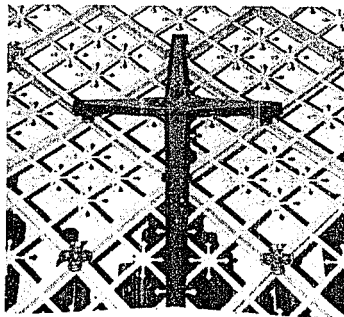


The **S**abbath
*News for and about
Seventh Day Baptists* **R**ecorder
September 1998



Chosen

SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST GENERAL CONFERENCE





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

Annual Corporation Meeting Notice

Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education, Inc.

The annual meeting of the members of the Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education, Inc., will be held at the Van Horn Building, 892 Route 244, Alfred Station, N.Y., on Sunday, October 25, 1998, at 1:00 p.m.

The purpose of this meeting shall be to hear and act upon the 1997 Annual Report of the Board of Directors, to elect members of the Board of Directors, and to consider and act upon such matters that may properly come before said meeting.

Members of the member churches of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference USA & Canada, Ltd., are members of the Corporation. Accredited delegates attending the 1998 General Conference sessions in Buckhannon, W.Va., are entitled to vote at this annual meeting.

An Invitation to Conversation

with Representatives from the General Council of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference



This is an opportunity for your congregation to share what's happening in your church, your hopes and plans for the next three to five years, and how we can help your local church create new ministry.

Contact: Conversation Coordinator
P.O. Box 115, Alfred Station, NY 14803-0115
(607) 587-8527

The Sabbath Recorder

Establ. 1844

September 1998
Volume 220, No. 9
Whole No. 6,832

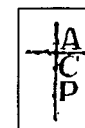


A Seventh Day Baptist publication

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 154th 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.



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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

Conference opens 186th session..... 4
A colorful parade of banners opened the Sunday night session of General Conference in Buckhannon, W.Va.

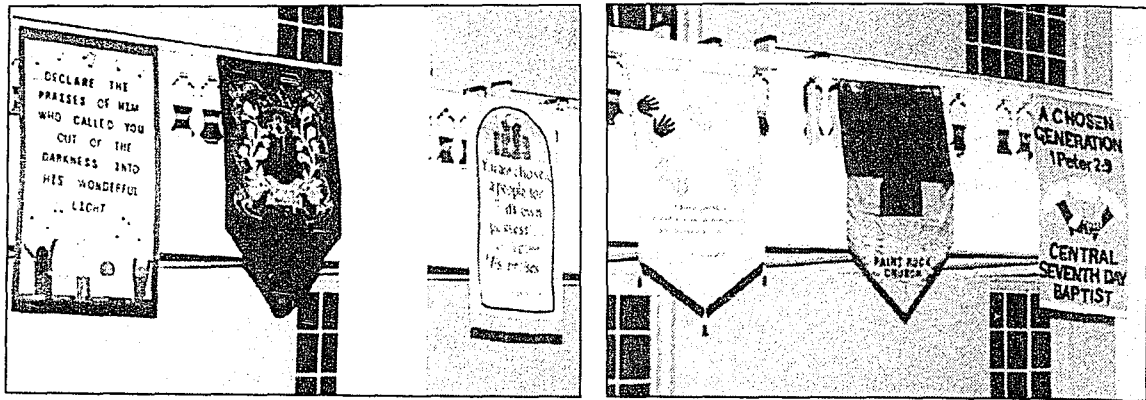
Conference Highlights 6
How many were there, who was elected, what the committees recommended, special people recognized.

Council on Ministry report informative 7
The many programs of the Council on Ministry are highlighted in their report to Conference.

SCSC 1998—Team LAUGHTER 10
by Althea Rood
Eight teams of two made up this year's Summer Christian Service Corps: Team LAUGHTER.

Departments

Women's Society	11	Focus	19
Conference banquet		Education a big part	
a most unusual feast		of mission field	
Local news		Seek spiritual maturity	20
Salemville, Pa.	12	Train up a child	
Daytona Beach, Fla.	13	SR Reaction	21
New York City, N.Y.	21	Family flux	24-25
Brookfield, N.Y.	22, 23	Accessions,	
North Loup, Neb.	22	marrriages, births	24
Christian Education	14	Obituaries	25
Memory verses for 1998-99		Kevin's Korner	27
Pearls from the Past	16	"Fret not!"	
A Jones for the Sabbath			
The Beacon	18		
Youth Pre-Con 1998			
celebrates disciplines			



Banners from across the United States and Canada graced the sanctuary of Wesley Chapel.

From the Conference Crier

Conference opens 186th session with

What an exciting moment it was when Seventh Day Baptists from all over this continent gathered for worship in Wesley Chapel on the campus of West Virginia Wesleyan College, Sunday evening, July 26!

President John Bevis called the 1998 session of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference to order and announced the theme for the week, "A Chosen Generation" (1 Peter 2:9). He pointed to the logo created by Patricia Cruzan that would be displayed throughout the week.

President Bevis shared that 30 years ago, he became a Seventh Day Baptist and soon was invited

to become a professor at Salem (W.Va.) College. He paid tribute to Dr. K.D. Hurley, then president of Salem College, who would later share in leading that evening's worship.

"In my mind," President Bevis said, "K.D. will always be president of Salem College." Bevis asked those to stand who had "survived" his history courses when he began teaching at Salem. He then asked those to stand who had been affiliated with the college in any way throughout the years.

President Bevis expressed his desire for the Conference session—that it might be a time of spiritual

refreshment and renewal, and that we as a Conference would "invite" the Holy Spirit into our midst.

Dale Thorngate, pastor of the Salem Seventh Day Baptist Church and chairman of the Conference Host Committee, gave announcements and reported that, as of that evening, 697 people had pre-registered for Conference. Although not all of those people had arrived, it promised to be one of the largest Conferences ever.

Following the announcements, a Parade of Banners made its way to the front of Wesley Chapel, where each bearer announced the church from which the banner came. Then



Lorna Austin Graffius gets an ovation and an encouragement from husband Charles as she receives the Robe of Achievement.



Pastor Dale Thorngate, Salem, W.Va., preached on the Conference theme on Sunday night.



Eric Mackintosh thanks God for plumbing, following a missions trip to Mexico. Sister Alicia, and Luis Lovelace silently agree.



Patti Wethington, White Cloud, Mich., reads the Reference and Counsel Committee recommendations.

Sunday evening Parade of Banners

they were carried down the center aisle for all to see. The banners were hung from the balconies to add to the worship atmosphere of the Conference sessions.

The touring singing group, *Stained Glass*, provided the transition into the worship service with two a cappella songs, providing a foretaste of their concert and vespers later in the week.

In Dr. Dale Thorngate's keynote sermon on the Conference theme, he reminded us of many Biblical people God had chosen to be His special servants. They were not called from royalty, but were just "regular folks" who knew and

trusted God.

All of these servants responded to God's call without knowing how or where God would use them. Each one had his human imperfections, but each one had a burning concern for the welfare of God's people.

To be chosen of God means we are a people who belong to God, Pastor Thorngate told us. A person who belongs to God can no longer be an ordinary person. Each person is chosen, "that you may be to the glory of God."

God has chosen Seventh Day Baptists for something important, something special; He has chosen

us to do something new. Seventh Day Baptists have a great heritage, but that is only a foundation on which we can build a "new thing."

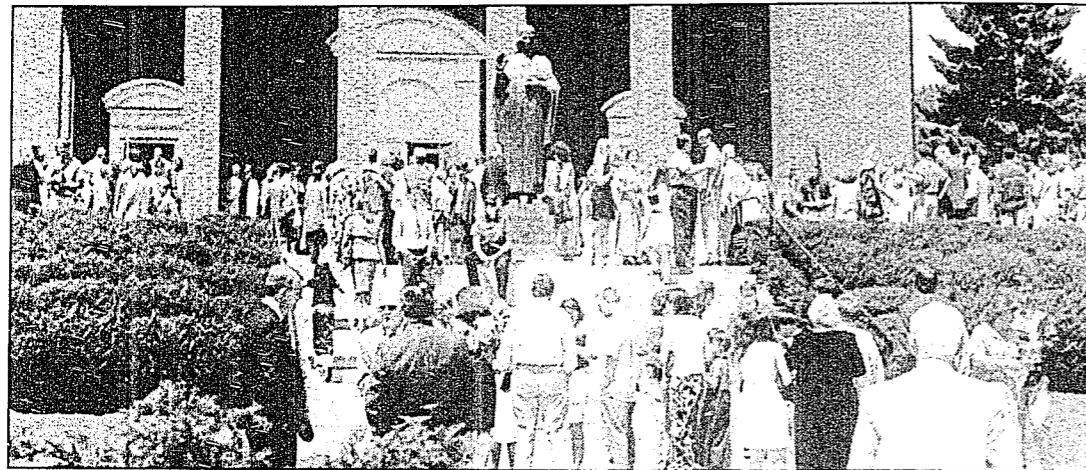
Dr. Thorngate concluded by recommending that we call an "action group" to review who we are and where we have been, but especially to consider who and what God wants us to be and do. He called us to a new vision, a new sense of mission, a new desire to do and be what God wants us to do and be, and a new sense of the presence and empowering of the Holy Spirit as we prepare to enter a new century to the glory of God. ✠



Our even-keeled President, John Bevis. Raakeli Watt served as business secretary.



Three pastors became fully accredited: Eric Davis (Riverside, Calif.), Robert Van Horn (Columbus, Ohio), and Steven James (Verona, N.Y.).



