

The **S**abbath
*News for and about
Seventh Day Baptists* **R**ecorder June 1999



**SDB Youth
Takeover**
Top news from youth
all over the states and beyond...





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



There's a new Web site from the National Mexican Seventh Day Church of Christ, for all the Latin world to consult. These churches are represented by General Coordinator Rosalio Camacho Rodriguez and Norma Rodriguez Morales, of the Mexico Conference.

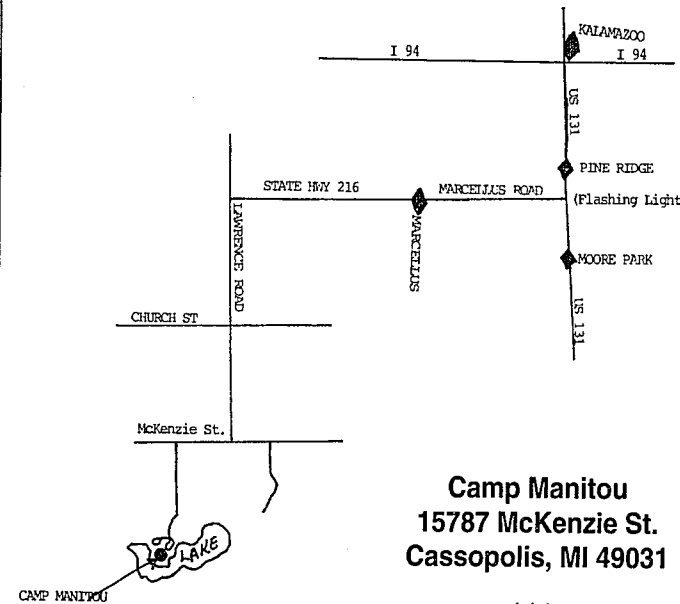
The address is:
<http://www.webtelmex.net.mx/colorin/>

More Conference reminders...

All those flying to Conference should make reservations to Kent County Airport in Grand Rapids, Mich. Free land transportation at specified times will be furnished by the Host Committee to both Pre-Cons and to Hope college for General Conference. Amtrak Trains also stop at Holland near campus, and rides will again be furnished from the depot to Conference. Those driving will find Holland easily reached right off I-196. Remember **July 1** is the deadline for pre-registration in order to avoid a late charge.

Youth Pre-Con Camp

July 28 – August 1
Registration forms in the May SR



Camp Manitou
15787 McKenzie St.
Cassopolis, MI 49031

Phone: (616) 646-9136

Youth The Sabbath Recorder

June 1999
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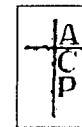


A Seventh Day Baptist publication

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We give special thanks and a "well done" to our guest youth editor, Aubrey Appel. She just completed her sophomore year at Milton (Wis.) High School and is a member of the Milton SDB Church. Aubrey has been editor of *The Beacon* since Conference of 1998.



The Everyday Christian

by Justin Hibbard

During the holidays—Christmas that is, and Easter—I am always reminded of some things. Of course, there is the celebration of certain aspects of Christ, but there is also something else.

Do you ever notice that churches are much fuller during Christmas and Easter? Well, if you haven't noticed, they are.

Sometimes, I'll take the ball down and look at it; sometimes I'll even take the ball out of the case and look at it. But I would never dare play with that ball—it's worth too much. What if the signature got messed up? Then it would be worthless.

You know, the same can be said about so many things, especially Christianity. Sure, Jesus is so great,

It might be safe to say that the baseball I use all the time is the one that means the most to me. I couldn't be the player I am without it.

On my shelf is a baseball signed by the great Brooks Robinson. I remember meeting him when I was a lot younger and getting his autograph. I treasured that ball so much that I put it in a case and set it high above my normal reach.

so awesome, so worthy that He deserves a giant case on a shelf where nothing could happen to Him. Occasionally, we would take Him down and show some guests in our house. Maybe we would even take Him out of the case, but only for a short time.

Using Jesus? That's out of the question. Taking Him out for what He was meant to be used for—salvation? How could we even *think* of doing it?

Ask me about that Brooks Robinson baseball, and I'll tell you the story. Ask me to throw a curveball, and I'll pull out another baseball.

So, if you're wondering how much that Brooks Robinson baseball has helped me, I'll tell you that it hasn't helped my baseball playing one bit. It's the other baseball that I take out and throw around that makes my curveball and baseball playing what it is.

I think it might be safe to say that the baseball I use all the time is the one that means the most to me. I couldn't be the player I am without it. (Of course, I'm not that great of a player, probably because I don't take it out as much as I should.)

Christmas is the reminder of Jesus' birth. He came to earth that

He might save us, and become our Lord. That time of the year is especially important, but in the same way, it should be like every other day.

Christ didn't come to earth so that we might put Him on high shelves where dust would cover Him. He wants us to be holy like He is. Therefore, we must have Him and continually use Him and His instruction if we want to be like Him.

He wants to be set in the high shelves of our heart. He wants to be where our thoughts, love, and actions are. That is what Christianity is about.

It's about the *everyday* relationship with Jesus.

I often wonder what goes through the minds of those who go to church only on Christmas and Easter. Do they go because they just want to get by? Do they go because they feel the need to "pay their respects" to Jesus for His great coming and resurrection?

Let me get to the first question first:

Christianity is about your relationship with Christ. Though going to church is important, the relationship is what matters. Going to church just helps the relationship grow.

There really is no "getting by" as a Christian and still "being" a Christian. That type of mentality is of a person who is in it only for himself.

In Revelation, Jesus says that He wants people who are hot or cold, not lukewarm.

Now let me move to the second question: What do you think Jesus would rather have—the twice-a-year Christian mentality or the everyday Christian?



In Revelation, Jesus says that He wants people who are hot or cold, not lukewarm.

If you want to show respect for Jesus, then do what He says... *every day*. Jesus deserves the everyday of our lives. What can possibly be attained twice a year?

Christ deserves the highest place in our lives, but He doesn't want to be in the unreachable spots.

Remember how I said that I'm not a very good or mature baseball player because I don't practice enough? Well, this can also be true of Christianity. The more we use it, the closer we come to following Christ completely, which means holiness.

If you seem to be staying in the same stages of your spiritual growth, then it must be because you haven't put in as much time as you should. Actually, there really is no set time, but the more you put in, the more you get out.

Poor "twice a year Christians." How much do you think they'll get out of the Christian faith?

Perhaps it is time that we dust off our Bibles and our Jesus. Put Him where it is easiest to hear Him—in the highest place of our lives and in the foremost place in our hearts.

You know, the Israelites were told to bind the Law on their foreheads, and they did just that! God wanted to make sure they were always remembering Him and His Law. Do we need to do the same? Maybe wear the

"WWJD" bracelets, but Jesus needs to be used everyday.

How much does the Christian faith mean to us? How much does baseball mean to me?

Perhaps it shows by the way I play. Perhaps the way we act and heed Christ's example shows how much the Christian faith means to us. **SR**

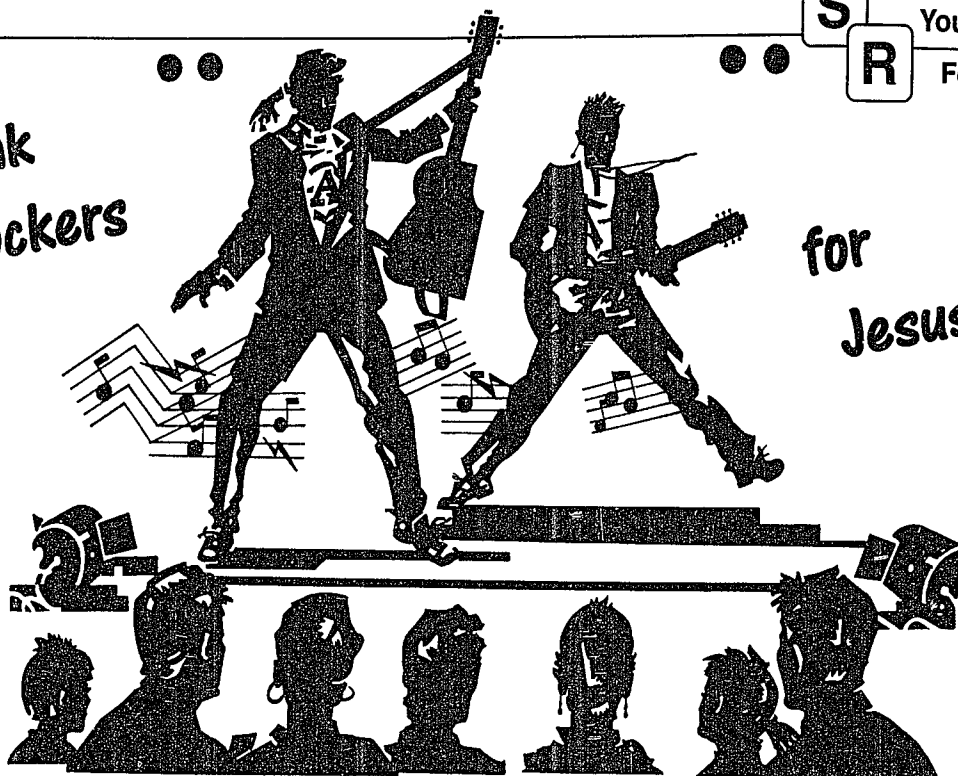


Justin Hibbard is a member of the Central SDB Church which meets in Mitchellville, Md.

He will be serving this year in the Summer Christian Service Corps at the White Cloud, Mich., church.

Punk rockers

for Jesus!



by Jeremiah Owen

It's Saturday, March 27, 1999, 7:00 p.m. Do you know where your kids are?

Well, for the parents of the hundreds of kids who attended The Persecuted/Officer Negative concert at Foothill Community Church in Southern California, they were in good hands.

The concert, held in the basement of the church, was the latest of various activities that our youth group,

The Foothill Underground, has put on. Each time the crowd has grown—from 50 at the first one, to 300 crazed teenagers at this one. It has been a main tool in our outreach ministry, aimed at a typically non-believing group of kids and young adults to help bring them to know Christ, and give a safe-haven

for those who do believe.

The bands were all Christian groups which play Punk/Alternative rock and do so with a strong belief in leading a Christian life and sharing Christ's love with others. The concerts have been hugely successful as a result of God's involvement and direction.



