) per week, the teams are knocking on doors and sharing the Good News. Each team is strengthened by the personal support of two Prayer Partners, and further bolstered by the ongoing prayers of our whole congregation.

Be prepared for some exciting new opportunities to serve, to



witness, and to grow. We're going fishing for men! *SR*

Reprinted from the winter '98 "Marlboro Voice," newsletter of the Marlboro SDB Church in rural Bridgeton, N.J.

Death of "Vineyard" leader reported

by Linda Harris

According to an Evangelical Press news story released in late November, John Wimber passed away on November 17, 1997, at age 63. He suffered a massive brain hemorrhage while recovering from triple bypass surgery.

Many SDBs will remember John Wimber as a consultant from Fuller Theological Seminary when the denomination studied church growth in the 1970s. I was particularly impressed when he sang and played the piano at Conference in Clarksville, Ark. No wonder, since he had been a keyboard player for the Righteous Brothers.

According to the EP article,

Wimber "went on to become an international conference speaker, worship song writer, best-selling author, and spiritual leader to the worldwide Vineyard movement. He was also the senior pastor of the Anaheim Vineyard Christian Fellowship for 17 years (1977-1994)."

His friends said that Wimber talked often about doing "kingdom stuff," which involved evangelism and feeding the poor. He became involved in controversy when the Toronto Airport Vineyard was "cut free" over doctrinal disputes. Wimber taught the popular "Signs and Wonders" classes at Fuller Seminary. *SR*

Accessions

Battle Creek, MI
Harold King, pastor
 Joined by letter
 Rev. Harold King
 Kathi King

Denver, CO
Jim Galanaugh, pastor
 Joined after testimony
 Brooke Deaton
 Mark Deaton
 Paul Deaton
 Stacy Deaton
 Matthew De Elena
 Karen Egan
 Norma Egan
 Kyle Galanaugh
 Roksanne Gallegos
 Blane Hicks
 Connie Hicks
 Pat Jenkins
 Donna King
 Kristen Miller

Roger Strain
 Frank Velosquez

New York City, NY
Andrew Samuels, pastor
 Joined after baptism
 Petra Palmer
 Shanna Williams
 Joined after testimony
 Mezlena Scotland

Salemville, PA
Chris Mattison, pastor
 Joined after baptism
 Benjamin Baker
 Becky Faith Mattison
 Dorothy Showalter
 Shawn Showalter
 Joined after testimony
 Dolly Showalter

Toronto, Canada
Herlitz Condison, pastor
 Joined after baptism
 Keith Ashley
 Jamal Fyffe

Shari Fyffe
 Sonia Fyffe
 Nicole Gilmore
 Shurline Henry
 Patrick London
 Leaford Marsh
 Omari Rhoden
 Jeffery Sinclair
 Joined after testimony
 Pastor Huethon Livingston
 Norma Lloyd
 Agnes London

Births

Dash.—A son, Matthew Spencer Dash, was born to Anthony and Sandra Dash of Brooklyn, NY, on November 8, 1997.

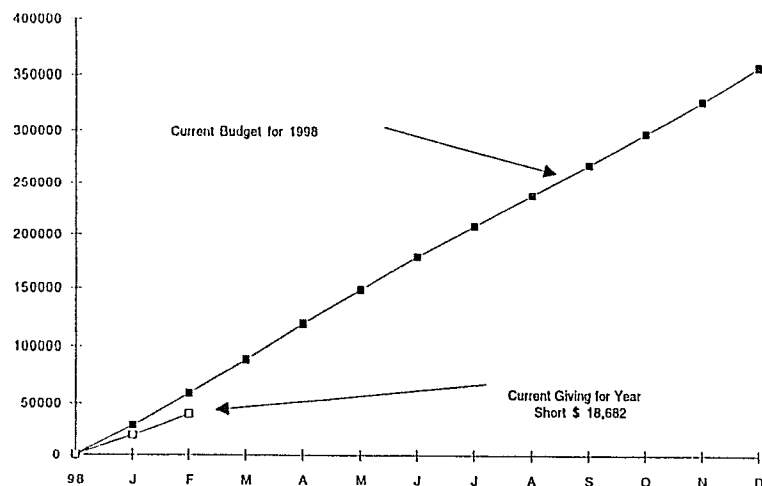
Fairclough.—Twin daughters, Jemila Anthony Elaine Fairclough and Maya Anthony Elaine Fairclough, were born to Clive and Georgia Fairclough of Brooklyn, NY, on January 4, 1998.