Conference Highlights

The Rev. John Bevis presided at our 1998 Conference, "A Chosen Generation." The hardworking Host Committee from nearby churches, and the West Virginia Wesleyan College staff made us all feel welcome in wild, wonderful Buckhannon.

Statistics

- 750 registered guests
- 377 delegates representing 56 churches
- 65 pastors
- 6 students preparing for the ministry (four in seminary, two in T.I.M.E.)
- 3 official visitors: Paul Barkus, investment counsel from Brundage, Story and Rose; Faith Liyena from the SDB Conference of Zambia; and Andrew Kube, Australasian Conference of SDBs
- 104 enrolled in Junior Conference, plus 13 in the nursery
- 57 attended Youth Pre-Con, directed by Andrew Camenga, with 10 staff
- 38 were at Young Adult Pre-Con, directed by Gordon Lawton, with 4 staff
- Women's Love Gift totaled \$4,094.87 (a record!); Craft table earned \$1,161.75
- Conference offering exceeded \$16,500

Elections

- President 1998-99: Norma Rudert
- President-elect: Rev. John Camenga
- General Council: Phil Rood

- Council on Ministry: Norman Burdick, Mynor Soper
- Faith & Order: Alan Crouch, Dale Rood
- Committee on Support and Retirement: Eric Rudert, chair
- Tract and Communication Council: Ralph Hays Jr. (one year for unexpired term), James Skaggs, Andrew Samuels
- Memorial Fund trustees: Owen Probasco, Don Graffius, Reid Mattison
- Christian Social Action Committee: David Clarke, Gwen Bowyer, Nellie Jo Brissey, Laura Lee Barnes, Fred Sias, Kathy Nash
- Coordinator of Obituaries: Jean Jorgensen
- Recording secretaries: Raakeli Watt (business), Janet Butler (program)
- Denominational treasurer: Calvin Babcock

Business action

- Approved the 1999 budget of \$821,646; \$339,307 from current giving, a 5% decrease below 1998.

cont. on page 8

Council on Ministry report informative

Chairman Edgar Wheeler opened with prayer the report of the Council on Ministry (COM), whose purpose is to promote, educate, and sustain Seventh Day Baptist pastoral ministry. This is accomplished through both the School of Ministry and Pastoral Services.

Rod Henry, the "pastors' pastor," is the Dean of the School of Ministry and the Director of Pastoral Services. Also, Rod has accepted the position of Interim Executive Secretary, and recently completed his service as interim pastor of the Albion, Wis., SDB Church.

Rod is a busy man, but he makes time for pastors. Fortunately he is supported by the Council on Ministry: Rev. Edgar Wheeler, Luan Ellis, Lorna Austin Graffius, Rev. Gordon Lawton, Norman Burdick, and Rev. Bernie Wethington.

Matthew Berg, beginning his seminary education this fall at Regent College in Vancouver, B.C., continued the COM presentation by outlining the commission of the School of Ministry, the umbrella under which all theological training is approved. He listed the various programs: New Education Program, and Doctor of Ministry Program.

As a student in the Seminary Education Program, Matt also shared with us the names of the other current seminary students: Scott Smith (Bethel), and Herlitz Condison (Tyndale).

Erik Henry, who has been called to plant Seventh Day Baptist churches, then reported on the Pastors' Roundtable at the SDB Center, May 18-20. Twenty-three pastors attended this gathering for theological discussion, prayer, and fellowship. Erik also discussed the Certificate Education Program, a one-year program in an accredited theological seminary.

L.B. Lee Jr., Colorado Springs pastor and a current student in the T.I.M.E. Program, explained that

Training In Ministry by Extension provides theological training for those pastors who are not able to attend seminary. Recent T.I.M.E. graduates include Robert Van Horn of Columbus, Ohio; Chris Mattison of North Loup, Neb.; and Sergei Bogolepov of Novosibirsk, Russia.

Pastor Bill Burks of Little Rock, Ark., another T.I.M.E. student, discussed the International T.I.M.E. Program, currently being developed by Rod Henry. Rod has prepared the first two modules. A cooperative effort of COM and the Missionary Society, this curriculum is de-

signed for English-speaking SDB Conferences around the world. In October, Rod will help launch this program with 12 students in Guyana.

school and is preparing to begin his college career and then seminary. He encouraged us to send our pastors to the 1999 Pastors' Conference, to be held April 13-17 in Denver, Colo.

Pastor Tom Mitchell, Centralia, Wash., shared with us about a program called Bivocational Support, a joint effort of COM and the Memorial Board. This program provides pastors with financial support as they train for bivocational ministry. For example, the support program enabled Leon Wheeler, pastor of the Alfred, N.Y.,

Rod Henry noted the high quality of both SDB pastors and those who are preparing to become pastors. He specifically mentioned his excitement regarding the T.I.M.E. students and seminary students.

Bill also informed us of New Worker Orientation, a program developed for new extension workers. There are three people enrolled in this program: Hugh Fyffe and Clyde London of Toronto, and Gordon Fawdry of Mountain View, Mo.

Jeff Rood, Dodge Center, Minn., announced his call to youth ministry and shared information about Denominational Worker Training and In-Service Education. The Council on Ministry views education as a lifelong process, committed to providing financial assistance to pastors who desire to further their education.

Nicholas Kersten of Milton, Wis., recently graduated from high

church, to receive an MS in Elementary Education from Alfred University. He now utilizes his education as a teacher.

Pastor Herlitz Condison of Toronto then shared with us the work of the Committee on Support and Retirement. In addition to administering retirement programs for SDB pastors, COSAR provides counseling and emergency relief funds for our pastors.

Rod Henry continued by noting the high quality of both SDB pastors and those who are preparing to become pastors. He specifically mentioned his excitement regarding the T.I.M.E. students and seminary students. Then Rod asked the pastors in the audience to stand and, in his capacity as the pastors' pastor, he closed the program by conferring a blessing on them. $\text{\$}$

Conference Highlights, cont. from page 6

- The following churches are accepted as candidates for SDB church membership: All Nations—Los Angeles, Calif. Shepherd's Fold—Blountville, Tenn. Colorado Springs—C. Springs, Colo. Community Church—Inglewood, Calif. Cornerstone—Tupelo, Miss.
- Three pastors accredited: Eric Davis, Steven James, and Robert Van Horn.
- Rodney Henry confirmed as Interim Executive Secretary through 1999.
- Each church to be sent a copy of the current "Manual of Procedures" for an additional six-month review.
- The proposed vision statement from the General Council was referred back to the Council for "more consideration and revision."
- General Council is to review the following "suggestions and related matters, and draft bylaw revisions necessary to enact part or all of the 1997 recommendation at Conference in 1999." That recommendation reads:
"Whereas representation on General Council is composed of six members-at-large and six ex-officio members, providing for a limited representation of the denomination as a whole (especially geographically), and whereas serving on General Council for a three-year term is in most cases not adequate time to learn the integral working of the Council: "Be it resolved that the Conference Interest Committee on Nominations recommends that the General Council consider enlarging General Council from the current six members-at-large serving three-year terms, to eight members-at-large, each elected to serve a four-year term, and that no member, including elected or ex-officio members, may serve longer than eight consecutive years."
- Board of Christian Education asked to "send to each church the Nurture Series order form twice a year to encourage all SDB congregations to use the Nurture Series on a regular basis."
- Tract Council is to "include an order form in the *Sabbath Recorder* that would highlight the materials of all boards and agencies at least once a year."
- Aubrey Appel, Milton, Wis., is appointed editor of *The Beacon*.
- The SCSC Committee is to "discuss with the Missionary Society the possibility of establishing a joint training venture for short-term missions."
- Recommended that the Missionary Society "expand the needs database referred to in the 1997 report of the Interest Committee on International Missions. This data should be available on a Missionary Society or General Conference web site and should include among other things:
 1. The names, and specific and prioritized needs, of countries where we have SDB work.
 2. Opportunities, both paid and volunteer, in specific countries with agencies (e.g., international relief and refugee, medical, teaching, agricultural).
 3. The names of SDB individuals and families willing to serve in overseas tentmaker and other ministries, including their specific skills, training, and/or occupations.
 4. The names of SDBs currently serving overseas and their locations."

Awards and recognitions

- Women's Board Robe of Achievement: Lorna Austin Graffius, New Enterprise, Pa.
- Sabbath School Teacher of the Year: Earl "Butch" Hibbard, Central Maryland
- Gold Headed Cane: John Bevis, Paint Rock, Ala.
- Special recognitions given to Finance Manager John Vergeer (retiring), and Calvin Babcock (outgoing Executive Secretary, now Finance Manager).

Variety in worship styles appreciated

by
Penny Thorngate
in the *Conference Crier*

I appreciated all the opportunities we had this week to worship our Lord. And I was made aware of the many styles of worship we experienced.

We had all types of music and all kinds of preaching. We had a service that was "high church"—all hymns, special music of the "classical" type, a straight-forward message, and a request that we not applaud man but reserve our worship for the Lord. It was wonderful!

We had services with all praise choruses shown on the overhead, with encouragement to clap along and applaud after special music, and a more informal message. It was wonderful!

And we had services that combined the two ideas and met in the middle. It was wonderful!!

We've been cajoled, encouraged, informed, admonished. Our speakers have been calm, excited, quiet, loud, peaceful, and raising the rafters.

I have looked around at my fellow worshipers. I have seen hands upraised, hands still, eyes closed, eyes open, eyes gazing upward.

