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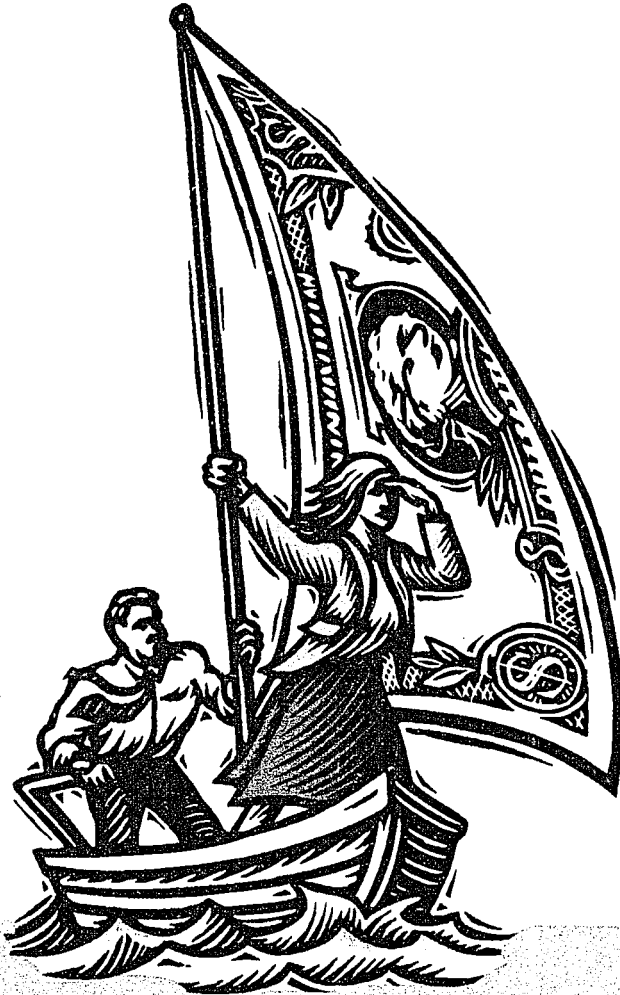
abbath

News for and about
Seventh Day Baptists

April 1999

R

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Seeking
Spiritual
Maturity
in
STEWARDSHIP

- *Discovering the joy in giving*
- *Whoopee, it's payday!*
- *Blest be the church that tithes*
- *Preaching boldly about money*



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

New Directory

The 1998 Seventh Day Baptist Directory is now available at the SDB Center in Janesville, Wis.

The cost is \$8.75 per directory, which includes postage. For those who pick up a Directory, the cost is \$7.50 each.

Sabbath Renewal Day

May 15, 1999

“What Would Jesus Do?”

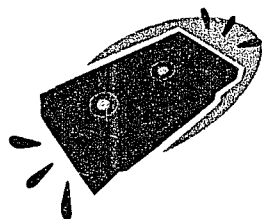
Packets will be sent to each church

Summer Institute 1999

“Sabbath Theology”
taught by
Rev. Rodney Henry

May 31 – June 16
at the SDB Center in Janesville

Listen to the SR



Thanks to our faithful narrator, John Bach of the Milton, Wis., church, those who are visually impaired may listen to each month's *Sabbath Recorder*.

Cassette tapes are mailed free to each listener. To order, write:

The Audio Sabbath Recorder
Seventh Day Baptist Center
PO Box 1678
Janesville WI 53547-1678

Or phone: (608) 752-5055
E-mail: sdbmedia@inwave.com

Pastors' Conference '99

“New Ministry and New Relationships
for New People”

Denver/Boulder SDB Churches
April 13-17, 1999

This year at Pastors' Conference, we will look at ways to develop new ministries to invite new people into our churches. We will also brainstorm on ways to establish relationships with these new people so that they will join with us to grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord.

These discussions will also help to lay the groundwork for the new Memorial Board program that will provide \$10,000 per church to develop new ministry to invite new people. The guidelines and principles of this new program will be laid out in detail.

Contact Rodney Henry at the Seventh Day Baptist Center for more information.

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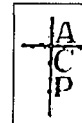


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Discovering the joy in giving

by Linda Graffius



The children entered the room whispering in each others' ears. "Did she get it?" "Was she surprised?"

"What did she do with it?" "Does she know who it's from?"

Smiles were on their faces and giggles were in their voices.

What could stir such a response from children 4 to 10 years old? Tithing!

Earlier that month, they had listed on the blackboard the names of people they knew with needs. The children then voted for their choice to surprise with a gift.

Over the next four weeks, they brought their Children's Church tithe. At the end of the month, the money was sent to the chosen individual, anonymously, with only the message, "God loves you and so do we!"

The children were thrilled to give. And wasn't this an exciting secret for them to carry for the rest of their lives? The Bible says, "...your giving may be in secret..." (Matt. 6:1-4). I wanted to teach the children the joy

of giving and sharing without always expecting a reward or a pat on the back.

At first: "Tithing? Yuck!"

Tithing was not always my favorite concept nor my favorite activity. In fact, at one time I resented it to the point of anger!

However, today I find it to be fun, a joy, a delight, and a pleasure. How can this be? What caused the change?

As a child I remember taking my quarter to Sabbath School class, Vacation Bible School, and Junior Christian Endeavor. I also remember going to my parents to receive the quarter. Of course, I had not earned it, saved it, or planned ahead to give it. I'm sure many of you remember that time in your life.

Married, with bills

My teen years were over and I married. My husband, Don, and I were still in college. We were trying to make it on our work-study jobs.

Our cash supply was very low. But Don would always insist that I write a check to the church first. Yes, I resented it, and sometimes complained to him about it.

I thought, "How will we buy groceries, gas, and pay for the laundromat? We could pay the tithe next month when we had fewer bills." When I calculated 10 percent of our work-study paychecks, I always made sure that I rounded the dollar *down* instead of up.

At this point in my life, I complained about everything and wasn't happy about anything. I made life as hard as I could for Don and his family.

Don entered law school, and it was up to me (and his summer jobs) to support ourselves. I didn't want to tithe part of our small checks, but I never noticed that we got along financially anyway.

"Why go to Pre-Con?"

Don insisted that we go to Young Adult Pre-Con at Camp Joy in Berea, W.Va., the summer of 1974. I complied. (And complained.)

Rod and Camille Henry were in "Lightbearers for Christ" (an SDB singing group) at this time, and the group was at Pre-Con. What I didn't realize was that Don had asked them—and many others—to pray that I would turn my life over to Christ.

A "weight" was on my back during that Pre-Con. I tried my best to ignore the lessons we had and refused to talk to anyone. The group had gone to the church for a musical presentation, but I didn't want to hear the Gospel—I was fighting it!

I ran from the church to the dorm and began to cry. Camille joined me there. As we talked and she prayed,

that "weight" and burden fell off my back. I asked Jesus to dwell in my heart forever! I wanted to tell everyone of this wonderful experience. I wanted Don to know!

When I came outside, there he was, with tears in his eyes. He saw the look on my face and smiled. I walked up to him and put my arms around him and told him of this great experience. He quietly said, "We've been praying for you."

"Tithing? Yes!"

When Pre-Con was over and I sat down to write our tithe checks, I didn't mind anymore. I didn't even give it a second thought! Jesus had saved me, and I wanted to give in return. I now could understand 1 Corinthians 13:3: "If I give all I possess..., but have not love, I gain nothing."

Don graduated from law school and started his first job. I began to write out a tithe check for 10 percent. I had chosen this amount because of family tradition, and I thought that was what the Scriptures required. In Genesis 28:22, Jacob said, "...I will give you [God] a tenth."

Don came into the room and said that the Lord had been with us and had provided a good job near a Seventh Day Baptist church. So Don wanted me to begin adding an extra percent to our tithe each year for a while. We had heard sermons on tithing and had discovered biblical

At one time I resented tithing to the point of anger! However, today I find it to be fun, a joy, a delight, and a pleasure.

passages that confirmed giving more than a tenth (Deut. 12:6, 11; Neh. 10:32, etc.).

This time I didn't complain, and the Lord took care of us. I began buying items for the church (crayons at first, then paper, etc.) over and above our regular tithe. Sometimes I wanted to give and give and not worry about the bills!

The joy of giving

Not too long after I received the joy of giving, my father-in-law shared a true experience he had while in Australia. The gentleman with whom he was staying was having trouble wearing watches, so Dad took off his own digital watch, handed it to the man, and said, "I hope this one works for you."

Dad continued his stay there, then finally returned home to California. Not long after his return, a friend came up to him and gave him a watch! It's an amazing story—and what a testimony to a person who is just learning to give!!

God wants to bless you

Isn't God good? The Bible says, in Malachi 3:10, "...I [God] will... pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it."

I pray that you can experience the heavenly joy of giving. **SR**

Linda Graffius is a member of the German SDB Church in Salemville, Pa.

Train up a child...

When my children were in elementary school and younger, I put three containers (cottage cheese cartons, plastic icing cans, or chip dip containers) in their rooms. One container was labeled "savings," one said "spend," and the third said, "tithe."

As the children earned money for mowing lawns or doing chores for Grandpa, they divided their money among the containers. As they entered their teen years, we began to give them a weekly allowance. These three containers remained in their rooms for dividing their allowance, lawn mowing money, etc.



They were allowed to give their tithe to the organization of their choice. Sometimes it was church, but it also went to Camp Joy, the Salvation Army, individuals, or other groups.

One Christmas, we gave each of our children an envelope labeled with their name. The envelopes contained a check with the amount written in, but not the payee. They were told to write the check to the organization or individual of their choice.

They all thoughtfully considered their choices. As Acts 20:35 says, "It is more blessed to give than receive."

—Linda Graffius

Year round gift-giving ideas

by Linda Graffius

I would like to pass on to others the "gift of giving." Here are a few ideas to consider:

Never too young to start

Parents of my Sabbath School pre-schoolers were asked to give their kids a penny the following week if they obeyed, said "thank you," shared, didn't hit their sister/brother, took their dishes to the sink, went to bed the first time they were asked, and so forth.

The next Sabbath the children were to bring 10 percent of their pennies. Since they are learning to count, we began counting the pennies together as they presented their tithes. We prayed and thanked God for helping them to be helpful and kind.

The children involved in Bible School are always enthusiastic about the mission project chosen for the week. We give out pictures, music, or mementos from the Missionary Society so they can understand the project even better.

A favorite day is when we ask the children to bring all their pennies from home. They like receiving a sticker for remembering not only their Bible, but also their tithe. If you set a goal, the children strive to reach it. They applaud as they get closer, and cheer when they go over it.

Tithing is more than money

Of course, tithing doesn't have to be cash only. Leviticus 27:30-32 says,

"A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain... or fruit from trees,... herd and flock..."

Tithing can include many tangible items. In Bible School and Children's Church, I have asked the children on various days to bring pencils, pens, spools of thread, needles, safety pins, snaps, an item of clothing, etc. The children knew that their gift would be sent to other countries.

