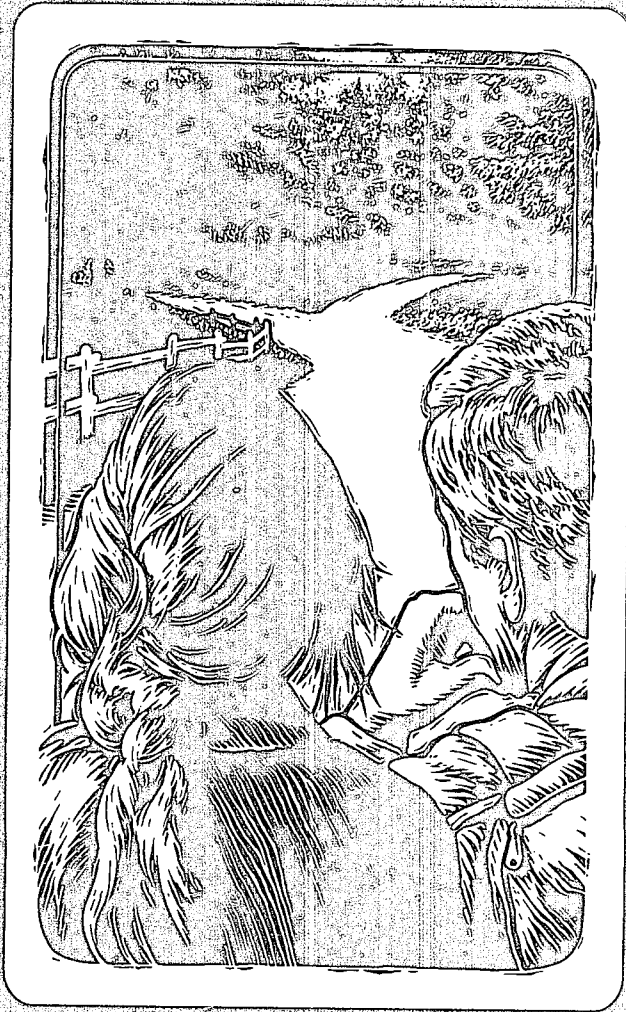


The **S**abbath  
News for and about  
Seventh Day Baptists  
July-Aug. 1999  
**R**ecorder



**Ministry or job—  
why not BOTH?**



## 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](mailto:sdbgen@inwave.com) and the SDB Web site: [www.seventhdaybaptist.org](http://www.seventhdaybaptist.org)

## Computer updates

### Fishermen's Net

Thanks to the generosity of Kyle Pratt, member of the Centralia, Wash., SDB Church, John Conrod's "Fishermen's Net" web site is now located at <http://www.seventhdaybaptist.net>

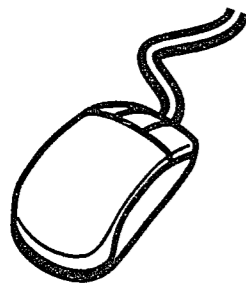
### Lead-Line on line!

Check out the latest *Lead-Line* newsletters (and more) on a web site designed by Joel Osborn of the Electronic Media Committee—

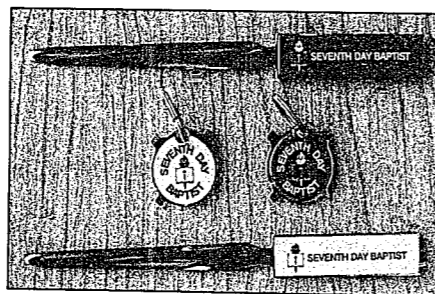
<http://www.inwave.com/churches/sdbmedia>

### Crier by e-mail

Get your *Conference Crier* during Conference via e-mail again this year. If you are a new subscriber, or your address has changed since last year, contact Dave Taylor at [dltaylor@efortress.com](mailto:dltaylor@efortress.com)



## Available at Conference—



These blue and white SDB logo items will be available only at Conference. The metal letter openers will stand up to your heaviest mail days; the key chains boast screwdrivers along the edges.

Bring along some extra cash and purchase these, along with logo stickers, pins, and another new feature—embroidered SDB logo golf shirts! Proceeds go to our Sabbath Promotion Committee.

Get 'em while they last!

"Roman Rhapsody," a Bible study written by Jamie Perez, will soon be released. Within the 24 weekly lessons, this 200-page, spiral-bound study guide furnishes the historical, cultural, and religious background of the time Paul wrote the book of Romans.