Marriages

Gordon - Gayle.—Ougart Gordon and Mercene Gayle were united in marriage on December 21, 1997, at the New York City, NY, Seventh Day Baptist Church, with Pastor Andrew Samuels officiating.

Naser - Smalley.—John Naser and Rhonda Smalley were united in marriage on February 14, 1998, at the New Auburn, WI, Seventh Day Baptist Church. Pastor Keith Julson officiated.

Current Giving 1998



Obituaries

Walters.—Eleanor A. Walters, 90, of Edgerton, Wis., died on December 18, 1997, at Skaalen Sunset Home in Stoughton, Wis. She was born on August 4, 1907, in Walworth, Wis., the daughter of Harold E. and Stelle (Maxon) Walters. She graduated from Battle Creek, Mich., High School in 1925, and from Michigan Business and Normal School in 1926. On April 4, 1931, she married Fred Walters in Battle Creek. He died in January of 1958.

Eleanor was employed as a bookkeeper and secretary at Brigham and Uldricks Lumber Company in Battle Creek from 1926 until 1931. She also worked as a secretary at the Ladd and Manwaring Law Offices in Edgerton from 1959 until her retirement in 1972. She was a member of the Albion, Wis., Seventh Day Baptist Church, where she held the offices of president and secretary. She served as church treasurer for over 30 years, and was a member of the Board of Trustees and the Home Benefit Society.

Survivors include one daughter, Adele Schock of Edgerton; one sister, Harriet Carpenter of Atherton, Calif.; two grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on December 23, 1997, at the Albion SDB Church, with Rev. Kevin Butler officiating. Interment was in Evergreen Cemetery, Albion.

Bond.—Barbara Taylor Fast Bond, 67, died on January 1, 1998, in a hospital in Nevada, Mo.

She was born on December 21, 1930, in Raleigh, Ill., the daughter of William and Ora (Byrom) Taylor. On April 26, 1961, she married Charles Fast of Stockton, Mo. She became a good mother to Charles Jr., David, and Joan, who had been

left motherless after Charles' first wife died. Mr. Fast died in 1988.

On November 10, 1990, Barbara married Ira Bond in Eldorado Springs, Mo. They lived in Nortonville, Kan., before moving to Eldorado Springs in 1993.

Survivors include her husband, Ira, of Nortonville; one daughter, Sandra Stalts, of Allen, Texas; the three Fast children; three other step-children, Clifford Bond of Topeka, Kan., Irene Saunders of Nortonville, and Flossie Cornelison of Kansas City, Kan.; and numerous step-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at the Milster Funeral Home in Eldorado Springs, with a friend conducting the services. Burial was in the Eldorado Springs Cemetery.

Sayles.—Susan K. Sayles, 47, of Milwaukee, Wis., died on January 3, 1998, in St. Michael's Hospital, Milwaukee, after a long illness.

She was born on March 21, 1950, in Battle Creek, Mich., the daughter of George and Helen (Sachau) Hentges. She graduated from Battle Creek Central High School in 1968, and from Kellogg Community College. In 1972, she received a bachelor's degree from Western Michigan University.

On December 24, 1960, she joined the Battle Creek Seventh Day Baptist Church, and was active in the church's youth group and camping program. She was also a member of McKee Alumni of Western Michigan University and the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Milwaukee.

Susan married Michael C. Sayles on September 9, 1972, and moved to Miami, Fla. While living there, she was employed in management at Burger King headquarters. She then moved to Billings, Mont., where she and her husband found-

ed Quick Sand Snack Shack and Yellowstone Kelly Restaurants. They later moved to Milwaukee and managed Chauncery Restaurants.

Susan also was employed in Battle Creek by attorney Bryon Dandenaault, and in Marshall, Mich., by attorney John Kendall.

Survivors include her mother, Helen VanValkenburg of Battle Creek, and two brothers, Nick and Gary Hentges, both of Battle Creek. She was preceded in death by her husband in 1988, and by her father.

A memorial service was held on January 25, 1998, in the Battle Creek SDB Church, with Pastor Harold King officiating.

Peterson.—Marian A. Peterson, 76, of Quinton Township, N.J., died on January 17, 1998, at her home. She had been in failing health for five years.

She was born in Stow Creek Township, the daughter of George and Louisa (Harris) Allen.

Marian retired 16 years ago from Anchor Hocking Co., Salem, N.J., after 22 years of service. She was an excellent quilter, and also enjoyed her activities and travels with two area senior citizens groups. She was a member of the Marlboro Seventh Day Baptist Church near Bridgeton.

