

The

S

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*News for and about
Seventh Day Baptists*

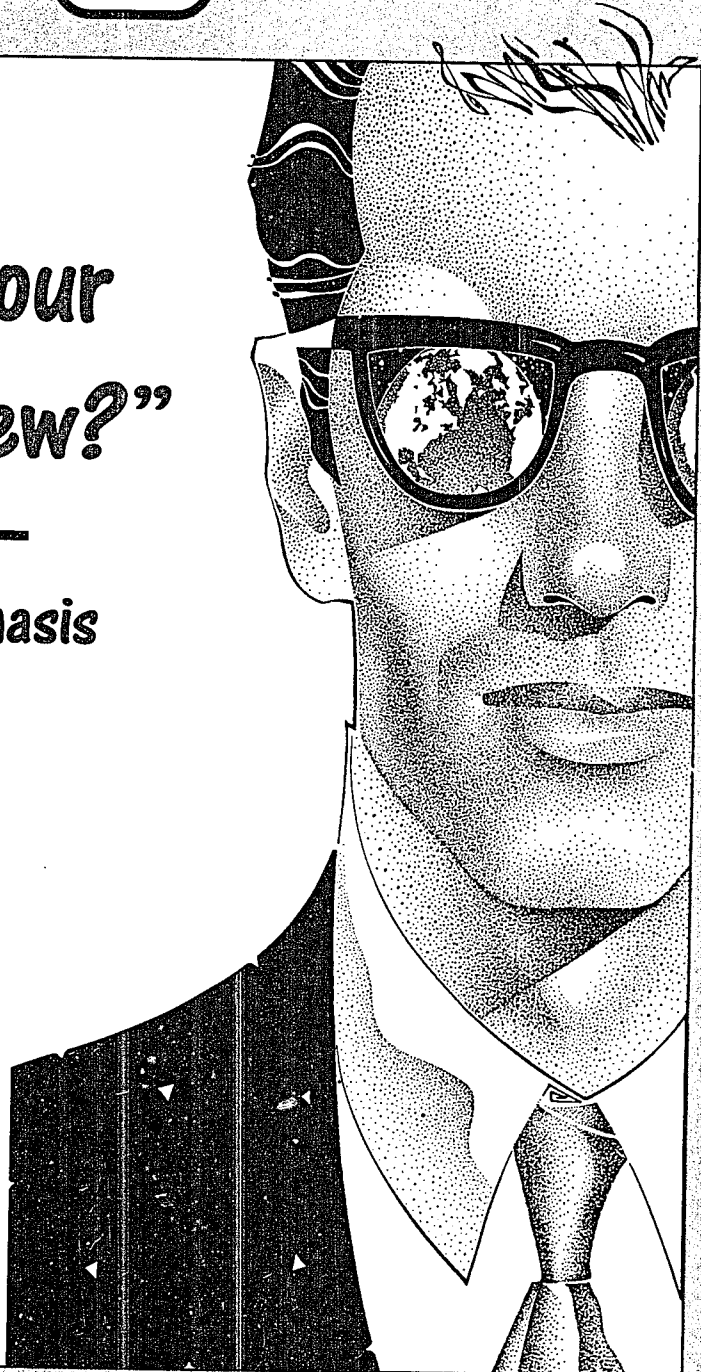
January 1999

R

ecorder

**“How’s your
world view?”**

**Missions emphasis
1999**





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

Summer Christian Service Corps 1999

To apply to SCSC, write to:
Jeanne Dickinson
1256 Roadstown Rd.
Bridgeton, NJ 08302
Phone (609) 455-5137

Worker Training:

June 18-25

Director Training:

June 17-21

Project Dates:

June 26 - July 26

Application Deadline:

February 1, 1999

Robe of Achievement

Nominations due
by March 31

Send to:
Elizabeth Bidwell
PO Box 136
Shiloh NJ 08353

(see Nov. SR
for guidelines)

Missionary Society Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the members of the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society will be held at the Pawcatuck SDB Meeting House, 120 Main St., Westerly, R.I., on Sunday, March 20, 1999, at 2:00 p.m. for the following purposes:

To elect voting members, a Board of Managers, and officers to hold office until the next annual meeting and until their successors are elected.

To hear and act upon the reports of the Board of Managers and officers for the fiscal year January 1, 1998, to December 31, 1998.

To ratify the appointment of independent public accountants for the current fiscal year.

To consider and act upon such other matters as may properly come before said meeting or any adjournment thereof.

The Board of Managers has fixed the close of business on February 28, 1999, as the time at which members entitled to notice thereof and to vote at the meeting and any adjournment thereof shall be determined.

—Cindy L. Nadeau, secretary

The Sabbath Recorder

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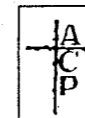


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Kevin Butler
Editor

Leanne Lippincott
Assistant Editor

Contributing Editors

Calvin P. Babcock, Ernest K. Bee Jr., Donna Bond, Rodney L. Henry, G. Kirk Looper, Norma Rudert, Don A. Sanford.

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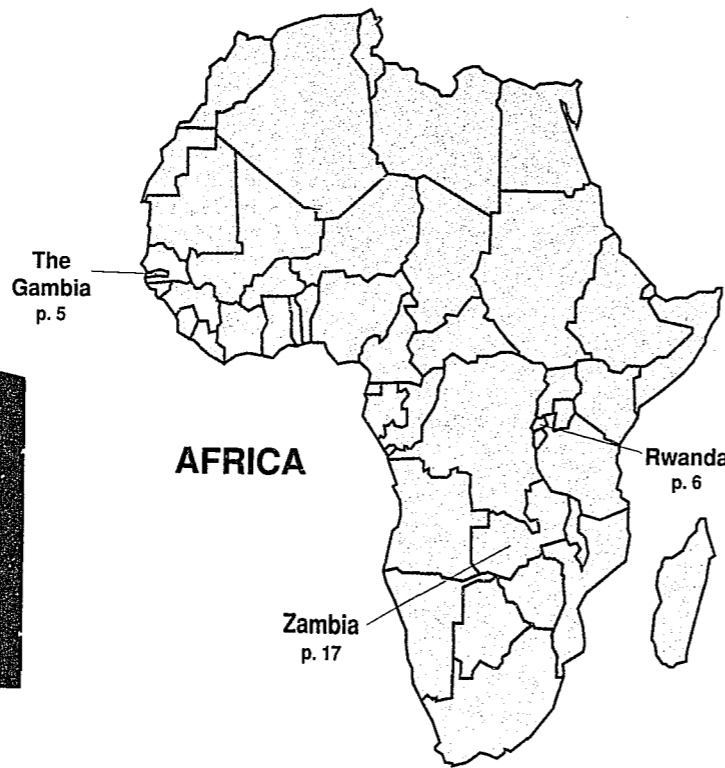
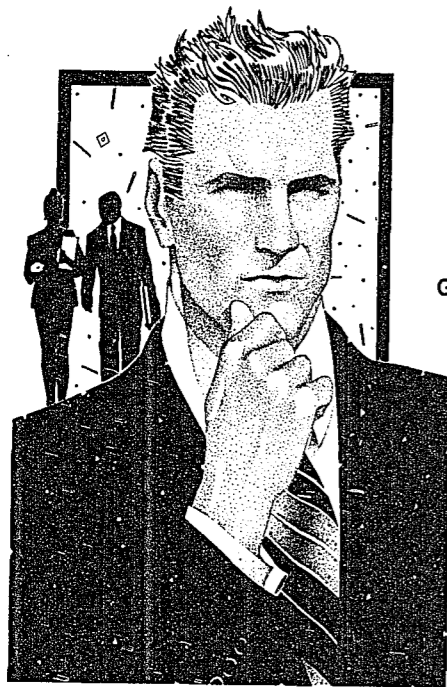
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“How’s your world view?”



Opening our eyes to opportunities around the world

Church-run school helps The Gambia

by Kirk Looper



Students in The Gambia play outside their school. The building, constructed by church members, was made with bricks formed at the site.

Since many of the local SDB church members are educators, it was only natural that they chose a school as their project.

Education is of paramount importance in many of the countries where our sister Conferences and churches are located. Every country we work with requests funds to construct school buildings and establish several levels of education.

Many Conferences begin the process by forming the elementary and pre-school grades. At present, SDB-run schools are located in Kenya, Malawi, India, and the Philippines.

Our newest church-run school is in the northwest corner of Africa, in The Gambia. It is surrounded by Senegal and influenced by several of the countries that bound that portion of the African coastline.

Churches in The Gambia are registered as non-government agencies, so our people were required to perform a civic project. Since many of the local SDB church members are educators, it was only natural that they chose a school as their project.

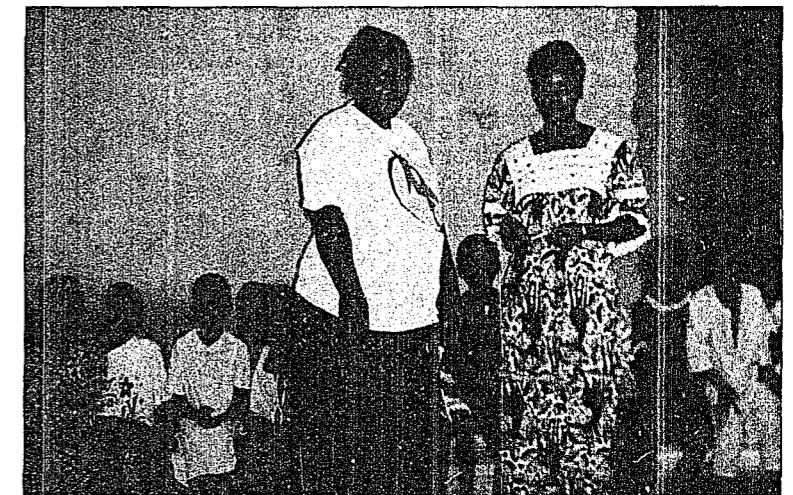
The land was purchased before November 1997, and groundbreaking began in April 1998. By September, a large enough portion of the

school was completed to begin teaching the next month. They started with the younger students, pre-school through the equivalent of 4th grade.

Later this year, our friends in The Gambia will increase the size of the building so they can accommodate 250 students instead of the present

55. It is exciting to hear them tell of their building project adventures!

If you are interested in viewing a videotape of the construction, simply contact the Missionary Society office. We will be happy to send you a copy. Our address is 119 Main St., Westerly RI 02891. You may e-mail us at: sdbmissoc@edgenet.net SR



These two teachers are ready to start the next lesson. Many of the teachers come from the Seventh Day Baptist church.



