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News for and about
Seventh Day Baptists

October 1999

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The heart of holiness is



by Bill Burks

This message was presented at the 1999 General Conference at Hope College in Holland, Mich. Bill Burks serves as assistant pastor at the SDB Church of Little Rock, Ark.

Francis Schaeffer, a theologian and philosopher of the latter part of our century, drew a stark contrast between Christian thought and the dominant tenet of our day called "secular humanism." He described humanism as a rejection of absolute truth, in favor of truth that varies from human to human.

In other words, each person determines for themselves what is right and what is wrong.

I have often heard Biblical discussions start with, "That may be true for you, but it's not true for me..." The results of man's own selection of what is right and wrong is described in the sad tale of Adam and Eve as they are expelled from the Garden.

Another prevalent idea that permeates our thinking today is hedonism. This belief is expressed in the statement, "If it feels good do it." It is characterized by self-pleasure. It is based in satisfying the demands of the physical senses.

The focus of both these propositions is "self." We are self-absorbed. We hold that everyone should have high self-esteem. We think that

everyone should be self-motivated. We are wrapped up in the words and ideas of "self."

The apostle Paul takes a very different view of self in the 2nd chapter of Philippians. Here he discusses Christian humility.

The Conditions in the Christian life which require humility. (verses 1-2)

"If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, Fulfill ye my joy, in order that ye might be same minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind." (KJV)

The apostle Paul begins his discussion of humility by laying down the conditions in the Christian life that demand humble unity. Verse 1 assumes the reality of certain things in the Christian life.

Paul states that since these things are true—consolation in Christ, comfort of (Christ's) love, and the passionate mercy of Christ—we must act with humility as Christians to be unified as churches.

The Requirements for true Christian humility. (verses 3-5)

"Let nothing be done through

strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem [one another] better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus" (KJV).

In this statement Paul gives five requirements for true humility.

The first requirement: Don't do things through vainglory. (verse 3a)

Today, we have bowed down at the altar of self-esteem. Here we see Paul saying that our problems are not because we think too little of ourselves, but because we think too much of ourselves.

We seem to recognize no higher god than the one in the mirror. Our humanistic mindset leads us to conclude that our ways are the right ways.

More often than not when I see people wrapped up and deceived by sin, they have judged God and the scripture to be less than themselves. They might justify things with, "Well, that's what the Bible said for those people back then, but this is the 20th century, and our morality and society is different..."

Is it really? Murder, alcohol, drug abuse, thievery, adultery, immoral behavior and the like are very old

sins indeed. Witchcraft, crystal worship, and filthy talk are all spoken of in scripture.

We tend to hide real sin under the more palatable titles of "sickness" and "lifestyle." Sin—a deadly poison—has been candy-coated, put in a medicine jar, and sold to the public as the new cure. Yet its victims are dying every day, while we console them with toleration.

It is pride that causes us to look down our noses at the poor, according to Psalm 10:2. It causes us to not seek God's will for our lives according to Psalm 10:4. Destruction is its ultimate outcome according to Psalm 10:18.

It is just plain old puffy pride, and it is a road to disaster.

The second requirement: Do esteem others better than self. (verse 3b)

One of the most difficult things for us to do is to give honor to others. The scripture speaks of the honor we should pay to one another. One of the Ten Commandments tells children to "honor your father and mother." (Ex. 20:12) The writer of Hebrews tells his readers to "obey them that have the rule over you..." (Heb. 13:17).

We find disrespect for others in our movies, in our music, and sometimes even in our churches. Sex, violence, and insolence are upheld and applauded in our culture today.

Paul calls for true unity in the church by humbling ourselves and treating others with respect. We must respect one another in all aspects of life, including how we treat each other in church, and in church business meetings.

The third requirement: Don't be concerned for your own interest. (verse 4a)

You know, we all want our own way. I have seen "church time" used by some as a time to promote their own secular business pursuits. I have seen arguments over carpet color in

the church turn ugly. Power struggles in church have sometimes turned into bloody verbal backstabbing events.

Sometimes there is more intrigue in the social aspect of a church than in a dime novel. Our churches should be made up of groups of believers gathered for worship, and not made up of scenes from Peyton Place, Dallas, or Melrose Place.

The fourth requirement: Do be concerned for others' interests. (verse 4b)

We seem to be more interested in whether or not the Packers will win rather than if our neighbor has enough food, goes to a scriptural church, or knows Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

The Bible tells us that we should have concern for others. Leviticus 19:18 tells us to "...love thy neighbour as thyself..." Isaiah 1:17 says, "Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow."

Church is supposed to be a place where a community of believers—who know each other, love each other, and care for each other—come together to worship God. It

is so we can grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Paul clearly understood that we must care about others, and take care of others to have humble unity.

Paul isn't merely suggesting that we follow a pattern, or a set of teachings. He is telling us to think the same way as Christ did during His human existence.

Often we are directed in the scriptures to be imitators of Christ. In 1 Corinthians 11:1 Paul says, "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ." In Romans 8:29 it states that we have been predestined to be "...conformed to the image..." of God's Son.

1 Corinthians 2:16 Paul says that Christians "...have the mind of Christ..." This is a powerful concept. We human followers of Christ are commanded in Philippians 2:5 to be in a certain frame of mind concerning our stature in the world, and our place in relationship to God. We are to be humble.

The supreme example of humility, Jesus Christ. (verses 6-8)

"Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal

Our problems are not because we think too little of ourselves, but because we think too much of ourselves.

with God; But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men; And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." (KJV)

Paul shows us the supreme example of humility. Here is Christ, who leaves His home in heaven, leav-

The fifth requirement: Do have the mind of Christ. (verse 5)

With this command Paul takes the discussion to another level. He tells

ing behind a scepter of authority and power which he had a right to, and becoming a servant on our behalf. Not only that, but He died for us.

Paul gives us six characteristics of Christ that make Him the Supreme example of humility for Christians.

The first characteristic: Christ did not hold on to equality with God. (verse 6)

The idea of the word translated "robbery" means holding on to something as tightly as a robber would hold on to the goods he has taken. Christ did not even consider grasping tightly onto His equality with the Father, in the light of our need for a Savior.

Here Christ sheds power and authority (which are His by divine right), on our behalf.

When was the last time we stepped aside from our positions of



Pastor Bill Burks

When was the last time you took time out to do service for someone under your authority? It might be an employee, it might be someone in church, it might be someone at school, it might be a child. Christ told His disciples that the one who wanted to be greatest in the Church and the kingdom had to serve others.

Real Christian unity is based in humility. Real humility requires following the example of Christ.

power, at work, in church, or at home for the benefit of others? Or do we grasp and crave power and authority to the detriment of others?

Christ's actions are that of a truly humble man.

The second characteristic: Christ made Himself of no reputation. (verse 7a)

Christ, on the last night of His human life, performed an act of service to His servants. It was during the Passover meal. He did something that shocked and amazed His disciples. He laid aside His outer garments, wrapped Himself in a towel, and washed His disciples' feet.

This is the act of a servant. This is the act of someone who worked in the home, not the homeowner.

(See Matt. 23:11)

Christ was a person who practiced what He preached. He was a humble servant.

The third characteristic: Christ lowered Himself to the place of a servant. (verse 7b)

It's not just that Jesus occasionally put on the attitude of service. He became a servant.

Here is Jesus, at the right hand of the Father, equal with the Father in power and authority, laying all that down. He wasn't forced to. He wasn't coached into doing it. He Himself did it.

Have you ever seen someone who had power, roll up their sleeves and join in the work? This is what Christ did.

The fourth characteristic: Christ became a common man. (verse 7c)

Christ had His choice of assignments. He could have chosen to be born into the household of the king. He could have chosen to be born with money, wealth, and fame.

He chose to be born in the household of a common hardworking man and woman. He became common for our benefit. We need to ask ourselves when was the last time we set aside our social positions for the benefit of others?

The fifth characteristic: Christ humbled Himself as a man. (verse 8a)

Even after He had humbled Himself by stepping out of the throne room of heaven, he went further. Even as a man He humbled Himself.

We ought to fall to our knees in worship, and wonder when we ponder, this great man's deed on our behalf. We ought to be abased just by the example He has set.

He told His disciples on that night He washed their feet, "Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet, ye also ought to wash one another's feet."

Christ uses the example of a master serving the servant to tell us that we servants ought to be serving one another. Are we?

The sixth characteristic: Christ became obedient even to the point of suffering death on the cross. (verse 8b-c)

The horrific nature of the death Christ suffered on the cross is beyond our capacity to understand. He was beaten and bruised beyond recognition. He had a crown of long thorns that dug into His head. He was made fun of. He was nailed to an upright stake in both His hands and feet. He had to struggle for every breath. After His death His body was pierced by a spear to make sure He was dead.

In the garden before His death, when Peter cut off the High Priest's

servant's ear, Christ told Peter to put away his sword. Then He said, "Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and He shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?" (Matthew 26:53).

Christ could have stopped the process, but He was obedient all the way to the cross. Do you ever put yourself, or your job, in danger for the Gospel? Christ did.

The exaltation of Christ because of His humility. (verse 9-11)

"Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the

glory of God the Father." (KJV)

God, in recognition of Christ's humility, exalted Him above all. This passage tells us what God did for Christ as the result of His humility. Because of His humility, God exalted Christ (verse 9a). Because of His humility, God gave Christ a reputation above all men (9b).

Everyone everywhere will bow their knees to Christ (10). Everyone everywhere will confess Christ's superiority (11a). This confession will bring glory to God (11b).

In Matthew 19:30, Christ compared this life to the next life saying, "But many that are first shall be last; and the last shall be first." To be exalted in the kingdom of God you must be humble in this life.

Real Christian unity is based in humility. Real humility requires es-

teeming others better than yourself.