Survivors include her husband, Thomas; three daughters, Carol of Quinton, Janet of Stow Creek, N.J., and Karen Fogg of Canton, N.J.; one sister, Ruth Cruzan, of Stow Creek; six grandchildren, and one great-grandson. She was predeceased by her son, Eric, and one brother, Morton Allen.

A memorial service was held on January 24, 1998, at the Marlboro SDB Church, with Rev. Larry Graffius officiating. Burial was private.

plane for Pre-Conference retreats should also come to Benedum Airport. The Young Adult Pre-Conference Retreat will be held at the Conference site in Buckhannon, but Youth Pre-Con will be held at Southeastern Association's Camp Joy in Berea (Ritchie County)—50 miles west of Clarksburg and 85 miles from Buckhannon. The Host Committee is arranging transportation for Pre-Con youth from Camp Joy to Conference on Sunday, July 26.

If you drive to Conference, you can count on parking space on campus. Buckhannon is accessible on four-lane highways or over scenic mountain roads. It is on US Route 33, 13 miles off Interstate 79. Buckhannon is a college town of 6,000 people, 35 miles south of Clarksburg (pop. 25,000) and 125 miles north of Charleston (pop. 70,000).

Enjoy our hills

West Virginia is wild and wonderful, a green vacation land. Buckhannon is in the center of the Mountain State, within easy driving distance of "seven lakes, eight

Directory, State Map, or information on specific attractions.

Plan to visit our Seventh Day Baptist sites as well. You're warmly invited to spend the Sabbath before Conference with the Salem

The facilities of Wesleyan College are conducive to our traditional type of family conference.

wildlife management areas, two state parks, a chunk of the Monongahela National Forest, five superb streams for fishing or kayaking, and one world-class white water recreation river."

Call toll-free (1-800-CALL-WVA) for the state's 1998 Official Travel Guide, Camping Directory, Lodging

SDB Church (50 miles from Buckhannon), or with the Lost Creek SDB Church (only 25 miles from the Conference site).

It's also a good time to visit Fort New Salem, a 19th century "living history" village. While there, you can experience the culture of early SDB settlers who were among the first to cross the mountains from New Jersey.

This log village is on the campus of Salem-Teikyo University, founded by Seventh Day Baptists as Salem College in 1888. That campus was the site of many previous General Conferences, but the school's year-round program, designed to accommodate its many international students, now precludes the hosting of summer conferences.

We're expecting you

Your Host Committee, made up of people from the Salem and Lost Creek churches, extends West Virginia hospitality. Let us know if you have special needs. Our names and specific responsibilities are listed on the left. You may send all requests through the Salem church office: Rev. Dale D. Thorngate, Host Committee Chairman, Salem Seventh Day Baptist Church, 171 E. Main St., Salem WV 26426. Phone: (304) 782-3525. *SR*

1998 Conference Host Committee

Chairman—

Dale D. Thorngate

Vice-Chairman—

Gary Martin Sr.

Second Vice-President—

Stephen Rogers

Associated Conference

Coordinator—

Dixie Spencer

Pre-Con Business Manager—

Marie Zwiebel

Equipment/Audio Visual—

Larry Lawrence

Exhibits—

Vickie Barnes

Flowers—

Terry Van Horn

Health Services—

Christina Cain

Nursery—

Angie Osborn

Publicity—

Janet Thorngate

Receptions—

Peggy Meathrell

Registration—

Richard and Nellie Jo

Brissey, Cynthia Calise, &

Cathy Rogers

SCSC Team Project Director—

Duska Davis

Treasurer—

Clayton Pinder

Assistant Treasurer—

Nellie Jo Brissey

Transportation—

Fred Spencer III & Chip

Thorngate

Youth Advisor—

Steve Osborn

Youth President—

Whitney Rogers

KEVIN'S

ORNER



Editor Kevin Butler

We hope you will enjoy learning more about our boards and agencies this month. In fact, we're hoping that you'll do as the cover suggests: "Dig right in" and get involved in our/ your ministries.

Since most of this issue is updated from a previous installment (would you believe way back in 1992?), I thought I would repeat some of what Kevin's Korner shared then.

Our magazine says it on the cover: "News for and about Seventh Day Baptists."

Our alliance of ministry is even stronger: Ministry from and for Seventh Day Baptists.

SDBs are like a big family. We like to get together, eat too much, and get to know each other a little better. We're a loving, personal bunch.

With all that familiarity, though, might come a problem. We may assume that everyone knows each other well, and knows exactly what and how the other is doing. Sometimes the deeper feelings aren't revealed in our quick visits.