The self-published book is available from the author at the pre-sale price of \$15.95 plus \$2.95 S&H (retail price will be \$22.95). Jamie is a member of the Columbus, Ohio, SDB Church and has written devotionals for *The Helping Hand*.

Send your order to:

Jamie Perez  
PO Box 249  
Ostrander OH 43061

For more information:  
[tmgp@worldnet.att.net](mailto:tmgp@worldnet.att.net)

# The Sabbath Recorder

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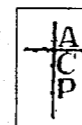


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## A ministry or job—



## why not both?

by Tim Bond

Many individuals look at career choices as black or white—a ministry or a job, with no gray in between.

Several years ago, I read a tract which said that God doesn't care what brand of car a person owns. He *does* care about how the car is acquired and how it's used.

In life, we make good choices and bad choices, as well as some that fall somewhere in the middle. Yet we can be used by God wherever we are in life.

I have worked as a public school teacher, managed the parts department in a farm implement dealership, and now oversee the GED program at a Christian drug rehabilitation center. With these experiences, plus a little delving into my family's history, I'd like to share some insight into those black, white, and gray areas related to career choices.

### Your job can be a ministry

First of all, I'm convinced that with the proper attitude almost any

job can be used as a ministry. (Keep in mind, however, that there are some jobs which as a matter of conscience a Christian should *not* take.)

After my father's younger brother, Robert Levi Bond, graduated from Salem (W.Va.) College, he took a job as a teacher in Lumberport, W.Va. Two stories from Robert's one year of teaching have been passed down to this generation, and one event from his subsequent career in the military stands out.

### Ministry begins at home

In 1919, my grandfather, Charles A. Bond, moved his family from a farm in Roanoke, W.Va., to Salem so his eight children could have a better opportunity for a college education. Before that family was raised, the Great Depression hit in 1929.

Like many other men, Grampa struggled to feed his family and pay his bills. A local grocer in Salem extended credit to the Bond family, and over the years, Grampa sometimes

gained and sometimes lost ground on that account.

While this financial drama was being played out, Uncle Robert acquired the college education that his father had made possible, and he got his first teaching job. Money that this last Bond child earned teaching paid off his family's account at the grocery store. Our ministry should begin at home.

### Be a witness wherever you are

Robert taught only one year before he was drafted into the U.S. Army during World War II. Here is a job situation which has tried many Christians. One anecdote Dad shared with me about his younger brother showed something about Robert's character. It also illustrates that wherever you are placed, you can still make a difference.

The war was on. Robert and some other sergeants were called in to meet with an officer to receive

orders for upcoming action. At the end of the session, the officer asked the men what they'd like to drink when he proposed a toast. All of the responses but one were for alcoholic beverages. Toward the end of the line, Uncle Robert asked, "Could I have a glass of milk?"

Afterwards, other non-commissioned officers came up to Sergeant Bond saying, "If I'd only known you were going to ask for milk, I would have, too."

A man never knows what affect his witness will have. I'd like to think that some of the other young men in

difference in how his life had turned out.

Encouraging words build lives. We can share them regardless of what job we have.

### Do we have to talk about this?

And what about the rarely-discussed but definitely important factor that Christians weigh when they consider entering "the ministry"? I'm talking about money.

When many people look at career options such as the pastoral ministry or associated fields, money becomes

session, one dedicated older pastor presented his financial conditions to the expert. The expert's reaction was that he didn't know how the man lived on what he was making nor how he could save anything toward retirement on that income.

This suggests a ministry for laymen who opt for jobs with earthly financial rewards. They can give so that those involved in a Christian ministry can function with fewer financial worries.

The financially poor pastor knew of the rewards stored up for him in heaven. But, I'm sure, he also knew of the rewards of Christian ministry right here on earth.

### Successes and failures

My current ministry is with the GED program at a Christian drug rehabilitation center. In this setting, I meet rejection, failure, and success. There are students who just don't want what I have to offer.

Some clients that I think have straightened out their lives die of overdoses shortly after leaving the program. But sometimes our nine-month program becomes the womb in which a new Christian develops and goes into the world as a witness, bringing others both to Christ and the drug rehab.

Now and then my judgmental, human self has to reevaluate based

that room were a little less willing to bend to peer pressure after that.