Real humility also requires not seeking your own wants and desires. Real humility requires following the example of Christ. And we have seen that real humility brings exaltation.

How will you respond to God's call for real humility? Do you see areas in your life that need changing when you compare them to Christ's example of humility?

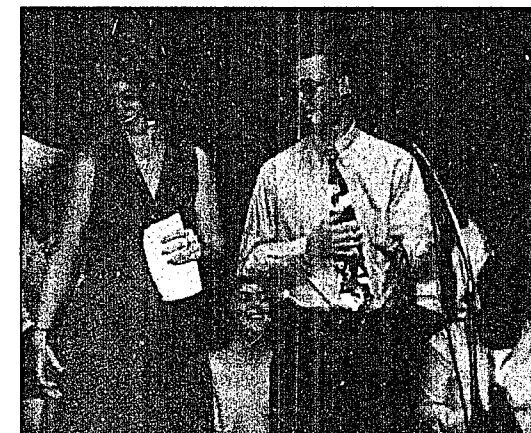
You can change, you know. You can turn now. Christ wants you to. He invites you to come along side with Him; to live through eternity with Him.

If you are a Christian, He invites you to draw the line in your life today, and say, "I am going to change my thinking and my life to conform to what You want me to do." God is calling you and inviting you to come to Him today. SR

More photos from Conference



Pastor Scott Hausrath led us to "Refreshments on the Road" during Friday's Bible study.



Cathy Rogers and John Mark Camenga's SCSC skit had something to do with a diaper...



Representing the Baptist Joint Committee, Dr. James Dunn led a workshop on "The Intersection of Church and State."



Jackson Butler (l.) and Desmond Burns look on as Kyle Greene and Micah Van Horn amaze the crowd at the children's program. The girl standing behind them (r.) had another opinion.

He will not forsake you

by Becky Van Horn

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Becky Van Horn, a deaconess in the Columbus, Ohio, SDB Church, shares her testimony of medical trauma to spiritual triumph.

When I first found a lump on my breast, all kinds of thoughts ran through my mind. I was concerned about my son and husband.

My doctor said it was probably just fibrocystic breast disease, because the lump was in the middle of my chest, an uncommon location for there to be a problem. She said a lot of women have the disease and not to worry about it.

But I went ahead and had a mammogram. It showed nothing, even though I could feel this big lump. So then they did an ultrasound, and that was able to pick it up.

My doctor tried to do a needle biopsy, but was unable to get enough fluid for testing. She then gave me the name of a surgeon, but I waited five months before I called and made an appointment.

Changes in my body, changes at home

Meantime, my husband, Darwin, was in the process of changing jobs. We had carried our own health insurance up to this point, so when he changed jobs, we decided to go with the company-offered insurance. It was going to be better coverage, and the company would pay half the premium. We were going on the assumption from the doctor that everything was all right with me. God had a lot to teach us...

In January, the lump seemed bigger, and it hurt. So I made an appointment with the surgeon. Again, they did an ultrasound, and the lump had grown some. So Dr. Brenda felt

we needed to do a biopsy to find out what was going on.

The biopsy was done in February, and the doctor found a two-inch mass. The pathologist came back into the operating room and asked the surgeon to take another sample because, in the first biopsy, he couldn't find any tissue that wasn't cancerous.

Decision time

There are four stages of cancer, and mine was in the second stage. It had probably been growing for two years. That amazed me, because I didn't feel sick; maybe a little tired, but that was all.

At this point, I had a choice to make: have a lumpectomy, or a mastectomy. I didn't have to think about it very long. I wanted the breast completely removed. I didn't want to have to worry about the cancer coming back later. We had a little boy to raise, and I needed to be there for him.

Through this whole process, God gave me a wonderful peace that only He can give. I felt that He had a reason for allowing this to happen to me. He was going to use this entire experience to His glory and was going to heal me. Our church here in Columbus, Ohio, had a healing and prayer service for me, which was wonderful.

Surgery done, insurance gone

During the time between the biopsy in February and the mastectomy in March, we learned that our new insurance denied me coverage! Since I had gone to my doctor during the summer to have the lump checked out, they said it was a pre-existing condition—even though the doctor, at that time, believed it was nothing to worry about.

Needless to say, I was beside my-

self. All the doctors "went to bat" for me, calling and writing the insurance company, and pleading for them to reconsider. But it was to no avail. The company stood by their initial ruling.

I cried, and I prayed. At the time, I was reading the book *Turn It to Gold* by D. James Kennedy. It seemed like he had written the book just for me. He talked about worry and how it's a sin, because it calls God a liar. We should never do that.

Then and there, I decided that I was going to give all this insurance mess over to God, confess my sin of worry, and let the Lord handle it all. I had shared in church that it was easier for me to trust God with my healing than it was to trust Him with my finances. After all, God owns the cattle on a thousand hills. I finally realized that He could and *would* take care of our needs.

Recovering with God's help

I got through the mastectomy and reconstructive surgery just fine. I was in surgery for five hours. Because I'm so small, the plastic surgeon had difficulty placing the implant under my chest muscle.

At this point, God was evident in everything that took place.

When I returned to my room after the surgery, I threw up a lot because I had been anesthetized for so long, and I was full of fluid. I had "the shakes" so badly that I couldn't quit.

My mother was there and, having a mother's heart, she asked what she could do to help. "Mom," I said, "I need you to pray for me."

Mom laid her hands on me and began to pray. As soon as she got "Dear Lord" out of her mouth, I quit shaking. It was like a faucet had been turned off. She finished her prayer, and the shaking never happened again.

When you gotta go...

It's funny how almost everything in a hospital revolves around going to the bathroom. If you've ever been hospitalized for any length of time, you know what I'm talking about! They don't let you come home until you can "go."

I was having some trouble in that department, and God sent me the sweetest, Spirit-filled nurse. The first time she got me up to go to the bathroom, I was real woozy. She sat me on the side of the bed, with her arm around me. Knowing I was a believer, just by our spirits' confirmation, she said, "We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us." I was thrilled!

"Just keep praising Jesus!" she added.

So I started praising Jesus all the way to the bathroom and, by God's grace, I was able to go.

That nurse returned to my room later in the evening and shared with Darwin and me that she had known that we were Christians as soon as she entered our room. We had a great visit. The Lord was really blessing!

Thank you, Lord!

Since I was doing so well, had no pain, and everything looked good, I went home after lunch. God was sure blessing my socks off!

By this time, the hospital and doctor bills needed tending to, so we made an appointment with the billing department. After working with them for several weeks (they knew our financial situation since I had stopped working), the hospital started "writing off" our debt. Praise God again! It was awesome to see Him take care of us.

The doctors followed suit, forgiving part of our debts. We're still paying on the balances but, nonetheless, God has provided.

Physically, I had been through the



Through this whole process, God gave me a wonderful peace that only He can give.

easy part. I was doing well, getting the movement back in my right arm and doing my exercises. Through all of this, I had memorized some scriptures to help me keep my focus. I had clung to 1 Peter 5:6-7: "Humble yourselves therefore under God's mighty hand, that you may be lifted up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you."

More chemo, more Scripture

My chemo treatments began in May at the clinic in the hospital. That way, they could continue to write off my debt. The next five months were difficult, especially three or four days after treatments. I couldn't eat and

could barely drink. I was reminded several times that God's grace is sufficient for each day.

During this time, God sent me several more Scripture verses, which I memorized so I could recall them during my chemo treatments. "Don't be afraid, for the Lord will go before you and will be with you, He will not fail nor forsake you" (Deuteronomy 31:8). "Yes, the Lord hears the good man when he calls for help, and saves him out of all of his troubles" (Psalm 34:17).

Then my sister-in-law sent me several scriptures on grace. The one from 1 Peter 5:10 was a promise from the Lord I clung to and still do: "And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast."

Selling the house, losing the hair

While all this was going on, we decided to sell our house, which wasn't an easy feat. The building was 180-plus years old and needed a new roof. But the Lord sent us a great real estate lady who worked hard for us. By the end of July, we closed on the house and bought another one close to the Christian school our son attended.

A couple of weeks after my first chemo treatment, my hair started to fall out. I was perfectly aware that this was going to happen, but I truly believe nothing can prepare you for it.

For the first time since all this started happening to me, I fell apart. I cried and bellowed at God all morning. I had washed my hair, and it was coming out by the handfuls. It was awful. I was having a real hard time getting calmed back down. Rapid hair loss is a traumatic experience for anyone, but I'm a hairdresser.

I wasn't dealing with it very well.

The next day, I went into the shop and had one of the girls shave my head. After that, it was fine. I wore my wig.

Darwin told me that I was having a more difficult time over losing my hair than I had had over losing my breast. He pointed out that my hair would grow back. Of course, he was right.

Compelled to pray

A couple days after my hair fell out, one of our shop's customers—a great Christian lady—called me. In passing, she said that I had come into her mind one day that week, and that she felt compelled to pray for me. I asked her which day that was, and she said Wednesday. I told her that was the day my hair fell out.

It is so great how God takes care of us. Through the urging of the Holy Spirit, that Christian customer prayed for me because I couldn't pray for myself. God knew I needed help.

After that experience, I've learned to always heed God's nudgings to pray for anyone who comes to mind during the day. They may be in dire need of prayer.

The Lord provides

There were several times when there wasn't enough paycheck to go around. But, always out of God's bounty, we'd get a gift in the mail, or someone would press money into our hands.

One particular week, we had more bills than money. At church that Sabbath, Pastor Robert [Van Horn] shared about the faith of the German pastor, George Muller, who started an orphanage, trusting God to provide everything the children needed. Even to the point of sitting down to an empty table and expecting God to provide the bread and milk after the mealtime prayer.