I hope that with this month's get-together, we can spend some quality time letting you know what goes on with our boards and agencies.

Denominational workers are your brothers and sisters—Seventh Day Baptists serving fellow Seventh Day Baptists. We can give you what no other ministry can: a personal touch from our church's particular perspective.

Where else could you:

- call a denominational office and hear a friendly voice; someone who has probably been to your church and knows your pastor?
- get hold of tracts and brochures with our message?
- obtain merchandise with our torch-and-Bible logo?
- research SDB roots and heritage?
- hear about Sabbathkeeping Baptists having an outreach around the country and the world?
- get Sabbath School materials prepared just for you and your church, by someone who agrees with our Statement of Beliefs?
- receive evangelism training, with our beliefs at its foundation?

- get personal counseling in your pastoral search process?
- find a pastor trained in our distinctives?
- have a summer team of college-age "ministers" who don't think it's weird to go to church on Saturday, and can sing the "Youth Rally Song"?
- invest in the future of SDB ministries?

Okay, back to 1998.

Those sentiments have not changed, but our staff has. Photos from the '92 issue remind us that several faithful servants have moved on to other ministries (one—Muriel Osborn—to her eternal reward).

The Recorder (and editor) has traveled many miles and emptied lots of printer cartridges sharing various themes with you in the last six years. We've looked at: the Islam influx, pastoral search process, eternal security, reaching out to Jews, SCSC, the Senior Saints, the interim pastor, Promise Keepers, the diaconate, working mothers, caring for the caregiver, the empty nest, angels, and many more current topics.

Now, we want to hear from you. We have enjoyed sharing more personal testimonies from readers. Haven't they been inspiring? I encourage you to encourage many others by relating your spiritual journey. It may trigger powerful memories, or cause a fellow "traveler" to get back on the straight and narrow. Don't do it for me, or for a Pulitzer Prize—do it for God's glory.

We'd also love to print your local church news. (Whatever happened to our SR correspondents?) Other churches are just waiting to hear what's going on in your ministry. Share the good news!

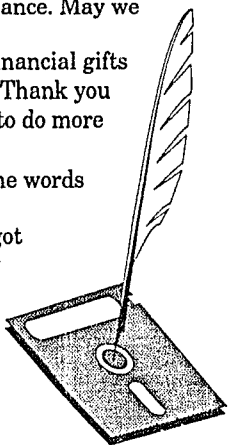
One of the key elements to a successful "Kinship System" is that the family members need to talk and talk and talk. Here's your chance. May we hear from you soon?

As always, your prayers and financial gifts are needed and much welcomed. Thank you for all you do for us, allowing us to do more for you!

Allow me to close with the same words of half-a-dozen years ago:

I feel that, for our size, we've got quality folks carrying out quality ministries.

I know that it's tough to support a "budget." Believe me, your gifts go to support a ministry—an alliance of ministry.





Our Purpose

The purpose of our Seventh Day Baptist boards, agencies and General Conference offices is to serve the churches of the Conference, providing advice and assistance in the accomplishment of their task of making disciples of Christ, and coordinating the efforts of our churches in the accomplishment of common goals.

God has called Seventh Day Baptists to follow Him through belief in His Son Jesus Christ and His message of love and reconciliation. Christ gave His followers the Great Commission to "go then to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples..." (Matthew 28:19-20). Therefore, Seventh Day Baptist denominational leadership will:

1. Model commitment to Christ's teachings.
2. Teach the people and churches to grow in knowledge and commitment to Christ's teachings.
3. Develop and train pastoral and other leadership for the local church.
4. Promote (cause, facilitate, expedite) the planting of new churches in our countries and around the world.
5. Strengthen the ministry of existing churches by developing spiritual discipline.
6. Equip disciples for evangelism and ministry.
7. Promote the blessing of Sabbathkeeping.

How to contact us:

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Communication Council
Council on Ministry
Memorial Fund
Historical Society*
3120 Kennedy Road
P.O. Box 1678
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Phone: (608) 752-5055
FAX: (608) 752-7711
e-mail: sdbgen@inwave.com

SDB Board of Christian Education

P.O. Box 115
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Phone: (607) 587-8527

SDB Missionary Society

119 Main Street
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Phone: (401) 596-4326
FAX: (401) 348-9494

Women's Society

858 Barrett Run Rd.
Bridgeton, NJ 08302
Phone: (609) 451-6844
FAX: (609) 453-8218

Christian Social Action Committee

809 Main St.
Belpre, OH 45714-1623
Phone: (740) 423-2131