Part of the crowd at the last Foothill Underground concert.

Jokes

Q: What do you call a boomerang that doesn't come back?
A: A stick.

Q: Where do you find a dog without legs?
A: Where you left it.

Submitted by Peter Fox—Columbus, Ohio



Teens and young adults jammed into the church basement to hear music and God's Word.

At this last concert, four individuals came to know Christ and over 100 recommitted their lives to Him during a sermon by the singer of the Officer Negative band, Chad Wiggins. He called the kids to stand up for what they believe, and if they were Christians, to *live* it, not just say it.

God's presence was obvious throughout the night, keeping everyone safe, working in the hearts of the

ficer Negative. They have all been very involved over the past several years in reaching out to an often overlooked segment of the population: the Punk/Alternative sub-culture.

These young people are sometimes the ones who need to hear the Word the most. All the bands, along with members of the church, put countless time, energy, and prayer

The concerts are aimed at a typically non-believing group of kids and young adults to help bring them to know Christ, and give a safe-haven for those who do believe.

youth, and bringing in a record number to hear the Word.

All the bands were amazed by the enthusiasm of the crowd and with the general feeling of Christian love that everyone at the concert exuded. This love was echoed by the message of the evening from Jeff Ewing and Jeremiah Owen of The Persecuted—"that it is Christ's love for us that keeps us out of hell, not by any work of our own."

The five bands that played were Anthesis, Youth In Submission, The Caffiends, The Persecuted, and Of-

into the concert, and this was instrumental to its success.

In all, it was a great time for fellowship and an opportunity to develop new friendships. We were also able to encourage new believers and those who recommitted their lives to Christ. **SR**

Jeremiah Owen is a member of the Foothill Community Church, a Seventh Day Baptist ministry in Montrose, Calif.



Concert organizer Jeremiah Owen (right) with friend, Becky Sperry.

Jokes

Q: Why did the cowboy want a dachshund?

A: He wanted to get along (a long) little doggie!

Tidbits:

If a word was misspelled in the dictionary, how would we know?

A smile only happens in a minute, but the effects can last a lifetime.

Submitted by Amy Goodrich—North Loup, Neb.

The Gift of Grace

by Marcy Payne

Marcy gave this speech at a baccalaureate service last year when she graduated from Triton High School in Dodge Center, Minn. She is a member of the Dodge Center SDB Church.

I looked up the word "grace" in the dictionary. There were a lot of different definitions.

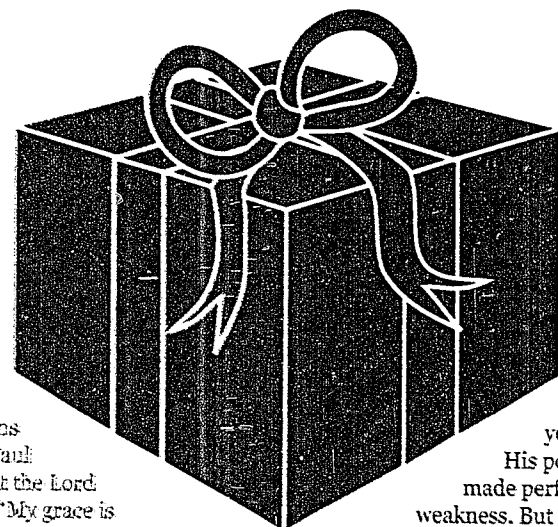
Some of them included: charm, elegance, attractiveness—especially of a delicate, slender, refined, light, or unlabored kind; courtesy, as in "he had the grace to say thank you; favor, as in "a fall from grace"; and a short prayer offered before or after a meal.

But the definition of grace I'm talking about means "unconstrained and undeserved divine favor or goodwill; God's loving mercy displayed to man for the salvation of his soul."

I didn't really like that definition, because it made it sound as if God only shows us grace the one time in our life when or if we choose to accept His gift of salvation.

So I looked up "grace" in my sister's Bible dictionary. This is what it said: "An undeserved favor or gift; the *undeserved* forgiveness, kindness, and mercy that God gives us."

There are lots of different verses on grace in the Bible, but I have chosen a couple that I like. In 2



Corinthians 12:9-10. Paul writes that the Lord told him, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

He then goes on to say, "Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong."

I guess this passage really hit me, because my entire life I have struggled with trying to keep up the perfect front, trying to make people believe that I can handle anything; that I don't need help, when actually I know that God has helped me through all of my struggles.

He promises me, and He promises you, that His grace is sufficient for

you, for His power is made perfect in weakness. But who enjoys admitting their weaknesses? I know I don't.

I have a hard time admitting that. "What? I'm not perfect?" But God's grace is sufficient for me, because His power is made perfect in my weaknesses. The more I admit to how weak I am, the more God gets the glory, because I know that without Him, I couldn't accomplish my goals, whatever they may be.

Another passage I really like about grace is Titus 2:11-14. "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say 'No' to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our

great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good."

that are his *very* own, eager to do what is good." When I read those words, I get a very strong image in my mind. The fact that He says a "people that are His *very* own in-

of me? And it says that the grace of God teaches us all of that.

The last verse I have for you speaks for itself. I pray that someday I can honestly say this verse and mean every word of it.

It is Acts 20:24: "However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the Gospel of God's grace." ✠

I have a hard time admitting my shortcomings. But God's grace is sufficient for me, because His power is made perfect in my weaknesses.

I like this because it explains why I don't do some of the things that other people think I *should* do. The grace of God "teaches us to say 'No' to ungodliness and worldly passions."

It teaches us "to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives..." while we wait for Jesus, "...who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good."

I don't know about you, but I am thrilled that God considers me His daughter. The verse says, "a people

stead of just "His own" makes me feel special He claims us as His very own. We are precious to Him.

Then the phrase "eager to do what is good."

I read "eager" and picture a child with his eyes lit up expectantly. Children are always eager to please someone they look up to.

I transfer the energy from that picture to the "eager to do what is good" and think, "Wow. I'm precious to God, why on earth wouldn't I be that eager to do what is good," just to please Him and make Him proud



Marcy Payne just completed her freshman year at Wheaton College in Wheaton, Ill. She will return to the Summer Christian Service Corps, serving this year in Battle Creek, Mich.

Recently a Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., advertising agency launched a billboard campaign (including the inside and outside of buses) that carried different messages from God.

Some examples:

Let's Meet at My House Before the Game.—God
C'mon Over and Bring the Kids.—God
What Part of "Thou Shalt Not..." Didn't You Understand?—God
Keep Using My Name In Vain and I'll Make Rush Hour Longer.—God
Loved the Wedding, Invite Me to the Marriage.—God

That "Love Thy Neighbor" Thing, I Meant It.—God
Big Bang Theory, You've Got to Be Kidding.—God
My Way Is the Highway.—God
Need Directions?—God
You Think It's Hot Here?—God
Tell the Kids I Love Them.—God
Have You Read My #1 Best Seller? There Will Be a Test.—God

Cross Currents Ministries

by Alicia Mackintosh

These are some of the letters I have written over the last year to the supporters of Cross Currents Ministries, a ministry of the San Francisco Bay Area Seventh Day Baptist Church.—Alicia

April 1998

The idea for Cross Currents Ministries first started when my brothers (Adam and Eric) and I went to the Young Adult Retreat in Colorado led by Pastor Jim Galanaugh over Christmas break of '97. We all came back knowing that God was calling us to do something for the youth of Half Moon Bay, Calif.

Growing up in the Bay Area SDB church (located over an hour away from our home) we have been constantly challenged to find ways to minister over the distance. The idea for Cross Currents allowed us to get involved in our hometown while being under the sponsorship and prayer support of our church family.

The idea formed to start a non-denominational youth outreach program for Junior High and High School-age kids. Cross Currents would be a place where these kids could come on Friday nights and have fun and hear the Gospel in a safe, God-centered environment.

We wanted to have a good band to lead praise music, free food, games, and dynamic speakers who would entertain but, more importantly, to give the youth something of a lasting,

life-changing message to think about.

We started by establishing a group of prayer warriors to pray over this ministry and for the leaders. Next, we started talking with the pastors and different youth leaders of the Christian churches of H.M.B. (Half Moon Bay) to obtain their prayer support. We were overwhelmed with the amount of enthusiasm and encouragement we received.

We watched God move in ways that only seemed to happen in Bible times as we obtained a building and an incredible band, along with many other things. His loving hand has been evident in all we have done. We have been reminded over and over again that this ministry is not ours, but God's, and that only He is able to touch anyone.

June 1998

Recently, I was reminded that Cross Current's 10-week anniversary had just passed.

How do I even *begin* to describe what each week has been like? I can only tell you that each week has been unlike the one before. We are never quite sure what is going to happen, but we try to stay open to what God has planned for each evening. With the release of our own plans and expectations has come the awesome assurance that He is in charge.

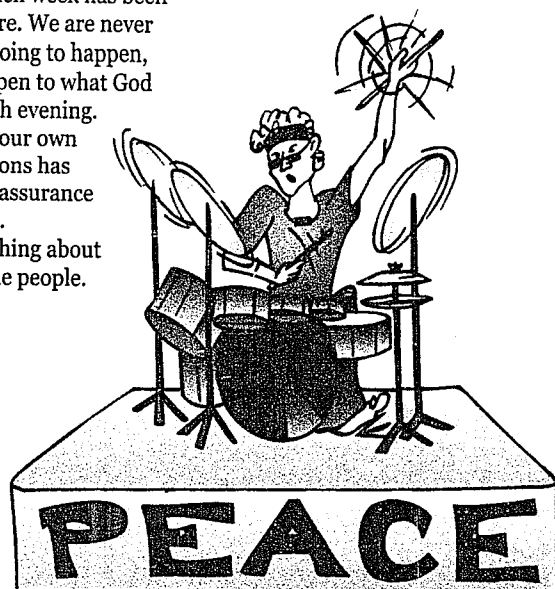
I guess the best thing about Cross Currents is the people.

God has brought some really awesome people into our lives through this ministry. We have a group of regulars who show up each week that are such an encouragement to us. The feedback we receive from them helps keep us going when things get difficult.

One of our youth told me the other day that one of the "cool" things about Cross Currents is that we get involved instead of just standing on the sidelines. With all of our leaders under 24 years old, we get to have just as much fun as everyone else. I'm having a blast being a part of this ministry.