As soon as the prayer was over, a knock came to the door, and a baker brought them bread. After he left, a

milkman came to the door. His cart had broken down out front, and could they use the milk?

Well, I figured if Mr. Muller could pray in faith, believing, we could, too. By Tuesday, when I usually do the bills, we had been given two gifts of money. When I finished paying the tithe and our bills, there was \$30 left over.

I just stand around in awe of God, with my mouth hanging open. He *wants* to take care of all our needs; we just have to *let* Him.

Another what??

My chemo was over the end of September, and I was planning to go back to work in October. But then I found another lump in the same area as the last one.

We were crushed. For the first time, I asked, "God, why me?"

Then I was sent another scripture from God through a friend: "For I know the plans I have for you' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future'" (Jeremiah 29:11).

Another promise. Again, His grace is sufficient.

I went in for another biopsy and removal of the tubing in my implant. The plastic surgeon had to do the work so the implant wouldn't be ruptured.

By God's grace, she removed the tubing first, drained some fluid from around the implant, and readjusted it some. And the lump was gone! It had been the tubing all along. Were we thrilled!! Psalm 126:5 rang out true: "They that sow in tears shall reap in joy."

Back to work

I went back to work on November 1st. I had been trying to find a

buyer for the salon I'd owned for 14 years, but I was coming up empty. Finally, the Lord sent a lady to buy my equipment for a salon she was opening. I had told my three employees on a Monday that I was closing the shop, and by Tuesday we all had other places to work. So I knew that God's hand was in all that was happening.

The salon closed mid-December. We all started our new jobs the next week without missing a beat.

God did heal me

It's been a few years now since my last chemo treatment, and everything is clear on my tumor markers. The residual effects of chemo can last for 16-18 months, so I still got tired at times when my white blood cell count was down.

But I know in my heart that God has kept His promise to heal me. He has plans for all of us. Whatever those plans are, He intends to be right there beside us every step of the way, good or bad. He promised. Psalm 33:18-21 says it all:

"But the eyes of the Lord are watching over those who fear Him, who rely upon His steady love. He will keep them from death even in time of famine! We depend upon the Lord alone to save us. Only He can help us, He protects us like a shield. No wonder we are happy in the Lord! For we are trusting Him. We trust His Holy Name." **SR**



Micah, Becky, and Darwin Van Horn in August of this year.

Smile! You're on Conference Camera

More photos from Holland, Mich., in August



Rev. Gabriel Bejjani (l.) accepts the Crystal Apple from Gordon Lawton on behalf of Riverside, Calif., church member Marilyn Merchant. Marilyn was named Sabbath School Teacher of the Year.



Melicent Vergeer (standing, right) led a workshop for pastors' wives. Althea Rood (next to Meli) helped to organize the sessions.



Family full of hope: Host Committee workhorses Patti and Bernie Wethington with son, Sean.



Edgar Wheeler (behind microphone) was honored for his years of service as chairman of the Council on Ministry. Current chair, Luan Ellis, presented the plaque while L.B. Lee, Rod Henry, and Lorna Graffius looked on.



Debbie James consoles husband Steve after he injured his foot on the chapel steps.



Pastor Dave Taylor, Westerly, R.I., preached on the "Light of Holiness" on Wednesday.

Robe of Achievement goes to Jean Lewis

by Elizabeth Bidwell

Jean Lewis grew up in the Shiloh, N.J., SDB Church. She started taking piano lessons when she was 9 years old. She also began organ lessons at age 17.

Jean attended Alfred (N.Y.) University for two years. Before attending college, she worked at the telephone company to save money to go to school.

In January of 1946, Jean married Philip Lewis and moved to West Virginia, where he was attending Salem College. Due to Philip's health, they moved to Riverside, Calif., in October of 1948.

She and her husband had five daughters: Joan McAllister, Jennifer Lewis-Berg, Victoria Burdick, Melanie Caricato, and Cynthia Soper. Jean graduated from the University of California at Riverside in 1963 and taught elementary school from '63 until her retirement.

Jean has spent most of her life serving the Lord. She has worked at Pacific Pines Camp as a counselor and cook, and in Bible School as a mentor, teacher, and refreshment lady.

She has been an occasional presenter of special children's sermons



Jean Lewis (left) receives the 1999 Robe of Achievement and plaque from Women's Board President Ruth Probasco.

ist. She has served as secretary of the Pacific Coast Association for several years.

10 years. She was treasurer of the World Federation of SDB Conferences for five years, and represented the Women's Board at various conferences of churchwomen.

After the Women's Board left California, Jean was an instigator of the reformation of the Women's Society in Riverside. She serves as president of the Riverside SDB Women's Society, as deaconess, and as editor of *Chimes*, the Riverside church's newsletter. Jean was the formulator and hostess of the Women's Spring Tea.

She is an avid reader and a history buff. She is a "hostess extraordinaire," having taken courses through Elderhostel and professional cooking classes to further her skills. She is interested in anything musical or theatrical, and enjoys knitting and needlework.

Jean is very involved in her community. She is a docent at Historical Mission Inn, and a member of Friends of the Library, Community Concert Series, Philharmonic Concert

Program, American Association of University Women, University of California Alumni, Retired California Teachers' Association, and serves as treasurer of the American Guild of Organists.

She is a fine Christian mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. She is a loyal and diligent church member and is always willing to share responsibilities and tasks in her church and community.

The Woman's Board is pleased to present the 1999 Robe of Achievement to Jean Harris Bonham Lewis. *SR*

Jean is a loyal and diligent church member and is always willing to share responsibilities and tasks in her church and community.

at church. She serves as treasurer of Sabbath School and as church organ-

On a denominational level, she served on the Women's Board for



Women's Society page by Donna Bond

Highlights from our highlights

What a tremendous response to our plea for highlights from your local church Ladies' Aids—13 societies* responded! Thank you, secretaries!

News items that do not appear on these pages will appear in the "SDB Woman" newsletter edited by Pat Cruzan. The following paragraphs represent unique excerpts.

•From the Dr. Grace Missionary Society in North Loup, Neb.: "Moving into the next millennium, we have begun a new emphasis on following in the footsteps of our namesake, Dr. Grace Crandall, and are working to become an active 'MISSION'ary Society.

"After an inspiring visit from the Director of Missions, Kirk Looper, we found all the inspiration needed to get us underway. A call was made to the headquarters of the Earl May Seed Company (where the husband of a former member works). We were promised a large amount of garden seed. Expecting to find a couple of boxes when I went to pick them up, my heart missed a beat when they told me they would bring them out on the forklift. Cartons weighing over 400 pounds were packed in my car.

"Following fellowship dinner on Sabbath Day, we had a seed repacking party. Everyone joined in, and a good time was had by all. When we finished, 14 boxes (387 pounds) of seed were ready for shipment to Malawi and Zambia.

"When you step out in faith to do God's work, you trust Him to supply what you need to do His work. Before the boxes were ready for mailing, money had been received for the postage—\$576."

•Also supporting mission work was the Dodge Center, Minn., Ladies' Aid: "On February 27 we assisted in hosting an open house to the local

community for the Tim and Jayme Osborn family prior to their leaving for Haiti as missionaries with the Heart of God Ministries."

•Shiloh's (N.J.) Ladies Benevolent Society used a Scripture theme for the year: "I set my rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between me and the earth" (Genesis 9:13). Each month was assigned a color which members were encouraged to wear. We traced our hands monthly on colored paper which were cut out and arranged in a rainbow."

•The Daytona Beach (Fla.) Church Aid reports that they "find it very rewarding to host our boards and agencies as it gives a closer tie to the people around this continent. Many new friendships can be made and old ones renewed."

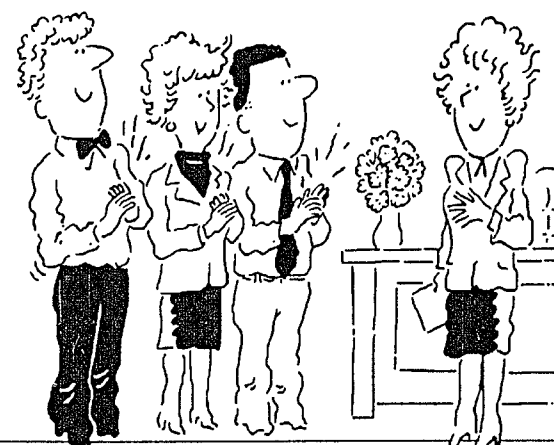
•The Riverside (Calif.) Women's Society meets twice a month. In the first meeting, they conduct a Bible study, devotions, and business. Their second meeting is a work bee, maintaining church property and/or making holiday tray favors for a nursing home. Each participant brings a sandwich for herself and a piece of fruit for a community fruit salad—different every month depending

on what is in season or on sale.

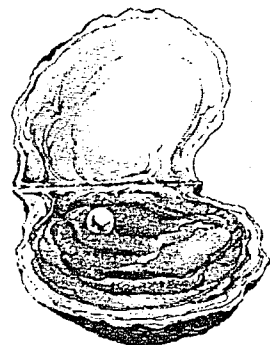
•Our SDB women have made their mark in areas of special recognition as well: The Milton, Wis., Evening Circle purchased a robe for the Jamaican women to use for their Conference's "Robe of Achievement." Shiloh's culinary skills received state-wide recognition in the New Jersey Historical Society's "Dining In/Dining Out" display in Newark in June because of the chicken potpie dinners which were held for 100 years. Battle Creek's Arabeth Deland was named one of the "Valiant Women" by the Michigan chapter of Church Women United. Congratulations, Arabeth!