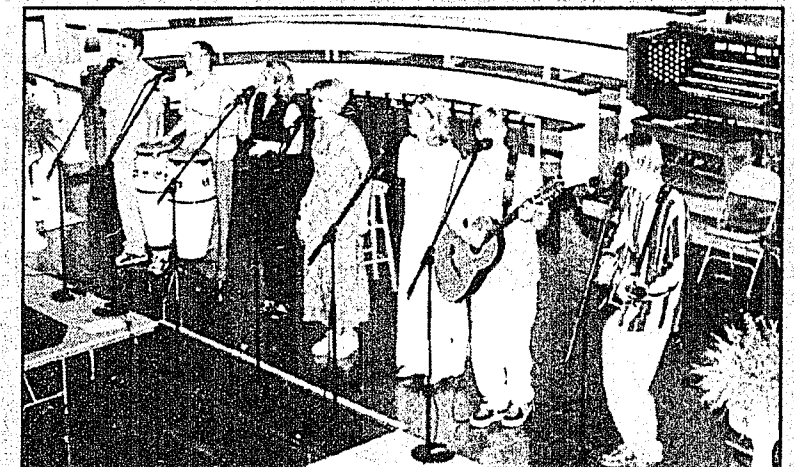
We all worship in different ways and all appreciate different styles of worship. But if the messages continue to be Bible-based, our focus on Jesus, and our worship Holy Spirit-filled, we can all be united in worship.



From Southern Gospel (the "Brothers in Christ" quartet)...



...to traditional Towner's (men's chorus)...



...to more contemporary ("Stained Glass"), Conference attendees appreciated the variety of worshipful music.

SCSC 1998—Team LAUGHTER

by Althea Rood

When you combine commitment to God, desire to serve Him, intensive training, and youthful energy, what do you get? You get the 1998 edition of Summer Christian Service Corps—otherwise known as Team Laughter.

Their theme verse was Psalm 126:2, "Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, 'The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.'"

Indeed the Lord did do great things for us as we united in training to prepare for the summer projects. Several "veterans" indicated that this had been their best training session.

The SCSC participants, project directors, locations, and team verses were:

Light: Steve Graffius,
Kecia Thompsongordon
Marilyn Discher (Battle Creek, MI)
Micah 7:8

Aroma: Karen McPherson,
Cathy Payne
Sanja Looper (Boulder, CO)
2 Cor. 2:15

Understanding: Nathan Kinnicutt, Omari Rhoden
Butch Hibbard (Central MD)
Pastor Herlitz Condison (Toronto)
1 John 5:20

Genuine: Debbie Moncrief,
Marcy Payne
Tanya Henry (Denver, CO)
1 Peter 1:7

Heart: Angi Neher,
Marissa Van Horn
Nicole Cruzan (Milton, WI)
1 Peter 3:14-15

Thankful: Emily Davis,
Nick Kersten
Helen Goodrich (North Loup, NE)
Col. 2:6-7

Endurance: Jennifer Martin,
Cathy Rogers
Duska Davis (Salem, WV)
Rom. 15:4

Rhomphaia:
(Greek for "sword")
John Mark Camenga,
Melissa Winkleblack
Ed Cruzan (White Cloud, MI)
Heb. 4:12

Training was held at two different sites and times this year to meet the needs of those whose schools weren't finished soon enough to attend the mid-June training session at Jersey Oaks Camp near Shiloh, N.J.

Our New Jersey staff included Pastor Bernie Wethington, Lisa Greene, and Althea Rood, training director. Our physical needs were ably met by our chief cook, Vivian Looper, and her assistants, Barbara Davis and Nadine Lawton. They challenged us to try various foods and to learn to take "thank you" portions while on the projects.

Additional part-time staff included Pastor Larry Graffius, Jan Bond, and Charlotte Chroniger, SCSC Committee chairman. SCSC young adults also helped in leadership: Karen McPherson, music; and John Mark Camenga, Kecia Thompsongordon, and Steve Graffius, worship and praise.

During Bible Study, Christian Education classes, evangelism training ("Out of the Salt Shaker," Becky Pippert, IVP), praise and worship times, music leadership

cont. on page 26



Women's Society page

Women's Banquet a most unusual feast

by Susie Bond, reprinted from the *Conference Crier*

Yes, we feasted, not only on the delicacies of assorted meats and salads and desserts served by chefs in tall hats, but also on God's Living Word as women from the Bible literally walked off its pages and stood before us.

Miriam, the political activist, was so powerful she was able, with three words, to drive a pestering news photographer to the floor. Miriam (Vicki Burdick), without further interruption, told how God used leprosy and a miraculous healing to shift her focus from politics to God Himself—all of this after He'd carried her triumphantly through the Red Sea with songs to sing.

Then Naomi (Nancy May) humbly recounted for us the loving words of her daughter-in-law: "Wherever you go, I will go..."

From the New Testament came Phoebe, as Norma Rudert told of her dangerous mission to deliver Paul's letter to the Romans.

Although not in the Bible herself, Tacy Hubbard pulled herself from the 17th century to testify how the Bible brought her to baptism, and later to the Sabbath, under the tutelage of Stephen Mumford. Standing tall through the years of persecution as well as blessing, she was among those who established the first Seventh Day Baptist church in Newport, R.I.

Tacy (Yvonne Stephan), proud of her three daughters who passed their faith to the next generation, expressed her hope that the same faith has been passed on to us. She was pleased to claim Crandalls, Burdicks, Wells, and many more as branches of her family tree.

A gloriously fun highlight of the banquet was learning to sing a

new song in the Zambian language: *nakula mwimbila katula, pantu ali temwe, nakula mwimbila* (I will sing for the Lord because He loves me so).

Thank you, Faith Liyena, for sharing your joy and for also directing our attention to the display in the cafeteria where we could learn more about Zambia. I talked with a lady who has already responded to the needs there by "adopting" an orphan just this week.

The banquet ladies appreciated their favors of pancake mix and syrup, provided by the Alfred Station (N.Y.) ladies, and the special fellowship with one another around the tables.

An extra treat leading us from food and fellowship to the program was Emily Davis' testimony about how God has used SCSC experiences to help her mature, spiritually and socially. God's grace emanated from her as she quietly shared.

We women give thanks to God and to all He used to give us such a blessed feast. *SR*



Yvonne Stephan became Tacy Hubbard at the banquet.



Marcy Payne (l.) and Debbie Moncrief cleaned up lots of leftovers at camp.



Omari Rhoden (l.) and Nathan Kinnicutt went "door-to-door" collecting clothes for a homeless shelter.



Sandy Layton receives her fair share from the "good guy" in the white hat.



Ever the activist: Miriam (Vicki Burdick).

Chris Mattison ordained in Salemville

Rev. Christian R. Mattison, pastor of the two Seventh Day Baptist churches in Salemville, Pa., was ordained during special services on May 9, 1998.

He was recommended for ordination by the Bell SDB Church, which he has served as pastor since November 1, 1990. He has also been serving the German (brick) SDB Church since January of 1992.

The ordination weekend began Friday evening with a public examination of the candidate by a panel of delegates from the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference. This took place at the Bell church.

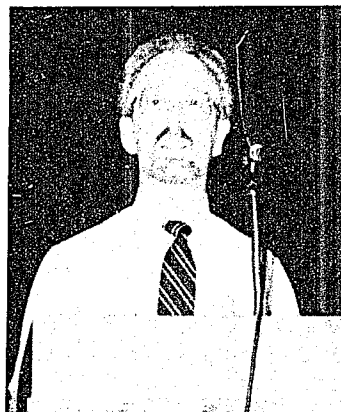
The procedure continued with a combined worship service of the two congregations on Sabbath morning, and the ordination service in the afternoon. Both events were held at the German church, which has a larger sanctuary able to accommodate the nearly 150 persons in attendance.

A number of former pastors of the Bell church returned to take part in the ordination ceremony and the programs leading up to it.

Orlo Kagarise, moderator of the Bell congregation, presided over the Friday evening examination. He introduced Rev. Dr. Dale Thorngate, pastor of the Salem, W.Va., SDB Church and executive of the SDB World Federation. Dr. Thorngate was in charge of the examination.

Rev. Edward Sutton of Blountville, Tenn., a former pastor of the Bell church and currently pastor of Shepherd's Fold Ministries, offered a prayer of guidance before the examination.

Pastor Mattison recently graduated after seven years of a self-paced correspondence program provided by the denomination under its Training in Ministry by Extension (T.I.M.E.) program. The program is designed for persons who wish to enter the ministry but find traditional



Rev. Chris Mattison leading a Bible study at last year's General Conference.

seminary studies unpractical.

The newly ordained minister grew up in Andover, N.Y., where he graduated from high school in 1975. He received an associate degree in building construction and design and cabinet making in 1977 from the State University of New York at Alfred. He served in the Army and Navy from 1981 to 1986, and had been employed in machine maintenance in Cherry Creek, N.Y., before moving to the Cove in 1990.

As part of his examination, Pastor Mattison, 41, presented a Statement of Faith and reviewed his Christian experience. He then entertained questions from the delegates concerning his faith positions.

The Council of Delegates then excused the candidate. After deliberating his qualifications, they voted to recommend him for ordination to the sponsoring congregation. Members of the congregation who attended the examination then voted to ordain their pastor.

The keynote speaker was Rev. Dr. Ernest K. Bee Jr., director of the SDB Board of Christian Education, headquartered in Alfred Station, N.Y. Dr. Bee was Rev. Mattison's former pastor at Alfred Station and baptized him.

Joseph Boyd of the congregation

officiated at the afternoon ordination service. Former pastors taking part included Rev. Melvin Stephan of Marlboro, N.J., who offered the call to worship; Rev. Kent Martin of Cleona, Lebanon County, who gave the invocation; and Rev. John H. Camenga of Daytona Beach, Fla., who offered the charge to the ordinand.