Eric has begun a sports ministry. He invites youth to play either basketball or roller hockey every Friday before Cross Currents. This has been an awesome way to reach the youth, providing them with an opportunity to play. It also gives Eric an excuse to call them every week to ask if they are coming.

The sports ministry has been a way that the youth can interact with



We watched God move in ways that only seemed to happen in Bible times as we obtained a building and an incredible band.

believers in a non-threatening way. Some have come to our meetings after they got to know other people through the sports. Then they feel more comfortable checking us out.

March 1999

The last time I wrote you, Eric and I were getting ready to leave for Mexico for mission work, and we were praying for someone to come forward to help run Cross Currents over the summer. Well, God answered in a mighty way. He brought us Maura.

On April 2, 1998, Maura Myers came with a friend from our church to a Cross Currents outreach. She left saying, "I want to be involved in this ministry." She had no idea that we were in need of help, but God sure did!

Eric and I both felt God's hand on her and the situation. We just had to sit back and marvel at God's awesome plan unfold.

Maura made the weekly trip from Sonoma State University—over an hour and a half away—simply to be a part of Cross Currents. The time that Eric and I were away, we had great confidence that Cross Currents was being well taken care of. Now 10 months later, Maura has moved into our home and has become one of Cross Currents' key pillars.

This past December, we went back to Colorado for the same Young Adult Retreat that had been the planning ground for Cross Currents. We all went knowing that God was going to reveal the next step for us to take.

It came in the form of a Scripture verse, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation" (Mark 16:15).

We had established a core group of believers within the youth, and now was the time to start reaching out to the lost.

Our first step was to establish a girl's mentor program. Eric's sports ministry has been doing really well and bringing in an abundance of boys, but few girls seemed interested in this form of fun. So we started

taking some girls out for coffee every Friday afternoon, or to visit a local nursing home, or just to hang out together. We have been amazed at how these girls have responded to this attention. What started out with just a few has grown into a good size group.

Another outreach was a concert that Cross Currents sponsored. A guy by the name of Christian Kanani came and put on a concert for us in the El Granada Mobile Home Park community room. The turnout was amazing—around 80 people.

A large group of Hispanic young people who live in the park showed up. We later found out that they were there to dodge the police who were looking for them because of a fight they had been involved in earlier. They thought they were there for a place to hide, but God knew they were really there for a place to be found.

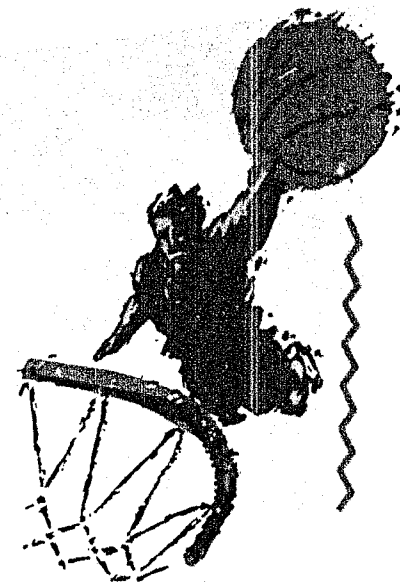
Around 15 youth accepted Christ into their lives that night. The message that the musician brought was one of a past involving gangs, drugs, etc. God knew it was a message they could relate to.

They talked to us about wanting out of the past and into a new future. Please be praying for these kids as they try to start a new life in the midst of the old.

Now, about two months after that concert, we have five of those youth coming to Cross Currents every week. They love coming over to our house to hang out and play pool and basketball before Cross Currents starts.

My mom has been amazing in all this. Every week she cooks dinner for between 20 to 30 of our youth who are coming straight from the sports or mentoring programs.

Another added blessing has come in God's providence of a permanent building since we have outgrown the



Eric invites youth to play either basketball or roller hockey every Friday before Cross Currents.

one we had been using. It seems like every week we have at least two new people show up. Praise God!

God has provided the leaders (young adults from our church and some from Half Moon Bay) to help with the abundance of youth now coming to Cross Currents. These leaders have supported us from the beginning, and each shows a commitment and love for the youth of H.M.B., even if it means traveling from over an hour away.

It has also been awesome to see the wide range of denominations that are represented in Cross Currents, and to see believers in Christ working side by side toward a common goal of reaching the youth with the message of God's love.

I am blessed beyond words by all that God is doing here and can only be amazed that I get to be a part of it. I ask for us, as a denomination, to uplift this ministry in our prayers as God continues to touch the lives of the youth of Half Moon Bay, Calif. **SR**



the BEACON

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

June 1999

Need a door? Eat spaghetti!

by Ginny Burdick and Heather Hemminger

Crash! Boom! Bang! The sound of hammering and "ska" music in the background creates an unlikely situation for a youth gathering. Not for the Seattle Area (Wash.) SDB Youth. Yes, Seattle Area does have a youth group!

raise money for a new door, and a feast it was!

The sounds of happy stomachs were heard throughout the room. It was first-class dining, a multi-course meal complete with waiters and

our goal. Our door is up, and the only thing left to do is relax. Well, at least until our next project!

So the next time you're reading about Noah and his 40 days and 40 nights of rain, think of us, the Seattle Area SDB Youth in the rainy Pacific Northwest.

"On that day all the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the flood-gates of the heavens were opened. And rain fell on the earth 40 days and 40 nights" (Genesis 7:11b-12, NIV). SR

We put together an Italian Feast to help raise money for a new door.

Not only are we knowledgeable theologians, but we're pretty good carpenters, too. (Or at least our Youth Pastor, Gary, is.) You may be wondering why the sounds of hammering are echoing through our church.

It all started in October, when a spontaneous door-breaking crisis erupted. A lively bunch of little girls, ranging in age from 6 to 12, were playing hide-and-seek in the basement when they accidentally tore the door to our classroom from the wall.

In December, it finally hit us—literally. We were sick and tired of all the noise and having the door constantly toppling over on us from its propped position in the doorway. We decided to take action.

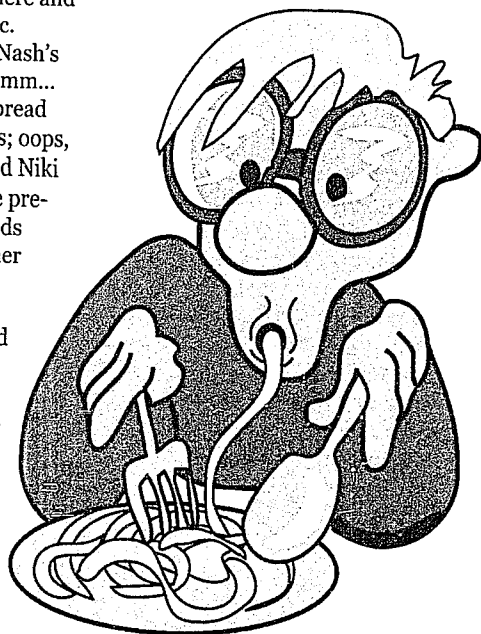
After months of strenuous thought, we finally came up with a game plan: FOOD. We would put together an Italian Feast to help

"pepper slingers." Our customers enjoyed the Italian atmosphere and the almost-live Italian music.

The entrée featured Jeff Nash's Famous Spaghetti Sauce. Mmm... was it good! The salad and bread were provided by Albertsons; oops, uh..., I mean Jeff Inabnit and Niki McDanol. The desserts were prepared by the competent hands of Ginny Burdick and Heather Hemminger.

After the fine dining, the games were brought out, and a good time was had by all. There were a variety of games from which one occasionally heard a chortle or giggle. Now and then a roar was heard from the intense game of Risk back in the corner. We had a lot of fun.

The Lord blessed us with donations, and we exceeded



Women's Society page by Donna Bond

Need some program ideas?

Since many of our Women's Societies plan their year's program during the summer, this might be an appropriate time to share program ideas from other Ladies' Aids. These ideas came from seven societies, coded as follows: **A**—Alfred, N.Y.; **AS**—Alfred Station, N.Y.; **D**—Daytona Beach, Fla.; **M**—Milton, Wis.; **R**—Riverside, Calif.; **S**—Shiloh, N.J.; and **W**—Westerly, R.I.

Bible studies

How to Give Away Your Faith (D)
Bible study of Conference theme (AS)
"Women of the Bible" (AS; S)

Special events

Annual Community Ladies
Birthday Luncheon (M)
"The Night Sky," with visit
to observatory (AS)
Presentation by Kanacadea Chorale (AS)
Quilts Show 'n' Tell (AS)
"A Visit from Our Own Martha Stewart" (AS)
"Martin the Cobbler" and "Life of Tacy
Hubbard" slide presentations (S)
Dessert party/display of collections
and hobbies (S)
Baccalaureate Service (A)

Featured speakers

Members' recollections of trip to
Italy/Holy Land (M)
Relative's involvement with
the Orphan Train (M)
"Books to Buy for the Family" by school
librarian (AS)
"Cake Decorating" by caterer (AS)
Conference reports from members (M; S)
Reports of SCSCers (S)

On-going practices

Small group sharing (S)
Each devotional leader shared own
inspired choice (R)
"Devotions and Prayer" (W)
Society newsletter (AS)
Gifts/notes at Christmas, birthdays, etc. (AS)

Perhaps you would like to participate in a national ministry. "Moms in Touch" is one possibility. A small group of mothers meet weekly to pray for each local school staff member by name, for their own children, and for their children's classmates.

Few of us have to look far to see the need for intercessory prayers for our schools. In fact, the town where I visited "Moms in Touch" last fall recently had a close call involving a gun. Police intervention and permanent expulsion prevented a tragedy

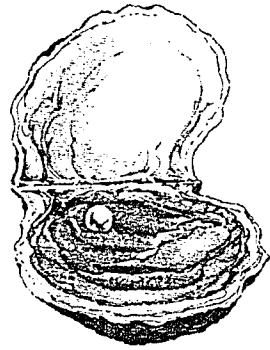
which could have involved some of "our" teens. Surely those dedicated ladies are praising God for answered prayer!

For more information about organizing a "Moms in Touch" group, write Moms in Touch, Intl., P.O. Box 1120, Poway, CA 92074-1120 or call (619) 486-4065.

Another possibility is "Weigh Down Workshop." For those of us who misuse food, the principles are simple: eat *only* when you are hungry, *stop* eating when you are satisfied, and *pray* when you are tempted

to meet emotional needs with food. Learn to love God more than you love food! To learn more about this program, call (800) 844-5208.