•The Evening and Afternoon Women's Circles in Milton work together on many projects, including a luncheon for high school students released from school for one hour weekly for religious instruction. What a potential for sorely-needed ministry! *SR*

*Albion, Wis.; Alfred, N.Y.; Alfred Station, N.Y.; Battle Creek, Mich.; Daytona Beach, Fla.; Dodge Center, Minn.; Hebron, Pa.; Milton, Wis. (two circles); North Loup, Neb.; Riverside, Calif.; Shiloh, N.J.; and Waterford, Conn.



Our SDB women have made their mark in areas of special recognition as well.



Pearls from the Past by Don A. Sanford, historian

Sabbathkeeping meets believer's baptism

The year 2000 will soon be upon us. In the midst of concern over Y2K glitches in the computer world, and various predictions of end-time prophets, Seventh Day Baptists ought to be gearing up for a celebration of the 350th anniversary of our beginnings as a denomination.

Some earlier writings have placed our beginnings in England with John Traske, who briefly preached a seventh-day Sabbath in 1617. Others have tried to trace an unbroken observance of the Sabbath from the New Testament times to the Reformation in England.

The Sabbath is an important distinctive which marks us off from most other churches, but our historic roots are in the linking of the Sabbath to the Baptist principle of baptism of believers.

We owe a debt of gratitude to those who preserved God's Word through centuries known as the Dark Ages. We are thankful for those who laboriously copied and translated the Scriptures for later generations.

We have benefited from the leaders of the Protestant Reformation. From Martin Luther came the insight into the Christian teaching of salvation by faith. From John Calvin came a focus on the very sovereignty of God. From the much-persecuted Anabaptists came the concept of believer's baptism.

Yet there was a reluctance among Baptists in England to rely on the writings of those reformers who came before them. They did not want to establish a kind of Apostolic Succession such as was found in Catholicism or the Church of England. In-

stead they relied almost exclusively on the Bible—the "sola scriptura," as it is sometimes called—for their belief and practice was anchored in the Bible alone.

The Separatist movement in England, with its reliance upon the Bible in the language and hands of the common people, tilled the ground from which Seventh Day Baptists had

the Sabbath, he remained within the Church of England. In calling for a reform within the state church, he maintained an episcopal polity believing that any reformation must come from the supreme hierarchical powers, that is, from the king and Parliament.

Near the mid-point of the 17th century, two documents brought the

Near the mid-point of the 17th century, two documents brought the foundational doctrines of believer's baptism and the Sabbath together, giving birth to the Seventh Day Baptist denomination.

their beginning. John Smyth and Thomas Helwys are credited with the founding of the Baptist movement in England near the beginning of the 17th century.

Theophilus Braborne, a minister within the Church of England, as early as 1628 published *A Discourse Upon the Sabbath Day*. In it, he attempted to persuade the Church of England to accept the validity of the seventh day Sabbath.

He maintained that the Fourth Commandment was still in effect, that it had not been changed, and that any meetings of the disciples which may have been on the first day were not to be taken as sufficient ground for change unless accompanied by specific command of God.

Braborne's writings stirred debate within the church bringing forth a further writing, *A Defense of the Most Ancient and Sacred ordinance of God's, the Sabbath Day*, for which he was imprisoned.

Yet in spite of his strong belief in

foundational doctrines of believer's baptism and the Sabbath together, giving birth to the Seventh Day Baptist denomination.

In 1649, James Ockford wrote a treatise with the elongated title:

The Doctrine of the Fourth Commandment deformed by Popery; Reformed & Restored to its Primitive unity,

Wherein is clearly proved by Scripture, Arguments and Reasons that the Seventh day of the week, and not the first,

viz. the day called Saturday [and not the day called Sunday] Are the true Christian Sabbath and a time Instituted

and Commanded by God himself, for a day or time of his public worship in the time of the Gospel, as it was in the time of the Law¹

On March 8, 1649, the Parliament issued an edict condemning this writing and ordering all copies to be confiscated and burned. In his defense,

Ockford assured his readers that he was fully Christian, saying "I am no Jew, nor inclined to any Jewish opinions; I seek not righteousness by the Law, but by faith in the Son of God, according to the Gospel."

Ockford saw the Sabbath as a delight and joy, stating, "Happy shall the Christian be, that worshipeth God according to the Law, and give Him His due, by placing on the Sabbath Day the honor which God requireth to be performed on it."

It is possible that the burning of Ockford's book caused others to write anonymously. One such book is the first known work on the Sabbath which also called for believer's baptism by immersion. This work, published in 1652 under the title *The Moralite of the Fourth Commandment*, pointed out the inconsistency of those who rejected the Sabbath as being Jewish while using the Jewish rite of circumcision in sup-

port of infant baptism.

This unknown writer called for baptism by immersion: "First see the heart baptized in the blood of Christ, then bring the body to be washed in pure water, the whole body, not a part, washed, not sprinkled."²

The execution of Charles I in 1649, and the establishment of the Commonwealth, brought a decade of relative freedom from the authoritarianism of the established Church. For Seventh Day Baptists, this has been considered the "Great Decade," for they were granted freedom to both proclaim and practice their conviction of the Sabbath.

William Saller, John Spittlehouse, Dr. Peter Chamberlen, Thomas Tillam, and Edward Stennett were among those who openly proclaimed the Sabbath. Although the earliest records were lost, Sellers is considered as the first pastor of the Mill Yard Church, founded about 1650.

In 1659, Chamberlen, Tillam, and Matthew Coppinger were involved in a debate held at the Stone Chapel beside Saint Paul's Cathedral in London, which attracted hundreds of people. Their opponent was Jeremiah Ives, who published an account of the debate in his book *Saturday No Sabbath*, which was addressed to "the believers in Christ, especially they who are in bondage to the Jewish Sabbath."

Throughout this period, some of the strongest opposition appears to have come from Baptists who could not refute the scriptural claim of the Sabbath, but relied upon the anti-Semitism which equated Sabbath-keeping to Judaism.

One of the most noted writers of the time, John Milton, defended the "no Sabbath" position, holding that the seventh-day Sabbath was strictly Jewish and that there was no command in the New Testament for observing any particular day.

He did state strongly that it was only on the authority of the Church that Sunday was observed. He said that any who claimed scriptural authority were on dangerous territory and should be aware of the consequences likely to follow in the interpretation of Scripture.

In conclusion, Milton stated that if the time of public worship was regulated "by the prescriptions of the Decalogue, it will surely be safer to observe the seventh day, according to the express command of God, than on the authority of mere human conjecture to adopt the first."³ SR



Die Veneris, 8 Martii, 1649.

Mr. Millington Reports from the Committee of Plundred Ministers, the matter of Fact touching the Book entituled, *The Doctrine of the Fourth Commandment deformed by Popery, reformed and restored to its Primitive Purity, &c.* And the examination of *Augustine Nicholas*, Servant to *Gartrude Dawson*, Printer of the said Book for *James Oakeford*; and the examination of *John Hide*.

Resolved by the Parliament,

That this Book (entituled, *The Doctrine of the Fourth Commandment deformed by Popery, reformed and restored to its Primitive Purity, &c.*) asserting the observation of the Jewish Sabbath, and condemning the observation of the Lords day as the Christian Sabbath, is Erroneous, Scandalous and Prophane, contrary to the practice of the Apostles, and of all the Christian Churches.

Resolved by the Parliament,

That all the Printed Copies of the said Books be burnt; And that the Marshal be required to do the same at the Exchange and in Cheap-side.

¹[ames] O[ckford], *The Doctrine of the Fourth Commandment...* (London 1649). Only known copy at Christ Church College, Oxford, England. (Microfilm copy MF 1986.76, SDB Historical Society.)

²*The Moralite of the Fourth Commandment*, (1652), M2617A, UMI 86.

³John Milton, *A Treatise on Christian Doctrine: Compiled from the Holy Scriptures Alone*, trans., Charles Sumner, (Boston: Cummings, Hillard & Co., 1825), 2:326-41.

1999 Scripture Memorization Program

The 1998-99 Scripture Memory program featured the theme of Conference President Norma Rudert, "Be Ye Holy, for I Am Holy." Participants who completed the program were presented certificates at the General Conference sessions in Holland, Mich. (The 1999-2000 memorization program was listed in last month's *SR*. Copies are available from the Board of Christian Education at 607-587-8527.)



FOCUS
on Missions

Growth
in Guyana

by Kirk Looper

Adams Center, NY
Pastor Andrew Camenga
Cassie Sanders
Ryan Sanders

Alfred Station, NY
Mae Bottoms
Elaine Brundage
Heather Chroniger
Pastor Kenneth Chroniger
Luan Ellis
Jessie Kandel
Mark Kandel
Phyllis Mattison
Reid Mattison
Voni Mattison
Caleb Noel
Dorothy Noel
Melissa Noel
Timothy Palmiter
Berwyn Reid
Amanda Snyder
Joseph Torkaman
Nathan Torkaman
Barbara Welch
Kim Wheeler

Metro Atlanta, Hiram, GA
Susan Fields
Rachel Hargett
Daniel Lovelace
Joanna Lovelace

Berlin, NY
Linsie Hempstead
Laura Keefner
Ellen Olson
Juliet Olson

Boulder, CO
Danielle Crowder
Tiffany Crowder
Lewis E. Davis
Pastor Elmo FitzRandolph
Madeline FitzRandolph
Valerie Heath
Steve Johnson

Doris Rood
Kelly Rood
Timothy Rood
Clete Severance
Amberle Thorngate
Christina Thorngate
Josiah Thorngate
Levi Thorngate
Mary Wells
Ada Williams
Nichole Wilshire