Dr. Thorngate gave the affirmation of ordination, and special music was provided by Betsy Boyd and Tyler Hull.

The charge to the church was given by Rev. Edgar F. Wheeler of Wake Forest, N.C., a former pastor and chairman of the SDB Council on Ministry headquartered in Janesville, Wis. The prayer of consecration was led by Rev. Charles H. Graffius of New Enterprise, Pa., former pastor of the German church. In retirement, he serves as director of the denomination's "Senior Saints."

Rev. David S. Clarke, former SDB executive and retired pastor of the Alfred, N.Y., church, offered Rev. Mattison the official welcome to the ministry.

Rev. Mattison accepted a call to pastor the North Loup, Neb., SDB Church. His last Sabbath in Salemville was June 6, 1998. He and his wife, Rebecca, have three children—Rebekah, 8; Kaitlin, 6; and Evan, 2.

"We very much enjoyed being a part of this community," Pastor Mattison said. "It has been home to us in a deep way, and we have really appreciated the way the community has opened its arms and accepted us. It will be hard to leave, but it has been a wonderful experience to live here and to serve both churches, and to serve with the Ministerium of the community." *SR*

Reprinted from the Morrisons Cove Herald.

Purified through fire

by John Camenga

From the June 1998 Daytona Beach, Fla., church newsletter.

December 21, 1997, had been a pleasant day. We arrived home from an enjoyable family outing at about 11 o'clock that night. To put my mind at ease, I took my usual stroll around the church buildings, "just to make sure" everything was all right.

The guest house, parsonage, and cottage looked fine. I headed down to the church building and parish house. I noticed a smoky odor, but did not think anything of it. I walked down the west side of the church building, noting that everything was normal.

As I came around the back of the addition, I realized that something was terribly wrong. Plywood covered the door and windows at the back of the parish house.

Since the building's outside lamp was not lit, it was dark. But even in the dark, I could see that the roof line had changed dramatically. The smell of smoke was heavy, and the ground was saturated with water.

I did not sleep well that night. My mind was full of questions, but it was too late to call anyone.

How bad was the damage? Was my library destroyed? Were the computer, copier, and other electronic equipment fit to use? How did the fire start?

At "dawn's early light," I began to discover the facts. A neighbor, alerted by the smoke, had called 911 at about 8:00 p.m. The fire-fighters arrived quickly, broke into the building, and put out an electrical fire that had started in the attic.

At first, it looked as if the damage was all at the back of the house. We later discovered that the heat had been so intense that it "cooked" the rafters and roof boards. Although the damage was

extensive, the building's basic structure was sound.

Even though insurance would pay for most of the repairs, we were concerned. How could a church that was still "recovering" from the

The fire-damaged building was vital to our ministry.

building of an addition afford to fix up another building? Deep down, I knew that God would cause this situation to "work together for good," if we permitted His Spirit to guide us.

The fire-damaged building was vital to our ministry. We used it for classroom space, plus the pastor's study and church office. Also, our tape ministry operated out of it, and it provided necessary storage space. But we knew it had begun to look shabby.

The city required that the heavy construction be done by a licensed contractor. It also mandated a com-

pletely new commercial electrical system, one that had to be installed by a licensed electrician.

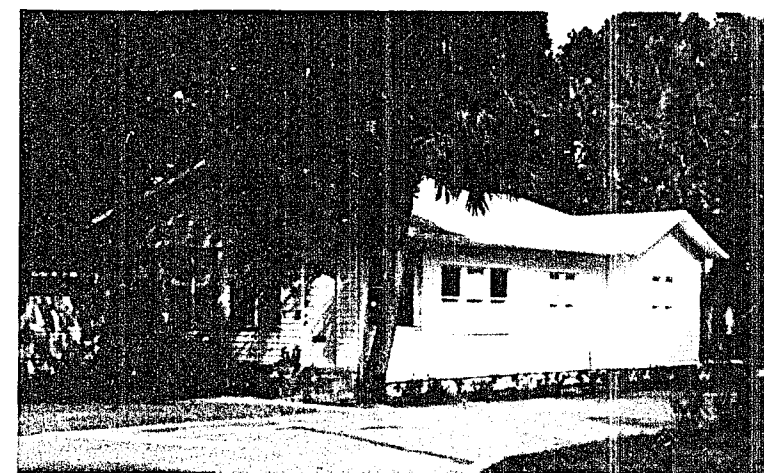
Cash gifts from our sister churches and individuals—plus gifts of labor from church members and "Senior Saints"—made it possible for us to completely restore the building.

We removed unnecessary windows, put insulation board on the outside and then covered it with vinyl siding. Ceilings damaged in the fire or during repairs were replaced. And we installed a new roof, using shingles that matched the church addition.

With all the other changes, a new name is attached to the building as well. The old parish house is now the new "church annex."

God *does* cause all things to work together for good, to them that love Him, to those who are called according to His purpose.

God has given beauty for ashes. He has purified a building by fire. He has reminded this church of the love and support of brothers and sisters in many places. We have been blessed! *SR*



The newly restored and newly named church annex of the Daytona Beach, Fla., SDB Church.

Scripture Memory

Theme: "Be Ye Holy,

Verses—1998-99

for I Am Holy"

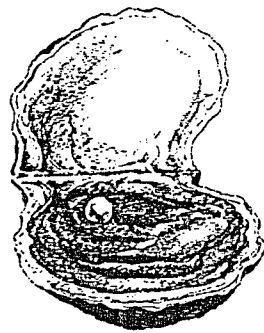
The Scripture Memorization Program for the 1998-99 Conference Year will focus on Conference President Norma Rudert's theme: *Be Ye Holy, for I Am Holy.*

The Board of Christian Education has chosen these verses to be memorized by the family. Anyone who prefers may memorize one or more of these verses from a different Bible version.

A list of persons from each church who have completed this Scripture Memorization Program should be submitted to the Board of Christian Education Office. The postmarked deadline is June 30, 1999. These people will be honored at General Conference.

All Scripture quotations in this list are from the **HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®** NIV® Copyright© 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society.

<u>Month</u>	<u>Youth/Adult</u>	<u>Junior</u>	<u>Primary</u>
October	But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do, for it is written, "Be holy, because I am holy." (1 Peter 1:15-16)	...be holy in all you do, for it is written, "Be holy, because I am holy." (1 Peter 1:15-16)	..."Be holy, because I am holy." (1 Peter 1:16)
November	Lord, who may dwell in your sanctuary? Who may live on your holy hill? He whose walk is blameless and who does what is righteous, who speaks the truth from his heart. (Psalm 15:1-2)	Lord, who may dwell in your sanctuary?... He whose walk is blameless and who does what is righteous... (Psalm 15:1-2)	Lord, who may dwell in your sanctuary?... He whose walk is blameless.... (Psalm 15:1-2)
December	The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. (Proverbs 9:10)	The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. (Proverbs 9:10)	The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom... (Proverbs 9:10)
January	Consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am the Lord your God. Keep my decrees and follow them. I am the Lord, who makes you holy. (Leviticus 20:7-8)	...Keep my decrees and follow them. I am the Lord, who makes you holy. (Leviticus 20:8)	...I am the Lord, who makes you holy. (Leviticus 20:8)
February	Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. (Colossians 3:12)	...as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. (Colossians 3:12)	...as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion.... (Colossians 3:12)
March	...Among those who approach me, I will show myself holy; in the sight of all the people I will be honored.... (Leviticus 10:3)	... Among those who approach me, I will show myself holy; in the sight of all the people I will be honored... (Leviticus 10:3)	...Among those who approach me, I will show myself holy.... (Leviticus 10:3)
April	Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. (Romans 12:1)	Therefore, I urge you, brothers... to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God.... (Romans 12:1)	...I urge you... to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God.... (Romans 12:1)
May	Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers. (Hebrews 2:11)	Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family... (Hebrews 2:11)	Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family.... (Hebrews 2:11)
June	...Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. (Philippians 1:6)	...he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. (Philippians 1:6)	...he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion.... (Philippians 1:6)



A Jones for the Sabbath

I received a letter recently from a descendent of a Jones, who wrote to another Jones within one of our churches, for possible information about an ancestor. The writer thought that this ancestor—who had once lived in Canada—might have had some Seventh Day Baptist background.

Though I knew that there were a number of Joneses scattered in our churches, it was not as common as some other names that I had researched. Fortunately, the inquirer had made a link with a Joel Jones who was a member of the Dodge Center, Minn., Seventh Day Baptist Church.

In the May 31, 1877 *Sabbath Recorder*, I found an extended "In Memoriam" biographical account of Joel. His father and four brothers served in the Revolutionary War, and a cousin, Anson Jones, was President of Texas when it became a state.

Joel himself received a land grant of 160 acres for service as a volunteer in the War of 1812. But it was his religious pilgrimage and not his military or political connections that caught my attention.

"When I was nine years old my mother, whose maiden name was Meade, died and left five children, three sons and two daughters. Death and severe illness broke up the household for a time, and I was bound out to a farmer in Washington County, N.Y.

"Until I was seventeen I lived without God in the world. My

first convictions for sin was at a funeral of an old lady. The minister said there was one less saint to plead for sinners. At the time there was quite a revival of religion in the place, and I obtained a hope, through the mercy of God for the forgiveness of sin.

"I gave my heart to God and was baptized on the 11th of June 1803, and united with the Baptist church in Hartford. In 1809 I was married to Catherine Barnhart. According to our education, we kept the first day of the week for the Sabbath, and were both members of the Baptist church in good standing till the summer of 1825.