Finally, for a special holiday project, consider "Operation Christmas Child," a project of Samaritan's Purse (mentioned in the December *Recorder*). Individuals or groups could have fun filling shoeboxes with toys and practical items for children in war-torn countries overseas. Further information is available at (800) 353-5949 or on the web at www.samaritan.org. SR



Pearls from the Past by Don A. Sanford, historian

"We young folks are Seventh Day Baptists..."

When I first read the title of the recent book, *True to the Sabbath, True to Our God*, by Larry Graffius, my mind flashed back to my first Association church camp held 60 years ago on the banks of the Genesee River in Allegany County, New York.

I remembered the closing fellowship circle each night as we clasped hands and sang the "Young People's Rally Song" written by Elizabeth Fisher Davis in 1918. I sensed a certain pride in being a Seventh Day Baptist, and somewhere picked up the idea that being "true to the Sabbath" was one way to be "true to our God."

That first camp in 1939 was directed by a young pastor just out of seminary named Elmo Fitz Randolph. I would like to think that "Randy's" experience that year fixed in his mind and heart the value of church camp as he recruited other future ministers from the seminary in Alfred, N.Y., to serve as counse-



The 1939 Western Association Camp. The author is just to the right of the tree; Grandpa Shaw is far right.

share some of the events and people he had known in his ministry, which began in 1894. I did not realize it at the time, but he may have fixed in my mind the importance of a denominational history of which we can be proud.

Grandpa Shaw also exemplified the other part of the Youth Rally chorus: "And whether at home or a-far we shall roam, we'll guide our lives by His Word." He challenged us

stumped him. He knew his Bible!

Ten years later, after he had suffered a stroke which deprived him of his speech, he tried desperately to communicate the "rest of the story." We knew that he had more he wanted to tell.

Some of the words of the original Rally Song have been changed. We now sing "United from Cali to Rhody, the state whence our forefathers came," instead of "Scattered from Texas to Rhody." We have also added a fourth verse which recognizes that "With Christ as our head we go forward..." Yet the basic affirmation of purpose can still be echoed by each generation who takes the words seriously.

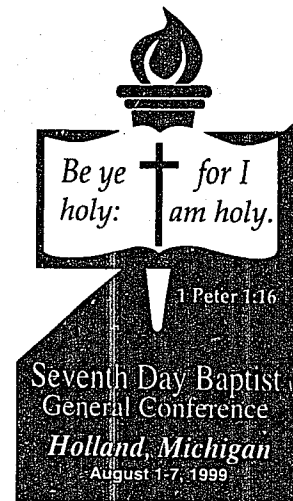
I now lack just three years of the age that Grandpa Shaw had attained when he shared his life experiences with the youth of his time. It is my constant hope and prayer that what I do as historian can help make us proud to be Seventh Day Baptists who are both "true to the Sabbath and true to our God." **SR**

I did not realize it at the time, but Grandpa Shaw may have fixed in my mind the importance of a denominational history of which we can be proud.

lors. But one of his recruits was not so young.

Rev. George B. Shaw, affectionately called "Grandpa Shaw," was a valued member of the staff. Each afternoon he had a story hour to

campers to read a selection from the Bible, and then he would tell us where it was found—often chapter and verse. Sometimes we would have to read more than one or two verses, but we seldom



One of the unexpected benefits of serving as Conference president has been the opportunity to glean new ideas from others, and I'd like to pass along a few for your consideration.

Stewardship on a bigger scale

Along with Hebrew history, the book of Numbers contains many archaic instructions for the Israelites that have no relevance to us in the late 20th century. Or do they?

In Chapter 18, Aaron explains God's system of tithes and offerings to support the work of the priesthood. The ordinary folk were to bring a tithe to the Levites, the priestly tribe. Moses (not Aaron, you'll notice, because that would seem to be self-serving) then tells the Levites to take a tenth of whatever they receive and present it to Aaron, who is the High Priest.

If we substitute "church" for Levites and "denomination" for Aaron, perhaps we can see a workable model for all of us as we contribute to our individual churches, and from there to the larger work of the denomination.

Maybe you don't believe that God blesses tithing churches just as He blesses us as individuals. I encourage you to re-read Stanley Allen's fine article in the April *Sabbath Recorder*. The floodgates of heaven may be just waiting to pour out blessings for us as a people.

The President's Page

Presidential benefits and blessings

by Norma Rudert

Our focus should not be on what the denomination can do for us, but on what we can do for the denomination. (This has a familiar ring to it!) Even small churches can be part of what binds us together as Seventh Day Baptists.

SDB churches: what a variety!

Another blessing for me has been the opportunity to worship with a variety of churches with quite different styles. We've been in small rural churches and large urban ones, on dirt roads and by the expressways, joining in praise songs with a band and singing hymns a cappella.

There have been short services that dismiss on the dot, and all-day

sure you that our people are going to help, encourage, and pray for you.

I know, my job isn't over yet—those business sessions may present some challenges in August. But I remember how fearful Gideon was when God called him. He was told, "Go in the strength you have! Am I not sending you?"

Every step of the way, God's promises never fail. So when that representative from Nominations Committee comes to you, remember Philippians 4:13 and just say "Yes."

Hope, Holland, and holiness

I look forward to greeting many of you at Hope College in Holland, Mich. It's a lovely, tree-shaded campus. But even nicer than the natural

I believe that members of the college and community will know who Seventh Day Baptists are: a considerate, kind, joy-filled and Christ-like people.

fellowships; mostly white, and mostly black congregations.

The one feature our churches have in common is genuine love for the Lord and for each other. What else really matters?

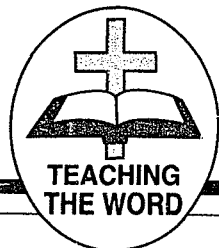
To our next president-elect

Finally, a message to someone out there in "SDB Land," where our next president-elect could be reading this: Tradition indicates that you are a lay man or woman. Experience tells me that you will feel overwhelmed when you are asked to serve. You may doubt your abilities. May I as-

beauty of the area is the beautiful, godly spirit shown to our Host Committee by administrators and students alike. After our Conference there is over, I believe that members of that college and community will know who Seventh Day Baptists are: a considerate, kind, joy-filled and Christ-like people.

My prayer is that all of our study, worship, and fellowship during General Conference will leave us more committed than ever to living the holy lives for which God has set us apart.

"Be holy, because I am holy." **SR**



New Executive Director appointed

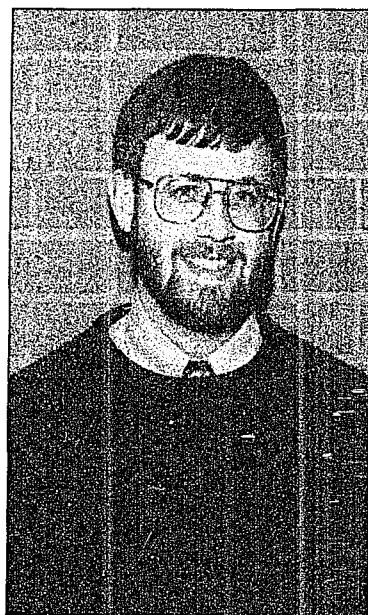
by Kenneth D. Chroniger

The Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education takes pleasure in announcing the appointment of the Rev. Andrew J. Camenga as the new Executive Director effective January 1, 2000.

Pastor Camenga will follow a long line of distinguished SDB leaders who have filled the executive position: Harley H. Sutton, Albert N. Rogers (Acting), Ronald I. Hargis, Benjamin R. Crandall (Interim), Neal D. Mills, Rex E. Zwiebel, David S. Clarke, Mary G. Clare, and Ernest K. Bee Jr.

Camenga comes from serving the pastorate of the Seventh Day Baptist Church in Adams Center, N.Y., since 1995. He graduated from Houghton (N.Y.) College in 1992 with a bachelor of science degree, Magna Cum Laude, and received a master of divinity degree from Eastern Menomine Seminary in 1995.

He has been prepared experientially through being a part of a de-



Rev. Andrew Camenga

Baptists as SDBYF treasurer, through dedicated service with the Allegheny Association, as a member of the

Christian Ed, as Summer Intern with the North Loup, Neb., church, and as Summer Pastor of the Richburg, N.Y., church. He has also served as a camp counselor at Camps Jersey Oaks, Harley Sutton, Lewis, Wakonda, Riverview, Holston, and Joy.

In voicing his concerns about Christian Education service, Pastor Camenga wrote:

"Education plays a crucial role in the life of the church. It extends into every activity. Doctrine, practice, and knowledge deteriorate without it. Education is necessary for churches to recognize, develop, and use their God-given spiritual gifts.

"Economic and social pressures are causing people to move. Seventh Day Baptists must understand that they have a 'portable faith.' We must create a stronger understanding of why Seventh Day Baptists believe what they do. We must create a greater appreciation of why Seventh Day Baptists function as they do."

The Board of Christian Education covets your prayers for the ministry of Christian Education in our denomination. We invite you to set aside time each day to ask God's blessing on our new appointee to receive wisdom to follow the Father's will for this agency beyond the year 2000. **SR**

Kenneth Chroniger is president of the Board of Christian Education, based in Alfred Station, N.Y.

"Education plays a crucial role in the life of the church. It extends into every activity. Doctrine, practice, and knowledge deteriorate without it."

—Rev. Andrew Camenga

nominationally-centered pastor's family. His parents are the Rev. John and Linda (Van Horn) Camenga of Daytona Beach, Fla.

Camenga has served Seventh Day

Youth Committee and a director of the SDB Board of Christian Education, a participant in Summer Christian Service Corps, as Summer Director of Youth Ministry for the Board of



Rev. John Conrod, along with his wife, Joyce, accomplish a great work in the mission field (both abroad and at home) through his publication *The Fisherman's Net*. They also help by replying to contacts from many countries as well as some in the United States. A fabricated interview with John might go this way.

Focus: What is the history of *The Fisherman's Net*?

John: *The Fisherman's Net* Seventh Day Baptist Newsletter began in 1994 at our Conference headquarters, the SDB Center in Janesville, Wis. One small newsletter was sent out that year to those who expressed interest in it.