### Your witness can change lives

About 1967, while I was attending Salem College, I got to know my second-cousin once-removed, Leland Bond, who lived in Clarksburg, W.Va., at the time. He was a salesman for Lederle Laboratories, and he told me of an encounter he had while on the road.

Discovering that Leland's last name was Bond, a man asked him, "Are you related to Robert Bond?" This naturally piqued Leland's interest because his brother was Robert Lee Bond. However, the man being referred to turned out to be my uncle, Robert Levi Bond, whom Leland also knew.

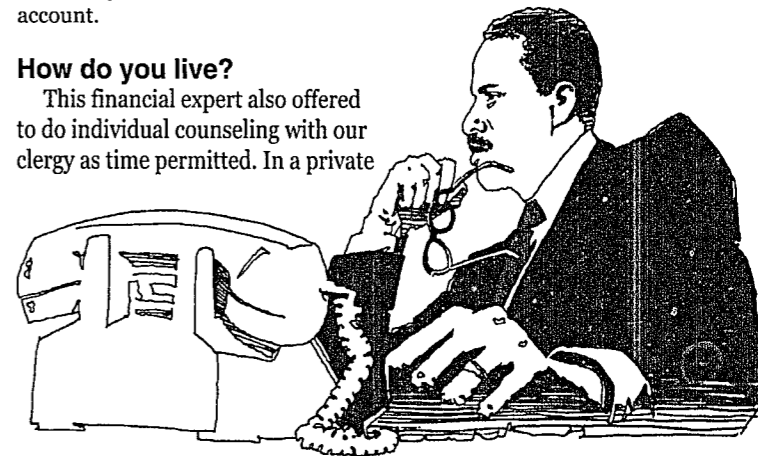
The stranger shared with Leland how he'd been on the wrong path in high school, and Mr. Bond had taken the time to talk with him on several occasions. This, the man was convinced, had made a major positive

a major factor in the decision-making process. A few years ago, a story came out of one of our Seventh Day Baptist Ministers' Conferences. It goes something like this:

An expert on personal finances came to lecture our pastors on personal thrift and financing retirement. His advice included things such as eating in a restaurant one time less often each week and putting the money saved into a retirement account.

### How do you live?

This financial expert also offered to do individual counseling with our clergy as time permitted. In a private



on new data. The success rate of drug rehabs such as ours is probably about 40 percent. It's even lower for those addicts who quit early. Therefore, I frown on quitters.

**This "quitter" wrote back**

A few weeks ago, when a young man quit after only about two months in our nine-month program, I thought, "He had a chance and blew it." I have a feeling that God thought differently. Here are some excerpts [box, right] from the letter I received only four days after Alfonso (name changed) left our program:

Mr. Bond,  
 May God's blessing be upon you. Well, how are you, Mr. Bond? Fine, I pray. As for myself, I am doing just fine because I have Christ in my life. But I felt the need to write you and tell you how much I loved being your student. You are very inspirational to me, and I never had a teacher like you, with so much patience and compassion. I'm sorry that I had to leave so suddenly, because I really enjoyed being in your class. I wish there was some way I could continue my studies with you while I am out here. But I want you to know that I learned more in that two months than I've learned in my life, and I know it's through God's grace and mercy that He brought the type of teaching out of you that I would receive it and use it to progress....

I want God to know that my life was changed, and I am grateful for the people He brought into my life.... I love the Lord today, and I am pressing toward the goal and kingdom of heaven. I ask that you pray for me and my family. My wife is due any day now, and we need your prayers.... God has already blessed me with a job....

Thank you,  
 Alfonso

**Extra paycheck**

We get paid every other Friday. I found Alfonso's letter in my box as I left work on a non-paying Friday. However, the next morning at breakfast, I told my wife and daughter that I had received an "extra paycheck" the preceding day, and then I shared the letter with them.

I'm sure the poorly-remunerated pastor referenced earlier also received some "extra paychecks" throughout his career, and they bolstered him up just as this letter lifted my spirits.

**Thank that special someone**  
 There are many things we will

never know about the success of our ministries to others until we get to heaven. I'm sure Uncle Robert, who died in the Battle of the Bulge in 1945, did not know the influence he had on his student until he learned it from the Father.