"My wife's relatives were already located in Upper Canada, and were anxious for us to be with them. About the first of March we set out in a wagon. The roads were muddy. Arrived near Sackett's Harbor, we came across an old friend with whom we tarried for the night. He said, 'You are spoiling your team; it is not possible to go through; you had better stay with us, and I will get you a place for the Summer, and then in the Autumn you can go to Canada.'

"I consented to do so, and soon found a place, and also soon found that my nearest neighbors kept the Saturday for the Sunday. I thought this was worse than bad roads! I saw Elder William Green, 'the Saturday minister' go past on a Sunday, with a bag of wheat on his horse. I said: 'If I did keep Saturday for Sunday, I would not go through the neighborhood on Sunday with a bag of wheat on my horse.'

"Soon after there was an appointment for Eld. Green to

preach on the subject of the Sabbath. I said to my aunt: 'I suppose he will confine himself to the Old Testament. I don't think he will try to go into the New Testament.' But the Elder quoted the whole of the fourth commandment. He then went into the New Testament, and said that the Sabbath was still binding upon us; that Christ came not to destroy the law, but to fulfill it, and then proved it by the Scriptures.

"Elder Sessions, a Congregational minister, a big gun, and a champion for the Sunday, also preached on the Sabbath question. He quoted the fourth commandment for the *old* dispensation only, but said that Sunday was for the *new* dispensation; made assertions which appeared fine, and said that if we give up Sunday, we may as well give up infant baptism and female communion, for all stand or fall together.

"I saw that it was total failure. But what were we to do? None of our friends observed the Sabbath. We searched the Scriptures to see if these things were so. What will my father say, and what will the church we belong to say? I said: 'To God, and to him alone, I am accountable.'"

He next stated that he went a hundred miles to see if his father would disown him if he kept Saturday and rejected Sunday. His father replied: "Why, Joel, I always did think there was more Scripture for Saturday than for Sunday."

Upon his return, he found that some of his neighbors and good friends warned him that if he kept the Saturday Sabbath, he would starve to death. But Joel thought if keeping the commandments of God

would starve him to death, he would die in a good cause. He resolved by God's help to risk it, and united with the Sabbathkeeping church in Adams, Jefferson County. In the winter of 1826, he moved to Canada. Continuing in his autobiographical sketch, Jones wrote:

"The neighbors there said that the first day is the Sabbath. I replied 'If you show me the Scripture that says the first day of the week is the Sabbath, I will give you my oxen and keep it.' They answered that that could be easily done as there were many places to that effect, but they failing to bring forth the texts, I had no occasion to give up my oxen. My wife's mother, sister, and two brothers and their families turned to keep the Sabbath with us. We met together on the Sabbath for prayer and conference meetings."

After six and a half years in Canada, the family moved back to New York State where he was

a leader in the Clarence church in Erie County for some 20 years before moving to Milton, Wis., in 1854. In 1861, he made his final move to Dodge County in Minnesota where he was a faithful member of the Wasioja and Ashland (now Dodge Center) Seventh Day Baptist Church until his death in 1877.

In tracing the life of Joel Jones, I found a little note attached to a copy of the Dodge Center history stating that Joel was instrumental in the conversion of his nephew, William Meade Jones, to the Sabbath. In his own words, William M. Jones wrote:

"I shall never forget my first visit to him at his home in Clarence (1847) while yet the Sabbath was a dreaded doctrine to me. On the day which I have since learned to call the Sabbath, I preached for the brethren in Clarence. Without thinking of the consequences I gave out the hymn, 'Another six days work is done, another Sabbath is begun.'

"Uncle led the singing to a familiar tune, most heartily. The reaction of the application to the seventh day was such that for the time being I wished I had not given out that hymn. But the leader sang and the rest sang as though they felt and meant it. The sight of my eyes and the hearing of my ears of that first Sabbath service have never been effaced.

"Then on the following day (to me) Lord's (?) day morning at the rising of the sun, I found Aunt at her church and Uncle about his daily work! This opened my eyes as they had never been opened before."

William Meade Jones went on to become a Seventh Day Baptist missionary, pastor, and one of our most prolific writers on the Sabbath. His spiritual journey provides material for a "Pearls from the Past" for a later issue of *The Sabbath Recorder*. *SR*

THE SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY
IS PROUD TO PRESENT THE
ISAAC D. TITSWORTH GOLD HEADED CANE AWARD TO

REV. JOHN D. BEVIS

FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE IN THE PRESERVATION,
INTERPRETATION AND COMMUNICATION OF HISTORY
AS A PASTOR, TEACHER, EDITOR OF THE SABBATH
RECORDER, DIRECTOR OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
AND PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE
FOR "A CHOSEN GENERATION"

GIVEN AT GENERAL CONFERENCE AUGUST 1, 1998



President John Bevis (right) was shocked to be handed the Gold Headed Cane by Historical Society President S. Kenneth Davis.



the BEACON

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

Youth Pre-Con celebrates disciplines

by Aubrey Appel, Milton, Wis.

If you have ever been to a Seventh Day Baptist YF meeting, hung out after church on Sabbath afternoons with a group of Christian friends, or been to a summer camp with fellow SDBs, then you probably have a small understanding of the awesome experience that defines Pre-Con. Pre-Con is similar to an extremely large YF group, with youth from all over the country and many differing American accents.

This year's Pre-Con program was directed by the ever-famous Pastor Andrew Camenga and was definitely a success. The other counselors that kept us in line were Pastor Steve James and his wife, Debbie; Leanne Rogers; Vivian Looper; and Reid and Phyllis Mattison.

There were a total of 57 campers this year, who often became hungry at various times during the day and were graciously fed by Duska Davis, Chip Thorngate, and Vicki Barnes.

The theme for the week was, "Celebrating the Disciplines," which was printed on a really cool sticker that we got on a folder the first day. Some of the disciplines we looked at were prayer, study of the Word, submission, service, holiness, and worship. Pastor Andrew spoke on these subjects about twice a day.

We learned about the fruits of the Spirit and the greatest gift of all, love. We also read our Bibles by ourselves during "A Time Set Apart" (if we could stay awake!). Pastor Andrew could be heard saying, "God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life!" about 23 times a day.

Our days consisted of falling out of bed at an early hour and stumbling into the smelly showers. (For those of you who don't know what I mean by smelly, you haven't experienced one of the "joys" of Camp Joy. The water supply out in rural Berea rather reeks of sulfur.)

Some of the "lucky" campers, like me, had only heard of the "water situation," but finally fulfilled our dreams and got to experience bathing in it, washing in it, and drinking it. However bad the water, though, we didn't let it ruin our Pre-Con experience.

The rest of the day consisted of meals, chores, celebrations of certain disciplines, recreation, planning activities and Monday night's Conference service, nap time (a favorite among us), and just sitting and talking with faraway SDB friends.

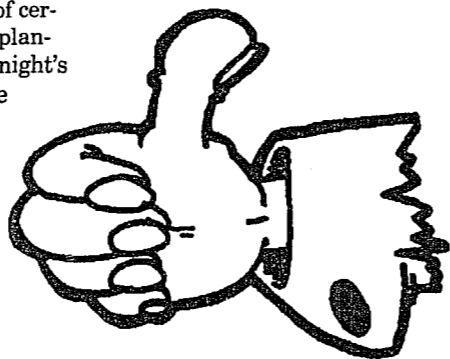
Pre-Con was something I will remember for the rest of my life. God really worked during Pre-Con, and we had one camper who accepted Christ as her savior. (We love you!)

Vespers time was always cool and moving, even when we had to sing a cappella. We all bonded really well by the end of the week, and we were excited about spending more time together at Conference.

I was extremely glad to be able to go to Pre-Con and spend time with Christian people my age. I will certainly e-mail many of them when I get home.

I would give the Pre-Con Experience two thumbs up. I thank the Lord that He kept us all safe and gave us an awesome time together.

—Reprinted from the Conference Crier.



FOCUS
on Missions

Schools, education as a mission field

by Kirk Looper

Many of our sister Conferences and churches are appealing for funds to help in the educational fields associated with their work. The type or level of education may vary from pastoral education to primary schooling for the children in their churches.

We believe that educating young people and pastors/leaders in the churches is important. It is a form of outreach and a way to improve the existing groups. We can only pray that each of you will review the following requests that have come into our office and then decide to help.

Brazil

Brazil is an active Conference with many churches. However, like most of our other Conferences, church members are very poor. The tithes and offerings that come in are used to support the church work. They have a school where they train their ministers, but the buildings and curriculum need updating.

We continue to pray for them as they go through difficult times with their Conference finances. These financial problems have affected their ability to help in Argentina and other surrounding countries.

Zambia

Zambia has plans for a number of educational facilities. These include centers for carpentry, tailoring, metal fabrication, basic electricity, secretarial services, nursery school development, and ministerial education.

With ambitious plans, they have instructors to fill the positions for

each area. However, they do not have the finances to put up the buildings, or to supply the equipment and tools.

Their vision for an elementary school connected with each of their 35 churches will ensure that their youth will have an opportunity to become educated and prepared for further training. Through this training, they will become produc-

We believe that educating young people and pastors/leaders in the churches is important. It is a form of outreach and a way to improve the existing groups.

tive citizens of the community and will be better able to take leadership positions within the Conference and churches.

Malawi

Malawi has established several schools associated with the churches that were started. During the time that our Conference hired missionaries for Malawi, they worked at establishing hospitals and schools. Malawi's government also helps in the daily work of the schools and hospitals.

SDBs in Malawi continue to try to start schools at the churches that do not have them. Technical or vocational schools are also needed to enhance the future of the students that go through the grade levels equivalent to our high school.