In May of 1995, a monthly newsletter entitled *The Fisherman's Net* was begun. This has expanded to a weekly e-mailing to 340 subscribers, with a slightly different issue posted on the World Wide Web. In turn, some of these subscribers post their copies of *The Fisherman's Net* in the religious forums of their own internet providers, such as Compuserve and America On Line. Thus the total readership of the newsletter is unknown.

Focus: What other activities on the web are you involved in?

John: Other web sites have been set up which give additional information about Seventh Day Baptists, plus links to the web sites of other SDB

churches. A special site also links all of our churches' House of Worship web pages of the American Bible Society at <http://www.scn.org/~conrod/hows.htm>. Counters on various *Fisherman's Net* web pages reveal that quite a few people are reading information about Seventh Day Baptists every day.

The web page for Stained Glass (an SDB youth musical group) now has WAV samples from their albums and is located at <http://www.geocities.com/Nashville/Opry/2720/>.

Focus: Is it difficult to keep *The Fisherman's Net* on the web?

John: Our newsletter has had a history of change, and the location on the web is no exception. The computer service for handicapped people called Colorado Meeting Place no longer exists because funding for it ran out, along with the listserv that *Fisherman's Net* was using. The mailing was switched to a commercial listserv provided by Conrod Technical Services until increased charges and lack of necessary funding made it too costly. The free site provided

by Seattle Community Network is now our primary web location.

We presently post the newsletter on the Denver Houses of Worship Service (HOWS) web site, where it can be sent out by e-mail. We use a local cable company for a 24-hour LAN web connection, bypassing the need to use a phone modem connection. Although somewhat expensive, we believe it will be more economical in the long run. (This is available without having to order cable television.) Our various publications and SDB web sites are now linked together at <http://www.scn.org/~conrod/fish.htm>, so old site links need to be updated.

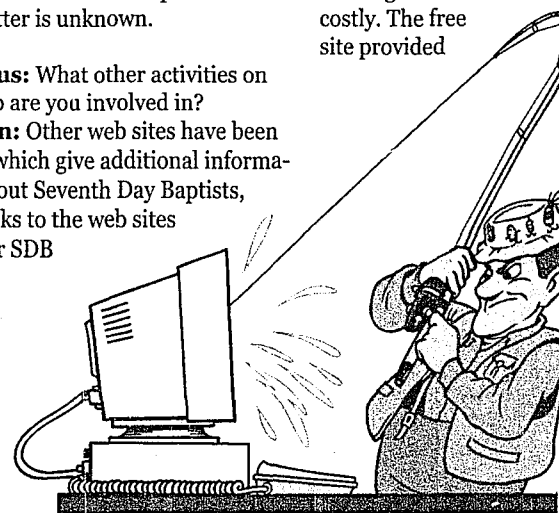
Focus: How have your services changed over the past few years?

John: An important addition to *The Fisherman's Net* web ministries is the ability to read a translation of our various sites in five other languages—French, German, Italian, Portuguese, or Spanish.

Focus: Are there any specific ways in which the members of our Conference can be of help?

John: As we find it constantly more costly and physically demanding to continue this ever-expanding ministry, we remain deeply grateful to the Lord and all who loyally support us with prayers and financial assistance. Please let us know of other Seventh Day Baptist pages and web sites that would make good links.

John, thank you for this information. We appreciate all you do for the denomination and His Kingdom, and we pray that your ministries will flourish. **SR**





The 1999 teams

by Jeanne Dickinson

within the churches. There are also some new areas being explored, such as jail ministry, community teen centers, community service and evangelism, and an individual who will be combining a mission trip to Jamaica with his SCSC project.

A strong emphasis on evangelism is evident among the projects, reaching out to the community with God's love and the good news of Jesus Christ. It is encouraging and exciting to talk with some of the project directors and to sense the underlying (and, in some cases, very overt) excitement and vision they have for this summer's ministry opportunities.

The most important ingredient of the SCSC program is prayer. We ask that you pray for all those involved and for those whose lives will be touched through this ministry. Pray also for spiritual growth in these young people who are dedicating their summer to service, and who want the Lord to work in and through them. And pray for the training staff, project directors, host churches, committee members, and

most importantly, that those who know and serve the Lord will be strengthened, and those who do not know Him will be reached.

Since we are always looking for ways to keep the costs of the program down, we once again are asking each SCSCer to raise \$200 toward his or her own expenses. The cost of providing transportation, training materials, meals, and insurance averages about \$1,000 per team member, so this year the total estimated cost is \$25,000.

Please consider giving generously to this ministry. Donations may be sent to Marie Davis, Treasurer of the Women's Board, 38 Cook Rd., Bridgeton, NJ 08302.

If you would like to have more information about the SCSC program, or have suggestions for the SCSC Committee, please contact Jeanne Dickinson, SCSC Committee Chairman. Her address is:

1256 Roadstown Rd.
Bridgeton, NJ 08302
Phone: (609) 455-5137
E-mail: mrdjr@prodigy.net

The SDB Women's Board is anticipating an exciting and challenging summer, with 25 team members and 12 projects in the Summer Christian Service Corps (SCSC).

Project Directors will be in training at Jersey Oaks Camp, Shiloh, N.J., from June 17-21. The 10 veteran and 15 rookie team members will be in training June 18-25. Althea Rood of Dodge Center, Minn., is the Training Coordinator for the 1999 program.

The projects this year include many of the traditional ministry opportunities such as Vacation Bible School (VBS), camps, and involvement in worship and youth activities

•Battle Creek, Mich.

Marcy Payne, Dodge Center, Minn.
Jeff Sinclair, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
P.D. (Project Director)—Kory Geske

•Boulder, Colo.

Joanna Halter, Marlboro, N.J.
Nathanael Lawton, Little Genesee, N.Y.
P.D.—Rev. David Thorngate

•Central, Md.

Keith Ashley, Toronto
Patrick London, Toronto
P.D.—Pratt Chroniger

•Daytona Beach, Fla.

John Mark Camenga, Daytona Beach
Cathy Rogers, Belpre, Ohio
P.D.—Marie Ward

•Lost Creek, W.Va.

Karen McPherson, Boca Raton, Fla.
Christina Shearer, White Cloud, Mich.
P.D.—Jay Anderson

•Marlboro, N.J.

Steve Graffius, Marlboro
P.D.—Jeanne Dickinson

•Milton, Wis.

Ben Calhoun, Milton
Nathan Davis, Indianapolis, Ind.
Jennifer Osborn, Rhome, Texas
P.Ds.—Rev. George and Lannette Calhoun

•North Loup, Neb.

Debbie Moncrief, Shiloh, N.J.
Sharai Fyffe, Toronto
P.D.—Helen Goodrich

•Riverside, Calif.

Angie Neher, Dodge Center
Paula Reynolds, Toronto
P.D.—Eric Davis

•Seattle, Wash.

Nathan Walker, Ankeny, Iowa
Jamaal Fyffe, Toronto
P.D.—Kathy Nash

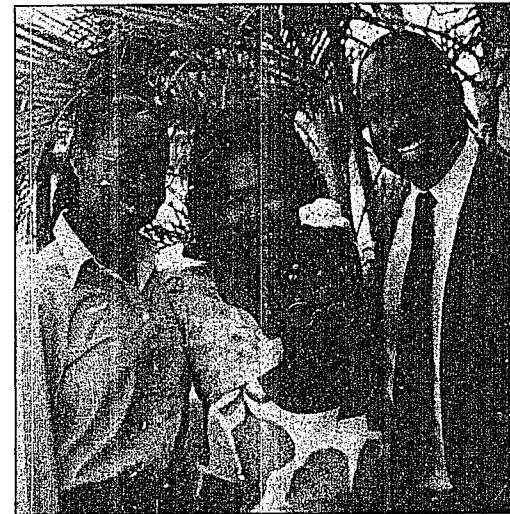
•Verona, N.Y.

Marissa Van Horn, Reynoldsburg, Ohio
Steven Pimple, Riverside
P.Ds.—Mallison Petrie and Debbie James

•White Cloud, Mich.

Omari Rhoden, Toronto
Nicole Gilmore, Toronto
Justin Hibbard, Millersville, Md.
P.D.—Ed Cruzan

Pastor Profile



Name:

Andrew Samuels

Birthdate and place:

June 11, 1962 Kingston, Jamaica

Current pastorate:

Miami, Fla., SDB Church

Family:

Wife of 16 years (7/17/83) Kay; and two daughters, Tsahai, 15, and Tsafig, 9.

Education:

Wolmer's Boys' School, Kingston, Jamaica; T.I.M.E. Program; Bachelor of Science, Miami Christian College; graduate studies at Knox Theological Seminary.

Former pastorates/employment:

New York City SDB church.
Customer Service Representative for Homeowner's Marketing Services.
Substitute Teacher for Dade County Public Schools.
Research Analyst for Kislak Mortgage Corporation.
Research Analyst for Shearson Lehman Brothers.
Foreign Service Officer for the Jamaican Government at the United Nations.

My first job was:

Reading water meters in Montego Bay, Jamaica.

Personal hero:

Dwight L. Moody

Favorite Bible passage:

Philippians 4:8

Favorite author:

John Maxwell

Most people don't know (about me):

I was a debating champion in high school.

When I have time, I enjoy:

Playing soccer and dominoes.

A great answer to prayer was:

The acquiring of our church building.

A church project I'm excited about:

The intentional development and unleashing of lay leaders in the church.

My vision for SDBs:

That we become cutting edge people in ministry, boldly proclaiming the kingdom of God and making an impact in the places where God has placed us. In order to accomplish that, we need to be more outward-focused.

SDB youths fast for World Vision

Making our mark in Salem

by Ruthanne Cain

February was a rather ordinary month until the last weekend. That's when members of my Serendipity class in Salem, W.Va., (Amanda Bland, Lydia Davis, Julie Sias, Jessie Goodson, Marie Martin, Rose Miller, and I) were involved in a project which was all about saving kids' lives.

Through an organization called World Vision, we gave up food for 30 hours to raise money to help starving children. World-wide, some 33,000 children die of starvation every single day. Some may find it unbelievable that so many children die every 24 hours from such a simple, "curable" cause. But it's true.

When we undertook this task, we not only raised money, but we also learned what these children feel like when they go without food. "Juice Breaks" were given every three hours, but all of us were still very hungry.

To help contribute to the grumbling in our stomachs, we collected nonperishable items and visited area food pantries. This helped us to not only understand hunger in foreign countries, but hunger in our own communities. We did, however, devote most of our time to studying other cultures, to see how the kids we were trying to help are forced to live.