SDB pharmacy serves many in Rwanda

by Kirk Looper

Most of our sister Conferences and churches have a great demand for medical and health services.

Seventh Day Baptists in Rwanda initially planned to build their pharmacy on a large caldron lake near

have been close to 2,000, the facility in Ruhengeri is available to even more people. We are pleased that they decided to benefit the larger group.

The government planned to subsidize the pharmacy with medicine and medical supplies. However, the most recent unrest has depleted its inventory of medicines, supplies, and funds. As a result, this SDB-sponsored pharmacy needs money to buy more medicine.

The Missionary Society has already sent \$2,000 to help replenish these supplies, and we continue to pray for more funds to cover this need. **SR**

Hospitals are located great distances from the villages. Consequently, a serious accident often leads to death.

Many of them have clinics, hospitals, and pharmacies, so they need funds when these types of services are offered. We are thankful for those who graciously and joyfully support these missions.

Ruhengeri. However, the area had poor security. Political unrest on the island and around the lake led them to move the pharmacy to Ruhengeri.

While the number of potential patients at the island pharmacy would

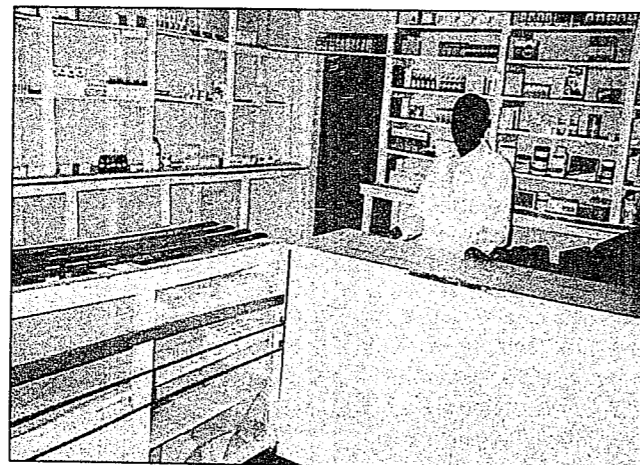
In 1996, we sent some funds to Rwanda (east central Africa) to build, stock, and hire the personnel for a clinic that they call a pharmacy. This pharmacy building consisted of two rooms. One was to dispense medicines, and the other was an examination room. Those visiting the pharmacy for medical attention stood or sat outside the pharmacy until it was time for them to see the doctor.

The "doctor" is not an MD, as we would assume. Instead, he's closely akin to a surgical assistant in our country. He works under the guidance of a physician in the office and operating arena until the mentoring doctor feels he is able to work on his own. The intern then goes to a community and sets up business.

Of course, facilities will not allow this "doctor" to do extensive operations. Patients needing more complex treatment must be referred to a regional hospital. However, in many cases, these hospitals are located great distances from the villages. Consequently, a serious accident often leads to death.



The SDB pharmacy located in Ruhengeri, Rwanda.



The doctor waits for his next patient. Much-needed medicines are being depleted.

Training begins for Field Workers

by Ronald Elston



Field Workers absorb the new training (from l. to r.): Mynor and Marion Soper, David Bell, Barb Barbre, and Tim Parsley.

under the direction of National Field Missionary Rev. Ronald J. Elston Sr. Their contacts will be assigned according to geographical areas or areas of expertise.

Training for the Field Workers consists of studying Seventh Day Baptist polity, using Don Sanford's book, *Greater Than Its Parts*, and the new *Manual of Procedures*. The Field Workers need to be familiar

McPherson, Miami, Fla.; and Kirk and Vivian Looper, Westerly, R.I.

Five other workers have started their training: Pastor L.B. Lee and Rev. Robert Harris, Colorado Springs, Colo.; Gordon and Beverly

Field Workers are to gather information from contacts and report their findings to the National Field Missionary office.

with the various boards and agencies of the denomination and the services they provide. The workers also need to be able to plug the new contacts into the proper areas for assistance.

The basic function of the Field Workers is to gather information from contacts and report their findings to the National Field Missionary office for evaluation and further action.

Last September, a Field Worker Training Seminar was held at the Faith SDB Church in Doniphan, Mo., with 12 students attending from across the country. It was conducted by Pastors Henry and Elston.

Seminar students included: Pastor David Bell, Owensboro, Ky.; Pastor Tim Parsley, Mattoon, Ill.; Bill and Cindy Burks, Little Rock, Ark.; Barb Barbre, Faith church, Doniphan; Rev. and Mrs. Mynor Soper, Texarkana, Ark.; Teresa Johnson, Waterford, Conn.; Myron and Mary Jane

Kilts, New York State; and Laurie Luchowski, South Bend, Ind. The training seminar is scheduled for spring of 1999.

Executive Director Kirk Looper and I appreciate the assistance given to the National Missions and look forward to working with this new team. We also appreciate Rod Henry developing the training module and assisting with the seminar. And a big "thank you" to Teresa Johnson for accepting the Assistant Coordinator position to help with scheduling various outreach projects across the country. **SR**



Rodney Henry delivers one of the seminars.

According to the Great Commission of Matthew 28, Jesus said, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

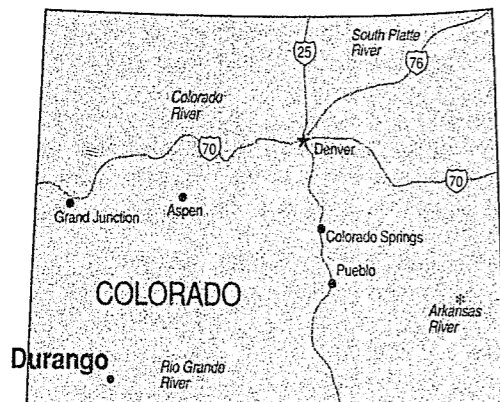
Due to increased contacts on the National Field, the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society—along with the Director of Pastoral Services, Rev. Rodney Henry—developed a training program for volunteer Dedicated Field Workers. These National Missions workers are to work



Bill Burks gets into his role play with Mary Jane McPherson.

New work in Colorado

by Ronald Elston



The new Missionary Society Dedicated Field Worker program was launched recently, with Pastor L.B. Lee Jr. receiving the first trip assignment.

Pastor Lee had been contacted by several families living near Durango, Colo. They had expressed an interest

The fellowship meets at the Jay Howard Ranch, about 12 miles from Durango.

visit with the new contacts. Pastor Lee reports the group presently has three families meeting.

The fellowship meets at the Jay Howard Ranch, about 12 miles from Durango. While there, L.B. taught a study on the Sabbath. Two new families attended and expressed much interest. Regular Sabbath services were also held, and everyone received a special blessing.

Pastor Lee will continue to work with this new group under the direc-

Pastor L.B. Lee Jr.



tion of the National Field Missionary as they seek to establish a Seventh Day Baptist work in the Bayfield/Durango area.

The efforts of these Dedicated Field Workers is greatly appreciated by the Missionary Society. Please pray for the program and the groups contacted in the days ahead. **SR**

in Seventh Day Baptists and wanted to know how to establish a work in their area.

Information on the new interests was passed along to the National Field Office, and a working relationship began to develop between the Colorado Springs, Colo., SDB Church and the group in Durango. After months of dialogue and an invitation by the new group, the National Missionary assigned Pastor Lee to visit with them.

During the latter part of October, Pastor Lee and his family traveled to Bayfield (near Durango) to work and



Part of the new Durango, Colo., group during a recent Bible study.

Conference Centre construction underway in Jamaica

Many helping by prayer, work, and giving

by Gem Fitz-Henley



The walls begin to go up for the new Conference Centre at Maiden Hall, St. Mary, Jamaica.

Dear Brethren:

I would like to share with you some information concerning the Conference Centre which is being built at Maiden Hall, St. Mary, Jamaica.

The Jamaica Seventh Day Baptist Conference was organized in 1923 and now comprises about 30 small churches scattered across the island. In the 1940s, church leaders began to see the need for the Conference to own a facility which would serve the needs of the denomination as a whole.

The first donation was one shilling—a coin about the size, and at that time the value, of a quarter in the United States. Fund-raising included an annual exhibition and fair at 29 Charles Street in Kingston. The event was put on by the Ladies Aid Society, which wanted an old folks' home built on the property.

In the 1950s, the amount accumulated was used as the down payment on the Maiden Hall property—28 acres with a house in the cool hills

near Guy's Hill, St. Mary. My father, Charles Smellie, who by then had retired from farming his own fields, was asked to become the farm manager.

My parents stayed there for five years, using the profits from the farm to pay off the mortgage. Wardner Fitz-

ada, and England, and the facilities fell into disrepair. The Ladies Aid Society has become the Woman's League, and now they want a retirement center. But the greatest need recognized in the 1990s has been accommodations for General Conference and year-round camps.

In 1993, Pastor Leon Maltby provided the impetus for the building program by offering \$3,000 in memory of his wife. This amount was to be matched by Jamaican brethren.

That year about 17 Jamaicans, all living in the United States, attended Conference in Redlands, Calif. We covenanted to raise the needed funds, and so did the brethren in Jamaica. By the time the ground-breaking was held, close to \$10,000 had been provided by these three sources.

I am happy that, at the time, I had no idea how much this project would cost, nor how badly the Jamaican economy would be eroded by inflation over the years.

We hope to make the facilities available to churches from other denominations for camps, family gatherings, and meetings.

Randolph built a beautiful chapel on the site in memory of his wife, and a single classroom was added near the chapel. In the '60s and '70s these facilities were used for camps, sometimes accommodating as many as 100 campers.

Times have changed since then. Many church leaders left Jamaica to reside in the United States, Can-

In 1990, it took only seven Jamaican dollars to purchase one U.S. dollar. It now takes between 30 and 40 Jamaican dollars to do the same. Airmail postage from Jamaica to the USA used to be \$1.10 (J). A year or two ago, it was raised to \$10.00 for a letter, \$8.00 for a postcard. This year, it costs \$25.00 (J) to airmail

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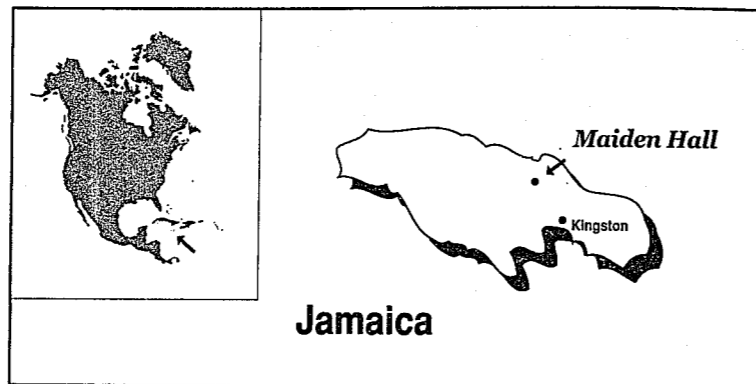
Conference Centre underway, cont. from page 9

either a letter or postcard. This is equivalent to 75 cents in U.S. funds and means that we can mail two letters locally rather than one from Jamaica. (If you very much want me to correspond to you when I am in Jamaica, please let me know.)