The Bible College continues to function as a "lame duck" organization. They lack adequate funds to support the total program to educate their pastors. The T.I.M.E. program is also suffering because of inadequate funds to pay participants' travel expenses to periodic seminars.

Kenya

Kenya has decided to begin upgrading their one school. They would like to expand their offerings to include up through the 8th grade, with heavy emphasis on preschool and kindergarten.

They need more room, books, desks, and other miscellaneous supplies and equipment. They hope to eventually increase their educational level to the upper grades.

I realize that I did not cover all of the countries and the educational work being done in them. If you need information concerning specific Conferences or churches, please request it from the Missionary Society, 119 Main Street, Westerly, RI 02891. ✠



Train up a child...

by Ruth A. Probasco

"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

I had heard the above saying quite often, but it was a long time before I realized it came from the Bible (Proverbs 22:6).

I have seen this "proverb" in action over the years where children grew up in the church, but as young adults went their own way for a time (sometimes a short time, sometimes longer) before returning to an active church life with positive Christian values.

On a personal note, I was raised in a Christian home—initially as a "First Day" Baptist, and then as a Seventh Day Baptist. It really wasn't until I had a family of my own that Christian living and the Church became a significantly more important part of my life.

At our Shiloh, N.J., church, we have just finished

a Bible study on Exodus and Leviticus. I feel the application of this proverb can be found in the life of Moses.

Moses' father and mother were Amram and Jochebed, of the tribe

father and mother may have feared death, and were undoubtedly afraid of the King's edict, "they chose to trust the God of Israel."

Some commentators have placed Moses' time of learning with

**Often, the first look
of God is through the eyes
of loving mothers and fathers.**

of Levi. They had three children—Aaron, Miriam, and Moses. Rather than following Pharaoh's orders to kill all male babies, Amram and Jochebed saved Moses (who was three months old at the time) and hid him in the bullrushes.

This is a familiar Sabbath School story. Even though his

his family anywhere from three to five years. After that period, Jochebed returned Moses to Pharaoh's daughter. History says Moses attended Egyptian universities, became a general in the Egyptian army, and defeated the Ethiopians. It also notes that Pharaoh's daughter, having no child of her own, intended to make Moses her father's successor.

After Moses killed the Egyptian guard, he fled to another country. We know that when Moses faced a major crossroads at the age of 40, the simple values instilled by his Hebrew mother far outweighed the influence of Egyptian teachings. In part, because of this early training, God chose Moses as His spokesperson. Through Moses, God led the Israelites out of Egypt.

In our modern setting of "round-the-clock child care" and "television babysitting," think of what a loving, caring parent can—and should—do. Often, the first look of God is through the eyes of loving mothers and fathers. It may be the most important look for time and eternity. **SR**



Pearl of the present

by Caroline Shorter

On April 26, 1998, the New York City Seventh Day Baptist Church honored a long-serving member, Pearl Louise Mulvaney-Cooper. Her service to the church has been primarily visible as organist for 17 years, treasurer for 10 years, and president of the Women's League for 11 years.

Sister Cooper's sojourn as a laborer for the Lord goes back to her days in Jamaica, where she served in all of the above offices at the Kingston SDB Church. Many thought that when she migrated to the United States in 1981, it was to enjoy the life of a semi-retired person. That was not to be, as Sister Pearl's servant heart would not allow her to sit and do nothing.

Tributes for the special occasion were paid to her by Deaconess Cirina Salmon, representing the church's Diaconate Board; Pastor Andrew Samuels, on behalf of the Trustee Board; and Sister Anita Loney from the Women's League.

Other individuals also delivered tributes, many reflecting on personal moments shared with Sister Pearl, who has endeared herself through her inimitable wit, friendly disposition, and uncanny knowledge of even the remotest subjects. Her unique ability to pass on words of advice to young and old was mentioned by several speakers. Those unable to attend sent tributes from as far away as Jamaica and Toronto, Canada.

The program was decorated with tributes in dance by Dayna Miller, songs and a poem by Sylvia Clarke and Ayana Rickards (a grandchild), and a special song and dance selection by her four granddaughters—Ayana, Krystle, Kimberly, and Chenille.

The appreciation dinner was truly a significant moment for the entire family, as all of the honoree's four children were present: Althea, Maureen, Paulette, and Junior. Nine of her 12 grandchil-

dren were also present.

Paulette had the audience in stitches, and held them spellbound as she delivered a moving tribute to her mother. She spoke of her mom's selflessness, her commitment to her

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they are still alive.**

family, and her dedication to the Church and the work of the Lord.

Paulette's tribute highlighted the fact that if Sister Pearl becomes ill (which rarely happens), she recovers by the end of the week so that she can be around the organ on Sabbath morning. When she had surgery on her eyes, instead of staying home, she made a Ray Charles-like appearance in church. And when she recently broke an ankle, she was in church, hobbling up and down the stairs without a complaint. Such is Sister Pearl's devotion to duty.

A well-deserved trip to London (given by her children) and a purse from the church were among the gifts she received. In her response of thanks, she gave all the glory to God.

What a joy it is to be able to honor and recognize the contribution of God's servants to His Kingdom work while they are still alive. Many thanks to all who played a part in the tremendous success of Sister Pearl's appreciation dinner.

Sister Cooper, you will always be our pearl! **SR**

SR Reaction

*Opinions do not necessarily reflect
the views of the SR or all SDBs.
Letters may be edited according
to space and editorial style.*

Dear Brother Butler:

The Sabbath Recorder has been a source of encouragement and education for my wife and me for a number of years as well as being an assistance in our witness. I hope that we will be able to continue to receive it.

The Sabbath Recorder, however, has seen an incorporation of language and illustrations that tends to compromise its thrust. Cartoon material, in particular, detracts from the dignity of this magazine. Sometimes I think that I'm looking at the Sunday comics. Its text often employs colloquial, giving a strictly American rendering or idiom.

Please be encouraged to return to

the era in which *The Sabbath Recorder* once stood out as a conservative voice for the church and for the Holy Word. Within the ranks of Seventh Day Baptists are Christians who need to develop a much more serious address than is encouraged by avant-gardism as it is found frequently in your feature articles. Time is rapidly drawing to an end and the church is still not sufficiently serious about the fate of those to whom the pure word should go. Image retention is not evangelism!

Yours in Christ,
Ulrich de Spretter
New Milford, PA

Saints complete Brookfield project

by Bill Bowyer

Following the pattern of alliteration in the group's name, a headline about the Senior Saints' project in Brookfield, N.Y., might be: "Eight Congenial Couples, Sixteen Super-Serving Senior Saints at Brookfield."

Who?

The Senior Saints were led by Chuck and Lorna Graffius, who were assisted by Calvin and Meleta Babcock, Milburn and Beth Jones, Gordon and Beverly Kilts, Reid and Phyllis Mattison, Wes and Suzanne McCrea, Chet and Noreen Miller, and late arrivals Dale and Alfreda Hull.

What?

These industrious individuals repaired, renovated, and restored three sets of steps, railings, and



two porches, plus sealed a hole in the building at the parsonage.

At the Meeting House, they installed an entryway and door at the entrance to the basement level; a handicap-accessible bathroom was built; lamps and the wiring to them were replaced at the main entrance; at the (side) Sessions Room entrance, the outside door was replaced; and after moving the old ramp, they constructed a new one over 30 feet long.

When?

Most of the gregarious group arrived on Wednesday, May 27, 1998, and work began on the following day at both construction sites. The project was completed on Sunday, June 7, by the few remaining couples.

Where?

The work took place at the parsonage in Brookfield, and at the Meeting House in Leonardsville, four miles away.

Why?

This project was done to serve the LORD and help the Leonardsville/Brookfield SDB Church with much needed repairs to these two buildings. Funds for the materials were provided by a grant from the SDB Memorial Board. These funds will also help repair some of the stained glass windows and pay for the purchase and installation of a new furnace in the parsonage.

The grateful pastor and congregation of this church appreciate all the help from these dedicated and committed servants. We also thank the Memorial Board for making this work possible and for demonstrating the denomination-in-action on the local church level.

Thank you, LORD! *SR*

North Loup prepares for new pastor

by Marjorie Goodrich

The North Loup, Neb., Seventh Day Baptist Church is on a roll. "We have overcome," the saying declares, and it is true.

From a near furnace boiler explosion to geothermal heating/cooling, and loss of our pastor to Seattle and then acceptance of our call by Pastor Chris Mattison to be our new shepherd, the Lord has guided and protected us in many ways.

In great anticipation of the Mattisons' arrival, we have made many improvements.

Besides new carpet in the church sanctuary and office, much attention was given to the parsonage. Thanks to numerous volunteer hours by church family members, central heat and air were installed overall, and a beautiful full bathroom was added to the back

entry off the garage.

New vinyl floor covering was put in the kitchen and both bathrooms, with the other rooms and stairway carpeted. These rooms were also painted off-white. A dishwasher and new refrigerator made the kitchen complete.

Basement walls were finished with moisture proofing, and all was painted white. We are spit-polished and ready. Praise God!

Having been led by guest ministers and talented church family members, we have been blessed with many meaningful church worship services the past year.

We are thankful for the God-given talents that kept our church flowing while being without a pastor. We pray for the Lord's special blessing to each for serving in many ways. *SR*

Association held in CNY

The Leonardsville/Brookfield SDB Church hosted the Central New York Association meeting on June 5-7, 1998. The schedule, program, and theme were developed by the host pastor, Bill Bowyer.

The theme of the meeting was "Being a Servant—Through Participation." It was based on Jesus' example as described in Philipians 2:1-8, and the theme Scripture verse, John 12:26 (NIV).