In craft class, they decorated plastic icing containers with flannel to be used as sewing kits, filled with the items they brought. What fun the children had bringing their tithes! The Ladies Aid collected their own tithes to help mail the packages.

Give in secret

Another fun way to give is to buy a gift (book, spatula, or—think big!—food processor, dishes) and leave it on the porch of an individual with a note saying, "God loves you—me, too."

Send a card of friendship and encouragement to a friend, but disguise your handwriting and don't sign the card. Send along a gift certificate to a restaurant. Occasionally, have your ladies group select "secret sisters" and send them cards and small gifts through the year.

The ladies of the Bell SDB Church in Salemville, Pa., built on this idea. The men had jokingly complained that they, too, would like a secret sister, so that is exactly what the ladies did! They gave anonymous gifts to the men.

Remember special events and people

Sometimes the women selected a person in the church who had a birthday, who wasn't feeling well, or who was moving away. Then they held a "gift shower." They bought or made, wrapped, and gave nonsense and practical gifts. What an uplifting and sometimes tearful time!



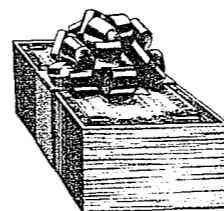
Send a card of friendship and encouragement to a friend, but disguise your handwriting and don't sign the card.

Have you made a cake or pie recently and given it *all* to a bachelor in your church, or to a man recently widowed, or to one of the children in your Sabbath School class, without keeping any for yourself? Try it. It's fun!

Every time you give of your time, your efforts or resources, your skills, your talents or gifts, you are giving back to the Lord what He has given to you.

Of course, don't forget the pastor and family. Even in the Old Testament, offerings were given for the subsistence of the priest and Levites

How to receive a gift



If you are a recipient of a gift/tithe, don't refuse it, give it back, say "you didn't have to do this," or leave money on their table when you leave. Do not deprive the giver of the joy of giving. Remember that he or she felt led to give you the gift. Just thank them and the Lord.

(see Leviticus 7:28-35). Offerings then were animals, wood, food, grain, dough, fruit, wine, oil, and such. They were to give their best. So we need to give to our pastor.

You may think that your weekly or monthly tithe, which pays your pastor's salary, is adequate. But your pastor's family needs to know personally that you care. Try giving a gift certificate to a local store or restaurant, a card of appreciation, an evening out to the movies or dinner with you, or offer to baby-sit so they can have a date.

Time is a valuable gift

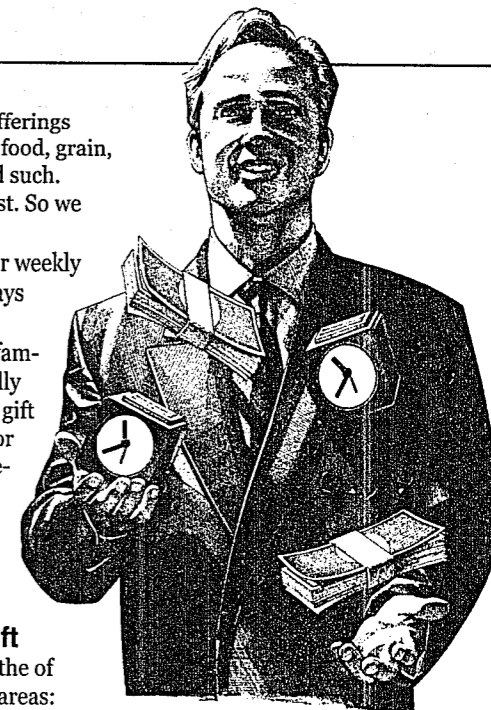
And don't forget your tithe of time. Try helping in these areas:

- church camp
- Senior Saints
- Summer Christian Service Corps
- church repairs
- take church friends to the doctor
- visit those who can't get to church
- mail church bulletins to those away
- make a scrapbook of your church activities
- plan a church fellowship night
- transport campers to camp
- substitute teach in Sabbath School
- provide special music
- invite others to church
- wash church windows

There are so many ways to give this tithe. Matthew 10:8 says, "...freely you have received, freely give."

Remember the home front

Please remember to first give to your home church. After you have given joyfully, then consider other Christian organizations: the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society, SDB Relief Fund, Bible societies, Child Evangelism Fellowship, Christian singing groups, local relief organizations, Christian politicians (a man



in my church has and will run for County Commissioner, and I help as his treasurer), crisis pregnancy centers, and so forth.

Some of you may be thinking that some of these items are not "tithing." However, every time you give of your time, your efforts or resources, your skills, your talents or gifts, you are giving back to the Lord what He has given to you.

From the beginning in Genesis, we see examples of people tithing, giving gifts, and bringing offerings. Genesis 4:3—Cain and Abel's offerings; Genesis 14:20—Abraham to Melchizedek; Matthew—Mary and Joseph going to the temple with their offerings; Revelation—men giving their lives for God and knowing they would spend eternity with Him.

In this last part of the 20th century, we must continue to follow this biblical example. Throughout the Bible we see individuals and groups who gave willingly, some who gave grudgingly. Join me in being part of the group that gives willingly, joyfully, happily, excitedly, exuberantly, expectantly. Oh, what fun! **SR**

Whoopee, it's payday!

by Bob Spreadborough

"He who gathers crops in summer is a wise son, but he who sleeps during harvest is a disgraceful son" (Proverbs 10:5, NIV).

Wow! My first paycheck from a real job!

I was 15 years old that summer of 1945, enjoying the break from school. I had obtained a "work permit" and was employed by the Kaiser Shipyard in Vancouver, Wash. World War II was in progress, with the armed forces taking much of the available labor force. That meant a shortage of workers and plenty of jobs. And the pay was good. I was really excited about getting my first paycheck.

The average minimum wage at the time was about 50 cents an hour. But my shipyard job as an electrician's helper paid 65 cents an hour. Two weeks' wages amounted to a gross paycheck of \$52. After insurance and tax deductions, I received the grand sum of \$45.

I remember looking at that first paycheck and thinking, "Whoopee, it's payday! What a lot of money!" Then I thought about how much fun it was going to be to go to the amusement park with my friends; to buy rides on the roller coaster, Ferris wheel, and bumper cars; to play dart board games, and eat hot dogs and cotton candy.

My mom had tactfully asked if I had a plan for my new-found wealth. She knew this was the most money I had ever had at my disposal, and gently tried to guide me into figuring out how it should be spent.

When I mentioned the amusement park, she smiled and said she understood my desire to do that. "But have you figured out what obligations you need to take care of first?" she asked.

"No," I admitted. "I haven't thought of that."

"What things need taking care of?" I asked reluctantly. In my mind's eye, my paycheck was about to disappear

and the amusement park with it.

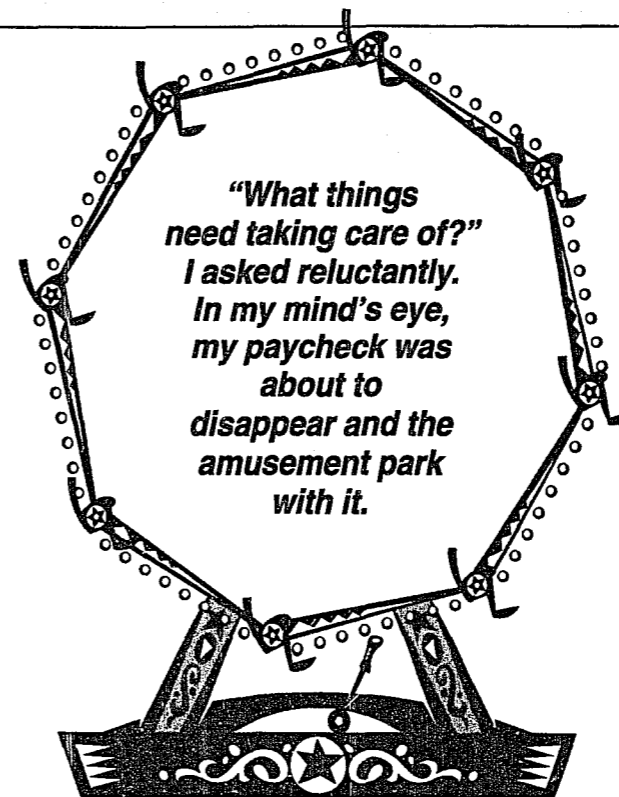
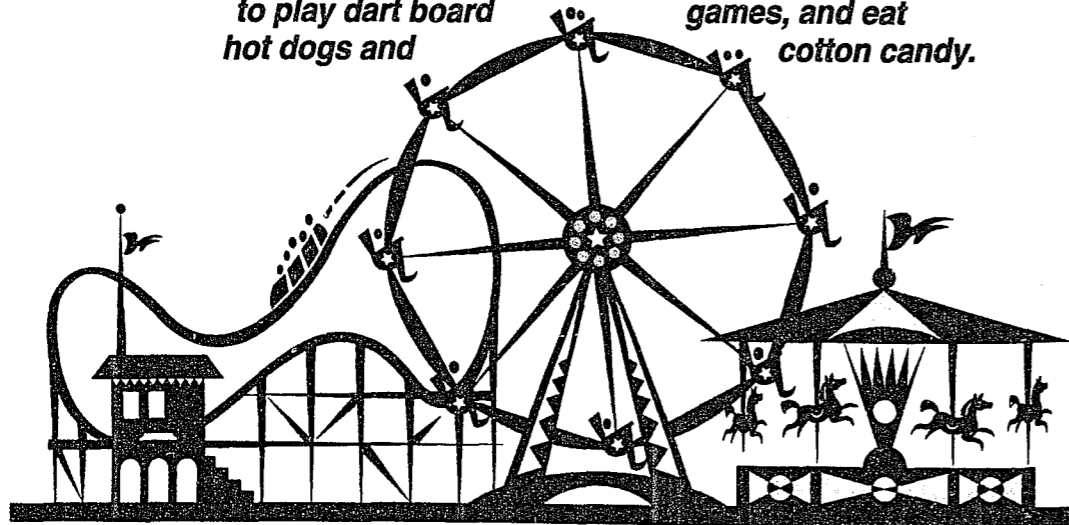
We sat down at the kitchen table, took out a tablet and pencil, and listed my expenses: 50 cents per day for 10 days for the car pool, and \$13.00 for two weeks' room and board. Did I want to set aside a portion of my paycheck—perhaps 10 percent—for charity or a tithe? Did I need to designate \$5.00 for clothing? I said "yes" to each of these questions.

There on the tablet, I could see how much I needed to pay out. It was more than half my check. But I still would have about \$20.00. Mom asked if I would put any of it in a savings account. "No, I don't think so," I replied.

Because of Mom's suggestion that I tithe, I set the money aside. *I'll send it to our church later*, I thought. This was my idea of good stewardship. If my arm could have reached, I would have patted myself on the back and said, "See how good I am!"