I spent the entire 1998 summer in Jamaica, one month of it at Maiden Hall helping to prepare meals for workers who were encouraged to come Sundays through Thursdays whenever they could.

The first group of skilled workers came from the community surrounding the Blue Mountain church. In two days, they were able to rough cast (i.e. stucco) the entire downstairs. This consists of a large kitchen, storeroom, restroom, and cafeteria. We appreciate so much what these men have done, and pray that God will bless them.

Teams of workers came from several churches, including Kingston, Portmore, Luna, and Tydixon. It was a pleasure to see men and women, young and old, working together. Some leveled hilly areas inside the



What is the next step? I returned to San Diego, Calif., at the end of September to work and raise funds for the project as the Lord provides the opportunity.

As you can see from the photograph, some of the walls are already in place upstairs. This level will house the auditorium (to seat 300), bathrooms, a large office, and rooms to be named in honor of individuals or families. To request designation of one of these rooms, family members or friends may pool their gifts and send a total of \$5,000 (U.S.) to

withstands hurricanes, earthquakes, etc. The price of cement is now over \$200 (J) per sack.

Anyone who has ever taken part in constructing a building as funds become available, will be aware that although we have been working at this for a long time, it is amazing that we have reached this far. "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us" (1 Sam. 7:12).

We ask that you join us in building this Conference center which we expect to benefit every Seventh Day Baptist member and church in Jamaica. We also hope to make the facilities available to churches from other denominations for camps, family gatherings, and meetings.

Every dollar given now is as important as that very first shilling given back in the 1940s. Contributions, large or small, may be made through your local church, the SDB Missionary Society, or the San Diego SDB Church at the address below. Please mark your contributions clearly for Maiden Hall.

Whether you make a financial contribution or not, please pray with us for God's blessing on the project.

Yours in Christ,
Gem Fitz-Henley

SDB Church of San Diego
P.O. Box 33514
San Diego, CA 92103-3514
Phone: (619) 292-7140

The Jamaica Seventh Day Baptist Conference was organized in 1923 and now comprises about 30 small churches scattered across the island.

buildings; others dug trenches and hoisted sand, gravel, and blocks from the ground to the upstairs level where they would be needed next; still others shelled peas and picked pimento, which is what allspice is called in Jamaica. There are several pimento trees and one nutmeg tree on the property. These spices travel well, keeping their flavor and fragrance for years. So tell us if you would like to try some!

the Jamaica SDB Conference, giving the name to be used. Two of these rooms are already earmarked, but two others remain available.

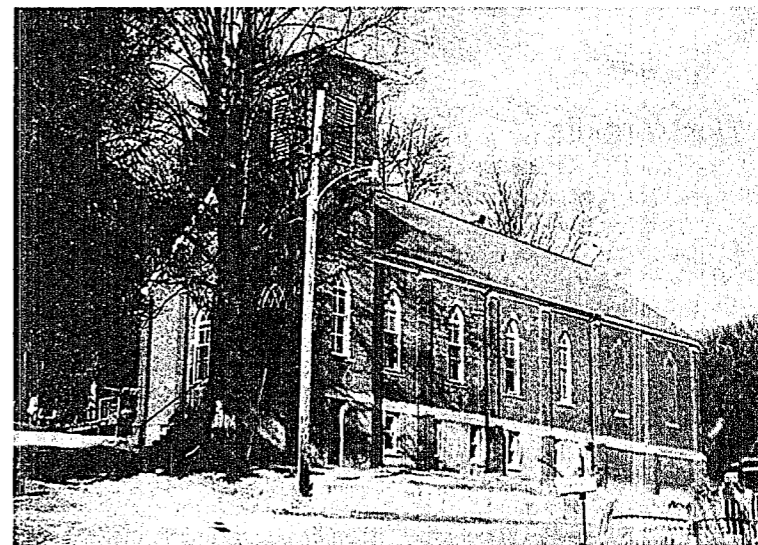
As soon as we have enough funds on hand, I expect to return to Jamaica to facilitate workdays for continuing the work. The next big project is decking (that is, putting the roof on) the upstairs. Decking is expensive because it consists of embedding a frame of steel rods in a bed of concrete. This usually

Salem church expands ministry

by Janet Thorngate

It was a joyous day for the Seventh Day Baptist Church in Salem, W.Va., when friends from sister churches joined to dedicate the new addition to the church building.

The occasion was the annual West Virginia Churches Day on October 17, 1998. Conference President Norma Rudert spoke during Sabbath morn-



The "new" Salem, W.Va., church was dedicated on October 17.

Townpeople appreciated that the historical integrity of the building had been maintained with the blending of old and new.

ing worship. Sabbath School followed, making use of eight new classrooms, and lunch was served from the new kitchen in the expanded Fellowship Hall.

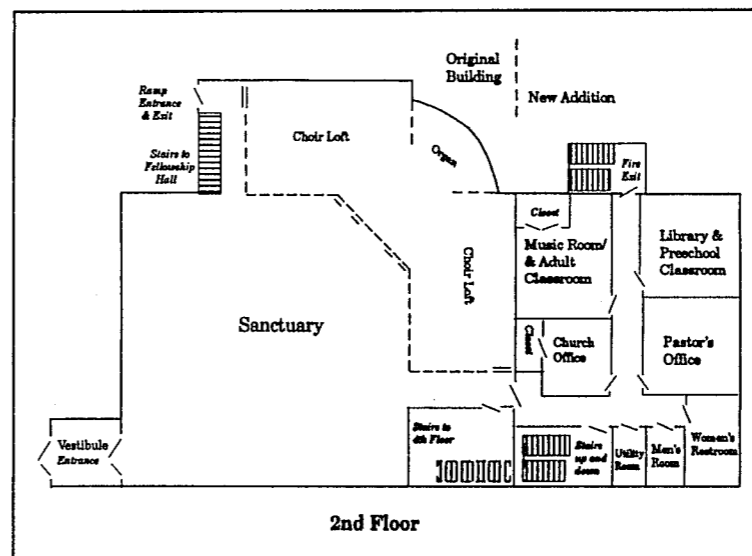
Before the afternoon dedication service in the renovated sanctuary, the congregation processed through hallways of the new addition and out into the October sunshine for a photo on the historic front steps.

Pastor Dale Thorngate presented a plaque of appreciation to Fred

Spencer III, on-site coordinator for the building project. He presented a "Construction Widow" T-shirt to Fred's wife, Dixie, in thanks for her support of his many volunteer hours. General Contractor Sheldon Dolly, a faithful Methodist, received a certificate of honorary membership in the Salem SDB Church.

Church historian Janet Thorngate traced the 200-year story of the church's building and re-building on the same site: from log meeting house, to frame church, to the present 100-year-old brick structure, which was renovated after a 1947 fire. It has now doubled in size and has been renovated once again.

Janet noted the appreciation expressed by the townspeople that the historical integrity of the building had been maintained with the blending of old and new. The gothic window arches in the sanctuary section are echoed in the brick walls of the addition. Even the iron horse rings were carefully removed





Forgive and love again

According to recent issues of the *Pawcatuck Post*, the Women's Society of the **Westerly, R.I.**, church has started a fund to purchase carpet for the sanctuary, vestibule, and stairs. For this cause, they have printed a cookbook available for \$8.00. To obtain yours, contact Margaret Taylor, 118 Main St., Westerly, RI 02891.

Meanwhile, the **Shiloh, N.J.**, Ladies Benevolent Society replaced drapes in their prayer chapel just in time to host General Council. Shiloh also replaced the mattresses and covers in the church nursery.

Alfred Station, N.Y., Union Industrial Society members take turns cleaning their church nursery, while the **Alfred Women's Society** keeps their Parish House in good repair.

The **New York City SDB Women's League** is renovating their kitchen to prepare for a soup kitchen to serve the neighborhood needy. In **Riverside, Calif.**, Women's Society members replaced tableware in their dining room and some appliances in their kitchen.

As women, we are proud to keep our Lord's physical temple in good repair, just as we need to keep His spiritual temples in good order. Both represent Him in the world's eyes.

I recently suffered my first bout with laryngitis. My co-workers encouraged me to do my work without talking (was it a quiet day!), but a certain amount of verbosity was necessary. In communicating, I mentally prefaced each potential remark with one question: "Is this comment worth stretching my vocal cords?" How much better would our workplace/home/church be if we could all use this mental exercise consistently?

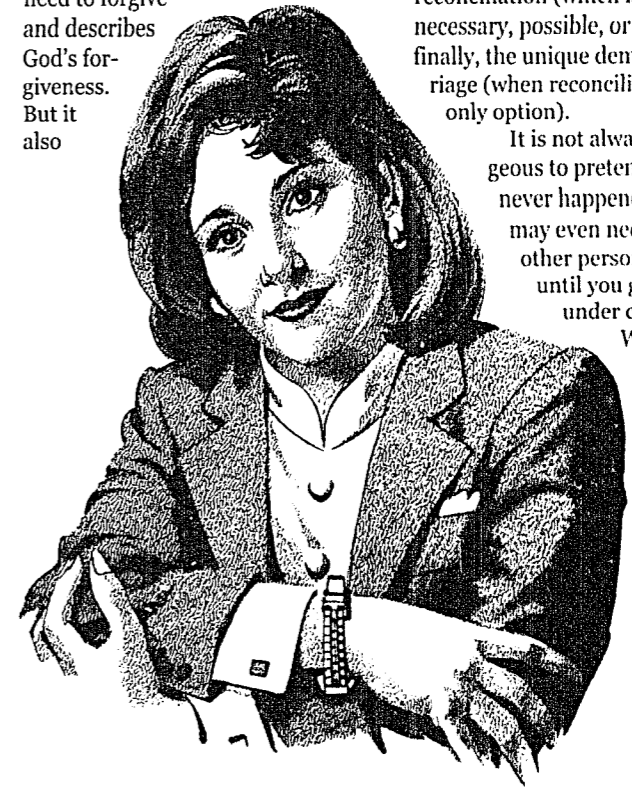
Here's some more food for thought: I have just re-read the

chapter on "Anger" from Dr. James Dobson's book, *Emotions: Can You Trust Them?*

Dr. Dobson says that anger itself is not necessarily bad, but wishing for revenge is a sin. If the offender thinks he is blameless, is it wrong to hope the shoe will one day be on the other foot? After all, it wasn't perceived to be a tight shoe when *you* wore it! (Tongue-in-cheek.)