Each of the Association pastors spoke about a different model from the Old Testament: Pastor Andrew Camenga talked of young David during the Friday evening worship service; Pastor Bowyer spoke of 80-year-old Moses during Sabbath morning worship; and Pastor Steve James discussed Ruth on Sunday morning, prior to the Association business meeting.

Sabbath morning worship concluded with the Lord's Supper, with retired pastors Gene Smith and Rex Burdick leading. During the service, we paid recognition to Rev. Burdick's anniversary of 50 years as an ordained minister.

After worship, the ladies of the first-day Baptist Church served our meal. This was followed by a special time where lay people shared testimonies, experiences, readings, and favorite hymns. The participants included delegates from other Associations.

In the evening, the youth used up some of their energy with a softball game, and then everyone enjoyed a concert by the "Brothers-In-Christ Gospel Quartet." The group includes Pastors James and Smith.

The churches of the Central New York Association are Adams Center, Leonardsville-Brookfield, and Verona. The group at the new work in Rome, N.Y., was also invited. *SR*

Youth Pre-Con campers sing at Conference



Women's Society annual Love Gift

The record-setting total of the 1998 Love Gift at Conference was \$4,094.87.

Distributed as:

- Jamaica Barrels—\$200 (postage to mail supplies)
- Ron & Chris Davis—\$200 (transition between missions)
- "Voices of Praise"—\$200 (for traveling expenses so they can sing in Jamaica)

Of the remainder:

- Zambia—20% (sewing machines for school uniforms)
- Zambia—20% (Faith Orphanage)
- Jamaica—20% (Maiden Hall's development)
- Rwanda—10% (roofs, medical help)
- Chernobyl—10% (orphan's medical help)
- Sunshine Mountain—10% (home for handicapped)
- Luis Lovelace—10% (Mexico Mission)

Accessions

Battle Creek, MI
Harold King, pastor
 Joined after baptism
 Gregory Fick
 Jacqueline Giles
 Bradley Noel

Leonardsville/Brookfield, NY
William Bowyer, pastor
 Joined after baptism
 Sarah Denney

New York City, NY
 Joined after testimony
 Una Jackson
 Jacinta Sterling
 Samuel Sterling
 Joined after baptism
 Rhiad Belford

Salemville, PA
Chris Mattison, pastor
 Joined after baptism
 Jasmine Patterson
 Jessecia Patterson
 Joined after testimony
 Esther Baker

Births

Graham.—A daughter, Shayna Eileen Graham, was born to Scott and Alicia (Van Horn) Graham of Berkeley Springs, WV, on January 5, 1998.

Kenyon.—A son, Jameson Albert Kenyon, was born to Kevin and Sandra Kenyon of Coudersport, PA, on May 27, 1998.

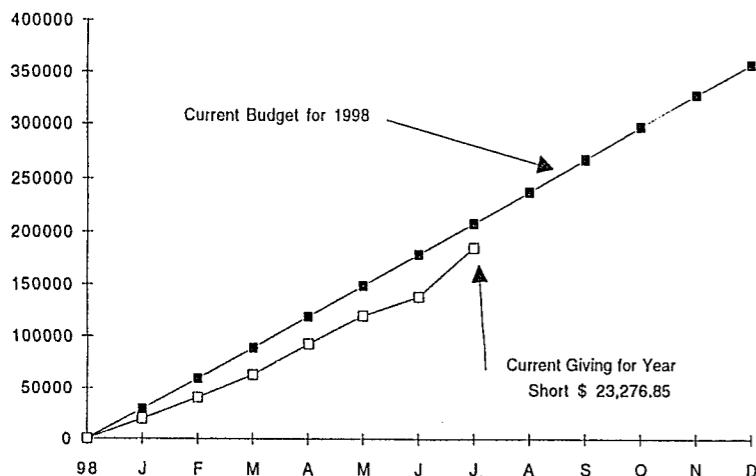
Marriages

Franzen - Davis.—David Franzen and Rebecca Davis were united in marriage on June 13, 1998, at the Bethany Christian Church in Lincoln, NE.

Robertson - Michaels.—Gerald Robertson and Charlotte Sutton Michaels were united in marriage on June 27, 1998, at the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Paint Rock, AL. Rev. John D. Bevis officiated.

Lippincott - Herndon.—Jay Lippincott and Angelia Herndon were united in marriage on July 3, 1998, at Castle Otis in St. Augustine, FL.

Current Giving 1998



How far did God's dollar GROW?

At our 1997 General Conference, Executive Secretary Calvin Babcock handed out approximately 300 one-dollar bills to the attendees, saying, "This is a gift from God." We were instructed to use that "talent"—to spend it, save it, invest it, or multiply it for God's Kingdom. On Tuesday evening at this year's Conference, we were called to account for our gift. The total collection amounted to **\$4,507.74**. Praise the Lord for honoring those who put His dollar to work!

Obituaries

Ogden.—Margaret Stillman Ogden, 84, of Denver, Colo., died on March 6, 1998.

She was born on a farm near Nortonville, Kan., on May 10, 1913, the daughter of Dennis and Maude (Hurley) Stillman. She graduated from Nortonville High School in 1931. On June 13, 1931, she married S. Duane Ogden in her parents' home.

Margaret and her husband served in numerous churches in Kansas, Missouri, and Illinois after Mr. Ogden started his ministry at the Seventh Day Baptist Church in Nortonville, where they met. She was a homemaker.

Survivors include one son, Duane, of Royal Oak, Mich.; two daughters, Judith Randall of Ashland, Kan., and Jane Mangone of Arvada, Colo.; 12 grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband and one son, Charles (Chuck) Ogden.

Following cremation, a graveside memorial service was held on May 23, 1998, in the Nortonville Cemetery.

Tobey.—Hattye M. Tobey, 93, of Perrysburg, Ohio, died on May 14, 1998, in Harborside Health Care, Perrysburg.

She was born on May 6, 1905, in London, Ky., the daughter of George C. and Mollie Eliza (Evans) Evans. She married Herbert Wade, who died in 1935. In 1953, she married Alvah Tobey, who died in 1965.

Hattye was employed in the dietary department of the former Veterans Administration Hospital in Battle Creek, Mich., until retiring. She had been a member of the Battle Creek Seventh Day Baptist Church since 1974.

Survivors include two daughters, Marion L. Wolfe of Perrysburg, and Betty D. Babineau of Winchenden,

Mass.; eight grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren, and 13 great-great-grandchildren. In addition to her husbands, she was preceded in death by brothers, sisters, and one grandson.

Funeral services were held on May 16, 1998, at Marsh Funeral Home in Luckey, Ohio. Burial was in the Roof Cemetery, Climax, Mich.

Curry.—John Hamilton Curry Jr., 74, of Mt. Clare, W.Va., died on May 19, 1998, at his home.

He was born on August 5, 1923, in Mt. Clare, the son of John Hamilton Curry Sr. and Jessie Emily (Perry) Curry. His wife, Mary Maxine Myers, preceded him in death on May 28, 1985.

John was retired from the West Virginia State Tax Department with 22 years of service. He had been a member of the Lost Creek Seventh Day Baptist Church since 1935.

Survivors include a special friend, Bertha Fleming of West Milford, W.Va.; two sons, John H. Curry II and Dr. Steven T. Curry, both of Mt. Clare; two daughters, Jessie Lee Saunders of Hazelhurst, Ga., and Mary Ann Hall of Mt. Clare; one sister, Dawsalee Rymer of Lost Creek; nine grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Interment was at the Lost Creek SDB Cemetery.

Burdick.—H. Laurence Burdick, M.D., 83, of Little Genesee, N.Y., formerly of Milton, Wis., died on May 24, 1998, at the home of his daughter.

He was born on November 9, 1914, in Welton, Iowa, the son of Harvey LaGrange and Beula Burdick. On June 29, 1943, he married the former Virginia Norman in Milton.

Dr. Burdick was a veteran of

World War II and the Korean Conflict, serving in the Army and Air Force, respectively. A graduate of Milton High School, Milton College, and UW-Madison Medical School (in 1943), he practiced medicine in Milton for over 32 years before retiring in 1979.

He was a member of the Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church and the American Legion Post. He received an honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from Milton College in 1977.

Dr. Burdick was a member of a Milton College singing quartet that performed throughout the Midwest. He was also a member of the Milton Kiwanis Club and the American Medical Association, and served as president of the Medical Staff at Mercy Hospital, Janesville, and Edgerton (Wis.) Memorial Hospital. He was chairman of the Audio Visual Committee of the American Sabbath Tract and Communication Council, Janesville.

In addition to his wife, survivors include two sons, Dr. Norman R. Burdick of Galesburg, Ill., and Rev. Kenneth B. Burdick of Auburn, Wash.; one daughter, Linda Lawton of Little Genesee; and seven grandchildren.

A memorial service was held on June 13, 1998, at the Milton SDB Church. Revs. George Calhoun and Rodney Henry officiated.

Walkup.—Elma Walkup, 94, of North Loup, Neb., died on May 31, 1998, at the Valley County Nursing Home in Ord, Neb., where she had lived the last four years.

She was born on May 9, 1904, in Farnam, Neb., the daughter of William and Alice (Adams) Van Horn. In 1910, the family moved to the North Loup area, where Alma received her education. Following her 1922 graduation from

North Loup High, she stayed in the homes of local families, watching their children.

On February 15, 1927, she married Carl Walkup at the Van Horn family farm. Prior to Carl's death in 1980, the couple lived on various farms in the North Loup area. Elma was hired to care for Lena Mulligan's husband, and also worked at the North Loup Cafe.