Saturday night was exciting. My

I thought about how much fun it was going to be to go to the amusement park with my friends; to buy rides on the roller coaster, Ferris wheel, and bumper cars; to play dart board games, and eat hot dogs and cotton candy.



friends and I had loads of fun on the rides, especially the roller coaster. When the coaster cars stopped, we remained seated and paid for another ride.

The amusement park was made for fun, and that's why we were there. By the time I spent my last dollar, it was late in the evening. My friends and I returned home, broke but satisfied.

Throughout the summer, I looked forward eagerly to each payday because I was broke. When I got my check, I quickly took care of my immediate obligations. Then I gathered what was left and spent it on entertainment. Of course, I always patted myself on the back because I was paying my tithe.

The summer months seemed to fly by. At the end of August, I turned in my shipyard badge at the guard gate. I collected my final paycheck and was soon back in high school. With my last paycheck, I paid my car pool bill, my board and room, and my tithe. I spent the rest on school clothes.

Since I had grown used to spending the surplus from my paycheck on fun, I had saved nothing for the coming school year. But because I had been tithing from my earnings, I had convinced myself that I was a faithful steward.



I patted myself on the back for tithing, but I had squandered my money. I neglected to look ahead.

As the school year progressed, I needed to pay student body dues and buy more clothes. But I didn't have any money. Who could I go to for help? Mom and Dad, of course.

They reminded me that, while I was working, I should have set aside money for the coming year. Had I really been a good steward by paying just tithe money while I worked?

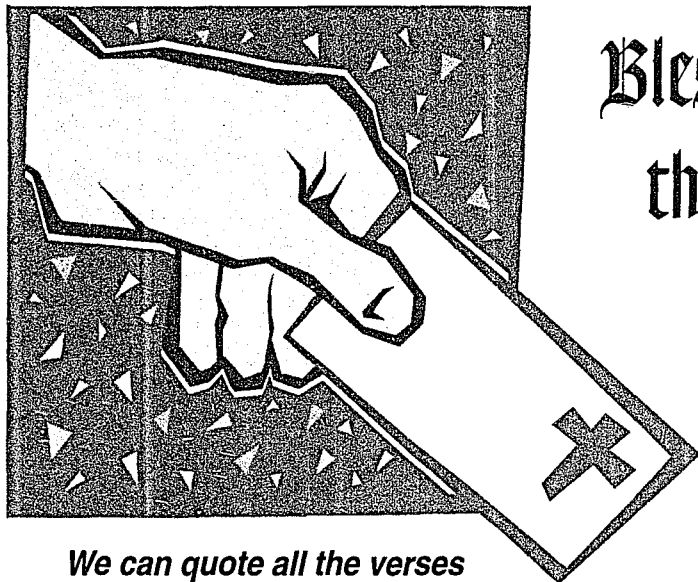
I had been earning exceptional wages for my age. I had been paying my way while I worked, but I had been spending the leftover money on my own pleasure. Yes, I had been blessed with a good-paying job. But if I had been a good steward, I would have done more than just pay my way as I went along. I should have been thinking about saving as much as I could for the time when I wasn't working.

If I had saved some money, I could have paid my own way during the months following my summer job. I could have shown my mom and dad that I had set aside enough so that I wouldn't need their financial help.

The stewardship that I practiced that long-ago summer was what I could call "whoopee stewardship." I patted myself on the back for tithing, but I had squandered my money. I neglected to look ahead. And I had failed to provide for the future.

The lesson I learned as a 15-year-old is as valuable today as it was then: stewardship is more than paying a tithe. May God help all of us to remember that! **SR**

Bob Spreadborough is a member of the Seattle Area SDB Church in Auburn, Wash.



Blest be the church that tithes

by Stanley Allen

We can quote all the verses about tithing in the Bible, but until we put it into practice, it has no power.

The "tithe" is one of the strongest and most powerful weapons in God's arsenal. How can that be? The Bible, in both the Old and New Testaments, is full of situations where we are instructed to tithe; that is, to give a tenth of all we have and our increase.

"Give and it shall be given you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal shall it be measured to you again" (Luke 6:38).

We can quote all the verses about tithing in the Bible, but until we put it into practice, it has no power. It is not my intent to flood you with various Scriptures. Instead, I want to tell you about an actual experience that shows what can happen when a church trusts and obeys God.

About 35 years ago, the Lost Creek, W.Va., SDB Church had a small budget of \$7,000. Anyone can raise a \$7,000 budget, you say.

The members struggled and came close to meeting their budget, but close only counts "in horse shoes and hand grenades." For several years, the church struggled to pay its bills and provide the pastor a decent salary.

At the end of the month, there was little or no money left, but the church had met all of its obligations. The next month was a little better. As the months passed, a surplus began to develop in the treasury.

At an annual business meeting, church finances were the major item on the agenda. This was during the time the denomination asked each church to give its pastor a 5% or more raise each year.

After a long discussion, the request to give the pastor a 5% raise came to the floor in the form of

a motion. The motion was seconded and more discussion followed.

"We can't pay our obligations now, so how can we commit ourselves to more?" the treasurer asserted.

But when they voted, the motion passed. Then the bombshell fell.

"You can't out-give God," one of the members said. "What we must do is tithe the church's income."

Needless to say, this sparked another lengthy discussion!

One member suggested giving 5% to Our World Mission (OWM), the denominational budget. We knew that would require a more positive

commitment on everyone's part. Then the member who suggested tithing our income spoke up.

"You people don't understand," he said. "We should give at least 25%, and that should be the first check written."

Once again, considerable discussion followed. As the members talked, support for the idea grew.

Finally, a motion was made that the Lost Creek church tithe its income to the denomination at the rate of 25%. It was seconded, and the motion passed.

"We have made a huge financial commitment, and each of us must increase our giving," the treasurer said. "Actually, we should each tithe our income so the church can meet its obligations."

The first month the 25% tithe was given, the treasurer almost had a heart attack. Where would the money come from? Yet each time a bill came in, there was a little extra in the collection plate to cover the expense.

At the end of the month, there was little or no money left, but the church had met all of its obligations. The next month was a little better. As the months passed, a surplus began to develop in the treasury.

Over the years since then, the church planned, repaired, and improved its entire facility. The church also increased its budget for spiritual materials and programs.

The congregation blacktopped its parking lot and driveway, replaced

all the church's windows, and purchased a new organ and pews. It also built a new parsonage, which was paid for in only two years.

Then an education wing to the church that was first discussed in the early 1900s was brought to fruition in the 1980s. The \$130,000 cost was paid in full 18 months later.

An education wing to the church that was first discussed in the early 1900s was brought to fruition in the 1980s. The \$130,000 cost was paid in full 18 months later.

And yes, the church has given its pastor a 5% or higher raise each year.

If tithing can do this for a church, just think what it could do for you as an individual or family!

We personally started tithing as a result of our church's tithing program, and the Lord has richly blessed our family. We are not "rich" by the world's definition or standards, but we are extremely rich in the spirit, living comfortably in the Christian world.

The Lord provides our every need. Note that I didn't say our every "want." But sometimes He even provides our wants.

I ask you; no, I encourage you—if you are not tithing, start now. Rework your budget and make tithing your number one priority. And pay it regularly. Tithing can work for you *and* your church.

In closing, I'd like to share an experience I had while visiting a church in Honolulu, Hawaii.

The church service was "normal" until it came time to receive the tithes and offerings. As the ushers walked down the aisle to get the collection plates, the pastor announced in a loud voice, "The ushers are coming!" In unison, the congregation loudly responded, "Hallelujah!"

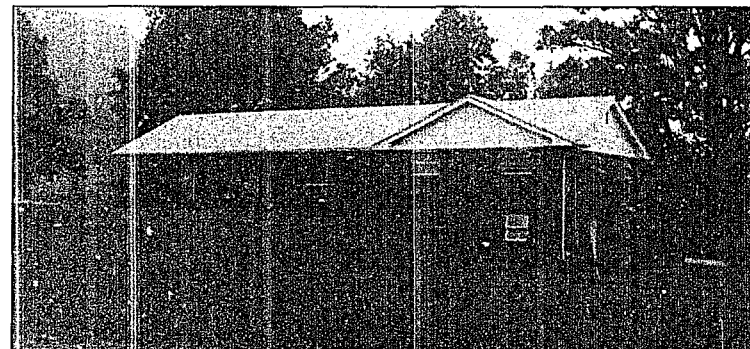
"Why did the congregation respond with a loud hallelujah?" I asked someone after the service, unsure of its significance.

The answer was simple: "It is a real joy to give to the Lord, and we express that joy in praise. It reminds us to give a full measure of what the Lord has given to us."

If we are obedient to the Lord, we will tithe. And if we tithe, the Lord will bless us.

"Give and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over." SR

Stan Allen is a deacon and former treasurer of the Lost Creek, W.Va., SDB Church, and has served as a denominational Memorial Board trustee.



The Lost Creek parsonage, seen here soon after construction, was paid for in two years.

Preaching boldly about money

by Andrew Samuels
Pastor of the Miami, Fla., SDB Church

Many people say that they are not interested in "church" because churches are always asking for money.

I became aware of this very early in my ministry. When you add that to my natural temperament, I was altogether reluctant to talk to my congregation about money.

Then the Lord convicted me. About eight years ago, I became convinced that the Lord expects me to declare to His people His whole counsel, and that includes issues of possessions, stewardship, and money. Therefore, I made a commitment to faithfully preach and teach on tithing and stewardship. And I have been doing that since then.

The results over the years—although noticeable in terms of the response of my congregation—had been, in my estimation, marginal. However, things took a dramatic turn for the better last year.

The turning point began toward the end of 1997 when I decided to do a bold experiment to determine the tithe potential of the church.

Each person was asked to write (anonymously) on a slip of paper what their weekly giving would be if they were to tithe. From the ex-



perimental stewardship closer to their potential.

First, I preached a series of sermons on stewardship. Then, when it came time for our Trustee Board to prayerfully recommend the budget for 1998, it set the budget 40% higher than the previous year.

For 1998, our church exceeded its financial goals considerably, which

in November "Double Tithe Sabbath," and ended up exceeding the double-tithe amount for three consecutive weeks. We added 16 new members during the year, and our average attendance increased by about 35%.

The Lord allowed us to purchase our own worship and ministry facilities in mid-1998, and this year I have been called to go from half-time to full-time ministry work. I have no doubt that our increased faithfulness has caused the Lord to give us increased responsibilities and privileges.

Having seen and experienced the blessings of faithful stewardship, we are committed to doing even better this year, as the Lord prospers us.

I'm no longer afraid to talk to my people about money. I preach about the issue boldly, with the Word of God as my basis. Then I expect the Holy Spirit to do the rest. **SR**

I became convinced that the Lord expects me to declare to His people His whole counsel, and that includes issues of possessions, stewardship, and money.

periment, I discovered that our giving for 1997 was approximately 50% below our potential.