Some of these children must search through garbage dumps, without shoes, in order to find recyclables to sell. Others have to walk four miles to work on plantations that pay two dollars a day for hard labor.

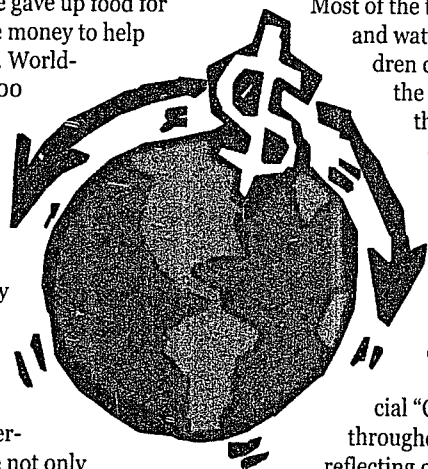
It moved me to realize how much these children must go through just to stay alive from one day to the next.

Most of the time, we sit back and watch these children die, thinking that the task to save them is simply too overwhelming—too large to even bother with. But our Serendipity class looked at it another way. We had special "Candle Times" throughout the day, reflecting on world hunger and praying for those in need.

We might not have saved 33,000 children from death, but we did rescue hundreds with the \$1,000-plus we raised.

We are grateful to all of those who donated money to our cause. Next year, we hope to raise even more.

How do we sum up that weekend? We learned that, overall, we might not have made a gigantic difference. But to those few children we were able to help, we gave them hope because we gave them life. **SR**



Living in boxes in Little Genesee

by Heidi Kinnicutt

From "The Belfry," newsletter of the Little Genesee, N.Y., SDB Church.

Every year our youth get together and raise money to send to World Vision, a group that raises funds through different projects and sends it to nations all over the world. The money goes toward food, education, vaccinations, and other needs.

This year the youth group had seven teenagers participating. Together, we raised over \$1,000 to help support World Vision's ministry. Over the past six years, we have raised an average of about \$700 per year.

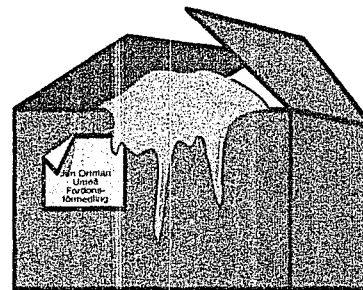
For our planned famine, we had to go 30 hours without solid food. We lived off juices and water for 30 straight hours.

Throughout the course of the fast, we learned about the different areas

Even if you do something "small," you still can make a difference in someone's life.

where World Vision has helped. We saw how some families were assisted by World Vision. We also saw reactions from some of the people who volunteer to help the organization.

At one point, we spent about 15



minutes in cardboard boxes so we could get a feel for how homeless people live. We had four boxes, and we all had to stay in them until our pastor's wife, Linda Lawton, said we could go back into the church. Once inside, we discussed what we would have to do for food if we were actually homeless. It was a real learning experience for all of us.

For our service project, we had planned to serve brunch at a church, but it was postponed because of snow. So, instead of the brunch, we shoveled out driveways. We bundled up and headed out to find snowed-in drives to shovel.

We broke the fast by eating at Little Caesar's in Wellsville. Our pizza was pre-ordered so we could just go in and eat at 3:00 p.m. All of us were happy to finally get something solid into our systems!

Although we were hungry, we managed to get through the 30 hours. That made each of us feel good because we helped a lot of people. It goes to show that even if you only do something "small" like this, you still can make a difference in someone's life.

We youth would like to thank everyone who sponsored us. You helped us leave marks on a lot of needy lives. **SR**

YF assists the City Mission

From the "Church Chimes," newsletter of the Riverside, Calif., SDB Church.

"God is good! All the time!"

The Lord continues to bless our young people in Riverside, and the YF continues to grow spiritually, socially, and numerically. Many good things have been happening, with more great things in store for the future.

On February 26-27, the YF participated in World Vision's Annual 30-Hour Planned Famine. Thirteen YFers and three adults went without food for 30 hours to raise money and awareness for the world's hungry.

On Friday night, we attended an evangelistic concert where five YFers went forward to rededicate their lives to the Lord. Not only was it a great evening of music and spiritual challenge, but it also helped pass the time while our stomachs growled.

Sabbath Day we all attended worship after spending the night in the church. In the afternoon, we canvassed the neighborhood, collecting over 200 cans of food for the Riverside City Mission.

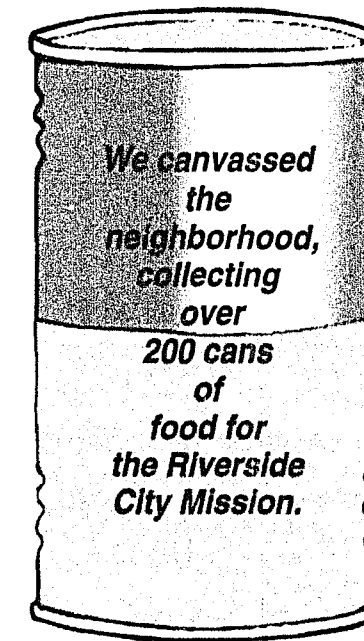
The Famine ended with a Bible Study about fasting and a joyous time of worship, followed by a delicious meal prepared by Ana and Bill Clark. Thanks to all who participated, helped, and donated funds. The YF raised over \$1,700 for World Vision.

On March 6, the YF and other church members fed hot dogs to the homeless in Fairmount Park. Twenty-nine people attended to lend support to the good work being done among the homeless by the City Mission.

Two more service projects were held in conjunction with the Mission. Food was collected to give out food boxes to the hungry for Easter. Also on Easter Sunday, we assisted the Mission in serving a hot breakfast to the homeless.

On March 27, we held a "Celebrity Dinner" to raise funds for Day One and for Conference. Youth waiters and waitresses dressed up as a favorite celebrity, and customers were asked to pay for each item of their meal—from silverware to croutons, to entree to salt and pepper. Many came and were entertained.

—Pastor Eric Davis



Victor and Ardale Skaggs celebrate 60 years

by Lynne Balog

June 25, 1999, will be a day of celebration in Boulder, Colo., as the Skaggs children and grandchildren gather to honor Rev. Victor and Ardale Skaggs on their 60th wedding anniversary.

Victor Whitney Skaggs and Ardale Martha Coon were married on June 25, 1939, at her parents' home in DeRuyter, N.Y. They were married by Victor's father, Rev. James L. Skaggs, and Ardale's uncle, Rev. Neal Mills. Victor's brother, Leland Skaggs, and his sister, Margaret Skaggs Bond, were the attendants. Margaret experienced an appendicitis attack in the middle of the

ceremony, but managed to lean on the piano and make it through the service. (I'm sure that's one wedding she'll never forget!)

After finishing at Salem (W.Va.) College, Victor and Ardale headed for Alfred, N.Y., to attend seminary. Through the years, they have served as pastor and wife in churches in Berea, W.Va.; New Market and Plainfield, N.J.; Little Genesee, Alfred Station, and Verona, N.Y.; Albion and Milton Junction, Wis.; and North Loup, Neb.

Victor also served as Corresponding Secretary of the American Sabbath Tract Society and as Dean of

the Center on Ministry, both in Plainfield. He was Conference president in 1960.

Wherever they were, Victor and Ardale served as a team. They now reside in Longmont, Colo., where



Victor and Ardale Skaggs were married on June 25, 1939, in DeRuyter, N.Y.

they are active in the Boulder SDB Church.

The Skaggs children include Nina (Joe), Janice (Keith), Lynne, and Patrick (Debbie). They, along with seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren, offer much thanks to God for Victor and Ardale. They are grateful for the love their parents have shared, and for the example they have lived these 60 plus years!

As part of the celebration, the family will spend several days at camp, reminiscing and making new memories. To make this day even more special to Victor and Ardale, we encourage you to shower them with cards and greetings. Their address is:

Rev. and Mrs. Victor Skaggs
900 Mountain View Ave., #258
Longmont, CO 80501 SR

brief program. Guest gospel soloist Winsome Douglas sang three solos, and Pastor Andrew Samuels of the Miami, Fla., SDB Church spoke of the importance of sowing treasures in heaven. Afterwards, Sister Nova West continued speaking on the same theme.

Other members of the church who spoke included Sisters Melda Foster, Lorna Coleman, and Marion Donaldson; Deaconess Thice Miller, and Brother James Alexander. Sister Monica Thompson made a presentation to the Stewarts on behalf of the church.

Deaconess Stewart has been a faithful and valuable mentor to the new branch church. Deacon Stewart, although a member of the New York City church, has visited the Faith Branch Church and been an asset.

Our church will miss the Stewarts, but they "fought a good fight" and now move on to serve in the warm Jamaican vineyard. A special tribute was written and presented to them by Deacon Harold Elliott. SR

Couple heads back to Jamaica

by Juneta West



Deacon and Deaconess Leonard and Vera Stewart receive a special tribute at their going-away party.

On Sunday, January 17, 1999, the Faith Bronx Branch of the New York City Seventh Day Baptist Church, said "good-bye" and "thank you" to Deacon Leonard and Deaconess Vera Stewart.

The church put on a delicious dinner and, after the meal, church leader Deacon Llewellyn West chaired a

Pastor Keith Julson, 1962-1998

Keith Raymond Julson, 36, pastor of the Outreach Bible Church SDB in Portage, Wis., died unexpectedly on December 28, 1998, at his home in Endeavor, Wis.

He was born in Whitehall, Wis., on February 10, 1962, the son of Glen and Patricia (Tomah) Julson. On August 13, 1980, he married Darcy Smalley in Baraboo, Wis.

Keith was a member of the Portage Ministerial Association and was involved with the church Conference and "Cutting Edge Ministries," an outreach program for teens. He was also the assistant chairman of the North Central Evangelism Committee and worked for Dealers Manufacturing until it closed in 1998. He enjoyed basket-



Pastor Keith enjoying one of his favorite pastimes.

ball and fishing, and the love of his family. Survivors include his wife, Darcy, of Endeavor; two sons, Jeremiah and Jacob, and one daughter, Jessica, all at home; three brothers, David, John and Darrell of Whitehall; two sisters, Debbie Herbert of Holmen, Wis., and Rose Bolling of Gleason, Wis.; aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Gary.