If you struggle with the familiar "forgive-and-forget" concept, read *Forgive and Love Again* by theologians John Nieder and Dr. Thomas M. Thompson of "The Art of Family Living" fame.

With a generous dose of Scripture, the first section, "Choosing to Forgive," convinces the reader of the need to forgive and describes God's forgiveness. But it also



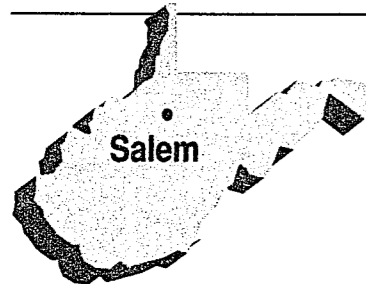
validates our normal, human reactions to offense.

Topics covered include: "when your heart screams no," the dangers of unforgiveness, a model of forgiveness, essentials of forgiveness, where to get forgiveness, forgiving oneself, and forgiving God. A forgiven offense may always be in the back of your mind, for example, but the pain will lessen and you will not always purposefully avoid the offender.

The second section, "Learning to Love Again," describes specific steps to take in the following areas: maintaining a forgiving heart while guarding against further injury, achieving emotional healing (which takes time, maybe even *much* time), when and how to confront, the realities of reconciliation (which is *not* always necessary, possible, or practical) and, finally, the unique demands of marriage (when reconciliation is the only option).

It is not always advantageous to pretend an incident never happened, and you may even need to avoid the other person *temporarily* until you get your anger under control.

Whatever your experience, you will surely find yourself on some pages and may even be pleasantly surprised to learn that you forgive better than you thought you did. **SR**



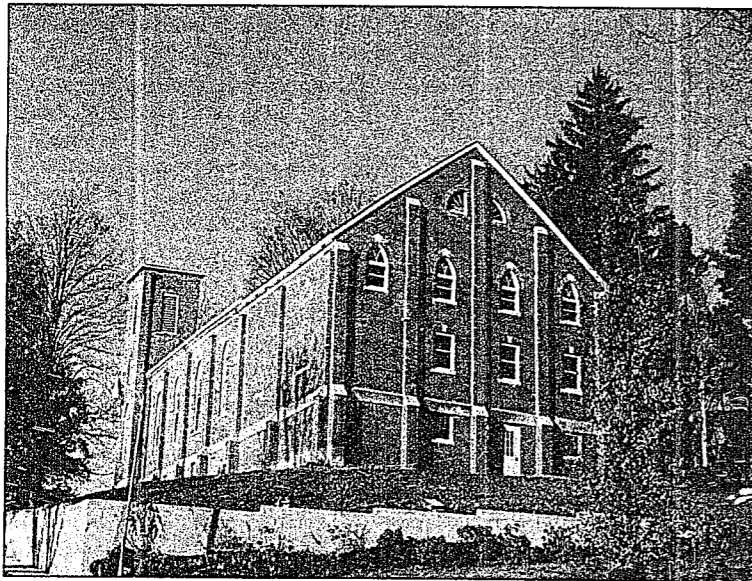
West Virginia

and re-inserted in the new retaining wall.

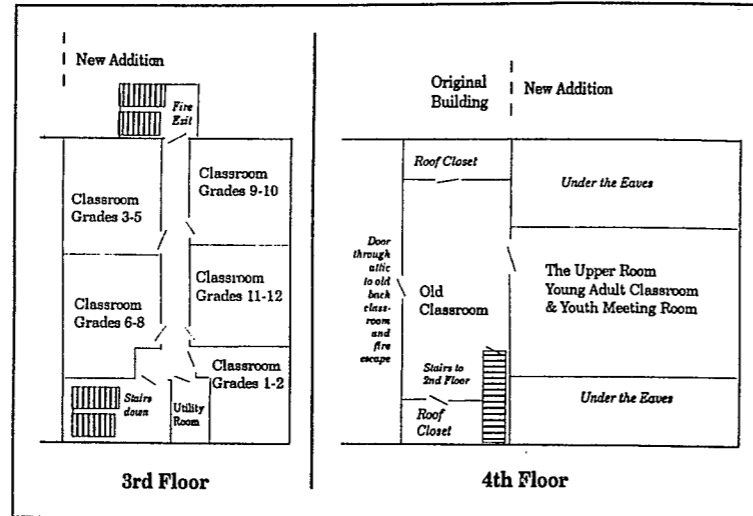
The four-story brick addition to the back of the church includes new nursery, kitchen, offices, music room, library, restrooms, and classrooms. Removal of the former Trainer Classroom Building across Church Street on the back of the parsonage lot made room for a new parking lot.

Upgrading the existing structure included new heating and electrical systems, new roof, and refinishing of floors throughout. Construction was completed by local contractors with the church people doing all interior painting.

Characteristic of the church's long choral music tradition, the ded-



The new addition from the back.



ication celebration included special selections by the church choir and the new youth choir, along with several vocal solos and ensembles. Three weeks later, when the church invited the community for a Sunday afternoon open house, it was the young people's chime choir which stole the show.

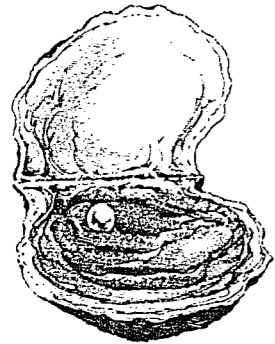
"We enticed the *Clarksburg Exponent-Telegram* to send a reporter and photographer," Pastor Thorngate reports, "but when the story appeared on the front page the

next day, it was clear that they were not nearly as impressed with our beautifully expanded facility as they were with the angelic music produced by our young people.

"How pleased we were with the headline, 'Seventh Day Baptist Church Reaching Out.' The accompanying photos were not of the church building but of the young

Characteristic of the church's long choral music tradition, the dedication celebration included special choir and solo selections.

people playing the chimes. Rather than quoting me, as I gave them a formal guided tour of the new classrooms, they quoted a chime player describing the worship experience, and an adult member telling how useful the facility can be to the whole community. We couldn't have planned it better!" **SR**



Pearls from the Past by Don A. Sanford, historian

Our mission remains the same

people migrated into the frontier, the General Conference provided some of the impetus for traveling missionaries to extend the mission beyond the scope of a local church.

Our first cooperative publication was the *Missionary Magazine*, published from 1821 to 1825. The primary purposes of this paper were to equip the local churches "to acquaint the public with the sentiments and religious observances which distinguish this people from other denominations, and to circulate religious and missionary information among the societies of our denomination."²

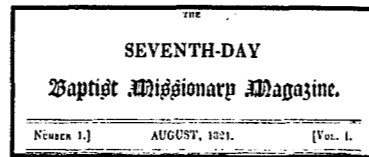
Six of the *Jubilee Papers* reported the home missions work of each of the six Associations existing in the last decade of the 19th century. Each report is headed by the title, "Home Missions by the Association," not *in*.

Reporting for the Southeastern Association, Theodore Gardiner reported that Salem, W.Va., as the "mother" church, sent out workers to strengthen the scattered families in their new forest homes.³

Upstate New York's Central Association organized a society for the purpose of "publishing beyond the bounds of the Association, the faith once delivered unto the saints."⁴ It became deeply involved in the education at DeRuyter (N.Y.) Institute and

tematic should be attempted.⁵

In his report of missions by the Northwestern Association, O.U. Whitford divided its work into areas of responsibility covering Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, and Nebraska. In conclusion, Whitford suggested the need for a missionary in every state where our people were, and for permanent, not temporary, work.⁶



The SDB Missionary Magazine was the first denominational publication.

James F. Shaw, reporting for the Southwestern Association, made an incisive, and at the same time, contemporary observation when he wrote in 1892:

The South contains more people professing the principles of Baptists than any other part of the world, and as a rule they are the best informed in denominational history. From this history they have learned that in the past there were people called Sabbatarians. They read of them, supposing that they were simply advocates of the strict observance of Sunday.

Though they often met with the expression "Sabbatarian Baptists," in ecclesiastical history, but few had any other thought of them than the above. They sometimes saw a paragraph in general Baptist history telling of Seventh-day Baptists; but from these they gathered no knowledge that they had any existence in the United States, or, perhaps, in the world unless in some secluded locality favorable to the perpetuation of fanaticism.

It was the opinion that they had become extinct, and that the pecu

cont. on page 26



SR Almanac

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

One year ago—January 1998

Russell Johnson uses farming analogies for his feature on harvesting in God's kingdom.

A short-term missions trip to Romania nets long-term spiritual effects on a young nurse, Heather Spaur.

Old Stonefort, Ill., church welcomes new pastor, Arthur Burkhamer.

World Federation delegates to meetings in Jamaica see firsthand the progress of the Maiden Hall Conference building.

Local news: coverage of the "Barnabas Weekend" in Blountville, Tenn.; the 80th anniversary of the White Cloud, Mich., church; and the North American Baptist Women's Union assembly meets in San Diego.

Five years ago—January 1994

Kirk Looper reports on his recent trips to Africa (Zambia and Malawi), and Indonesia.

New group in Portage, Wis., begins meeting at large arts center, according to Regional Field Worker Ron Elston.

"Pearls" page looks at missionary pastor Thomas B. Brown.

Winning entries for the Sabbath essay contest are printed. Cynthia Burks of Little Rock, Ark., and Aubrey Appel (youth division) of Mankato, Minn., receive T-shirts from Sabbath Promotion Committee chair Larry Graffius.

Issue kicks off sesquicentennial year for the *SR*.

10 years ago—January 1989

Photos show the damage left by Hurricane Gilbert in Jamaica. The Miami SDB Church sends money and goods for the relief effort.

Rodney Henry writes about the shift of our churches to urban areas in "Seventh Day Baptists—A people for the new frontiers."

The director of the Billy Graham Center, J.H. Kraakevik, stresses the importance of evangelistic and missionary outreach.

The steeple and front facade of the Alfred, N.Y., church gets vinyl siding.

"Beacon" page announces a National YF logo contest.

25 years ago—January 1974

After 130 years as a weekly publication, the *SR* appears as an expanded, two-color monthly magazine. Several pages are filled with stories and pictures from local churches.

The Board of Christian Education moves its offices to Main Street in Alfred.

Missions articles come from Guyana, South America; Jamaica; and Malawi, Africa.