Bradenton, FL
Jean Davis
Pastor S. Kenneth Davis
Pauline Pelletier

Central, Mitchellville, MD
Rose Chroniger
Jean Cook
Donny Davis
Larry Davis
Cliff Gordon
Pamela Gordon
Shane Halso
Jeffrey Hazen
Philip Hazen
Ruth Hazen
Dianne Hibbard
Earl Hibbard
Justin Hibbard
Patrick Hibbard
Bobby Parrish
Robert Parrish
Marge Pernell
Dakota Watt
Donny Watt

Columbus, Westerville, OH
Helen Bond
Elliot Holmes
Liandra Holmes
Lindsey Holmes
Summer Holmes
Krystal Richmond
Christopher Van Horn
Lanna Van Horn
Pastor Robert Van Horn

Daytona Beach, FL
Clara Thompson
Patricia Thompson-Gordon

Dodge Center, MN
Kris Bonser
Amanda Greene
Khalen Greene
Lance Greene
Micayla Neher
Katie Niles
Brian Payne
Karen Payne
Marcy Payne

Hebron, PA
Pearl Brock
Edna Gaines
Allen Hauber

Houston, Bellaire, TX
Angela Rahn
Jamie Rahn
Christine Stillman
Danielle Stillman
Denise Stillman
Joyce Stillman

Leonardsville-Brookfield, NY
Gwen Bowyer
Pastor Bill Bowyer

Little Rock, AR
Cynthia Burks
Benjamin Monroe
Donna Monroe
Joshua Monroe
Rachel Monroe
Timothy Monroe
Winnie Monroe
Betty Seager
Irving Seager
Doris Van Horn
Pastor Kenneth Van Horn

Lost Creek, WV
Margaret B. Allen
Leora Pinder

Pastor Edgar F. Wheeler
Xenia Lee Wheeler

Marlboro, NJ
Jeanne Dickinson
Jan Graffius
Joanna Halter
Heath Miller

Middle Island, WV
Bree Negie
Brendan Negie
Bryce Negie
Clara Negie
Emily Robinson
John Robinson
N. Helen Sutton

Milton, WI
Jackson Butler
Matthew Butler
Elizabeth Daland
Phillip Lubke
Ben Wright

New Auburn, WI
Lin Smalley

New York City, Brooklyn, NY
Shana Ashman
Samantha Bonnet
Samuel Bonnet
Kaydiann Blackwood
Makeda Bryan
Elaine Caesar
Hyacinth Caesar
Una Chung
Enid Edwards
Rickford Edwards
Sheldon Fisher
Melda Foster
Ewart Gayle
Lorraine Gayle
Barrington Gordon
George Gordon
Kathlene Gordon
Oneil Gordon
Sonia Gordon
Theona Gordon
Fiona Granville

Marsha Granville
Stacey Granville
Inez Gray
Una Jackson
Robert McClean
Clarice McGeachy
Andrea McKenzie-Crosse
Dawn McLean-Bell
Danavette Morrison
Ken Scotland
Kendra Scotland
Mezlana Scotland
Pastor Harold Smith
Jousha Smith
Mauva Smith
Samara Sterling
Sheena Sterling
Shanneka Stewart
Alicia Thompson
Bernadette Thompson
Monica Thompson
Diedre Watkins
Tamiko Watkins
Juneta West
Shane West
Xavier West
Blanch Williams
Jean Wynter

North Loup, NE
Shirley Cargill
Floyd Dickerson
Beth Dutcher
Katherine Dutcher
Amy Goodrich
Helen Goodrich
Katrina Goodrich
Tyler Keown
Jerry Kolbo
Pastor Christian Mattison
Rebekah Mattison
Brice Severance
Cecil Severance
Frances Van Horn

Philadelphia, (Hope), PA
Rollessa Thurman

cont. on page 26

During the past year, the emphasis in Guyana has been on evangelistic outreach and improving the church in Kitty, Georgetown. These tasks have raised the morale of the Conference members as they see their mother church upgraded and greater activity bringing in new people.

This year, the Seventh Day Baptist Conference of Churches in Guyana celebrated its 51st anniversary with meetings in the Kitty church in Georgetown. The event was well attended, carrying forward the theme "Enlarging the Tent." The excitement increased as they discussed the work being done in the Conference. This discussion ranged from the evangelistic work of several churches, to the plans to fix up the church building in Kitty.

In an attempt to carry out the aims of the Conference theme, a telecast is planned for this fall. The telecast will be on one of the most popular local television stations each Sunday morning.

With God's help, and with assistance from our brethren around the world, this program can be impressive and spiritually enriched. To do this, they need help from the pastors in each of our sister Conferences and churches. They would like brief, 20-minute messages that can be used as part of their broadcast. Later, they plan to branch out to a radio format, which will depend upon regular donations.

If you are interested in participating in this outreach, send an audio or videocassette to the Missionary Society in Westerly, R.I., and we will be glad to forward them to the Guyana Seventh Day Baptist office.

Evangelistic crusades were held at four sites, including Joanna Cecilia Village, Queenstown Village, the

Uitvlugt Seventh Day Baptist Church, and the Parika SDB Church.

Brother Val Bennett, a dedicated worker missionary from the U.S., told of a group that meets Sunday mornings at the New Opportunity Core School. They use evangelistic videos to convey the Gospel message, and the response was very significant throughout the crusades, as well as at the regular meetings at New Opportunity. A number of students decided to follow the Lord, and 43 were baptized, including six not attending the school.

Through the efforts of Brother Bennett, they acquired one keyboard, one 60-watt amplifier, one 12-volt battery, and other accessories to assist with the evangelistic efforts. This equipment was used at the New Opportunity Core School, and at meetings in Joanna Cecilia, Dartmouth, Bona Ventura, Parika, and Uitvlugt. Two outboard motors were also acquired: a 5 horsepower, and a 35 hp. A Conference representative currently uses one of the motors when visiting interior churches.

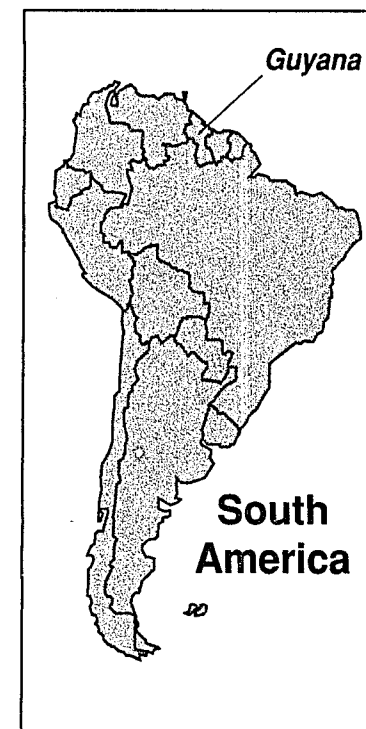
Used clothing is sent to the Guyana churches in the same manner as in other Conference churches. The clothes enable them to help those who do not have adequate funds to purchase garments, or those who have undergone natural calamities.

Recently, the Ministry of Labor and Human Services referred a number of clients who needed emergency help. Guyana SDBs helped these people receive food, clothing, and small sums of money to meet their emergency needs. For example, a young man received funds to help him with an examination, and two families that were burned out of their homes were given clothing and money.

The Guyana SDB churches have received clothing from the Women's League of the Hope SDB Church and Remnant Church of God Seventh Day in Philadelphia, Pa. Others are invited to send clothing and supplies to the Guyana churches to help with this project.

We appreciate Brother Bennett as he continues to minister to the churches in Guyana. We continue to pray for funds to help with the projects he is leading, and for money to help with his personal expenses. *SR*

SDB Missionary Society
119 Main St.
Westerly, RI 02891
Phone: (401) 596-4326
E-mail: sdbmissoc@edgenet.net





the BEACON

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

October 1999

Pics from Pre-Con

by Aubrey Appel

Ruthanne Cain, Lydia Davis, and Peter Fox. Three awesome friends from Ohio and West Virginia.



Gabe Vaught, Tracy Bruce, Crystal Butler, and Karlene Neher flying through the air. Peter Fox (background) was still grounded.



Randy Kersten, representing Milton, Wisconsin!!

Putting our heads together and getting to know each other.



And more from Conference



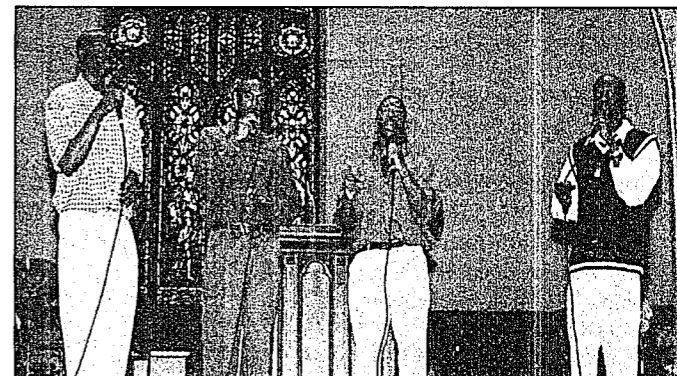
Jim Goodrich of North Loup, Neb., taught one Sabbath School class...



... while Dianne Hibbard of the Central Maryland church was busy with a younger set.



Jammin' at the Coffee House.



This young quartet came from our Toronto, Ontario, church (l. to r.): Jeffery Sinclair, Jamaal Fuffe, Omari Rhoden, and Keith Ashley.

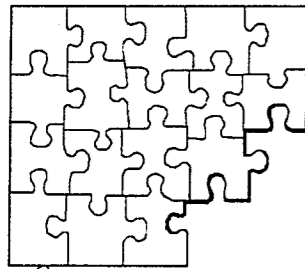


Miriam Lawton (left) and Joanna Harris get their Youth Banquet food. Jan Noel served as YF advisor.



The Young Adult Pre-Con attendees led vespers on Wednesday night.