Funeral services were held on December 31, 1998, at the Portage Presbyterian Church, with the Rev. Ron Elston officiating. Burial was in the U.P. Cemetery in Buffalo Township, Marquette County. SR

Young, quiet leader remembered by Outreach Church member

by Daron Smalley

Pastor Keith Julson was one of the founding members of the Outreach Bible Church in Portage, Wis., which started meeting in private homes for Sabbath services in 1992.

Keith was a quiet leader, and his commitment to seeing our group grow and mature in Christ was a vision he shared with all of us. His faith, though, was most often demonstrated through his love for those he came in contact with.

David Hankins, pastor of the Portage Presbyterian Church, said Keith "was a quiet, soft-spoken, unpretentious fellow, yet also a person with strong convictions of faith and life."

During meetings of the Portage Area Ministerial Association, Keith would listen and then interject his thoughts, often beginning with, "I'm not a scholar or anything, but..."

According to Hankins, "Keith had this way of cutting through all the

'isms' that seem so predominant in theology and getting right to the heart of the matter. He reminded us that this Gospel of Jesus Christ is quite simple in its message, and we need to keep it that way."

Keith was called into the ministry by the Portage church in 1993 and

continue his vocational job or to dedicate himself to full-time ministry. When the factory he worked at closed in November of 1998, he felt this was God's "signal" for him to serve Him fully. Then on December 28, 1998, the Lord called Keith into full-time ministry in His Court.

Keith was a quiet leader, and his commitment to seeing our group grow and mature in Christ was a vision he shared with all of us.

faithfully fulfilled his pastoral duties, all the while maintaining his full-time job so as not to be a financial burden to us. Although he had a drive to see everyone saved by the Lord, he had a special desire to see young people reached by the Gospel.

Keith struggled with whether to

We are trusting in the Lord through this loss, and remind each other that God's ways and thoughts are higher than ours (Isaiah 55:8-9).

Please continue to pray for Keith's family. And pray for us as we carry on Pastor Keith's vision and zeal for the Lord's church here in Portage. SR

Accessions

Berlin, NY

Matthew Olson, pastor

Joined by letter

Mike Barber

Bob Michaels

Elaine Michaels

Jon Michaels

Joshua Michaels

Joined after baptism

Cassie Clifford

Nick Davis

Bonnie Hempstead

Linsie Hempstead

Meghan Hempstead

Matt Oppen

Joined after testimony

Dave Hempstead

Boulder, CO

David Thorngate, pastor

Joined after testimony

Jana Johnson

Steve Johnson

Little Genesee, NY

Gordon Lawton, pastor

Joined after baptism

Rebecca Cudahy

Joined by letter

Virginia N. Burdick

Texarkana, AR

Mynor Soper, pastor

Joined after baptism

Karen Gammons

Troy Gammons

Greg Richards

Laura Richards

Tyler Richards

Evan Soper

Mynor Soper III

Jonathan Webb

Steven Whitehead

Westerly, RI

David Taylor, pastor

Joined after baptism

Cheryl Hunt

Births

Griffin.—A son, Nicolas Clayton Griffin, was born to Shane and Kirsti Griffin of Texarkana, AR, on August 21, 1998.

McKay.—A son, John Delmar McKay, was born to Brian and Kim (Ellis) McKay of Moriah, NY, on April 7, 1999.

Osborn.—A daughter, Gabrielle Faith, was born to Pastor Steve and Angie (Butts) Osborn of Lost Creek, WV, on April 13, 1999.

Chroniger.—A daughter, Madge Elizabeth Chroniger, was born to Pastor Ken and Peggy (Sutton) Chroniger of Alfred Station, NY, on May 5, 1999.

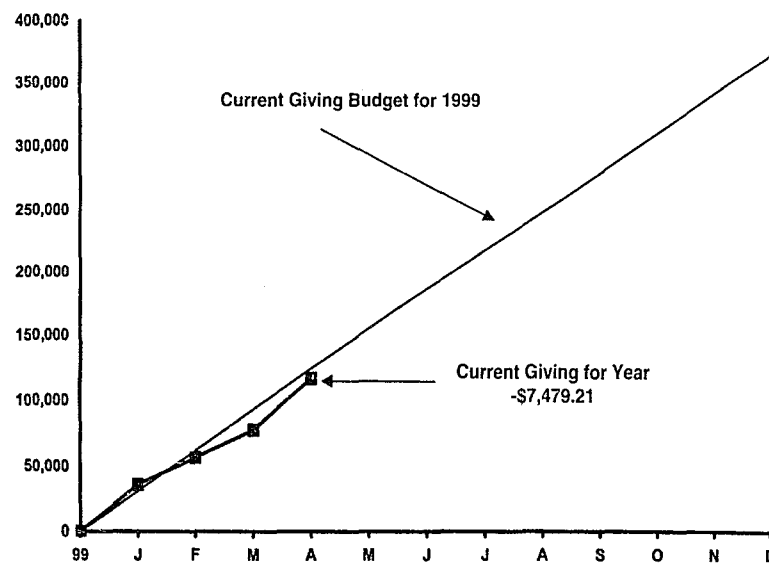
Marriages

Meyer - Smalley.—Jason M. Meyer and Shari E. Smalley were united in marriage on September 5, 1998, at the Portage, WI, Presbyterian Church. Pastor Keith Julson officiated.

Moore - Lantz.—William Moore and Katrina Lantz were united in marriage on April 10, 1999, at the Lost Creek, WV, Seventh Day Baptist Church. Pastor Steve Osborn officiated.

Smalley - McReath.—Christopher G. Smalley and Lauren C. McReath were united in marriage on April 24, 1999, at Trinity United Methodist Church, Montello, WI. Pastor Dale Smalley officiated. There was a special dedication to the memory of the late Pastor Keith Julson.

Current Giving 1999



Obituaries

Buckley.—Sidney Chester Buckley, 64, of Texarkana, Ark., died on June 7, 1998, at his home. He was born on September 12, 1933, in Miller County, Ark. He was retired from the Red River Army Depot, a part-time employee of AAA Limo Service, and a member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife, Juanita (Mitchell) Buckley of Texarkana; two sons, Jimmie and Jeffrey, both of Texarkana; two grandchildren, one aunt, and a number of nieces and nephews.

Graveside services were held on June 9, 1998, in East Memorial Gardens, with the Rev. Mynor Soper officiating.

Hendrickson.—Billy Dean Hendrickson, 49, of Belfair, Wash., died on November 2, 1998. He was born in Guyman, Okla., raised in North Little Rock, Ark., and graduated from Sylvan Hills High School. He served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam conflict.

Billy was baptized by Rev. Marion Van Horn at Siloam Springs, Ark., when the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference was held there. Shortly after his baptism, he became one of the charter members of the SDB Church of Little Rock, Ark. Survivors include his mother, Jeanne Hendrickson, and one son, Jared, both of North Little Rock; one daughter, Shannon Hudlow of Port Orchard, Wash.; and two grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on November 4 at Rill Chapel. Interment was at Tahoma National Cemetery in Washington State.

Thorngate.—Sam-Kih Min Thorngate, 79, died on March 8, 1999, at the Park Lane in Monterey, Calif.

She was born on May 5, 1919, in Korea, and moved to Monterey in

1953. She became an American citizen in 1960. Her husband was George Thorngate Sr., an SDB missionary to China and prominent Monterey physician who died in 1991.

Mrs. Thorngate attended Tokyo Imperial University and, after World War II, worked for the U.S. military in Korea. In 1948, she immigrated to the U.S. and studied at Hofstra College in Hempstead, N.Y. She earned a master's degree in education at Adelphi College in Long Island. She taught Korean at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey from 1953 until retiring in 1979.

Mrs. Thorngate enjoyed writing. She also enjoyed listening to music and regularly attended concerts held by the Monterey Symphony.

Survivors include four sisters and two brothers; four stepsons, George Thorngate of Pebble Beach, Calif., Philip and David Thorngate, both of Monterey, and Stephen Thorngate of Park Falls, Wis.; 14 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren.

Private funeral services were held by the family.

Wells.—Willard G. Wells, 83, of Boulder, Colo., died on March 13, 1999, at Boulder Community Hospital.

He was born on January 20, 1916, in Battle Creek, Mich., the son of Gerald C. and Hazel (Baker) Wells. He moved to Boulder County in 1946. On May 27, 1944, he married Mary Hummel in Boulder.

Willard was a farmer. He also worked for 15 years at Boulder's Wardenburg Health Center, and spent five years making furniture at Design Products. He served in Northern Italy in Company A, 313th Medical Battalion, from 1945-46.

He was a faithful deacon of the Boulder Seventh Day Baptist Church, and also belonged to the Boulder's

Questers group, the Boulder County Cattlemen's Association, and Pleasant View Grange No. 164.

Survivors include his wife, Mary; one son, Willard E. Wells; two daughters, Jennie Lou Munn of McGregor, Texas, and Geneva A. Ferrera of Broomfield, Colo.; four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held on March 16, 1999, at the Boulder SDB Church, with the Rev. David Thorngate officiating. Inurnment was in Mountain View Memorial Park, Boulder.

Gillan.—Rhoda S. (Thompson)

Gillan, 79, of West Kingston, R.I., died on April 10, 1999.

She was born on October 10, 1919, in Pawcatuck, Conn., the daughter of William Ezra and Louella (Morgan) Thompson. She was a member of the Rockville, R.I., SDB Church.

Survivors include her husband, Walter D. Gillan; six daughters, Marie Gordon and Christine Gillan, both of West Kingston, Carolyn Briggs of Charlestown, R.I., June Card of Rockville, Sandra Weiner of New York, and Heidi Gillan of Hopkinton, R.I.; four sisters, Cora Colprit of Pawcatuck, Edith Martel of Jewett City, Conn., and Elsie Smith and Iva Martell, both of Westerly, R.I.; and three brothers, Ezra Thompson of Newport, R.I., and Almont and Willart Thompson, both of Pawcatuck.

Mrs. Gillan was predeceased by two sons, Walter D. Gillan III and Eugene L. Gillan; two daughters, Hazel M. and Donna Marie Gillan; four sisters, Myrtle Perin, Dorothy Maine, Ethel Harrington, and Cynthia Thompson; and two brothers, Clarence and William Thompson.

Graveside services were conducted on April 12, 1999, in Ashaway, R.I. The Rev. David Taylor officiated.