General Secretary Alton Wheeler and Missionary Society Executive Leon Lawton leave for worldwide ambassadorial tour sponsored by the SDB World Federation.

Conference President Ernest Bond writes more about his Conference theme: "Christ Gives Meaning to Your World."

50 years ago—January 1949

"Testimonies for Christ and the Sabbath" come from the pastor and deacons of the Westerly, R.I., and Riverside, Calif., churches.

Rev. Erlo Sutton presents sermon on the divinity of Christ.

The SDB group in Indianapolis, Ind., purchases a church building.

Report shared from the midyear meeting of the SDB Commission held in Plainfield, N.J.

Kingston, Jamaica, SDB Church celebrates 25th anniversary.

Longtime SDB pastor, the Rev. E.A. Witter, passes away at the age of 95.

...where are we headed?

Pray for—

- more workers for God's harvest
- how God can use you in your mission field
- Kirk Looper's current overseas trips
- those recovering from recent hurricanes
- your local church ministries
- our SDB boards and agencies
- former leaders who served us so well

The General Conference was organized "to unite in an institution for propagating our religion in the different parts of the United States..."

Union missionaries, on the expense of the several churches who may fall in with the proposition."¹

Eight churches joined in this birth of the General Conference, yet there remained a reluctance to turn over to some central authority the work which many felt was the responsibility of the local congregation. As

in the early publications of missionary and evangelistic literature.

The Western Association, in reporting its work, stated that the churches from time to time granted their pastors a few weeks for home mission work, which was highly appreciated and deepened the impression that something more sys-



A church is a church

Mrs. I.N. Decision and Faith Willing waited in the church office for Pastor Jus Start. Mrs. I.N. Decision had not attended General Conference last summer but had heard others express concern about the confusion surrounding the new candidate churches for Conference membership. She had approached Faith for more information, and Mrs. Willing had suggested they ask for Pastor Start's opinion.

Pastor Start hurried into the office with an apology for being detained in conversation with Superintendent Ed Christian about a problem which had developed in the Sabbath School. Faith Willing explained the purpose of their request for a meeting.

"Pastor, Mrs. I.N. Decision has heard rumors about the spirited discussion at Conference over candidate churches. She didn't want to take your time but I felt you might answer her questions."

Mrs. I.N. Decision quickly asked, "Pastor Start, I heard that church groups wishing to join the General Conference only need to have 25 members. The church I use to attend was required by their Conference to have 100 adult members to be recognized. They said that was to ensure the continuance of the church without Conference aid.

"Why do Conferences require a specific number of members for Conference membership?" she asked. "I thought a church is a church if the people think it is! Didn't Jesus say that where two or three are gathered in His name, He is there? Isn't that all that's required to be a church?"

"I would like to suggest an answer to your question about the significance of Matthew 18:20 for the church," Pastor Start began. "I understand that passage to mean that Christ is present whenever two or three or more of His disciples gather under the authority of Christ. This verse is associated with the larger section on handling church discipline matters. I don't believe it is meant to imply a criteria for church size.

"Our General Conference," Pastor Start continued, "is focused upon small churches. Fully half of our Conference member churches are under 25 in average Sabbath worship attendance. A few have developed their identity and leadership selection skills to remain vital though they are small. But too many struggle with stress or burnout because of their facility, program, financial, or leadership choices.

"Our church is fortunate that we

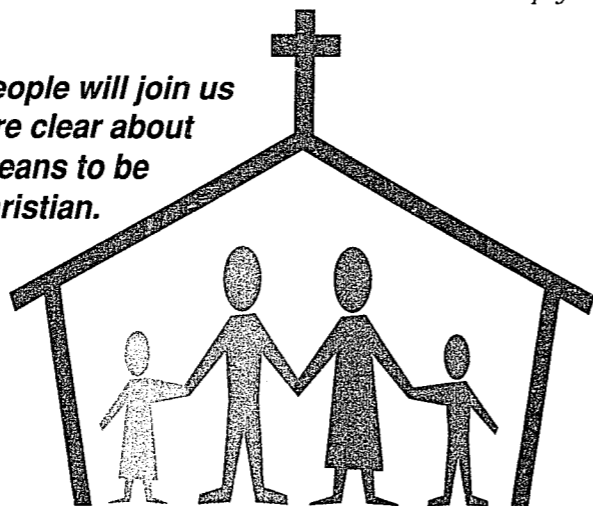
have a large enough congregation to offer programs for various ages and a place for a large variety of interests and ministries. We also have the leadership to provide ministry without excessive member stress. We do have our challenges and the problem, from time to time, of losing sight of our vision."

"I feel that the size of a church is culturally determined—primarily by its identity, its vision, its leadership, and its ministry goals," Pastor Start explained. "Secondarily, finances and facilities will determine how a church achieves its goals and fulfills its vision. If a church is too small, the mission of the church may be impaired as a living, witnessing group.

"Regardless of the church's size, the lack of understanding of who it is—its identity—will interfere with normal bodily growth and cause the church to decline. If we don't know who we are, how can we select lead-

cont. on page 26

**People will join us
if we are clear about
what it means to be
a Christian.**



While in Zambia in November, I accompanied Faith Mukumbo Liyena as she visited the school and some of the families where their church orphans are living. It is interesting that she has arranged it so the children can be seen on a daily basis. This allows her to evaluate them.

All the children she works with attend school, and the teacher sees them each day. Thus when Faith meets with the school's "headmaster," she can quickly learn if any concerns need to be addressed.

In one of her reports, Faith writes, "An estimated two-thirds of Zambia's population is now living in absolute poverty." This is not difficult to believe since the average worker earns the equivalent of \$500 a year. This sum is for a long day's work, not just eight hours.

The Faith Orphanage Foundation (FOF) offers the orphans in the surrounding towns reason for hope. It is a community-based, education centered ministry that provides orphans and underprivileged chil-

dren with the care and tutorial guidance required for better health and a better life.

Weekly health and nutrition education clubs cover topics ranging from personal/food hygiene, first aid, and the importance of a balanced diet; to degenerative, sexually transmissible, and tropical diseases, including malaria and bilharzia.

While education is the key to prevention, and the linking of communities is necessary to promote health awareness, many towns and villages lack the most basic medical services for human survival.

Since hospitals and homes are separated by dozens of miles, many youth and older people die because they can't get help in time. They simply return to their huts and die.

If money is available, they can purchase medicine from a pharmacy without a prescription. During my visit to Zambia, enough money was given to them to buy what they needed to help two sick children. (Twelve dollars was all that it took to cure them.)

The cost of caring for these orphans is not great. It takes \$5.50 to enroll each student in school. The girls' dresses (uniforms) cost \$6.25, and the boys' shirts and pants are \$6.75, up to 5th grade. (The cost for 5th through 7th is \$8.25.) The remaining expenses are food, lodging, and medicine.

Presently, they are dealing with a few hundred orphans. According to available statistics, this number will double each year.

Many of the orphans' parents died of communicable diseases as well as malaria and pneumonia. Education and spiritual development will be the salvation of most of these children as they grow up in a world where there is little regard

The orphanage is a community-based, education-centered ministry that provides orphans and underprivileged children with the care and tutorial guidance required for better health and a better life.

for moral practices and personal hygiene.

FOF's chief orphan-care implementer in Mibenge was 28-year-old Judith Nachula. She developed cerebral malaria and died because no medical help was available. In light of her recent death, Mibenge has been mobilized to establish their own Medical/Health Clinic. Many other states in Zambia are in the same situation and desperately need medical institutions.

It is the prayer of the Seventh Day Baptists in Zambia that they may become a moving force in this drive to better the life of their citizenry. Your prayers and help will be appreciated. SR



the BEACON

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

January 1999

Happy Days hit Battle Creek YF

by Judy Parrish

The Battle Creek, Mich., Youth Fellowship has been active the last several months with some novel fund-raisers to provide for our teens' attendance at Conference and Pre-Con.

Besides a car wash, bowl-a-thon, rock-a-thon, movie night, and bake

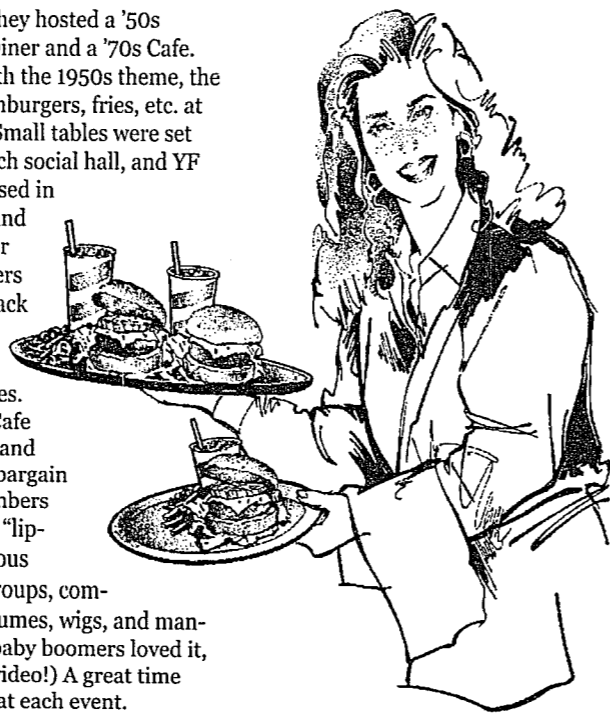
sale auction, they hosted a '50s Happy Days Diner and a '70s Cafe.

Keeping with the 1950s theme, the menu was hamburgers, fries, etc. at \$1.00 prices. Small tables were set up in the church social hall, and YF members dressed in poodle skirts and bobby socks, or jeans and loafers with slicked-back hair, as they roller-skated to wait on tables.

The 1970s Cafe featured pizza and subs, again at bargain prices. YF members entertained by "lip-synching" various '70s musical groups, complete with costumes, wigs, and mannerisms. (We baby boomers loved it, and it's all on video!) A great time was had by all at each event.

After joining with teens from other Sabbathkeeping groups in western Michigan a previous weekend, our YF hosted them at a Christian rock concert at our church. This also included a pizza party.

The YF participated in the World Impact Tour, a Christian crusade for teens which stopped in Battle Creek; and our youth held Bible clubs at the church and parsonage during the summer. Those children and families were then invited to a Summer



Fair at the church, where they visited booths, took part in contests, and collected prizes.

YF members participated in the Church Softball League, and also took part in the CROP Walk, raising funds for local and international hunger relief.

Soooooo, the Battle Creek Youth Fellowship has been busy. In the process, they've been a blessing to their church! *SR*

Attention Youth!