Sometimes we are lucky and find out here on earth, like I did from Alfonso. Why not pick up a pen or the phone and tell someone who has ministered to you how he or she has affected your life. It may be just "the medicine" that individual needs to carry on. **SR**

*Tim Bond is a deacon at the SDB Church of Shiloh, N.J.*

**Back to the Bible**

**Could an entire congregation change from Sunday to Sabbath?**

by Stanley F. Fox

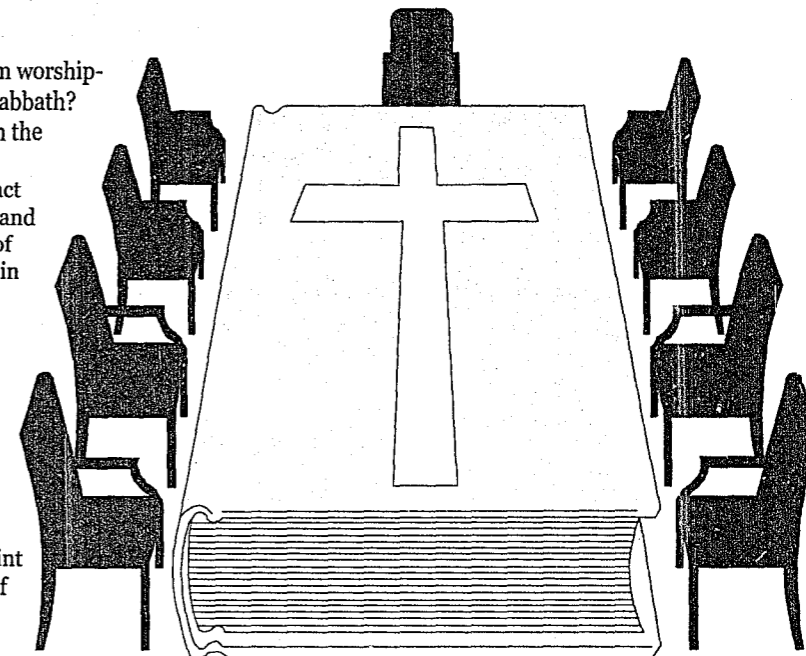
How does a church change from worshiping on Sunday to worshiping on Sabbath? The "why" is easier to answer than the "how."

The "why" is answered in the fact that God established the Sabbath and never changed it, and conviction of this biblical truth leads to change in obedience to His Word. However, the real struggle comes with the "how" when another tradition has been followed for so long.

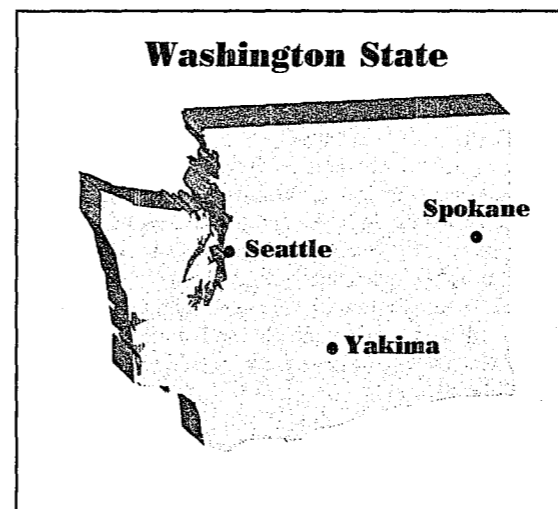
When God convicts, He provides the way to change and overcome obstacles. He did this with the Ahtanum Community Church in Yakima, Wash.

January 1997 was a turning point for the church. At the beginning of the year, I felt led to preach a series of Sunday morning messages on the subjects of Evangelism, Commitment, and the Biblical Sabbath.

To my surprise, the last message provoked enough interest that a Bible study was requested. Since I had personally been convicted of the Sabbath some years ago, I thanked God for this opportunity to take a stand for this biblical truth.



**The vote would need to be 100 percent in the affirmative of those present for the change to take place.**



The in-depth Bible study certainly challenged all of us. It eventually brought us to a valley of decision. After a series of lengthy Bible studies on Sunday mornings, the church Board recommended that the matter be brought before the members—to actually vote on returning to the biblical Sabbath.

It was agreed that the vote would come before the church at the July business meeting in order to allow sufficient time to pray about it. The proposal was also printed in the church bulletin every week so all would be informed of the upcoming vote. The pastor or other qualified person was available for one-on-one discussion on the subject. No stone was to be left unturned in making sure that this important issue was understood.

There was a concern about such a delicate issue split-

ting the church. Therefore, the Board recommended that the vote would need to be 100 percent in the affirmative of those present for the change to take place. One had to be present to vote unless sickness did not permit.