Live in Harmony with One Another



The President's Page

Blending harmony and diversity

by John Camenga



1 Peter 3:8, in the New International Version, challenges us to "Live in Harmony" with one another: "Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing" (3:8-9).

Three things should be obvious to us as we read this passage.

First: These early Christians needed encouragement to live in harmony. Even in the first century, believers did not automatically have harmony with each other.

Second: Harmony is not sweeping differences under the rug or ignoring them, or pretending they do not exist. It requires effort, submission to God's will, and a genuine love for fellow believers to work through the differences that can produce discord.

Third: Harmony is an achievable goal. Peter would not have wasted time and created frustration by giving instructions that could not be obeyed.

These verses are as important for us to apply today as they were when Peter first dictated them for distribution among the churches of his day.

Living in harmony with one another is not an option or a nifty concept we are to discuss. It is stated in imperative language. It is an absolute instruction to believers.

Other passages state similar ideas.

John quotes Jesus as saying, "Love one another as I have loved you" (John 13:34). Luke described the church in Jerusalem as being united with one heart and one soul (Acts 4:32).

But there is a unique quality to Peter's instruction, a quality that I believe is particularly important to us as a people as we move into the year 2000.

We can be in harmony, while respecting and even cherishing our diversity. We do not have to think and act in unison to "Live in Harmony" with one another.

Obviously, it is easy for us to use musical illustrations when discussing harmony. There is a richness and fullness to music created by the harmonious blending of voices or instruments. This richness is not produced when singing or playing in unison.

I have never had a singing voice that easily hit the high notes. I remember the hurt and humiliation of what happened to me when I was in elementary school.

We were preparing for a program and I could not sing the notes that seemed to come so easily for the other children in the class. I sang them an octave lower and thought that was pretty good. The music teacher had another opinion.

She told me—in front of the other children—"Johnny, when we go out on the stage to sing, you just move

your lips but don't make a sound." She wanted unison voices, so she silenced me.

Perhaps this is one of the reasons I find many of the modern praise choruses an ineffective form of worship for me. (I am not judging what their usefulness in worship is for anyone else. Many of them are hard for me to sing because they are outside the range God created in my vocal

records, and they don't provide a harmony line that I can sing.)

I love the beauty and fullness of harmony singing. It gives me an opportunity to find a place—a way to participate in the experience of shared worship without embarrassment and without being required to absolutely conform to the patterns and tones of those around me.

We can be in harmony, while respecting and even cherishing our diversity. In fact, as we mature we discover that it is that very diversity of tone that produces richness and depth in our music. We also discover, as we mature, that we do not have to think and act in unison to "Live in Harmony" with one another. **SR**

Next month: What about those puzzle pieces?

Pastor Profile



Name:

Stephen Glen Osborn

Birthdate and place:

October 18, 1966 Winchester, Kan.

Current pastorate:

Lost Creek, W.Va., Seventh Day Baptist Church (since 1996)

Family:

My awesome wife, Angie; one son, Seth (3 years); two daughters, Michaela (2 years) and Gabrielle (5 months); one dog, Noah (21 dog years); one cat, Tickle, and nine kittens (free to good home).

Education:

Dodge Center, Minn., High School, 1985
Bachelor of Arts in Music, Westmont College, Santa Barbara, Calif., 1990
Master of Divinity, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Deerfield, Ill., 1995
Currently enrolled in the school of life.

Former pastorates/employment:

Summer Youth Pastor—
Battle Creek, Mich., SDB Church, 1991-1992
Pastoral Internship—
Milton, Wis., SDB Church, 1993-1995
Pastor of Christian Education—
Milton SDB Church, 1995-1996

Other:

Special Education Aide—
Janesville, Wis., School District
Math Teacher—
Rock County Christian Schools, Beloit, Wis.

My first job was:

I begged to be able to help my brothers mow the church and parsonage lawn in Nortonville, Kan. Not my brightest decision.

Personal heroes:

My dad and mom (Paul and Muriel Osborn)

Favorite Bible passage:

The Book of Romans

Favorite authors:

God, C.S. Lewis, and Dr. Seuss

Most people don't know (about me):

That I once solved the Rubik's Cube, with my feet.

When I have time, I enjoy:

Playing or watching most any sport.

A great answer to prayer was:

Getting together with Angie, finally!!!!

A church project I'm excited about:

Two years ago we started a Bible Club for the children of the community. It has grown rapidly, and we have been able to minister to over 60 children and their families.

My vision for SDBs:

That through church planting and revitalization of existing churches, we would be able to increase the depth and breadth of our influence for Christ in our world.

Texarkana on the move

by Mynor Soper

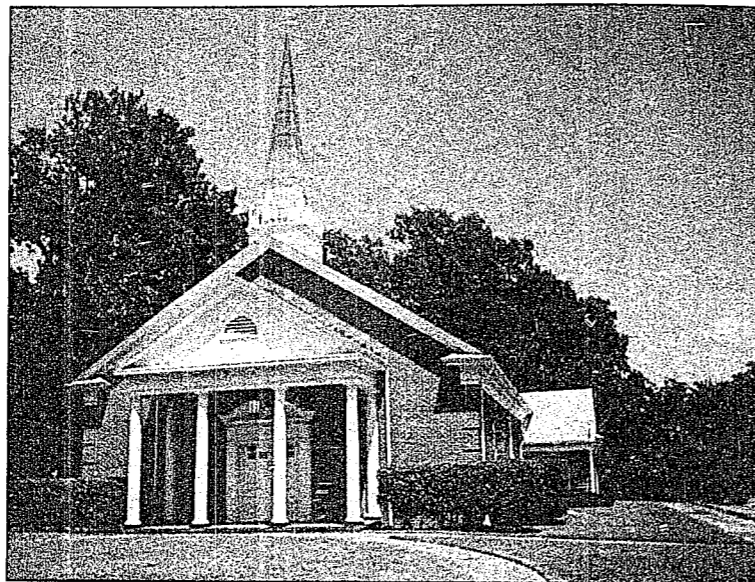
Great excitement permeates the entire Seventh Day Baptist congregation in Texarkana, Ark. We have grown so that our sanctuary is nearly full when we gather for Sabbath worship. We have to double and triple park, so that has become a problem, also.

We felt boxed in at our current location and could not expand. So some time ago we decided we needed to relocate.

We searched for property where we might build a new facility, and ended up purchasing 10 acres near a busy highway about four miles south of town and had it cleared. Dan Richards drew up an excellent design, and we were in the process of getting bids on constructing such a facility, with the idea we would do as much of the inside work as possible.

Then a beautiful, in-town church facility suddenly came up for sale. After a few quickly called meetings for discussion and prayer, we entered into negotiations with the real estate representative. That resulted in the purchase of a beautiful building in a good neighborhood. It's on quite a busy street where we'll have good visibility, a thing we have desperately needed.

Folks have been busy redecorating the foyer and painting in the sanctuary, halls, classrooms and rest rooms. We are also putting in handicap facilities and other chang-



The Texarkana church moves to this facility this month.

es to meet our personal needs.

As I said before, there is great excitement. We praise God for His wonderful provision. When our current facility is sold, we will be debt free.

As we contemplate God's provisions for His people, we remember the dedication, prayer, and hard

work with information about who we are and what we believe.

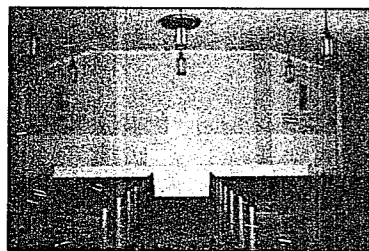
A number of people have stopped by as we have been working around the property, wondering what kind of people are moving in. We sense God is giving us a great opportunity to reach out to the community with the Gospel and the Sabbath truth.

We sense God is giving us a great opportunity to reach out to the community with the Gospel and the Sabbath truth.

work that went into the building that has served us so well for 42 years. We do not leave those facilities without a great sense of spiritual nostalgia and praise to God for His blessings.

Now we face the challenge of accomplishing God's purpose for us in this new community. Plans are underway to canvas the community

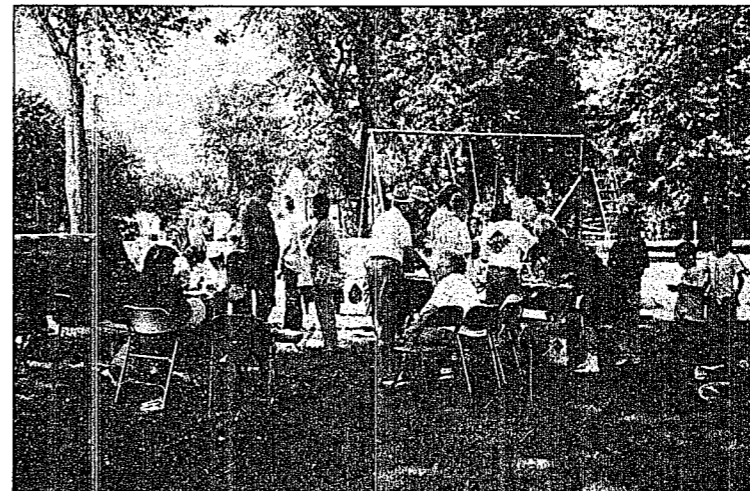
We will be moving into our new building by early October. On November 13, 1999, we plan to hold a dedication celebration which will truly be a high Sabbath! Many guests from our Southwestern Association and denominational leaders will be on hand to share in that celebration to worship and praise God. **SR**



The new sanctuary.

Albion gets to know neighbors

by Gay McRoberts



A beautiful day and free ice cream greeted visitors to the park across from the SDB church in Albion, Wis.

"Ice cream, you scream, we all scream for ice cream." Or so it seemed as the Albion, Wis., Seventh Day Baptist Church held their second get-to-know-the-community event.