Hey!! I need "stuff" to put in *The Beacon*, and it's your page in *The Sabbath Recorder*. So if you want to put anything in here, please send it to me.

Some ideas to send are:

- stories you wrote
- news about a retreat or camp you went to
- birthday greetings for a friend
- something God put on your heart to share
- pictures of SDB youth
- clippings from magazines
- an update on your church or community
- a really good Bible Study you went to

If you draw comic strips, please send those, too!

Send your stuff to:
thebeacon@hotmail.com
or write Aubrey Appel at
615 St. John's Ave.
Milton, WI 53563

Pastor Profile



Name: Scott William Hausrath

Birthdate and place:
August 5, 1961 San Jose, Calif.

Current pastorate:
Foothill Community Church (SDB), Montrose, Calif.

Family: I have a set of birth parents in Santa Barbara, Calif.; a set of adoptive parents in Williamsburg, Va.; a sister in California, a sister in North Carolina, and a sister in Belgium. I think I've come down with a case of middle age *spread*.

Education: Bachelor of Arts, Genetics, University of California, Berkeley, 1983.
Master of Divinity, Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, 1993.

Former pastorates/employment:
Assistant Pastor, San Gabriel (Calif.) SDB Church.
A variety of secular jobs, e.g., waiting tables, clerical work, warehousing, driving, manufacturing, quality control, tutoring, computer programming, teaching.

My first job was: Working behind the salad bar in a buffet restaurant in South Lake Tahoe, Nev., one summer. It wasn't the most exciting position, but the all-you-can-eat benefits were wonderful!!

Personal hero: My sister Lynn is the hands-down winner here. Her faith in God is so strong and always growing, and she has such a practical love for the people around her.

Favorite Bible passage: Tough to pin down. Some candidates are: Psalm 62; Proverbs 27:20; Psalm 112:4; John 3:30.

Favorite author: The Apostle Paul.

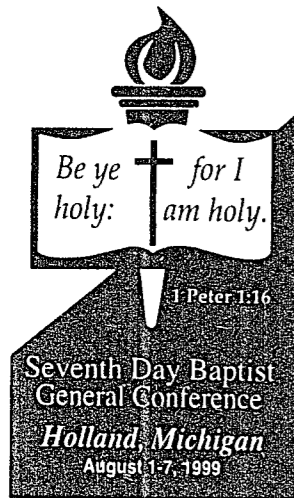
Most people don't know (about me):
I lived in a couple of sorority houses during my undergrad years. Really! I was a "houseboy" in the Greek system, earning my room and board by helping with maintenance and clean-up chores. What a life...

When I have time, I enjoy: Kickin' back with friends, seeing live music, reading, traveling.

A great answer to prayer was: I wasn't surviving financially in college, so I asked God to provide a better paying job. He answered that prayer the very next day with a new job and a 60% pay raise. It was also the most *fun* job I've ever had. That's where I got my laugh lines.

A church project I'm excited about:
Our youth group ministers to those who are at a pivotal age. They are discovering new facets of their being, sensing needs they've never known before, but they're not sure where to get those needs met. "Foothill Underground" seeks to introduce these precious souls to Jesus Christ and to provide a safe environment where their faith can be nurtured in a supportive community.

My vision for SDBs: As our society continually submerges into a perpetual frenzy, I view Seventh Day Baptists as people who have peace—because of Jesus Christ—and as people who have the best vehicle for experiencing His peace in this hectic world: the Sabbath. I pray that we show ourselves to be a faithful people, looking not only inward to strengthen our family, but also outward to harvest God's Kingdom.



Conference promotion

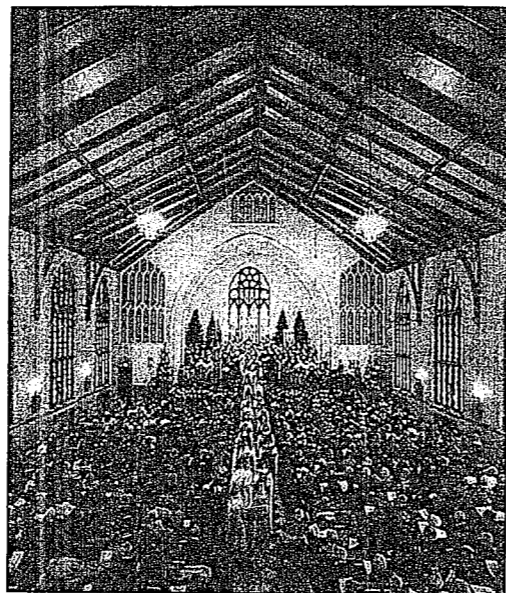
Hope College ready for SDBs

From the Conference Host Committee

canals, farmhouse, carousel, and other exhibits.

The site of Hope College is downtown Holland, only two blocks from its award-winning shopping district filled with unique shops, galleries, and museums. The downtown is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Holland is on the south shore of Lake Macatawa which empties into beautiful Lake Michigan, seven miles to the west. One can enjoy the lake at Holland State Park with its lovely beach and "Big Red" Lighthouse.



Christmas Vespers in Dimnent Memorial Chapel.

Hope College, a Christian liberal arts, four-year institution, was begun in the mid-1800s when a group of Dutch pioneers came to America and based the school on religious liberty and devotion to God. The college is affiliated with the Reformed Church in America and oriented to the historic Christian faith and values of the Judeo-Christian tradition.

The center of the college is the Pine Grove, which holds all the buildings we will be using.

The hall for our business sessions and morning Bible studies is in the same building as the cafeteria. Dorm rooms (including some on the 2nd floor above the cafeteria), and some air-conditioned suites sharing a bath, will be available.

Seventh Day Baptists in Michigan are well underway preparing to host our General Conference sessions August 1-7, 1999.

Holland, Mich., was settled by Dutch immigrants in 1847, and retains the air of a Dutch town. A Tulip Festival with millions of blooms is held every May, complete with street washing and Klompen Dancers.

Even though our Conference is later in the summer, there are many other Dutch attractions to lend ambiance to our stay: Windmill Island, a park with a 1780s Netherlands windmill which still grinds graham flour; two wooden shoe factories and a Delftware factory, all with retail sales; and a Dutch Village with



Holland State Park beach and "Big Red" lighthouse.



Hope College's symbol—the anchor—in front of Voorhees Hall.

Interest Committees will meet on the opposite side of the Pine Grove quadrangle, a short, level walk.

Dimnent Memorial Chapel—with its 120-foot tower, abundant stained

glass, Skinner organ, and Netherlands-made mechanical action organ—will be the site of our evening worship. Children Conferences will be located in lower level classrooms.

The Chapel is also a short walk across the Grove from the cafeteria/business hall.

In addition to evening worship for adults, this year's Conference will include activity-oriented evening worship services for children.

Youth Pre-Con will be held at a private camp near Kalamazoo, Mich. Young Adult Pre-Con will be held on the campus of Hope College in a separate dorm. Participants can continue to stay in that dorm during Conference.

The cost of Conference this year will be comparable to the last sessions at Lindsborg, Kan. Detailed costs will be announced in a future article.

Please plan to join us in Michigan this August and be challenged to "Be Ye Holy, For I Am Holy" (1 Peter 1:16) with President Norma Rudert in beautiful Holland! **SR**

The site of Hope College is downtown Holland, only two blocks from its award-winning shopping district filled with unique shops, galleries, and museums.



Baptist World Congress to meet in year 2000

"Jesus Christ Forever. Yes!" Under this theme, thousands of Baptists from around the world will gather January 5-9, 2000, in Melbourne, Australia, for the 18th Baptist World Congress.

Denton Lotz, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA), says, "This theme is a Biblical statement and an affirmation. Our message to the world as we enter the 21st

century is that time may pass, centuries and millenniums come and go, but Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever."

Held every five years, this Congress in Australia will be a time of the best Baptist fellowship and inspiration one could hope to find anywhere.

Bruce Milne, Scottish-born senior minister of the First Baptist Church, Vancouver, Canada; Emile Sam-Peal, Liberian Baptist leader; and Anne Graham-Lotz, speaker and daughter of Billy Graham.

Music will play an inspiring part of the Congress. Choirs, soloists, and groups from around the world, all

SR Reaction

Dear Kevin,

We just received the December SR yesterday. I thought it was excellent.

Great topic, and I appreciated the many views on the issue. The authors did an excellent job.

Sharon Campbell
Shiloh, NJ

Dear Editor Butler,

We, the members of the Seventh Day Baptist Cebu City Church in the Philippines, are truly thankful and very happy to have received some copies of the *Sabbath Recorder* together with two *Helping Hands*.

Please send to us again more copies of the *Recorder* for these coming months. Our churches here are greatly in need of more materials.

Speaking for our church members, again thank you for the materials.

Your sister in Christ
Eleanor F. Fabillar
Cebu City, Philippines

*May we hear from you?
See our address inside the
front cover, or e-mail us at:
sdbmedia@inwave.com*

**Held every five years,
this Congress in Australia
will be a time of the best Baptist
fellowship and inspiration
one could hope to
find anywhere.**

John Edmonstone, national president of Australian Baptists, says, "On behalf of Australian Baptists, I extend a warm welcome to you. I cannot think of a better way to celebrate the beginning of the 21st century than meeting with the world family of Baptists."

Coming at the start of a new millennium, this Congress will give Baptists the opportunity to declare and share with the world that: Jesus Christ is the King of the Ages, the Hope of the World, the Friend of the Weary, the Lord of the Beginnings, and the One who is Worthy of All Worship.

Nilson Fanini, president of the BWA, world evangelist, and pastor of the 7,000-member Niteroi Baptist Church, heads an impressive set of Congress speakers who will speak at evening celebrations.

They include H. Beecher Hicks, one of America's outstanding African American preachers; Tim Costello, called "Australia's leading Baptist";

dressed in colorful national dress, plan to praise God in a variety of languages.

The Congress will also be a time to affirm Baptist principles of the separation of church and state, the priesthood of all believers, and the fight for religious freedom and justice.

James A. Scott, Congress Committee chairperson and pastor of Bethany Baptist Church, Newark, N.J., says, "We envision a worldwide fellowship to act, energize, and renew Baptists for ministry."

The BWA was created at the first World Congress, in London, England, July 11-19, 1905. Since that time the BWA has grown to include 192 member bodies that represent more than 42 million baptized believers in a community of more than 100 million. **SR**

(Please see back cover for registration information.)



*Seeking Spiritual Maturity: STEWARDSHIP
An annual emphasis of the SDB General Council*

Daily devotions reflect upon the abundant life

Stewardship is more than money

Be encouraged. Comforted. Inspired. God is leading you to an abundant life.