As the time drew nearer, I saw some supporters begin to waver and question it. Even though I remained unmoved in my Sabbath conviction, I also began to question the wisdom in letting the issue reach this stage. Knowing that just one vote could cancel out the whole matter, I went to that business meeting with butterflies in my

***A Non Denominational Church***

*The Ahtanum Community Church  
is an independent church that observes the  
7th Day Sabbath.*

*We are not a part of any denomination.  
Just one of the many Christian churches,  
serving our Lord.*

***We Believe In:***

*The inspiration of the Scriptures*

*The triune God (Trinity)*

*The Virgin birth*

*The vicarious atonement*

*The bodily resurrection of Christ*

*The visible return of Christ*

*The resurrection and rapture upon His return*

*The judgment*

*A conscious existence after death  
(Heaven or Hell)*

*Salvation by grace through faith with a  
changed life following.*

*The seventh day as the Sabbath set down  
in the Scriptures.*

***Church Ordinances:*** *Baptism (by immersion)  
and the Lord's Supper.*

***Church Government:*** *Congregational with  
a church board for advisory purposes only.*

***Church Goals:*** *Worship, Edify, Evangelize.*

stomach and wondering what effect a negative vote would have on my ministry at this church. In my opinion, things didn't look promising.

God is able. For various reasons, some of our people could not be at the business meeting. At least in part, I think it was that some did not want the responsibility in making such a decision. Regardless, the vote was 100 percent in the affirmative of those present. We decided that the church would have its first Sabbath service the second week of August.

My relief was short-lived as I began to wonder about those not present at the meeting. Again, this proved to be a useless worry because they stood behind the decision of the church.

I was also concerned about a few of our elderly members. Surely it would be difficult for them to make such

***Knowing that  
just one vote could cancel  
out the whole matter,  
I went to that  
business meeting with  
butterflies in my  
stomach.***

a change. I was delighted when I saw them walk through the door on a Sabbath morning. I'm not too sure that they were in agreement, but this was their church, and they would come regardless of the day. I thank God for these precious saints!

I wrote letters to the churches in the community and other religious organizations that we had any connection with, informing them of the change. I wanted to dispel any rumors before they started. Although an oddity to some, the change has been accepted well.

Although we remain small, there is a new spirit in the church along with an increase in visitors. Some are interested and even convicted of the Sabbath, but find it hard to change from Sunday to Sabbath. I have found many who remain "in the closet." Changes are indeed difficult but can and should be made with the help of God.

The Ahtanum Community Church follows in the legacy of those 17th century Sabbath observers in England who also became convinced from the grand old book—the Holy Bible. **SR**

*Stanley Fox is pastor of the Ahtanum Community Church in Yakima, Wash.*

**Witnessing in Mongolia**

by Doug Williams

While in Korea in 1997, I learned about the need for English teachers in Mongolia. After prayer and earnestly seeking the Lord, I decided to go there.

In February 1998, I left my home in the United States. Arriving in Asia, I stopped in China to visit Tianamin Square where hundreds of peaceful demonstrators were massacred in 1989. Then I took a pleasant 30-hour train ride to Ulan Bator, the capital of Mongolia.

In Ulan Bator, I taught English to children and adults. It was hard for the school's director to understand why I refused to teach on Friday night or Saturday to honor the Sabbath, but with God's strength, I stood firm.

I flew to Western Mongolia in August and lived in a "ger" (glorified tent) for two and a half weeks. Volunteering, I did some teaching for the local Red Cross and for teachers at the agricultural college. I also taught in Darkhan, which is near the Siberian border.

The temperature sometimes got as low as -30° F. Since I'm from South Georgia, I was not used to such extreme weather, but the Lord graciously preserved my health.

My return from Western Mongolia was by jeep rather than plane. It was more interesting than a roller coaster ride! There were no seat belts so my head hit the ceiling a few times as the jeep ran over bumps. Periodically, the driver honked his horn at wild horses and camels as they roamed the desert.

Three passengers liked to puff on cigarettes and blow out poisonous nicotine. If people desire to commit "suicide by installment" that way, they have the right, but I didn't want to join them, so I opened the jeep window.

They informed me that dust was

coming in through the window. I replied that dust was healthier than cigarette smoke. After asking God's guidance, I decided to open the window to inhale deeply when needed and exhale slowly. We made the trip in peace, praise God.