Armed with that information, we took a two-step approach to challenge our people to raise their finan-

cial stewardship closer to their potential. First, I preached a series of sermons on stewardship. Then, when it came time for our Trustee Board to prayerfully recommend the budget for 1998, it set the budget 40% higher than the previous year.

For 1998, our church exceeded its financial goals considerably, which



Women's Society page by Donna Bond

Practicing good stewardship

"Seeking Spiritual Maturity" in the area of stewardship brings a little chuckle for me on a personal level.

In reading about the pitfalls of misuse, abuse, and over-use of credit cards, I would always think, "Yeah, that's easy for *them* to preach about. They don't have *our* budget to work with."

After two decades of struggling financially, Tim and I recently reached the enviable point of being able to pay cash for most purchases. Or at least pay our credit card bills promptly.

How have we been rewarded for our prudence? My personal Visa account was canceled *from lack of use*. Does that make sense? Tim encouraged me to apply for another card and *to use it regularly*. How times have changed!

Like our families, our SDB Women's Societies and Ladies Aids encounter two facets of stewardship: income of God's money and outgo of God's money. Highlights shared by eight groups* described the following fund-raising activities:

- Sales—baked goods, crafts, rummage (occasional or an every-Tuesday-afternoon "Opportunity Shop"), pizza kits.
- Annual Bazaar featuring food mixes, frozen casseroles, and cookie dough.
- Meals—soup and pie supper, Brown Bag Auction, Release Time lunches for high school students, first-Sunday-in-March brunch, school FFA/FHA Banquet and Honors Program refreshments, annual roast beef dinner, mother/daughter banquets for other churches.
- Dues, a monthly chip fund, birthday offerings, collection/redemption of register tapes and UPC labels.

A former pastor in a local (not SDB) church prohibited such fund-raisers on the grounds that "some of the money coming in might have come from gambling or other less-than-holy sources, and God wouldn't want to use *that* money."

Think of what the women in that church have missed in terms of fellowship and satisfaction in working toward a goal and accomplishing it!

The same packet of highlights indicates that our women are generous in sharing the resources with which God has blessed them, including the following:

- Individuals—children going to camp and women going to Conference, White Christmas gifts and other special offerings for personal/family needs.
- Local church needs—shed on church property, church mortgage, tableware and appliances in church kitchen, sanctuary flowers, church janitor's salary.
- Denominational projects—SDB Women's Society annual Love Gift, SCSC, Conference budget, *The Sabbath Recorder*, Sunshine Mountain.

•Other charitable organizations—Rural Concerns, Church Women United, blankets/cash for Church World Service, Lord's Acre Project, Baptist Women's Day of Prayer.

Those of us who have been blessed with children to "train up in the way they should go" have an obligation to teach them to practice good stewardship and to be "cheerful givers."

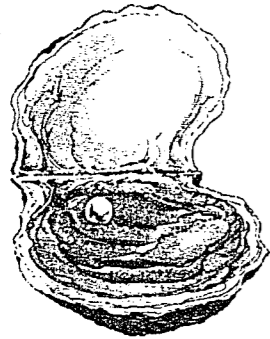
Do you require or encourage them to give a portion of their allowances to the Lord? Do they see you cheerfully make a weekly or bi-weekly offering? Or is there some worldly goal that supercedes cheerful, faithful giving? (i.e. "when the car is paid for," "when Dad gets a better job," etc.)

Remember: our children will most likely not be under our influence when all of our material desires are acquired. What legacy of stewardship are we leaving for them? **SR**

**Alfred, Alfred Station, and New York City, N.Y.; Battle Creek, Mich.; Daytona Beach, Fla.; Milton, Wis.; Riverside, Calif.; and Shiloh, N.J.*



Our women are generous in sharing the resources with which God has blessed them.



Pearls from the Past by Don A. Sanford, historian

That pocketbook

A century ago, the following poem appeared in *The Sabbath Recorder* for August 1, 1898. Although the rural setting may be changed, many of the attitudes have been repeated in every generation. The question each reader must decide is, "With which scene do you most closely relate: Scene No. I or Scene No. II?"

That Pocket-book

by Una Dell

Scene No. I

Said farmer Brown to his good wife
 As he came in from reaping,
 "I'm blessed a heap in this 'ere life
 With things that's worth the keeping.
 My crops are good this year you know,
 As far as appearances show,
 The hay is fine, the oats look well;
 And wheat, as far as I can tell,
 Is of the best 'A number one.'
 My corn with plenty good hot sun
 Will reach way up in stalk this year,
 And yield me many a golden ear.
 O, I'm so glad the crops are fine,
 And I can't see by any sign
 In earth or sky, but what I'll get
 The best potatoes I've seen yet.
 My pocket-book is thin just now,
 But it will swell this fall, I vow!
 And swell it must, for I must buy
 (Just here he heaved a heavy sigh)
 So many things—now let me see:
 Three and three, yes four times three!
 Six thousand shingles for the shed,
 A pair of bobs well shod and red,
 A single harness for old Dan,
 And bells for him and trotting Fan.
 The cutter too must be redressed,
 The old horse-barn with paint refreshed.

A cap and coat I'll have to buy,
 Some shoes and pants and new necktie;
 A heavy woolen shirt or two,
 And, well, that I guess will have to do.
 I guess that's all—it ought to be,
 For that eats up the pile, I see."

His wife had listened all the while,
 But now in words of plainest style
 She gave her thoughts. In accents plain
 She spoke—she did not dare refrain.
 "If you will think for a moment dear
 Of how you have been blessed this year
 In barley, oats, wheat, rye and hay,
 Potatoes, corn (if frost will stay),
 You'll see that you have quite forgot
 From whom you took this garden spot:
 A spot of nearly one mile square!
 Now do you think it really fair
 To use the farm which your poor wife
 Has helped to earn with her own life!
 Which God has given with its crops,
 As good as heaven ever drops,
 Just for yourself? and not a bill
 For God or wife, who help you fill
 That pocket-book you hold in hand,
 Which holds the wealth from our land?"

cont. on page 26



SR Almanac

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

One year ago—April 1998

Special issue shows readers how to get involved with SDB boards and agencies. Eight "spreads" display the various ministries and services of each agency.

Conference President John Bevis lists the morning Bible Studies for July's Conference in Buckhannon, W.Va. Host Committee announces prices, housing, and travel arrangements for Conference.

Marlboro SDB Church in Bridgeton, N.J., announces "Marlboro Fishing Expedition," a project to visit every home within three miles of the church.

November death of John Wimber reported. Wimber was at one time a church growth consultant to SDBs in the 1970s.

Five years ago—April 1994

Various writers treat the theme, "Reaching Out to Our Jewish Friends."

Former editor John Bevis shares his *SR* memories during its 150th year.

"Focus" notes Val Bennett's departure to Guyana, South America, for two years of dedicated service.

President Leon Lawton uses letters from the word "Participation" to spell out the focus of General Conference.

Pastor Andy Samuels, Miami, Fla., honored with Appreciation service.

Doug Clarke, Alfred, N.Y., explores how to resolve conflict peacefully.

10 years ago—April 1989

First issue presented by new editor Kevin Butler. Articles review many changes in the *SR* and other publications.

Pastor Gordon Lawton discusses the changes and challenges with church facilities in Boulder, Colo.

A new column, "Pastor Profile," highlights Rev. Kenneth Burdick.

Board of Christian Education announces the first "Rex Zwiebel Lecture on Christian Education" with speaker Dr. Wayne Rood.

Church news arrives from Westerly, R.I.; Alfred, N.Y.; and Shiloh, N.J.

Pastor Frits Nieuwstraten ordained in Haarlem, the Netherlands.

25 years ago—April 1974

World Federation ambassadors Alton Wheeler and Leon Lawton continue their world tour, meeting with SDBs in Burma and the Philippines.

National YF President Larry Graffius plans to attend Baptist Youth World Conference in Portland, Ore.

Women's Society page suggests how to revitalize local women's circles.

John Pettway installed as new pastor in Washington, D.C.; John Camenga accepts call to Little Rock, Ark.

New SDB fellowship established in Toronto, Canada. Linda Smith and Elaine "Jinx" Stonestrom now enrolled in Center for Ministerial Education.

50 years ago—April 1949

Upcoming events: National Family Week, with the theme, "Home Builders Are World Builders," to run the first week of May; Ministers' Conference to be held May 16-19 in Alfred Station, N.Y.; Sabbath Rally Day announced for May 21; National Association of Choir Directors to meet at Alfred University in late June.

Pastor W. Allen Bond is ordained to the Gospel ministry at the Washington, D.C., SDB Church. Bond's statements of Christian experience and belief are printed.

"A Christian Crusade" promises to take "the church to the home" in the Marlboro and Shiloh, N.J., area.

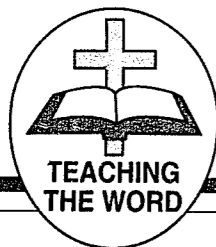
Article promotes recent publishing of book by Corliss F. Randolph, *A Century's Progress*.

Victor Skaggs, corresponding secretary for the Tract Society, reviews his two-month journey down the eastern seaboard, visiting SDB churches. He encourages readers to join the "One Hundred Sabbaths of Service" campaign of prayer, service, and giving.

...where are we headed?

Pray for—

- increased denominational involvement
- our Conference President and Host Committee
- local outreach programs, to touch many lives
- the ministry of *The Sabbath Recorder*
- your pastor and church leaders
- our seminary and T.I.M.E. students
- more to enlist as prayer warriors



Christian Education

by Ernest K. Bee Jr.

Board of Christian Education publications for sale

Item	Qty.	Price each	Total
<i>Seventh Day Baptist Heritage</i> (each tract)	—	\$.10	—
<i>The Helping Hand in Bible Study</i> (quarterly, per year)	—	9.00	—
<i>Seventh Day Baptist Beliefs</i> (Special <i>Helping Hand</i>)	—	1.50	—
<i>The Sabbath Visitor</i> (Children's weekly bulletin, per year)	—	3.00	—
<i>Baptism: Ordination to Christian Vocation</i> (35 pages)	—	1.00	—
<i>Natural Evangelism Training Handbook</i> (NET)	—	10.00	—
Sabbath Nurture Series			
(13 lessons for the Sabbath School <u>each</u>)			
Pre-School Teacher (includes posters)	—	\$ 5.00	—
Pre-School Student	—	2.00	—
Pre-School Songbook	—	3.00	—
Primary Teacher (includes posters)	—	5.00	—
Primary Student	—	2.00	—
Junior Teacher (includes posters)	—	5.00	—
Junior Student (includes take-home papers)	—	3.00	—
Junior High Teacher	—	4.00	—
Junior High Student	—	2.00	—
Senior High Teacher	—	1.50	—
Senior High Student	—	1.50	—
Missions and Ministry Nurture Series			
(13 lessons for the Sabbath School <u>each</u>)			
Primary Teacher (with posters & audio tape)	—	\$ 7.00	—
Primary Student	—	2.00	—
Junior Teacher (with posters & audio tape)	—	7.00	—
Junior Student (includes take-home papers)	—	3.00	—
Junior High Teacher (includes handouts)	—	4.00	—
Junior High Student (Missions magazine)	—	2.00	—

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FOCUS
on Missions

Unification in the Philippines

by Kirk Looper

It was exciting to once again visit the Philippines. I had not been there for several years, but I quickly noticed the changes that had occurred in Cebu City on the island of Cebu. There were more cars and not as many jeepneys (their equivalent of

SDBs in the Philippines had been divided between the Conference and Convention.

our city bus system). The hospitality and overall friendliness of the people had not changed, so it was an enjoyable time.