Elma was a member of the North Loup Seventh Day Baptist Church and the American Legion Auxiliary. She enjoyed crocheting and, when she was younger, played the piano. She remained a resident of North Loup throughout her life, and lived at No Lo Villa prior to moving to Ord.

Survivors include one son, Dean, and one daughter, Vicki Rowbal, both of North Loup; one brother, Sheldon Van Horn of North Loup; 14 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren, and six great-great-grandchildren. In addition to her

husband, she was preceded in death by one son, Lorren; one daughter, Helen Potomic; three brothers, Lloyd, Elwood, and Ray; and one sister, Hazel Ingraham.

Funeral services were held on June 4, 1998, at the North Loup SDB Church, with Dr. Bernard Keown officiating. Burial was in the Hillside Cemetery near North Loup.

Mitchell.—Orlene Mitchell, 84, of Nortonville, Kan., died on July 2, 1998, at a hospital in Cheyenne, Wyo.

She was born on September 7, 1913, in Nortonville Kan., the daughter of Orla and Essie (Van Horn) Kenyon. She attended "Center Country School," and graduated from Nortonville High School in 1932. In 1939, she graduated from St. Luke's Nursing School in Denver, Colo., and worked at various hospitals.

She married Jack Mitchell on

November 30, 1939, in the Nortonville Seventh Day Baptist Church. He died on March 7, 1989.

Orlene and her husband were employed as head nurse and administrator when the Winchester (Kan.) Hospital opened. In 1960, they moved to Grand Junction, Colo., where Orlene worked at St. Mary's Hospital. She later served as a Public Health Nurse in Rifle, Colo. They moved back to Nortonville in 1981. She was a member of the Nortonville SDB Church.

Survivors include one son, Orley, of Bartlett, Tenn.; two daughters, Georgia Carter of Rifle, and Paula Starks of Cheyenne; two sisters, Kathryn Niemann and Reba Wheeler, both of Nortonville; eight grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on July 6, 1998, at the Nortonville SDB Church, with Dr. Kenneth Smith officiating. Burial was in the Nortonville Cemetery.

Team LAUGHTER, cont. from page 10

training, discovering life principles ("Relationships," Dean Sherman, YWAM), recreation and campfire leadership training, or prayer times, God graciously ministered to our spirits, souls, and bodies.

The second training session was held at Phil and Ruth Hazen's home in Tracy's Landing, Md. In their graciousness, they loaned us their beautifully restored home for the training of a team which served the Central Maryland SDB Church before Conference, and the Toronto, Canada, SDB Church following Conference.

Trainers at the second session were Pastor Dale and Althea Rood. While the training was shorter, Bible Study, evangelism, principles of relationships, praise and worship, and prayer were key elements.

Activities that these young

adults helped with included: church camps, Bible schools/Bible clubs, basketball camps, clothing drive for the homeless, church visitation, clerical work (newsletters, fair booth brochures, and organizing music overheads), staffing a teen center, ministering to the elderly, and Host Committee re-


SCSC is an opportunity to experience the Lord at work.

sponsibilities for Conference. Testimonies, children's messages, planning and leading a youth Sabbath, and/or special music are common opportunities that SCSCers provide on Sabbaths.

SCSC is an opportunity for our Seventh Day Baptist young adults to experience the Lord at work in their lives and to develop leadership skills. Due to the variety of tasks they are called upon to do, SCSCers learn to depend on God and find that He is more than sufficient to meet any need they have.

Throughout the project, each worker, project director, and staff member has a prayer partner. Thank you for your prayerful and financial support.

If you would like to be a prayer supporter next year, please write the SDB Women's Society, c/o Shiloh SDB Church, Box 145, Shiloh, NJ 08353.

May all of us be able to declare with the Psalmist: "The Lord has done great things for us and we are filled with joy" (Psalm 126:3). 

K E V I N ' S

O R N E R

I'll never forget my first semester at Houghton College. My schedule was packed—as had been my pattern through high school and junior college. But much stiffer academic standards greeted me at Houghton. So did a lower grade point average. I was getting worried.

An evangelist came to conduct several services during "Spiritual Emphasis Week."

Two words from Psalm 37 sprung from his lips repeatedly. They continue to echo in my mind after 20 years:

"Fret not!"

I can hear the evangelist's fervor ("Fret not!!"), the inflection in his voice ("Fret not!!), but why can't I always follow this convicting command?

Preparations for Conference this year caused much fretting.

No air-conditioned dorms! In West Virginia! In July! *Oh, dread—I'll probably sweat to death.*

All of these boxes and display items to move! *Oh, dread—I'll probably hurt my back again.*

The Tract Council's presentation is too complicated and probably too long! *Oh, dread...*

Oh, me of little faith.

The Lord blessed us with beautiful weather; no need for the A/C.

My back survived the lifting and moving; no need for physical therapy or traction.

The TCC's take-off of "What's My Line?" was a lot of fun and ended right on schedule.

I once again had to ask myself, "So why didn't I 'Fret not'?"

What I did experience was a powerful confirmation

of being part of a chosen generation. What a great time to belong to this movement of God.

We should praise God for President John Bevis. Talk about reasons to fret! Battling his newly-diagnosed Parkinson's disease and unsure of his physical stamina, John "stood strong" before the challenges of the week and watchful eyes of the attendees. Thank you, Lord.

I overheard many upbeat comments directed toward our young people. Such great enthusiasm and potential for positive leadership! I am again thankful for our own Jennifer, taking many of these photos, in addition to her nursery duties and catching up with nationwide friends.

Thanks also go to Bob and Linda Harris and their *Conference Crier* staff members.

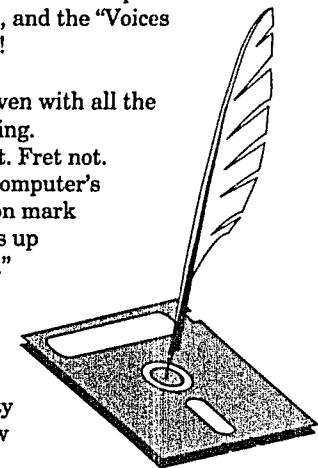
We should really appreciate our musical talent, especially those traveling far to share their gifts. Thank you, "Stained Glass" (awesome as usual), the "Brothers in Christ" quartet from upstate New York, and the "Voices of Praise" from Toronto!

It was a fine week, even with all the usual preparatory fretting.

Why worry? Chill out. Fret not.

It's like moving the computer's cursor up to the question mark icon. A little word lights up near the pointer: "Help."

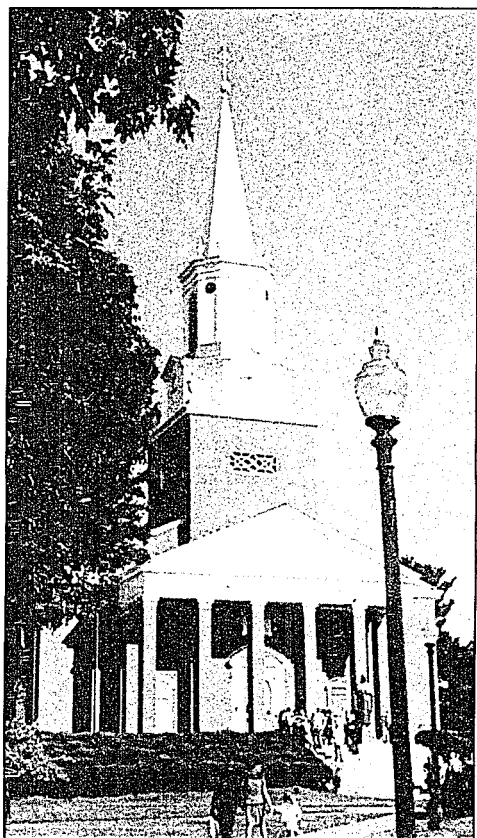
Have any question marks in your life? Point to Him for help. He'll say, "Fret not," and give you plenty of solid reasons to follow that command.



Next month: more Conference coverage!
Next year: more Conferencel

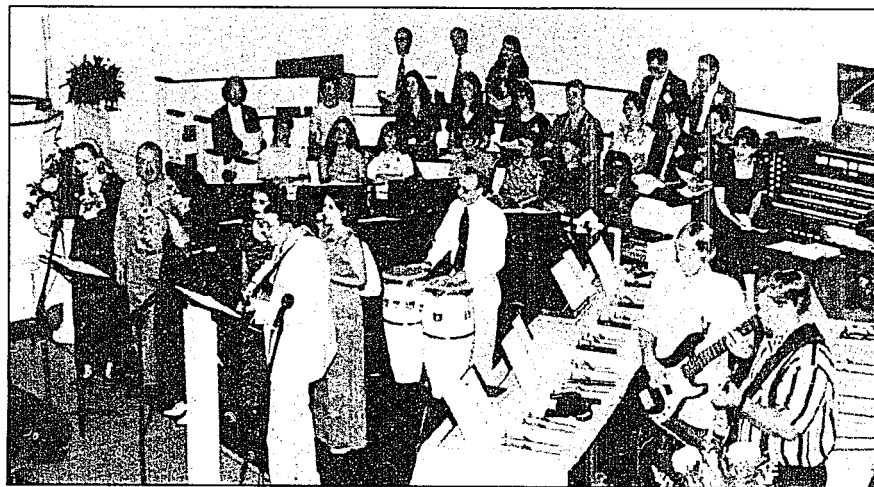
"Be ye holy, for I am holy."
(1 Peter 1:16)

President Norma Rudert
Hope College, Holland, Mich. August 1-7, 1999



Sabbath at Conference!

*The children loved the puppets
during family Sabbath School.*



*A worship band led the
Scripture choruses on
Sabbath morning.*