In June, the church held an Ice Cream Social in the park, which featured free ice cream, balloons, and face painting for the kids. The children especially enjoyed the face



Neighborhood children swarmed in for balloons and face painting.

painting, and most had at least six designs painted on them—and not just on their faces!

Parents also came and visited throughout the two-hour event. In all, over 50 people participated in the informal affair, which was deemed a success. **SR**

Miami dedicates new facility

by Luan Ross

The Miami, Fla., SDB Church dedicated their new church building to the service of the Lord on the weekend of June 26–27, 1999. This was truly a blessed and wonderful thanksgiving event.

The theme for the dedication was "Growing Up to Grow Out," following the scripture passage of 1 Corinthians 13:11-13. First and foremost we would like to thank our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for making our dream a reality.

Our celebration began on Sabbath with a full day of worship and fellowship. The main speaker was Pastor Joe Samuels from the Plainfield, N.J., SDB Church. He delivered a powerful and inspiring sermon based on our theme.

After worship service, our fellowship lunch was a time of renewing acquaintances and getting to know each other. We had guests present

from other Seventh Day Baptist churches (including New York, West Palm Beach, and Houston), friends and well-wishers from out of town (as far as California), as well as from within our local church communities. We concluded our Sabbath day activities with a lively vesper service.

On Sunday evening, June 27, the official dedication service was held. Our pastor, Andrew Samuels, served as worship leader for the program which included praise and worship, a ministry of dance, special musical selections, and the act of dedication.

We were privileged to have Bro. Kirk Looper, Executive Director of the SDB Missionary Society, and Pastor Joe Samuels participating in the program. Two local pastors were also in attendance.

Pastor Alvin Bernard of our church presented the story of the

building and premises. Our praise team, church choir, children's choir, and other members of our congregation participated in music, songs, and presenting our church history. The entire congregation joined in the Dedication Litany.

This also saw the launching of our church's first magazine, published as a keepsake to remember this very special occasion in our history. We also had t-shirts and mugs to purchase as souvenirs.

We would like to say a big thanks to everyone who gave financially and participated in making this occasion as successful as it was. A very special thanks to the New York City Seventh Day Baptist Church who had over a dozen members in attendance.

Once again, thanks and praises to our Father for helping us to "witness the dream come alive." **SR**

Accessions

Alfred Station, NY
Ken Chroniger, pastor
 Joined after baptism
 Craig Barnes
 Joined after testimony
 Judith Burdick

Paint Rock, AL
John Bevis, pastor
 Joined after testimony
 Donald Monroe
 Gracie Monroe
 Carl Peacock
 Wilma Peacock

Gus Tucker
 Irene Tucker

Riverside, CA
Gabriel Bejjani, pastor
 Joined after baptism
 Lovina Daniels
 Joined after testimony
 Mary Johnson

Salem, WV
Dale D. Thorngate, pastor
 Joined after baptism
 Jessica Paige Goodson

Pastoral moves

Ed Sutton is now pastor at the Salemville (Bell), Pa., church.

Jim Galanaugh has resigned from the Denver, Colo., church.

Leon Wheeler has resigned from the Alfred, N.Y., church.

Marriage

Palmiter - Austin.—Curtis Palmiter and Dawn Austin were united in marriage on May 15, 1999, at the Alfred Station (NY) Seventh Day Baptist Church, with Pastor Kenneth Chroniger officiating.

Births

Johnson.—A son, Max Allen Johnson, was born to Ronald and Laurie (Allen) Johnson of Wellsville, NY, on June 21, 1999.

Taylor.—A son, David Bruce Taylor, was born to Duane and Desiree Taylor of Westerly, RI, on July 15, 1999.

Graham.—A daughter, Nacole Elizabeth Graham, was born to Scott and Alicia (Van Horn) Graham of Mill Hall, PA, on August 11, 1999.

Obituaries

Glowacki.—Rosemary L. Glowacki, 59, died on November 11, 1998, at the Broken Arrow Medical Center in Oklahoma. She was born on July 21, 1939, in Edgerton, Wis., the daughter of Lowell and Ruby (Jenkins) Green. She married Wallace Glowacki on September 2, 1958, in Phoenix, Ariz. A graduate of Edgerton High School, Rosemary had lived in Oklahoma since 1980. She served as the mayor of New Tulsa for eight years, city clerk for one year, and was instrumental in reactivating that city.

She was a member of the Albion, Wis., Seventh Day Baptist Church. In addition to her husband, survivors include her parents, six children, two brothers, three half-sisters, and four grandchildren. She was preceded in death by one sister, Sandy Green.

Funeral services were held in Albion on November 17, 1998, with

Obituaries, continued

Rev. Michael Burns officiating. Interment was in Evergreen Cemetery, Albion.

Slagg.—Albert E. ("Elba") Slagg, 87, died on April 7, 1999, at Edgerton (Wis.) Memorial Community Hospital after a short illness. He was born on December 6, 1911, in Albion, Wis., the son of John Albert and Irma Luella (Crandall) Slagg. He attended school in Albion and Edgerton and was married on October 9, 1933, to Robey J. Hicethier in Rockford, Ill. She died in 1983.

Elba was a lifelong member of the Albion Seventh Day Baptist Church and had been employed as a millwright at General Motors in Janesville, Wis., for 39 years, retiring in 1973.

During World War II, Elba worked for GM as a supervisor at an ammunition plant in Indiana. He enjoyed traveling, was an avid hunter and fisherman, and enjoyed playing golf. He also enjoyed playing the organ, other musical instruments, and dancing.

Survivors include two sons, two daughters, a special adopted sister, one brother, one sister, many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by one sister, Evelyn Marsden.

Funeral services were held on April 10, 1999, in Albion, with Rev. Michael L. Burns officiating. Interment was at Milton Lawns Memorial Park, Janesville.

Hulin.—Mary (Fitz Randolph) Hulin, 94, of Salem, W.Va., died on June 6, 1999, following a brief illness.

She was born on March 20, 1905, the daughter of Roy and Cora Elizabeth (Bond) Fitz Randolph of New Milton, W.Va. She graduated at the top of her class from Salem Academy in 1923, earning a scholarship to Salem College, where she received an AB degree in 1928. She taught

mathematics at Shinnston (W.Va.) High School from 1928-1930.

On August 4, 1931, she married Kenneth V. Hulin. In the early 1930s, they managed the Salem College cafeteria, and again in 1950 and 1951. From 1962-1972, Mary managed the college bookstore and later became manager of the college post office. She was a member of the Laudati Society and the Friends of Fort New Salem.

Mary was baptized and joined the Middle Island Seventh Day Baptist Church in New Milton in 1916. In 1937, she and her husband moved to Salem and joined the SDB church there. A member for 62 years, she served the Salem church as clerk and Sabbath School teacher. She was a charter member of the Randolph Terrace Apartments board of directors.

Mary and Kenneth lived in Florida from October 1977 until his death on December 12, 1983. They were active in the Daytona Beach, Fla., church where Mary served as a deaconess. She moved back to Salem in 1992 and was active in that church's diocese until her death.

Survivors include one son, Paul, of Jacksonville, Fla., and one granddaughter. In addition to her husband, Mary was preceded in death by one sister, Greta Fitz Randolph.

A memorial service was held on June 9, 1999, in the Salem SDB Church, with Rev. Dale D. Thorngate officiating. Burial was in the Lost Creek, W.Va., SDB cemetery.

Harman.—Eunice Pauline (Rood) Harman, 99, of Beaver City, Neb., died on June 29, 1999, at the Beaver City Manor, where she had lived since 1994.

She was born on April 14, 1900, at North Loup, Neb., the daughter of Charles and Rosa (Furrow) Rood. She graduated from North Loup High School with the class of 1919. She attended college at Greeley, Colo., and Kearney (Neb.) State College, and completed her education at Milton (Wis.) College.

In 1938, she married Charles Harman in North Loup. He died in 1982.

She taught school for 34 years in Nebraska, including one year at Hollinger, 20 years at Beaver City, five years at Edison, and one year at North Loup. She started teaching in Beaver City in 1945 and retired in 1965.

Mrs. Harman was a member of the North Loup Seventh Day Baptist Church, Eastern Star, Grange, Federated Woman's Club, Teachers' Organizations, and United Methodist Women at Hollinger.

Survivors include nieces and nephews. In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by nine brothers and sisters.

Funeral services were held on July 1, 1999, at the First Presbyterian Church in Beaver City, with Rev. Linda Knipping officiating. Burial was at the Union Cemetery, rural Beaver City.

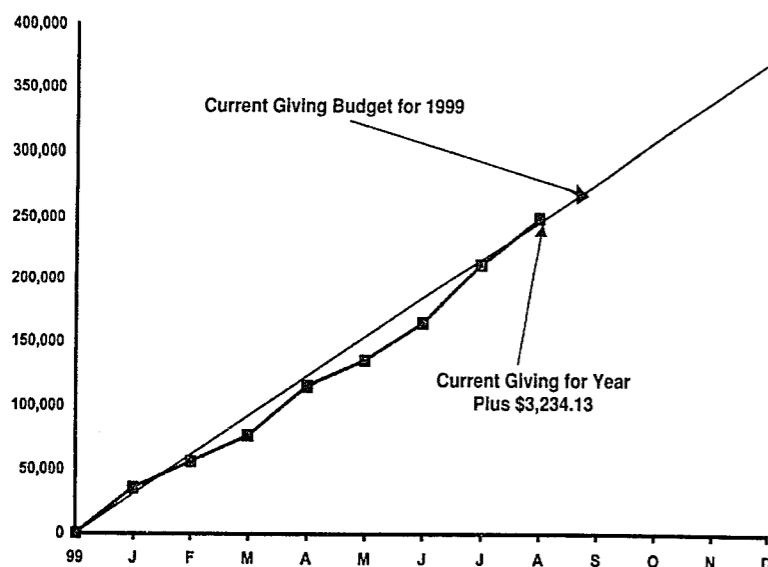
McAllister.—Eleanor (Dickinson) McAllister, 73, of Hopewell, Township, N.J., died on June 29, 1999, at her home following a 15-month illness with ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease).