The purpose of the trip was to present a seminar on Seventh Day Baptist Polity and Beliefs. The leaders in the Philippines had asked me and Pastor Gabriel Bejjani (of the Riverside, Calif., SDB Church) to present the seminar.

The seminar was held all day Sunday in one of the conference rooms at the Cebu Plaza Hotel where we were staying. After discussing SDB polity and beliefs, Pastor Bejjani held a question and answer session. The meeting was profitable, creating a better understanding of our denomination's beliefs and polity.

Pastor Al Paypa had translated the tract, "A Baptist Church that's a Little Different," into Cebuinese. During the seminar, he distributed the tract to the pastors, allowing them to see it in their own language. This made it more understandable.

Additional tracts and books will be translated and distributed. If funds are available, these items will also be used for outreach and education.

The translation and printing of the first tract was made possible through donations which funded the Convention's computer and printer. Pastor Paypa prepared the tract.

It is exciting to see the results of donations sent for these types of projects. In many cases, there is no evidence that donated funds are being used. For instance, when we buy food, medicine, or other items, the end product is not always readily apparent.

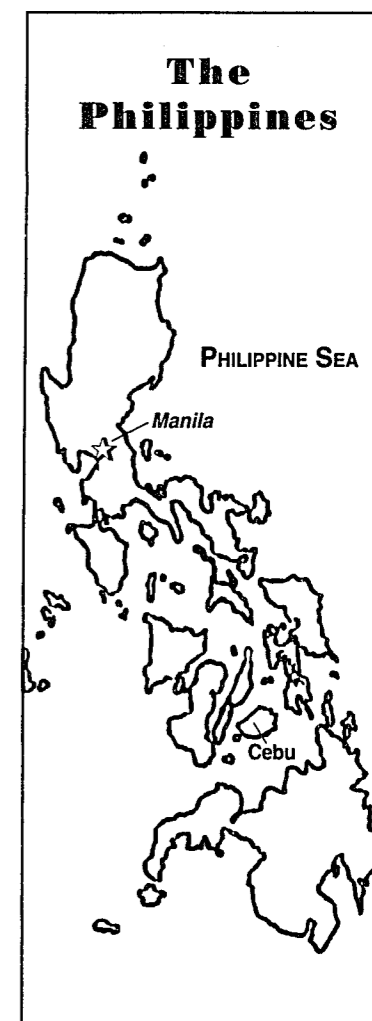
The most exciting part of the meetings came toward the end of the seminar when Pastor E. Ferraren, the coordinator of the Conference, stated that he felt that the work of Seventh Day Baptists in the Philippines would be more effective if only one group existed, not two.

Up to this point, SDBs in the Philippines had been divided between the Conference and Convention, each with their own coordinator and organization. It often appeared that they were working against each other.

Pastor Ferraren announced that he would step down as coordinator so that unity could be achieved. Everyone was pleased with his decision, and a new name was drafted and accepted. The Conference in the Philippines is now called "Seventh Day Baptist Philippines."

This move for unification was completed with plans for Pastor Paypa to train all the pastors involved. Together, Pastors Paypa and Ferraren will visit all of the churches in the two groups to let them know about the planned unification. Once these details were ironed out, the seminar ended.

We can see God working all over the world in areas of communication and cooperation. I pray that one day Seventh Day Baptists will be able to look at their sister Conferences and churches and not see any differences. Instead, they will see a family group working toward a common goal: awakening the truth of the Sabbath and challenging all to accept our Lord, Jesus Christ, as their Savior. **SR**





the BEACON

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

April 1999

It's still coming... in June

The battle belongs to the Lord

by Gabriel Alegre

Let us remember that any battle we face is not ours but the Lord's. He fights for us and is always victorious.

In Exodus 14:1-31, we find the people of Israel facing a life-death struggle with the all-powerful Pharaoh and his army. After 400 years of slavery, God's promise to send a deliverer is realized in Moses. God chose Moses to deliver His message, "Thus says the Lord, God of Israel, let my people go!"

So after 12 plagues (due to Pharaoh's stubbornness), Pharaoh finally relents and lets them go. But after three days, he changes his mind. With fierce hatred, he decides to pursue the people of Israel, either to bring them back or destroy them.

Exodus 14:1-4 sets the scene. Israel is camped by the shore of the Red Sea. Pharaoh chooses the best of his army and 600 of his choice chariots and pursues Israel, which is caught in an impossible situation: between the enemy and the sea.

God doesn't want us to panic in the face of danger, but to stand still and see the salvation of the Lord. God always gives His people a direction, and that is to go *forward* at all times. Going backwards or backsliding is NOT for us Christians. Why? Because God can perform wonders even from an impossible situation, providing you do not deviate from His Word and are obedient.

"All things are possible" under His control and dominion. Yes, even in

our own struggles, for the battle belongs to the Lord! This is an awesome and powerful thought—to allow God to fight our battles, and for us to be still and witness His salvation.

As Children of God, we daily face inner and outer struggles. In Romans, chapters 7 and 8, the apostle Paul talks extensively about the inner struggle/battle we fight from within between our carnal, fleshly



desires and our spiritual needs. This is the most dangerous of battles we face because the enemy is always close.

The other struggle we face is called "outer." This involves the daily battles with spiritual foes, powers, and rulers of darkness that want to control our lives and lead us away from God and His love. But praise God, nothing can separate us from

His love! The battle belongs to the Lord, and He always wins!

Brethren, we fight against a defeated foe, a fallen angel cast out of heaven, who shall one day be done away with and shall be no more (read Romans 8:38-39).

The rest of Exodus 14 shows the awesome salvation of the Lord. God fought the battle on Israel's behalf and kept His promise: "The Egyptians you see today, you shall see no more!"

When God deals with a problem or situation, His solutions are final, and the problem ceases to exist.

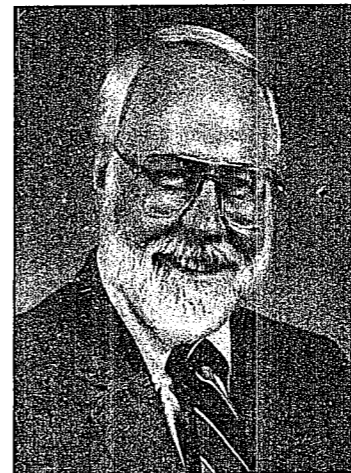
Practical lessons for today's Christians:

- 1) We are not exempt from daily battles, be it spiritual or carnal by nature.
- 2) We have a wonderful Heavenly Father who takes our struggles and makes them His.
- 3) God fights on our behalf.
- 4) We're to stand still and see the salvation of the Lord.
- 5) Hold your peace—for the Lord is in control.
- 6) "All things work together for good to them that love God..." (Romans 8:28).

The battle belongs to the Lord! ✠

This article first appeared in The Link, newsletter of the Australasian SDB Conference.

Pastor Profile



Name: Dale D. Thorngate

Birthdate and place: July 8, 1935
Battle Creek, Mich.

Current pastorate: Salem, W.Va., SDB Church

Family: Wife, Janet Marion (Van Horn); children, Helen-Catherine (James) Dingus, Dale D. Thorngate II (Cindy Biemenderfer), and David M. Thorngate (Christina Boyd); and nine grandchildren.

Education:

- BS (Business Administration), St. Benedictine College, Atchison, Kan.
- MEd (Counseling), American University, Washington, D.C.
- MDiv (Theology), Methodist Theological School of Ohio, Delaware, Ohio.
- DMin (Church Development), Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, Lombard, Ill.

Former pastorates/employment:

Chaplain Intern, Meriter Hospital, Madison, Wis.
Executive Secretary, SDB General Conference, Janesville, Wis.
Pastor, First SDB Church, Columbus, Ohio.
Personnel Officer, Chief Warrant Officer, U.S. Army.
Personnel Sergeant, U.S. Air Force.

My first job was: Washing dishes at the Battle Creek Sanitarium for 35 cents an hour.

Personal hero: I have two. Alton Wheeler, former SDB pastor and General Secretary of USA and Canada Conference of SDBs. Alton was also Executive Secretary for the World Federation and served as president of the General Conference.

Duane Davis, former SDB pastor who also served as missionary to Jamaica and as president of the General Conference.

Favorite Bible passage: Jeremiah 29:11-14a

Favorite author:

Theology: Augustine of Hippo
Spirituality: Elizabeth O'Connor
Leadership and management: Peter Drucker
Mystery: Colin Dexter

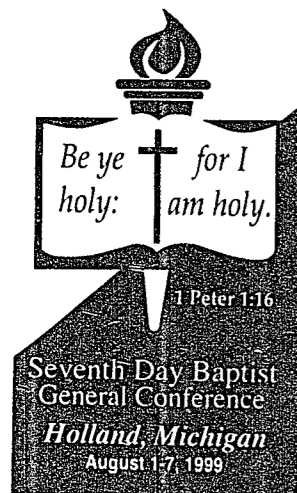
Most people don't know (about me):
That I am a car nut!

When I have time, I enjoy: Singing: choir, quartet, men's chorus; birdwatching, hiking, and driving my 1974 Volkswagen Bug.

A great answer to prayer was: God's presence with me during my tour of duty in Vietnam.

A church project I'm excited about: Completing the new addition to our church building with its new parking lot, and the refocusing of our vision to expand God's kingdom here in Salem through the ministry of our church.

My vision for SDBs: That we gain a new vision for growth and development in this country through the sharing of the "good news" of God's love and compassion, as well as His direction for our lives. With the change of leadership at the denominational level, I am personally praying that God will send us leaders with a new vision for us as a people—a sense of direction that we all will be able to follow with enthusiasm and renewed energy.



The President's Page

Eight great seminars

by Norma Rudert

Conference seminars offer an opportunity to discuss theological issues, learn new skills, sharpen old ones, and share ideas. Those who attend are enriched, enlightened, and possibly entertained. Previews of coming attractions at Hope College are summarized below.