Jesus said, "I came that you might have life and that you might have it abundantly" (John 10:10 NASB).

The Abundant Life, a new collection of devotions from Concordia Publishing House (CPH), offers 365 devotions on an abundant life in God and what that means.

Many people today search for an abundant life. Through a career. Friendships. Material possessions. But the readings in *The Abundant Life* point out a better way.

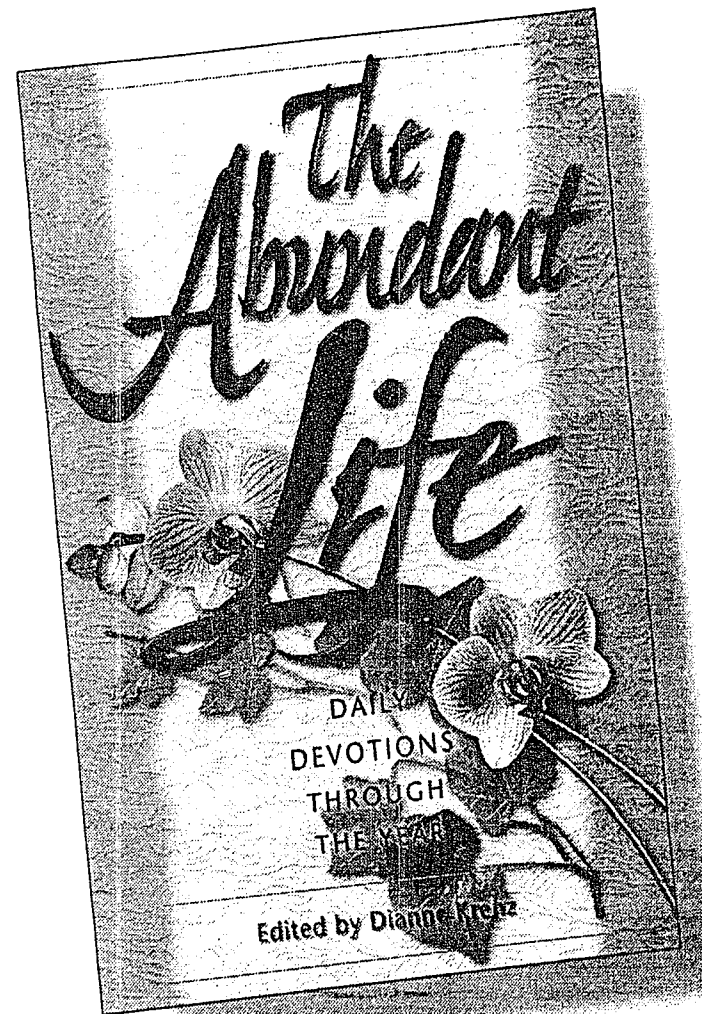
This devotional reflects the deep satisfaction and joy found in an abundant life in God. Readers discover that God is the source who helps them find meaning in life. They learn how to relate to God and the people in their life. They find out how to trust God with challenging decisions. And they discover their spiritual gifts and how to apply them to make a difference in the world.

Each devotion includes a Scripture passage, meditation, and a thought-provoking prayer suggestion.

Dianne Krenz edited *The Abundant Life* (384 pages). In 1996, she edited the devotional *Words of Promise* for CPH, based on favorite readings from *Portals of Prayer*. She lives in Kramer, North Dakota, with her husband. They have four grown children.

For more information, contact Doris Engstrom:

Concordia Publishing House
3558 South Jefferson Ave.
St. Louis MO 63118-3968



E-mail: dorise@cphnet.org

Website: www.cphmall.com

Phone: 1-800-774-0274

Accessions

Berlin, NY
Matthew Olson, pastor
 Joined by letter
 Cindy Greene
 Helen Hill
 Beverly Kilts
 Gordon Kilts
 Joined after testimony
 David Donnelly

Dodge Center, MN
Dale Rood, pastor
 Joined by letter
 Billy Edwards

Greater St. Louis, MO
 Joined after testimony
 Benjamin Merrells

Salem, WV
Dale Thorngate, pastor
 Joined after baptism
 Ryoko Sato

Wichita Falls, TX
William Sharon, pastor
 Joined after baptism
 Krystal Nynnett Marshall
 Joined after testimony
 Dewey Thomas Berryhill

Marriage

Robinson - Neher.—Shane Robinson and Jacinta Neher were united in marriage on June 13, 1998, at the meeting house of the Dodge Center, MN, Seventh Day Baptist Church. Pastor Dale E. Rood officiated.

Births

Meyer.—A son, Joshua Samuel Meyer, was born to David and Joy (Wallstrom) Meyer of Mesa, AZ, on March 6, 1998.

Bond.—A daughter, Sepharah Grace Bond, was born to Chet and Tanya (Bonser) Bond of Kasson, MN, on June 17, 1998.

Greene.—A son, Wyatt John Greene, was born to John and Damian (Stall) Greene of Berlin, NY, on August 22, 1998.

Obituaries

Todd.—Bernice Evelyn Todd, 88, of Milton, Wis., died at Rock Haven in Janesville, Wis., on September 2, 1998.

She was born on August 13, 1910, in Brookfield, N.Y., the daughter of Clark and Ruby (Clarke) Todd. She came to Milton with her family in 1922 and attended Milton College. She worked as a dental assistant for Dr. Lester Babcock for many years, and later for Dr. Forrest Branch. After her retirement, she spent winters in Florida.

"Bunny," as she was affectionately known, was a member of the Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church, where she sang in the choir for over 65 years. She was also a member of the Milton Grange.

Survivors include one brother, Loyal of Milton; one niece, Patricia Todd; and a nephew, James Todd.

A memorial service was held on September 11, 1998, at the Milton SDB Church, with Pastor George Calhoun officiating. Burial was in the Milton Cemetery.

Obituaries, continued

Sutton.—Harriet Virginia Sutton, 74, of Heartland, Clarksburg, W.Va., died on September 6, 1998.

She was born on April 26, in 1924, in Harrison County, the daughter of Ervin Davis and Laura (Knicley) Davis. A graduate of Bridgeport (W.Va.) High School, she was a former resident of Lost Creek, W.Va. She married Harold Sutton, who died in 1978.

Harriet was a member of the Lost Creek Seventh Day Baptist Church, and attended Broad Run Baptist Church.

Survivors include two sons, Ernest of Nutter Fort, W.Va., and Ervin of Jane Lew, W.Va.; one sister, Lillian Smith of Bridgeport; four grandchildren, and one great-grandson. In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by one sister, Mary Gifford, and four brothers—Riley, Adrian, Hiram, and Carl Davis.

A funeral service was held at the Morris Funeral Home with Rev. Joseph Bush officiating. Interment was in the Pine Grove Cemetery, Berea, W.Va.

Curtis.—Lloyd Gleason Curtis, 62, of Reno, Nev., died at his home on October 6, 1998, after a long battle with cancer.

A native of Riverside, Calif., he was born on April 12, 1936, the son of Gleason M. and Maleta (Osborn) Curtis. He graduated from Riverside Poly High and attended Long Beach (Calif.) City College.

Lloyd was a member of the Riverside Seventh Day Baptist Church, where he maintained his Christian faith and love for Jesus. With his family, he attended the Reno Christian Fellowship Church, which was a few blocks from his home.

Lloyd moved his family to Reno in 1980 after living in Bridgeport and Whittier, Calif. He worked for GEMCO stores for 23 years, managing many in Southern California and

the Reno area. After retiring from GEMCO, he started his own business. Curtis Cleaning Inc. is now owned and operated by his family.

Survivors include his wife, Donna Margaret-Clare; one son, David; two daughters, Kathleen Curtis and Lisa Tintle; one brother, Glen, of Riverside; and three grandchildren. He was preceded in death by one brother, Dr. Dale Curtis.

Services were held at Ross, Burke & Knobel Mortuary on October 9, 1998, with Rev. Stewart Hunter officiating. Burial was at Mountain View Cemetery, Reno.

Randolph.—Ruth C. (Bond)

Randolph, 99, of Belmont, N.Y., died on October 18, 1998, following a brief illness.

She was born on August 10, 1899, in Roanoke, W.Va., the daughter of Florein Lee and Lenora May Bond. She married Ashby F. Randolph on December 23, 1925. He died on June 19, 1993.

A former resident of Bristol, W.Va., Ruth was a lifelong Seventh Day Baptist. She joined the Roanoke SDB Church in 1909, and later transferred her membership to the Lost Creek church. She was a former teacher who taught in Roanoke, West Milford, and Brian Point grade schools.

Survivors include three sons, Ashby of Clarksburg, W.Va., Alois of Columbus, Ohio, and Rex of Bristol; three daughters, Xenia Lee Wheeler of Wake Forest, N.C., Mae Bottoms of Belmont, N.Y., and Elizabeth Boyd of New Enterprise, Pa.; 38 grandchildren, 85 great-grandchildren, and seven great-great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by one daughter, Edna Ruth Richards; four brothers, Orvil, Orson, Ian, and L. Main Bond; and three sisters, Ada Bond, Lydia Stutler, and Susie Williams.

A funeral service was held on October 22, 1998, at the Greathouse Funeral Home in Salem, W.Va., with

Revs. Edgar Wheeler and Stephen Osborn officiating. Interment followed in Coplin Cemetery.

Appel.—Lois Jeanette Appel, 79, of Stonefort, Ill., died on November 8, 1998, at St. Louis (Mo.) University Hospital.

She was born on July 2, 1919, in Texico, Ill., the daughter of James Wesley and Rosa (Burns) McSparin. She attended schools in Allen Branch, Stonefort, and Harrisburg, all in Illinois. She received a teaching degree from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Ill., and taught in several Illinois schools: Allen Branch, Stonefort, Hancock, Old Town, and Laclede.

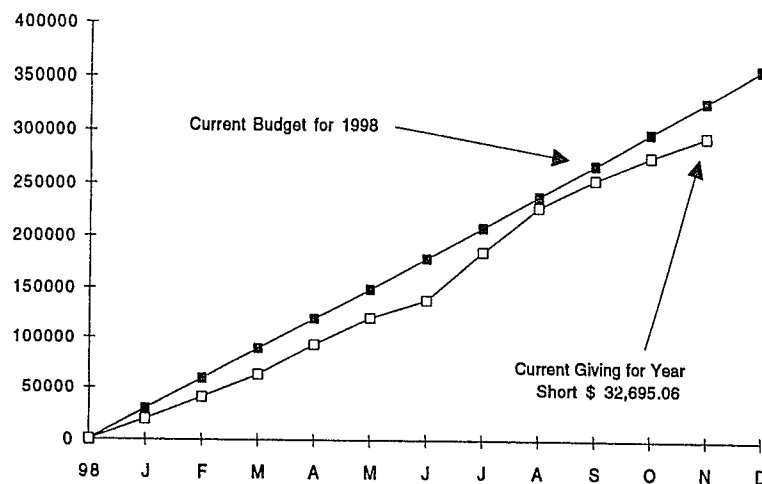
On July 23, 1938, Jeanette married Addison Appel. Together they pastored Seventh Day Baptist churches in Stonefort; Farina, Ill.; Leonardsville/Brookfield, N.Y.; and Albion/Milton Junction, Wis. Rev. Appel died on December 15, 1986.