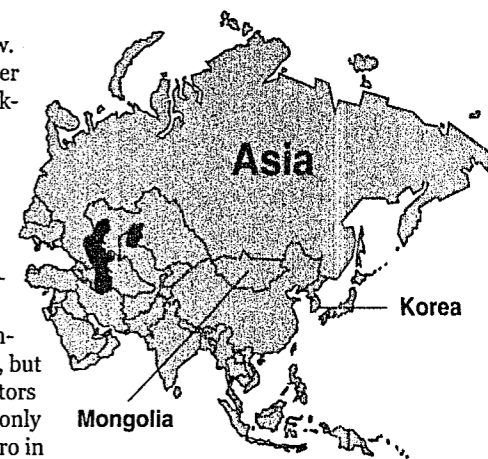
Thieves over there are intelligent and resourceful. It hurt to lose a cheap camera with undeveloped film valuable to me, but of no value to them. Since doctors and other professionals make only about \$50 a month, thieves zero in on foreigners. I had to be careful, and I thank God that nothing of any high value was taken.

When in Mongolia and Korea, I enjoyed good Sabbath fellowship with Seventh-day Adventists, though I disagree with them on certain doctrines. On the first day of the week, I enjoyed attending a Pentecostal church with their abundant praise, prayer, and singing. It did my heart good to see people go forward for prayer and salvation.

While attending church on Good Friday, I saw a young girl who was deaf and had a stiff leg. The Holy Spirit led me to bless her with a little money (\$1.20). She brightened up with an ear-to-ear smile and was so appreciative. I ended up visiting the apartment where she lives with her 31-year-old sister, who looks much older.

The young girl has muscular atrophy, which makes her body stiff. When I learned that she had no wheelchair, I assured her I'd try to get her one when I was in Korea. That I did and had it sent. We had prayer with her in her home and cried out for God's healing. It looked hopeless, but of course nothing is impossible with God. Hallelujah!

Seeing that handicapped girl reminded me of a crippled boy in Cebu,

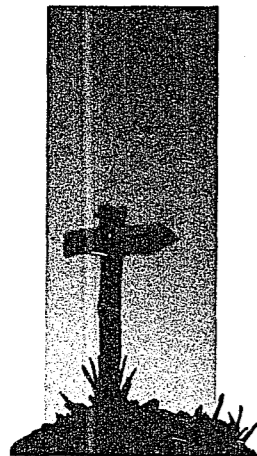


Philippines, when I visited in 1980. The local SDB pastor assured me that nothing could be done to help the boy and that he would have to continue to hop around like a monkey.

Rod Henry, an SDB missionary there at the time, took the child to a surgeon and tremendous results happened as the Lord worked through Rod, the surgeon, and me to bring healing. I am hopeful that something similar will happen to that young lady in Mongolia. Pray with me for her healing through the power of Jesus Christ.

I am thankful for the many prayers sent on my behalf, and I know things went as well as they did because of those prayers. The Lord's protection and grace was and is great. As He leads, I may return this year. **SR**

*Doug Williams is a member of the Atlanta, Ga., SDB Church. He has spent much of his adult life overseas in a self-supporting witnessing ministry. This has included Israel, where Doug said he learned the meaning of Psalms 27 and 91 when Saddam Hussein sent 39 rockets into Israel in the years he was there.*



## Can the dead witness for God?

by Clarence "Whitey" White

I travel around the country and love looking for historic sites.

I find a lot of history in cemeteries, just like the one in southwest Illinois where I found Abraham Lincoln's uncle's grave. In that same cemetery, I found my own name on a tombstone. (The man died the same year I was born. That sure gave me an odd feeling!)

While traveling in eastern Iowa, I came across a little town named Welton and spotted this old church that is now an antique shop. As I talked to the owner about its history, he told me a story that touched my heart.

The initial building was a Seventh Day Baptist church, originally located on Seven Day Hill. Since I'm an SDB, I had an extra interest in going to the cemetery to see what history I could find.

First off, I located a monument inscribed, "1855—Welton Seventh Day Baptist Church—1946. Here maintained these grounds, built their church, and worshiped the God who gave the Sabbath to the world."

In this day of compromise, people sometimes put a guilt trip on me and my denomination for not compromising with the majority and keeping Sunday as the Sabbath Day.