•Special Needs Persons

What do you envision when you hear these words? Close examination reveals that this label covers a broad spectrum of living conditions. Maybe there is someone fitting that description in your own congregation. In this seminar, you will gain better understanding of the "special needs" of these people and their families and learn how easy it is to be involved in a tangible ministry to them.—*Rev. Christian Mattison, pastor of the SDB Church in North Loup, Neb.*

•Presiding Over a Church Business Meeting

One of the defining characteristics of Baptists is democratic decision-making in the local church. How can a church president or moderator help create harmony and minimize conflict? How should a church business meeting be organized? When are rules important and when do they get in the way? Come prepared to discuss particular problems and how best to deal with them.—*James Skaggs, Conference Parliamentarian, par excellence.*

•What Church Treasurers Should Know – Learning and Sharing

Steve is not a church treasurer, but he is a long-retired revenue agent and "somewhat" knows his way about government forms and publications. Since he is not computer literate, constructive input in this area by participants will be appreciated.—*Stephen J. Pierce, Attorney at Law and member of the SDB Memorial Board of Trustees.*

•The Fully-Gifted Creation Perspective

One of the fundamental beliefs held by all Christians is that the universe is God's Creation. Everything that we are and everything that we see has its being as a gift of God. As creatures of God who are gifted with both intellect and curiosity, we often employ the natural sciences as a means of learning more about the Creation.

In this seminar, we will reflect both on the heritage of Biblically-informed Christian thought and on some recent discoveries of the natural world, especially of astronomy. Recent photos from the Hubble Space Telescope will be included.—*Dr. Howard J. Van Till, retired from the Physics faculty at Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Mich., and author of The Fourth Day, among other publications.*

•Watching the Intersection of Church and State

The mission of the Baptist Joint Committee (BJC) is to defend God-given religious liberty for all, bringing a uniquely Baptist witness to the principle that religion must be freely exercised, neither advanced nor inhibited by government. Current

church-state issues will be discussed, with ample opportunity for questions.—*James M. Dunn, Executive Director, BJC.*

•Becoming Whole and Holy

This seminar for pastors' wives will focus on discovering Biblical ways to share wholeness and holiness with each other. Areas to be explored will include mutual ministries of prayer, listening, and encouragement.—*Rev. Melicent H. Vergeer, retired Presbyterian minister and wife of former Memorial Board Finance Manager John T. Vergeer.*

•The Intentional Christian Family

The family continues to be the basic unit of every society. This seminar includes a short history of the family in the United States and will discuss current issues, such as divorce, child abuse, and mobility. After developing the characteristics of the ideal Christian family, there will be time for discussion and reflection on our own individual experience.—*Dr. Dale D. Thorngate, pastor of the SDB Church in Salem, W.Va., and adjunct professor of Marriage and Family courses at Salem-Teikyo University.*

•Foundations for the Dream

What should we do when church facilities are limiting our ministry? What steps will help us identify our needs, deal with emotional issues related to buildings, and ensure a successful building project? How do we finance improvements to our facilities? If your church is considering new or improved facilities within the next two decades, *now* is the time to plan.—*Rev. John H. Camenga, pastor of the Daytona Beach, Fla., church, and President-Elect of the SDB General Conference.* SR

Michigan SDBs prepare red carpet welcome!

From the Conference Host Committee

Conference President Norma Rudert and the White Cloud and Battle Creek churches are excitedly preparing a red carpet welcome for your arrival at General Conference August 1-7, 1999, in Holland, Michigan!

We would be most pleased to have you worship with us at either church the Sabbath preceding Conference as well. White Cloud is 90 miles north of Holland, and Battle Creek is 65 miles south.

All those flying to Michigan should make reservations through to Kent County International Airport in Grand Rapids, 25 miles northeast of Holland. Ground transportation to Youth and Young Adult Pre-Cons, and to Conference, will be available at specified times, courtesy of the Host Committee. Amtrak trains also service Holland very near the campus, so we will supply transportation from there.

If you drive to Conference, Holland is located right off Interstate 196. From I-94 in southern Michigan, near Benton Harbor, take I-196/

US 31 north. Continue to Holland, going on US 31 when it splits from I-196 just south of Holland, past the Business I-196/US 31 exits, to 16th Street. Turn west one mile to College Street, and then north six blocks to the Hope College campus.

Parking is available in marked lots a short distance from the dorms. There is little on-street parking for the dorms, but we will have immedi-

ate parking for registration. There are only a few available parking spaces around any of the buildings, but all of our activities are very close to each other and on level ground.

Registration will occur in Phelps Hall, which also houses dorm rooms

on the second floor, the cafeteria, displays, medical site, and the office of Conference Pastor Edgar Wheeler. Phelps is attached to Maas Auditorium (both air-conditioned) where business sessions will occur, and is adjacent to Lubbers Hall where Interest Committees will meet.

Air conditioning is not usually needed in Holland. However, there are air-conditioned dorm rooms

We would be most pleased to have you worship with us at either SDB church the Sabbath preceding Conference as well. White Cloud is 90 miles north of Holland, and Battle Creek is 65 miles south.

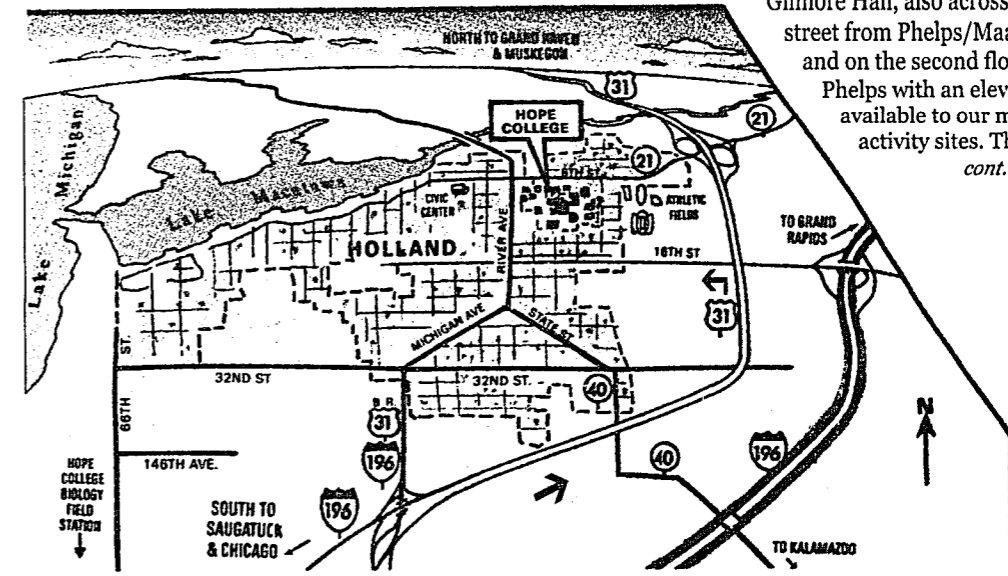
ate parking for registration. There are only a few available parking spaces around any of the buildings, but all of our activities are very close to each other and on level ground.

Registration will occur in Phelps Hall, which also houses dorm rooms

across the street, 300 feet from the cafeteria/meeting areas (Phelps/Maas Hall). These rooms in Cook Residence Hall have "two rooms, shared baths."

Other non-air-conditioned rooms utilize dorm-style baths and are in Gilmore Hall, also across the street from Phelps/Maas Hall, and on the second floor of Phelps with an elevator available to our main floor activity sites. This is

cont. next page



perfect for those who cannot walk comfortably.

Conference registration for the week is \$45 for adults; children ages 5-11, \$25. By the day, it's \$7 and \$4. Dorm-style rooms are \$112 for adults and \$56 for children, or \$16 and \$8 per day. Air-conditioned rooms which include semi-private baths are \$175 for adults per week, and \$87.50 for children per week. Per day, those prices are \$25 and \$12.50, respectively.

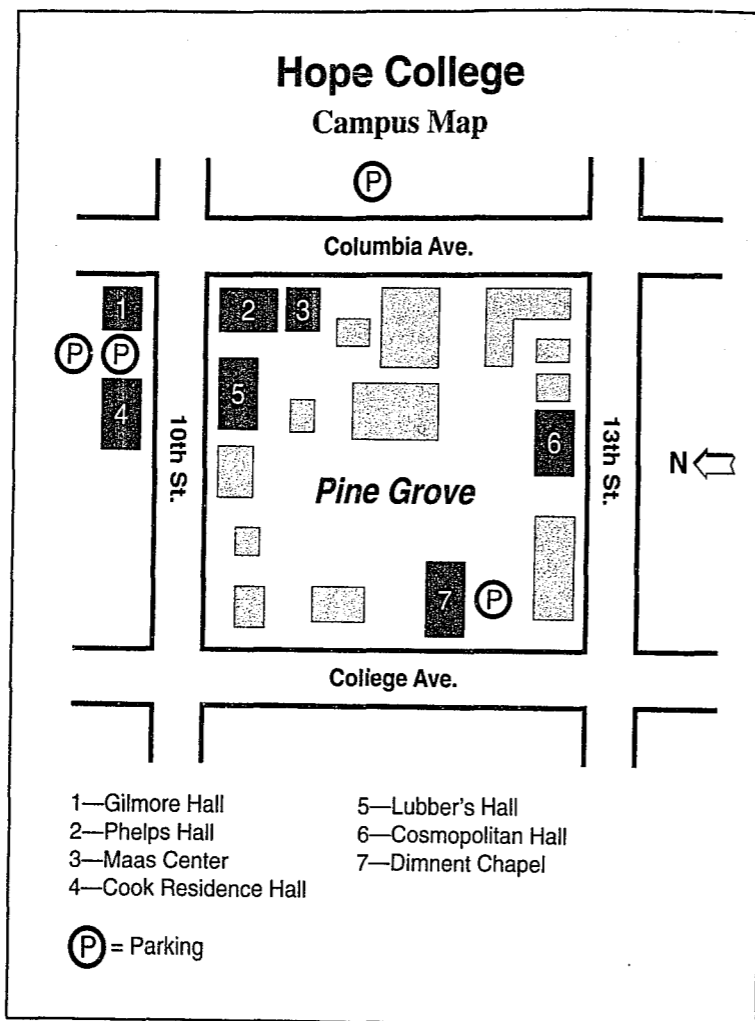
Your Host Committee hopes SDBs will come from across the country to Michigan to fellowship, worship, learn, grow, and celebrate our wonderful Lord, Jesus Christ!

Meals are \$124.25 for adults per week, \$62.30 for children ages 5-11. By the day, meals are \$17.75 and \$8.90. Children under age 5 are free.

Conference registration forms will be printed in the *May Sabbath Recorder*. Pre-registration is due by July 1, 1999. A surcharge will be assessed after that date.