In 1982, Jeanette returned to Stonefort after living in Albion for 20 years. She was a member of the Stonefort SDB Church, where she was a deaconess and served as clerk for many years. She was also a member of the Order of the Eastern Star, Chapter 31 of Stonefort.

Survivors include five sons, Albert of Stonefort, James of Orfordville, Wis., Paul of Janesville, Wis., Robert of Milton, Wis., and Joel of Edgerton, Wis.; two daughters, Mona Reieron of Edgerton and Brenda Cornelio of Janesville; two brothers, Joel McSparin of St. Louis and Clyde McSparin of Hayti, Mo.; 10 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by one grandchild.

Funeral services were held on November 13, 1998, at the Stonefort SDB Church, with Rev. Arthur Burkhamer officiating. Burial was at the Joyner Cemetery, Stonefort. A memorial service was held on December 5, 1998, at the Albion SDB Church.

Current Giving 1998



Our mission, cont. from page 14

liarity that distinguished them from other Baptists was past resurrection. So ignorant have Southern people generally been that Seventh-day Baptists were a live, active, denomination, existing at present and slowly gathering strength and influence, that when they began to appear it was not uncommonly held that they were a recent development of heretical schismatics propelled by fanaticism.

Nor is this ignorance of Seventh-day Baptists entirely dissipated in some sections where our missionaries have not been able to go as yet. This is further confirmed by the not uncommon confounding of the Seventh-day Baptists with seventh-day Adventists, the origin of the latter being in A.D. 1847."

As we enter into the new century, the days of the old circuit riders and methods of evangelism have changed. The electronic age has replaced the horse and buggy or the family colonization efforts of the frontier. Yet the principles which gave birth to our present denominational organizations are still valid.

The denominational agencies and

the General Conference functions are not to *do* the work of evangelism and missions, but to *assist* the churches and the Associations. This may be done by providing materials, training, and establishing the lines of communication.

The assessment of James Shaw concerning our relationship to other Christians is as true now as it was in the late 1800s. As one who has been charged with answering many of the Internet communications coming into the SDB Center in Janesville, I am constantly reminded of the number of people who are discovering that there is a Sabbath-observing Baptist denomination. But a frequently asked question is, "Where is the nearest Seventh Day Baptist church where we can worship and fellowship?"

As the Seventh Day Baptist historian I can supply material, and answer questions of history, polity, and beliefs. I can also make referrals to churches within a reasonable distance. In all too many cases, the nearest church may be hundreds of miles from their home. Yet we are constantly reminded that distances are not the barrier they once were. One's next door neighbor may be

just a keyboard away.

A growing number of our churches are establishing their own Web page, and this is good. But can this be carried a step further to interact with those who are discovering that we exist? When people do make contact, or even when they attend, do they find within the local church a passion for the Gospel? Do they find couples with the conviction of the Sabbath which distinguishes us from other evangelical Christians?

This is as much a part of our mission in the closing year of the 1900s as it was a century ago. **SR**

¹Henry Clarke, Proposition given at Yearly Meeting at Hopkinton, R.I., September 11, 1801.

²Foreword, *Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Magazine*, August 1, 1821, p. 1.

³Theo. L. Gardiner, "Home Mission Work by the Southeastern Association," *Jubilee Papers*, p. 23.

⁴J.A. Platts, "Home Mission Work by the Central Association," *Jubilee Papers*, p. 31.

⁵Herman D. Clarke, "Home Mission Work by the Western Association," *Jubilee Papers*, p. 37.

⁶O.U. Whitford, "Home Mission Work by the Northwestern Association," *Jubilee Papers*, p. 48.

⁷Rev. J.F. Shaw, "Home Mission Work by the Southwestern Association," *Jubilee Papers*, p. 48f.

A church is a church, cont. from page 16

ership or tell others what it means to us to be a Christian?

"People will join us in our worship of God, our fellowship within Christ's Church, and our ministry to God's children if we are clear about what it means to be a Christian," Pastor Start added. "Leadership, both pastor and lay, is vital because leadership keeps the church's vision in focus and helps the membership go where they haven't been before—toward their vision."

Walking toward the office door, Mrs. I.N. Decision inquired about a neighboring church which had been suffering a decline in attendance.

"Why do churches decline?" she asked. "What can the Conference do to help our small churches?"

Faith Willing shared the concern. "This is a problem in a church my husband and I visited on the way to Conference last summer. I've heard some say that you can tell the age of many of our churches by comparing the worship attendance with the church membership."

Pastor Start seemed to hesitate before commenting.

"I've heard the same thing said among our Conference leadership. They have observed that the young church's attendance will be as large

or larger than the membership, and that the older church's membership will be larger than the worship attendance. They have also observed that the self-sustaining church will have a worship attendance of 60 or greater. The challenge seems to be how to enlarge the church from 25 to greater than 60 to ensure its future as a living, witnessing church."

As she and Faith Willing left the office, Mrs. I.N. Decision remarked, "And I thought a church was a church. Being a church is more complicated than I ever imagined! My resolution is to pray for our churches and their leaders this year." **SR**

KEVIN'S

ORNER

Those of you who study the "SR Almanac" page may have already noticed the first entry for January 1974:

"After 130 years as a weekly publication, the *Sabbath Recorder* appears as an expanded, two-color monthly magazine."

What a monumental change! For over a century and a quarter, the *Recorder* newspaper faithfully kept Seventh Day Baptists informed of denominational and, in its early days, national and world news. For many, the *Recorder* was THE source of weekly information and church family connection.

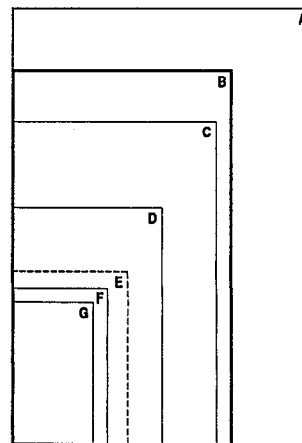
As you can see from the chart below, the old *Recorder* has undergone several obvious changes.

You may not be able to detect many surface differences in this month's issue, but we have just made (and survived) some monumental changes of our own. I believe we have finally attained the status of true desktop publishing.

No more darkroom chemicals or claustrophobia. No more light table to hunch over. No more waiting for the waxer to heat up. No more sticky registration tape for the crop marks. No more sizing artwork on the photocopier. No more paste-up sheets on boards and shelves. No more cutting color on overlays and stripping them and cleaning them and screaming at them (right, Leanne?).

Oh, as Leanne was beaming proudly at our progress and showing off the new computer techniques, she waved her hand full of papers and exclaimed to Calvin Babcock, "And no more cutting my fingers at the light table!"—as she gave herself a nasty paper cut. We will continue to keep a stock of bandages nearby.

The changing sizes of the SR



- A) 22 x 28 inches, 1868-1880
- B) Original size, 1844-1867
- C) 15 x 20 inches, 1881-1888
- D) 11 x 15 inches, 1889-1907
- E) Current size, 1974-present
- F) 7 x 10 inches, 1907-1930
- G) 6 x 9 inches, 1931-1973

All the artwork you see was either scanned in or imported from a compact disk. Nothing was physically cut-and-pasted. (Except for Leanne's finger.)

We've gone to a new typestyle for the text, called "Georgia." Let us know what you think! It is quite similar to the New Century Schoolbook (that we felt we used for a century...). The new font allows us to fit more words on a page, giving us room to add graphics, pictures, and maps. Speaking of maps, some new software has certainly dressed up our geographical awareness!

Photos. Always a challenge. We have grown in this category by leaps and bounds. Leanne now basically jumps at the chance to add a photograph to a page; whereas she would basically jump down my throat in the old days.

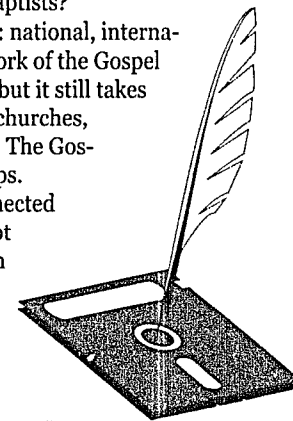
The darkroom camera is collecting dust as the new scanner gets a workout. We started using the scanner last fall, but would output the photos on our own laser printer, then send that paper for the folks at the print shop to shoot. Today we're providing everything on a zip disk for them to output straight to film. We may need to tweak the results a bit, so please be patient. We're still on the learning curve for this new procedure.

Another change this month, back by popular demand, is a reintroduction of the "Pastor Profile" which I began in 1989. Following a few years' absence, we changed its looks and content a bit, and will feature some new folks who grace our pulpits each Sabbath.

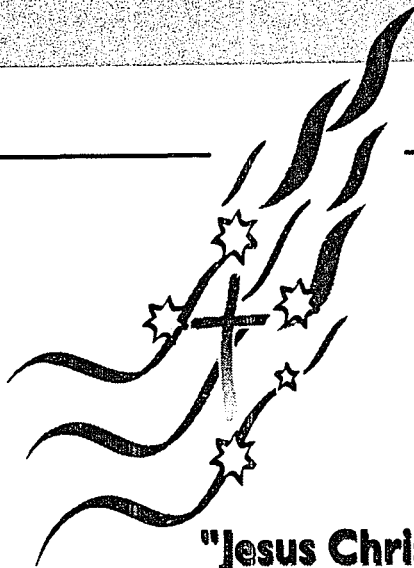
As we enter the last year of the 1900s, what will the new century/millennium bring for *The Sabbath Recorder*? For Seventh Day Baptists?

This issue is on missions: national, international, and personal. The work of the Gospel may be aided by high-tech, but it still takes the personal touch—in our churches, homes, and neighborhoods. The Gospel is still about relationships.

As we become more connected to these machines, we do not want to miss our connection with you, the reader. May we use these new tools to improve our relationship and continue to provide you with the best "news for and about Seventh Day Baptists."



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