Dear Editor Butler,

I wish to commend you on the April 1999 edition of *The SR*.

I was blessed with The Beacon's practical lessons for today's Christians. Especially the following:

"God always gives His people direction." "Praise God nothing can separate us from His love!" "The Battle belongs to the Lord, and He always wins!"

Thank you & God's Blessings.

Barbara LaFrance
Westerly, RI

To the editor:

I receive your *SR* and have enjoyed it. In the May issue however, there was an article comparing SDBs with SDAs. Was this really necessary? The Bible

states that he who compares himself with someone else is not wise. I know the article said that people often mistake your group with Adventists, but is that any reason to publish something to try and make your group seem doctrinally more correct?

I was very disappointed to read this article. In the past, I have read some things that the Adventists have said about your denomination, but it has always been done in the nicest way.

Every denomination has beliefs that are imperfect, because we as a people are imperfect. But we (all believers in Jesus) are members of one another, therefore pray for them instead. The Holy Spirit is able to show people what is right so you do not need to be con-

cerned if someone confuses you with an SDA.

Some would say that having a woman pastor is wrong (Pastor Profile), but you would not want them to publish anything that could be taken as a stand against you. Please let me also state that no one is worshipping Ellen White. I have fellowshiped (I'm not a member) at three SDA churches in my area, and no one has said anything out of proper context about her. What changes they have made from the past should be used to give glory to the Lord.

If we as a people don't learn how to love one another, then we will have no witness on the earth.

Bonita Cowell
Portsmouth, VA

Dear Kevin,

As a Seventh Day Adventist elder, I've been receiving *The Sabbath Recorder* for a year and just love it. Thanks so much for sharing it with me. I received the May issue yesterday and, again, I was blessed.

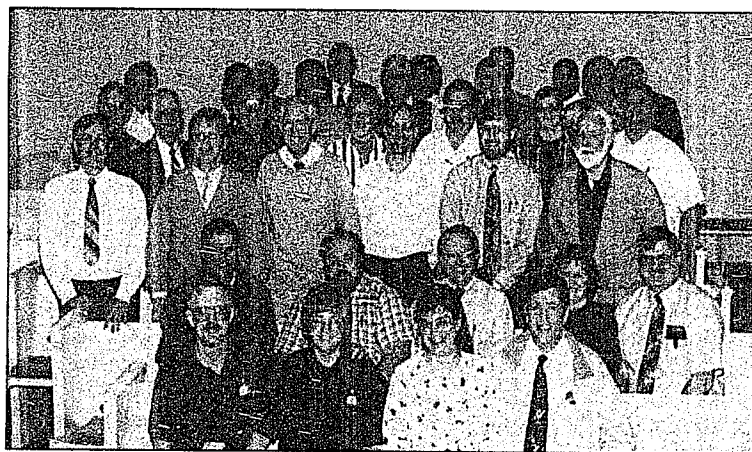
Your article "SDBs and SDAs Compared" was very good, very accurate, and, provisionally, very timely in my life.

I also enjoyed the article by Dale Thorngate, "Fifth Sabbath Blessings." Something that I've done with my present church is "The Fifth Sabbath Sing." Every fifth Sabbath, my wife and I set up this special program with a special theme. (In the past, we've used themes such as "Celebrating God's Love," "Celebrating God's Mercy," and "Celebrating God's Salvation.")

On these Sabbaths, we encourage poem and Scripture reading, testimonies, songs, musical presentations, etc., keeping the theme in mind. Depending on time, I may or may not preach a short sermonette on the theme. The congregation loves these! It is always an especially charged and spiritual (and sometimes tear-provoking) time.

Bob Fogarty
Lee's Summit, MO

Pastors meet in Denver for biennial conference, April 13-17



Front row: Chris and Becky Mattison, Linda and Gordon Lawton. *Second row:* Jim Galanaugh, Dale Smalley, Bob Babcock, Kathi and Harold King. *Third row:* Larry Graffius, Don Chroniger, David Pearson, Scott Hausrath, Andrew Camenga, Dale Thorngate. *Fourth row:* Dale Rood, Calvin Babcock, Rodney Henry, Margaret and David Taylor, Jeanne Yurke, Bernie Wethington. *Fifth row:* Paul Green, L.B. Lee Jr., David Thorngate, Ken Burdick, Don Sanford, John Peil. *Sixth row:* David Clarke, Justin and Sue Camenga, Steve James, Eric Davis, Leon Lawton. Also attending were Jan Graffius, Andy Samuels, and William Sharon.

KEVIN'S

CORNER

More than a Phantom Menace

"Long, long ago in a galaxy far, far away," a young college student ventured into a movie theater to view a new movie with a strange name: "Star Wars."

I was hooked. Hooked enough to see it three more times.

By now, more than a few of you have seen the new "Episode I—The Phantom Menace." And all of us have been exposed to a market-ing onslaught of galactic proportions.

But what else has the George Lucas saga exposed us to? Is this simply a story of good versus evil?

According to Baylor University religion professor John Wood, Star Wars contains themes of a spiritual quest, but the message is not essentially Christian. Baptist reporter Marv Knox interviewed Wood recently.

"The main parallel is such a general thing: There is this cosmic struggle between good and evil," observed Wood, who teaches a 'Christianity and Films' class.

"One reason folks identify with Star Wars is we know there's a struggle in our hearts between good and evil," he explained. "But we like to see it in cosmic terms—a gigantic transcendence far beyond the individual level. When you see it in cosmic terms, the good guys always win."

If kept to that level, the movie series agrees with the Bible's assurance that God will triumph over Satan at the end of the world. But the film's method of victory is flawed.

"Where the problems start for Star Wars is that evil is always overcome by violence," Wood said. "Non-violent confrontation won't work, because the evil forces are so stubborn. The way you defeat evil is to annihilate it. Violence is the only way."

Wood said that is not the Bible's viewpoint. "The way God overcomes evil is by redeeming it."

The New Testament teaches that a loving God overcame evil by sacrificing his only Son, Jesus, to save the souls of "whosoever" believes. The sense that salvation is available to everyone is another point of contrast between the Gospel and Star Wars, Wood said.



"In Star Wars, the Force (a supra-human power) is only for a few elite, the Jedi Knights," he said. "Some people try to make parallels between the Force and the Holy Spirit or the power of God."

"In Star Wars, only the Jedi warriors have that Force. But the Christian faith says God's Spirit is available to everyone. There's elitism in Star Wars."

Furthermore, Star Wars' violence perpetuates its elitist structure, he added. "In the Star Wars conflict, you use violence to maintain the hierarchy—protect Princess Leia, preserve the Jedi Knights. You don't have biblical equality, that God's love is for everybody."

Wood said he appreciates Star Wars even though it misfires on Christian themes, because he considers Lucas a storyteller and not a theologian.

"Lucas never claimed he was writing anything more than a fairy tale," Wood said. "But it touches all of us because of its cosmic scope."

In an interview for *Time* magazine, Lucas told journalist Bill Moyers: "I don't see Star Wars as profoundly religious. I see Star Wars as taking all the issues that religion represents and trying to distill them down into a more modern and

easily accessible construct—that there is a greater mystery out there.

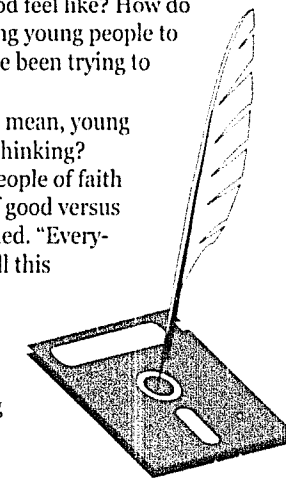
"I would hesitate to call the Force 'God.' It's designed primarily to make young people think about the mystery. Not to say, 'Here's the answer.' It's to say, 'Think about this for a second. Is there a God? What does God look like? What does God feel like? How do we relate to God?' Just getting young people to think at that level is what I've been trying to do in the films."

Well, young Skywalker—I mean, young people—is that what you're thinking?

For thousands of years, people of faith have dealt with the reality of good versus evil, Professor Wood explained. "Everyone wants to describe how all this meanness and evil got here and what's going to be the final outcome."

"People have struggled with that from the beginning of time," Wood said.

Long, long ago.



1999 Host Committee

"Be ye holy; for I am holy" 1 Peter 1:16

Conference President: Norma Rudert (616) 689-6703

Second Vice President: Ed Cruzan (616) 689-5252

Your Host Committee, listed below and made up of people from the White Cloud and Battle Creek churches, hopes to welcome you to Michigan personally this August 1-7. Let us know if you have special needs.

Our names and specific responsibilities are listed and requests can be sent through the White Cloud church office and **Chairman:** Rev. Bernie Wethington, P.O. Box 38, White Cloud, MI 49349.

Phone: (616) 689-1787. E-mail: pastorbw@riverview.net

Vice Chairman:

Pastor Harold King (616) 962-1946

Executive Assistant:

Alton Bennett (616) 963-1226

Children Evening Vespers Coordinator:

Christine Davis (317) 849-9610

Decorations:

Cheryl Cruzan (616) 689-1465

Equipment/Audio Visual:

Kory Geske (616) 746-4506

Exhibits:

Eric Rudert (616) 689-1139; Off: 689-6605

Health Services:

Marilyn Discher (616) 968-9646

Nursery:

Marian Fick (616) 979-4327

Pre-Conference Camp Coordinators:

At Camp Manitow:

Youth—Kathi King (616) 962-1946

At Hope College:

Young Adult—Lorrie Bird (703) 768-1972

Publicity:

Judy Parrish (616) 965-9085

Receptions:

Debbie Giles (616) 962-4659

Registrations:

Registrar—

Patti Wethington (616) 689-1787

Computer—

Ed Cruzan (616) 689-5252

Assistant—

Jackie Geske (616) 746-4506

RV Coordinators:

Steve and Dixie Packard (217) 356-8745

SCSC Team Project Director:

Patti Wethington (616) 689-1787

Treasurer:

Cathy Cruzan (616) 689-5252

Transportation:

Ewald Fick (616) 979-4327

YF Advisor:

Jan Noel (616) 746-4258

YF Officers:

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Sean Wethington, Vice President (616) 689-1191

Miranda Mackey, Secretary (616) 965-5123

Sandy Noel, Treasurer (616) 746-4258