For RV parking, we recommend the Dutch Treat Campground, which is only three miles from campus. Our liaisons, Steve and Dixie Packard, are handling RV reservation information (phone 217-356-8745). Daily rates for two people range from \$13 (tents) to \$20 (50 amps + water + sewer). Weekly rates are \$78 and \$120. Additional persons, 5 years or older, \$1 each. A pool, rec room, basketball court, paddle boats, fishing, and modern baths and laundry facilities are available.

Youth Pre-Con will be at Camp



Manitou 30 miles southwest of Battle Creek. Transportation will be furnished from there to Conference on Sunday, August 1.

Young Adult Pre-Con will be at Hope College in Cosmopolitan Hall, which is a short distance across campus from our other meeting sites. The young adults may choose to stay at the same hall during Conference week and enjoy continued fellowship and the convenience of only one unpacking.

Children's Conference during Conference week will be coordinated by Christine Davis and held in the lower level of Dimnent Chapel. Children will be escorted daily from the

Phelps Hall cafeteria to their conferences, then back again to Phelps for meals. Nightly they will enjoy a campfire-type program in the Pine Grove outside Dimnent Chapel while the adults have evening worship.

The nursery for our youngest children is conveniently located in the lower level of Phelps Hall.

Each month President Norma Rudert has been challenging us to learn more about the implications of 1 Peter 1:16, "Be ye holy, for I am holy." Your Host Committee hopes SDBs will come from across the country to Michigan to fellowship, worship, learn, grow, and celebrate our wonderful Lord, Jesus Christ! **SR**

Update from Durango

Greetings from Bayfield, Colo.! We are the Howards that appeared in the January issue of the *SR*, meeting with Pastor L.B. Lee. We felt a great burden to fill you all in on what has been happening since that meeting.

About three years ago, we were politely asked to leave the Baptist church that we had been attending because we were bringing up questions about the Sabbath. One night, the Good Lord revealed the Sabbath to us as only He can do with His great power and truth. What a revelation! We felt as though we had been set free.

Our little family was at home now, worshipping alone, which was a blessing in itself as God forced us to dig for ourselves. But we did miss the fellowship of like-minded believers. Eventually, an elderly lady from our former church joined us, and then another couple. That is when Pastor Lee and his beautiful family came for

a weekend visit and offered his services for an afternoon Bible study on the Sabbath.

Prior to his visit, we sent out many invitations. Only two families from other churches joined our little group, but it was a fantastic study and Pastor Lee did a great job. He was kind and loving towards our Sunday keepers.

That was in October of 1998. Since then, we have grown by four families, adding 13 more people, with a family occasionally visiting us from Canyon City, Colo.

When we are together, there are 24 people sitting around living rooms praising and worshipping the Lord. One of the families that has recently joined us was one that came to listen to Pastor Lee's Bible study. The hand of God is truly at work in our little community.

We come from a mixture of backgrounds, but all agree that salvation

is by grace through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Bible is the only inspired Word of God which is our authority over our daily lives.

We would like to extend an open invitation to any traveling souls that come through or near Durango in southwest Colorado. Our worship service begins on Sabbath morning around 10:30 with singing and praise. Since more than half of our congregation is under the age of 12, we involve the little ones with stories and special songs. We break around 12:30 for a great potluck meal and fellowship, and then continue in a Bible study.

For more information about our meetings, please contact Pastor L.B. Lee at the Colorado Springs Seventh Day Baptist Church, (719) 548-1098. God bless!

Lovingly in Christ's name,
Vickie and Jay Howard

SR Reaction

Dear Editor Butler,

Enclosed is a check for \$66, which represents the number of years the *SR* has been in our home. We celebrated our 65th anniversary on September 7, 1998, so this is well into our 66th year of good denominational news!

I notice the '98 giving is under-subscribed. I tried to push it back a little last year by sending a silly little Valentine rhyme, plus the suggested \$14. Now this February 14th I am raising the "ante" by sending a dollar for each of our happy married years. Maybe I can start a trend! Offhand, I'm wondering if we might be the "oldest" of wedding anniversaries among SDBs?

Gladys (Sutton) Randolph
Englewood, CO

Dear Kevin,

The reference in the February issue to my salvation testimony last year raised a question in my mind: are you not printing more testimonies because there is no room for them in the magazine? Or are you not including them because your readers have not responded to the invitation to share their testimonies?

I pray it's the former, but I fear it may be the latter. Could it be that there are people in our churches who have no personal testimony of salvation in Jesus Christ? Hopefully not!

Perhaps our esteemed evangelist, Loyal Hurley, spoke the truth when he remarked to me some 35 years ago, "Too many SDB churches have the Sabbath, but don't have another blessed thing."

If our people cannot speak up with confidence about their salvation and relate to others what Jesus Christ has done in their lives, there is no point to

any part of the church's ministry—from worship services, to camps, to missions, or to any denominational program. The experience of having been born again, of having put off the "old self" and taken on new life in Jesus, is what it's all about. We should never be reluctant or embarrassed to speak up for the Lord!

I urge your readers to share what Jesus has done for them. This is part of exhorting and encouraging one another in the Lord.

Linda Hays
Chatawa, MS

Editor's note: Space has not been the problem. It seems that not too many people are writing much of anything these days—except by e-mail. Plus, we have not been consistent in asking for the testimonies. Thank you, Linda, for doing it so well.

Accessions

Battle Creek, MI
Harold King, pastor
 Joined after testimony
 Maver Russell

Salem, WV
Dale Thorngate, pastor
 Joined after testimony
 Greg Randolph
 Julia (Welch) Randolph
 Marvin Greene

Births

Moreno.—A daughter, Sara Isabella Moreno, was born to Jose and Lori (Bond) Moreno of Lost Creek, WV, on October 18, 1998.

Bayless.—A son, Andrew Martin Bayless Jr., was born to Andrew and Katrina (Saunders) Bayless of Topeka, KS, on November 12, 1998.

Hentges.—A daughter, Samantha Sue Hentges, was born to Nick and Alice Hentges of Battle Creek, MI, on January 23, 1999.

Marriage

Saunders - Senecal.—David Saunders and Becky Lynn Senecal were united in marriage on December 12, 1998, at the Nortonville, KS, Seventh Day Baptist Church. The groom's father, Pastor Stephan F. Saunders, officiated.

Obituaries

Bakker.—Frederik J. Bakker, 91, died on November 7, 1998, at Robert Wood Johnson Jr. Health Care Center in Plainfield, N.J.

He was born in Rotterdam, Netherlands, on June 16, 1907, the son of Jacob F. and Geessina (Schoor) Bakker. The family came to the United States in 1912. He lived in Plainfield before moving to Scotch Plains, N.J., in 1971.

Mr. Bakker received a bachelor's degree in history and German from Alfred (N.Y.) University in 1929, and a J.D. from New York University School of Law in 1932. He was admitted to the bar in 1934, and was employed as a counselor at law in Plainfield for 58 years, retiring in 1992. He was a member of the Plainfield Bar Association and the New Jersey State Bar Association. He also served in the U.S. Army during World War II for three and a half years.

Mr. Bakker was baptized and joined the Plainfield Seventh Day Baptist Church in 1923. He became very active in the church, leading its Christian Endeavor Society and teaching Sabbath School. He was ordained a deacon in 1949. He held various offices in denominational agencies, including the SDB Historical Society, Memorial Board, and the Tract Society.

He was a member of The Christian Business Men's Committee and The

Obituaries, continued

Gideons International for many years. Along with his wife, he conducted services on a regular basis for over 35 years at the Bowery Mission in New York City.

Survivors include his wife of 48 years, Shirley (Reinhart) Bakker; one daughter, Carol J. Robertson of Houston, Texas; and three grandchildren. He was predeceased by an infant daughter, Mary Pamela, in 1958; and by one sister, Lammechiena Thompson.

Services were held on November 13, 1998, at the Plainfield SDB Church. Interment was at Hillside Cemetery in Scotch Plains.

Lamoreaux.

Jerry Orrell Lamoreaux, 54, of Rialto, Calif., died of a massive brain hemorrhage on November 10, 1998, at Redwood City, Calif.

Born on February 21, 1944, in San Bernardino, Calif., he graduated from Eisenhower High School in 1962, and from Cal State-San Bernardino in 1976. He worked as an engineering technician for the Public Works Department of the City of Riverside, Calif., for 20 years.

Jerry attended the Riverside Seventh Day Baptist Church since 1968. His wife of 30 years, Diana (Boatman) Lamoreaux, survives.

Other survivors include two daughters, Aimee Wilson of Rialto, and Mandy Henry of Janesville, Wis.; three sisters, Virginia Schwoebel, Rose Archer, and Kathy Byrd, all of California; and four grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on November 17, 1998, at the Riverside Seventh Day Baptist Church, with Pastor Gabriel Bejjani officiating. Burial was in Crestlawn Memorial Park, Riverside.

Mendiola.

Terry (Chapman) Mendiola of Bakersfield, Calif., went to be with her Lord on December 11, 1998.

Terry was a member of the Riverside, Calif., Seventh Day Baptist Church.

Survivors include her husband, Joseph, and one daughter, Jaime Mendiola, both of Bakersfield; two brothers, Robert and Donald; one sister, Jewell, and numerous relatives.

A memorial service was held on December 19, 1998, at the Riverside SDB Church, with Rev. Gabriel Bejjani officiating.

Stutler.

Wilbur A. Stutler, 86, of Shinnston, W.Va., died on December 30, 1998, in the United Hospital Center, Clarksburg, W.Va.

He was born on October 29, 1912, in Salem, W.Va., the son of Oris O. and Velma (Bond) Stutler. He was a 1935 graduate of Salem College, and retired from the Bendix Corporation in Maryland after working 32 years as an engineer.

Wilbur had been a member of the Salem Seventh Day Baptist Church since his baptism in 1924.

Survivors include one sister, Juanita Zwiebel of Boulder, Colo.; two half-sisters, and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his wife, Mary C. (McCartney) Stutler.

Orr.

Earl Leroy Orr, 81, of Upland, Calif., died of heart disease on January 27, 1999, at his home.

Earl was born in Yellow Jacket, Colo., on March 20, 1917, and lived in Riverside, Calif., for 15 years before moving in 1950. He lived in Upland the past 14 years. He served in the U.S. Army Air Force during World War II, and worked as a building contractor for 50 years.

Earl was a member of the Riverside Seventh Day Baptist Church. He was on the church's Building Committee and worked with the Pacific Pines Church Camp in Crestline, Calif. He enjoyed fishing, camping, traveling, and boating.

Survivors include his wife, Virginia; one daughter, Janette Haidet of Los Osos, Calif.; one son, Brian, of Riverside; three brothers, Kenneth

of Whitier, Calif., and Floyd of Stevensville, Mont.; two sisters, Ruth Schaefer of Las Vegas, Nev., and Mildred Stansberry of Vista, Calif.; five grandchildren, one great-grandson, and many nieces and nephews.

Services were held on January 30, 1999, at the Riverside SDB Church, with Revs. Richard Howard and Gabriel Bejjani officiating. Interment was in Olivewood Memorial Park, Riverside.