Mrs. McAllister was born in Stow Creek Township, N.J., the daughter of Clarence D. and Alice (Randolph) Dickinson. The wife of Frank W. McAllister, she was a lifelong area resident and had lived at her Hopewell Township address for the last 43 years.

She was a 1944 graduate of Bridgeton (N.J.) High School, and a 1948 graduate of Salem (W.Va.) College, where she received a teaching degree in Home Economics. She was employed for over 30 years as a Home Economics teacher at Salem High School and later at Pennsville (N.J.) Junior High School. She retired in 1987 but continued working as a substitute teacher in the Stow Creek, Shiloh, Hopewell, and Seabrook Schools.

cont. next page

Current Giving 1999



Scripture Memorization, cont. from page 16

Raritan Valley, NJ
Marge Bruno
Pastor Jeanne Yurke

Bobby Burdick
Ginny Burdick
Pastor Kenneth Burdick

Katherine Spreadborough
Robert Spreadborough
Ben Uhlich

Merlin Condison
Sharai Fyffe
Tiffani Fyffe
Hermine Hunter

Peter Richards
Sonya Richards
Travis Simpson
Trisha Simpson

Riverside, CA
Jacob Estrada
Maxine Grieshaber
Lorie Hoskins
Elie Laham
Rose Laham
Stephen Lawson
Andrew Nino
Brenda Verdugo
Diana Verdugo
Dorothy Whitlock
Dustin Wilson

Margie Burdick
Ruth Burdick
David Davis
Doreen Davis
Nicki Gohl
Chris Hemminger
Pastor Gary Hemminger
Heather Hemminger
Nate Hemminger
Dixie Inabnit
Rexanna Inabnit

David Uhlich
Karen Uhlich
Zachary Williams
Daniel Wright
Kahlah Wright
Tarnah Wright

Linval Jones
Monika Jones
Shaina Jones
Stephen Jones
Tamica Lewis-Vu
Christine Lindo
Norma Lloyd
Allan London
Godfrey London
Patrick London
Winston London

Elon Sinclair
Isolyn Sinclair
Evelyn Taylor
Latanya Turner
Catherine Watt
Elton Williams
Everton Williams
Ezra Williams
June Williams
Temeka Williams

Bell, Salemville, PA
Benjamin Baker
Bryan Baker
Adrienne Clark
Johnathan Hodge
Arlene Kagarise
Debbie Kagarise
Jasmine Patterson

Maurice Jones
Kyle McLaughlin
Susan McLaughlin
Jeff Nash
Kathy Nash
Kitty Nash
Reeca Nash
Amanda Noyes
Carl Noyes
Charlie Noyes
Melodie Noyes
Maude Posey
Larry Sanford
Lena Sanford

Shiloh, NJ
Elizabeth Bidwell
Jan Bond
Bethany Chroniger
Barbra Davis
Nancy Davis
Jennifer Layton
Lauren Muffley
Robyn Wendell

Verona, NY
Joyce Burdick
Beverly Crawford
Amanda Happle
Kathy Happle
Kayla Happle
Carolyn Ingalls
Pastor Steven James

Pawcatuck, Westerly, RI
Cassandra N. Lawton
Timothy Lawton
Kyle A. Taylor

Seattle Area, Auburn, WA
Ashley Borek
Dan Borek

Texasarkana, AR
Merlene Lewis

Toronto, Canada
Khadejah Anderson
Norma Anderson
Andrew Broderick
Jennifer Broderick
Jonathan Broderick

Pawcatuck, Westerly, RI
Cassandra N. Lawton
Timothy Lawton
Kyle A. Taylor

KEVIN'S

CORNER

"Conference costs that much?" I bellowed, staggering back and trying to reset my eyes into their sockets.

Thus went my first reaction to seeing the "bottom line" for the overall Host Committee expenses of our annual gathering over a decade ago.

The questions still seem to surface: Should we switch to a biennial Conference? Every three years?

And the answer always comes back: "May it never be!"

Sure, it costs a lot to hold a meeting for 500 to 700 active people in need of room and board for a week. And the Host Committee budget could never reflect the above-and-beyond personal costs for families and Conference workers getting to and from the event.

Is it worth it?
Is it worth the preparation of all the printed reports and schedules and Board presentations? Is it worth the lining up of preachers and Bible study leaders and musicians? Is it worth the president's time and energy and promotion?

Is it worth the confirmation of camps and campuses and workers for Pre-Con activities? Is it worth the new tires and tuning up the family vehicle for the "miles to go"?

I used to ask these questions. But, either I got tired of asking, or I became convinced that those questions don't matter.

How can I be sure that Conference is worth all that time and cost? By looking at my own flesh-and-blood.

Whenever the word "Conference" pops up in a conversation, or even when the geographical state of the most recent gathering is alluded to, our high schooler Crystal gets glassy-eyed and sometimes emits a low moan, wishing she was still at Conference. (It's kind of like when someone mentions Maine lighthouses in my hearing.)

Even on the envelope containing her Conference photos, she has written, "Awesome!" "Yeah!" "The best!"

So when I wondered who could write a testimony about the value of Conference, I didn't have to look beyond the bedroom across the hall at home. I guess we could call this, "Crystal's Conference Corner":

I look forward to going to Conference every year! I've had some of the best times of my life there. Why?

I enjoy traveling to all the different states and getting to know a lot of colleges. This could help me decide where to go to school in the near future.

Conference is also a place where you meet and hang out with a bunch of awesome people from around the country. My friends and I keep in touch even after the summer through letters and e-mail.

I've been going to Conference ever since I was born (even before!), so it's certainly a routine for me, but I never get bored with it. I love it! I've gotten to know a whole lot of different people.

Two years ago, I became old enough to spend that extra half week with all the youth at Pre-Con. It was exciting!

I wish that Conference lasted for at least two whole weeks every year. I hate having to leave all my friends after only a week and a half.

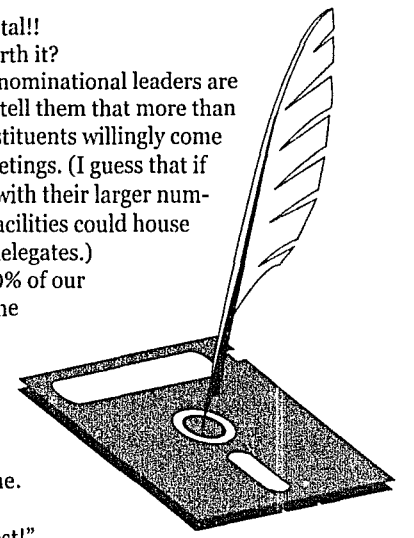
Actually, I wish that Conference lasted the whole year! (I think some other people would agree with me on that one.) If you are unsure about coming to Conference, I have a bunch of folks you can talk to who'll definitely convince you to go. Every year is a new and exciting adventure just waiting to happen. I can't wait until next year—Conference 2000!

Thanks, Crystal!!
Think it's worth it?

Non-SDB denominational leaders are amazed when I tell them that more than 10% of our constituents willingly come together for meetings. (I guess that if that happened with their larger numbers, very few facilities could house and feed their delegates.)

But if only 10% of our 10% felt the same as Crystal (and I'm sure it's higher), we'll be seeing an annual meeting for years to come.

"Awesome!"
"Yeah!" "The best!" ...



Obituaries, cont. from page 25

Mrs. McAllister was an active member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Shiloh, where she had been the church's organist and pianist. She helped area churches by serving as a substitute organist.

She was a member of the Shoemaker Post #95 American Legion Ladies Auxiliary and was part of the "Leave 'm Laughing Gang" that visited various nursing homes. She was also a member of the New Jersey Retired Teachers Association. Her hobbies included traveling, bird-watching, going to the shore, working with flowers, and spending time with her family.

In addition to her husband of 48 years, she is survived by one daughter, Lynette Wilson of Salisbury, N.C.; two sons, Maynard and Bruce, both of Hopewell Township; one brother, Melvin Dickinson of Stow

Creek Township; and 10 grandchildren. She was predeceased by one brother, Harmon Dickinson, and one sister, Jeanett Nida.

Funeral services were held on July 1, 1999, at the Shiloh SDB Church, with Rev. Donald L. Chroniger officiating. Interment was in the church cemetery.

Randolph.—David A. Randolph, 82, a lifelong resident of Hopewell Township, N.J., died on August 14, 1999, at his home.

The husband of A. Nellie (Kuyper) Randolph, he was born in Hopewell Township, the son of Isaac S. and Reba (Woodside) Randolph. He graduated from Bridgeton (N.J.) High School in 1936 and was a self-employed dairy farmer for several years. He later worked for 32 years as the Milk Supervisor for the New

York Dairy Herd Improvement Association. His duties included traveling to dairy farms, testing for the butterfat content of milk. He retired in 1991.

Mr. Randolph was a longtime member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Shiloh, N.J.

In addition to his wife of 55 years, survivors include two daughters, Kathleen R. Vanderslice of Hopewell Township and Nancy Davis of Stow Creek Township; five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a sister, Margaret Fogg.

Funeral services were held on August 17, 1999, at the Shiloh SDB Church, with Rev. Donald L. Chroniger officiating. He was assisted by Rev. Larry Graffius of the Marlboro SDB Church. Interment was in the Shiloh church cemetery.



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