Perrin.

Clifford E. Perrin Jr., 79, of Ashaway, R.I., died at home on February 14, 1999. He was born on December 4, 1919, in Ashaway, the son of Clifford E. and Annie (McNab) Perrin Sr. He graduated from Westerly (R.I.) High School and the School of Diesel Engineering. He was an Eagle Scout and served as a scoutmaster in Ashaway for 11 years.

On November 27, 1948, he married Eileen Champlin in Westerly.

Clifford served as an Army diesel technician with the Coast Artillery, 243rd Division, during World War II. He attained the rank of technical sergeant and was a first class gunner before being discharged. He received the Good Conduct Medal, American Theater Campaign Ribbon, and Victory Medal, and attended Coast Artillery School in Fort Monroe, Va.

Clifford owned and operated plumbing and heating businesses in Rhode Island and Connecticut for many years. He had been a member of the First Hopkinton Seventh Day Baptist Church in Ashaway since 1933.

In addition to his wife of 50 years, he leaves two daughters, Brenda P. Stone of Stockbridge, Ga., and Lorna P. Sabin of McDonough, Ga.; seven grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Private funeral services were held at the R.I. Veterans Cemetery in Exeter, with Rev. Henry Pendleton officiating.

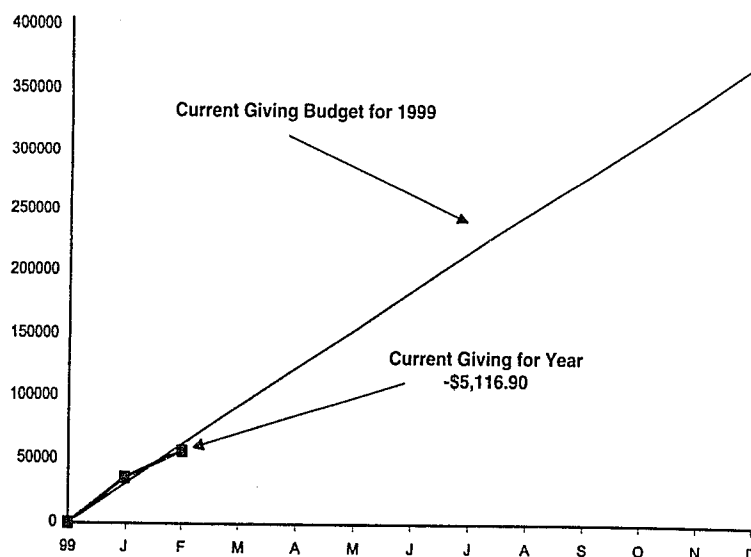
Church Leaders

Last call to make your suggestions for the new **Manual of Procedures.** (The proposed copy was sent to every church last fall.)

Please respond immediately to:

Janet Thorngate
 Chair, F&O Committee
 171 E Main Street
 Salem WV 26426
 (304) 782-1727

Current Giving 1999



That pocketbook, cont. from page 14

Scene II

The farm is small, and hilly too,
 'Tis hard to do the tilling;
 But sun and rain and evening dew
 To help its crops, seem willing.
 The farmer stands at eventide,
 Far up upon the old hill-side
 And views the fields all o'er.
 His thoughts run thus: What need I more?
 Above my head a Friend divine,
 And here, a farm—my wife's and mine;
 I've worked quite hard to clear the place,
 (He moves toward the house a pace)
 And wife, good soul, with heart and hand
 Has done her part upon this land.
 Of course they're hers as well as mine;
 The farm, the house, the barn, the kine.
 The crops are ours, and well they look
 From yon line fence to the pasture-brook.
 If frost holds off a month or so,
 That pocket-book quite fat will grow.

Our purse, 'tis true, is rather thin
 For there is not a bill within;
 But, praise the Lord—I'll see it grow.
 And then, if my own heart I know,
 The wife can have some needful things
 (For she gives labor golden wings)
 And when she thinks a dime should go
 To worthy objects here below,
 She has the right to use her pleasure,
 And take a handful from the measure
 To strew upon the land of need
 Where others want, and others feed.
 And the dear Lord shall have his share,
 His box just now is rather bare.
 A dollar out of every ten
 Must go to him who gives to men
 Each blessing from the time they're born
 Until he doth each head adorn
 With crowns of everlasting life.
 I hope he'll favor me and wife! SR

Go to Jamaica? Ya, mon!

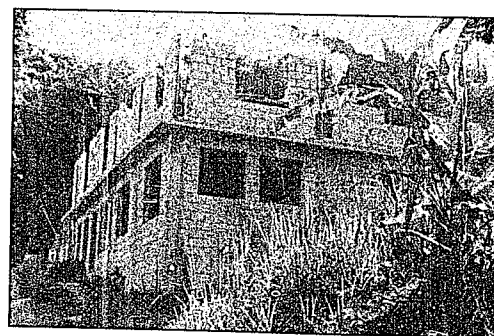
Last month, Gem Fitz-Henley asked for dollar contributions to help our brethren in Jamaica complete the big job at the Maiden Hall Conference Center.

Now they are asking for *you*—your hands, your energy, your dedication, your love for the brethren—to go to Jamaica in order to reach their goal of a completed building.

Please don't read this and say "I can't!" Everybody and anybody can help, no matter what your skills. You really can help and your life will make a difference at this tremendous missionary project.

Let us know that you are interested. We will get back in touch with all of the details as to time and etc.

God cared enough to send His very best. Please care enough to go to Jamaica for a week or two weeks or more.



Let's get this building done!

Contact: Chuck & Lorna Graffius
 4180 Sugar Palm Terrace
 Oviedo, FL 32765

Or e-mail: cgraf69974@aol.com
 Phone: (407) 365-9640

KEVIN'S

CORNER

Last year, I planned (and dreaded) to preach a series of messages on stewardship. Yes, money-talk from the pulpit! I probably felt like Andy Samuels in his early days of ministry (see page 12).

As the series approached, I felt more confident about the topic, realizing that stewardship is much more than money. Yet at the same time, I felt uncomfortable mentioning "the m-word" since it is such a personal matter for us Americans.

Money—and giving it away—is also a matter of spiritual maturity. That's why the Coordinating Leadership Team, in cooperation with our boards and agencies, has included stewardship in our annual "Seeking

Spiritual Maturity" emphasis.

How do we become cheerful givers like Linda Graffius? (Please don't miss this month's first two features.) She has become downright evangelistic when it comes to the joy of giving.

Here's a thought: D. Wade Armstrong once said that the believer who would be evangelistic in thought and action must make available to the Lord all that he is and has. "All ten tenths should be acknowledged as belonging to the Lord. One tenth should be dedicated as holy to Him (see Lev. 27:30).

"After this action by faith and love, the Christian is free to ask his Lord for the leading of the Holy Spirit to ascertain how much his offerings should be to the work of the kingdom."

If we dare to step out on faith and dedicate all that we have as belonging to God—along with a decision to use it to help others come to know Him—then we can be unusually used and blessed by the Lord.

But can we do that cheerfully?

2 Corinthians 9:7 says, "Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

What have you decided "in your heart" to give? Have you ever seen big gifts presented in such a staged way that it makes you wonder about the heart of the giver?

The Lord is saying that *inner purpose* is as important as *outer deed*. Another person with a smaller gift may be

giving all they have out of a huge, loving heart. Finding new spiritual maturity through our use of money means discovering the right purpose in our hearts. The need of the giver to give is even more important than the outward gift.

"Each man should give..." This is an "avenue" to happiness, a way toward the goal of being a "cheerful giver." Happiness really is through giving, not through getting.

Remember the story of King Midas? He felt that his life would be complete if everything he touched became gold. Well, everything he touched did turn to gold, including his food, his bed, and so on. His riches made life impossible. There was no happiness in getting!

"Not reluctantly or under compulsion." Isn't Christian giving a spiritual opportunity? How God must smile (a bit sadly I'm sure) as He watches us labor and struggle to make a contribution to the church. Why can't we remember how good it feels whenever we do a generous deed?

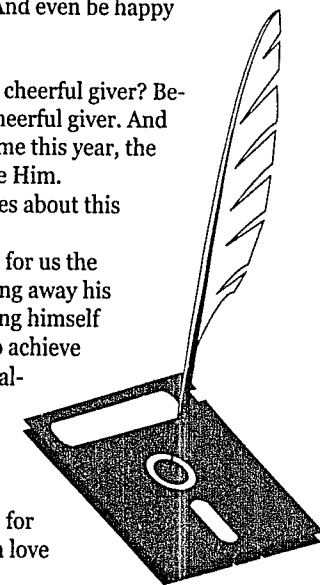
Why not make the decision to be generous, once and for all? If we set aside for God the first tenth of all we receive, we will always be free to give to the church and to charity. And even be happy about it!

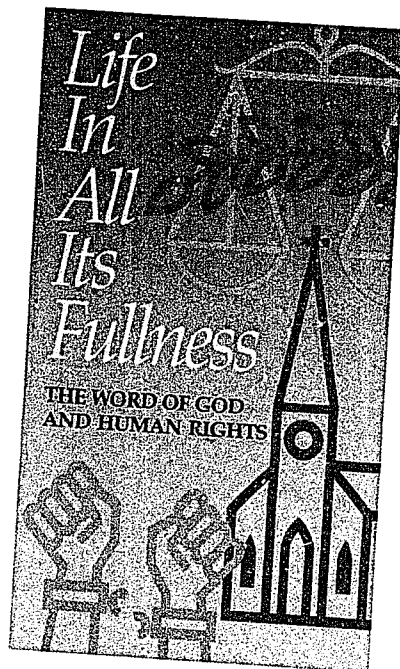
Why does God love a cheerful giver? Because He Himself is a cheerful giver. And like our Conference theme this year, the Lord invites us to be like Him.

Lowell Atkinson writes about this giving spirit:

"God has marked out for us the way of generosity, flinging away his life upon a cross, breaking himself in the sacrifice of love to achieve the mighty ministry of salvation, giving himself when we were not worthy of it."

To give is to live! Our gifts show forth our love for a giving God. How much love do your gifts show forth?





“Life in All its Fullness”

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the American Bible Society (ABS) has produced this 80-page booklet for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

Foundational Scripture passages dealing with essential human rights have been collected in 12 categories, making the booklet easy to use in your church or Bible study group. A study guide with chapter questions is included, along with the full text of the Universal Declaration.

As stated in the introduction, “Each of the twelve categories reflects the fact that we are all equally beneficiaries of God’s gifts of creation and grace, and share a responsibility to lead ethical lives and work together for human rights and liberties for all.”

The Seventh Day Baptist Center has a limited number of these free ABS booklets available. For single copies, we suggest sending one dollar to cover postage and handling. For higher quantities, please contact us.

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Janesville WI 53547
(608) 752-5055
sdbmedia@inwave.com*