As I read history, I realize most Christians have kept Sunday in America for more than three centuries. And yet this group of Baptists

has stood firm on the biblical Sabbath—the seventh day on our calendars, which is also the seventh day of the Bible that the Lord blessed.

Walking through the cemetery in Welton, I could see several Seventh Day Baptist family names on the tombstones, like Babcocks and Hurleys. Some of the tombstones were engraved, "Asleep in Jesus." As I took pictures, I could envision John 5:28, when Jesus said, "All that are in the graves will hear His voice."

Even Paul, in 1 Thessalonians says, "But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him."

Yes, these pioneers of the Welton church will see that their works do follow them.

After locating this cemetery in Welton, I quickly contacted the SDB Center in Janesville, Wis., to find out what other history they might have of these early settlers.

The first white settlers whose names we know were Elias and Washington Wright. They came prior to 1840 from New York State and settled about one-fourth of a mile west of the present-day Welton, where the SDB cemetery is located.

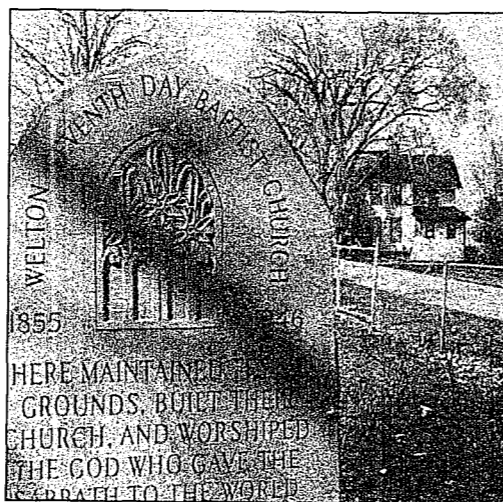
This Iowa territory was

established in 1838 and became a state in 1846.

After this present group was established, a second exodus of folks from Ohio and Illinois settled around Welton. One history book says, "This excited the interest of the folks who these strangers were."

They noticed that these newcomers dressed in their best on Saturday mornings and gathered together for worship. The town folks of Welton also noticed that these people were busy on Sundays. The men worked in the fields, and the women washed and hung out the wash. The question the townspeople asked was, "What kind of people are these?"

Yes, they were a "peculiar" people who took only the Bible for their beliefs. They let others know that "the Sunday Sabbath" was of Roman origin, and they soon realized that Seventh Day Baptists were people



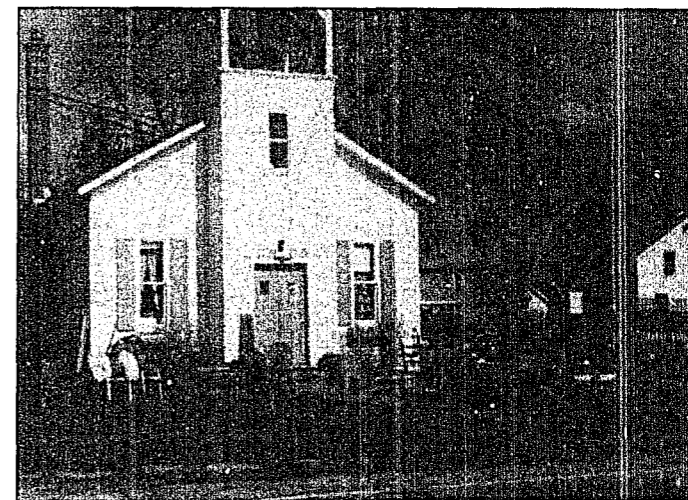
The monument commemorating the SDB church in Welton, Iowa.

who stood firm in their faith, on the authenticity and authority of the Bible.

As part of the Separatist movement in England, Seventh Day Baptists based their faith on the revealed will of God. With the Bible more readily available to the "common" people, they rejected the authority of a state church, whether it be from a Pope or the royal head of the Church of England. They believed that if it was important for God to put the seventh day Sabbath in the Ten Commandments, and for Jesus to say that the Sabbath was for all mankind, they believed it should be followed by all Christians.

The Seventh Day Baptist Church in Welton started out with 21 constituent members. They worked hard, and by the end of the Civil War, they had 175 members. They agreed to this covenant:

**1st** We hold, that the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God and are all sufficient



The Welton church building now houses an antique shop.

**5th** We hold, that American slavery is base violation of the law of God. Therefore we disclaim all fellowship with slave holders and their abettors.

**6th** We hold, that the government of the Church of Christ is a gospel "rite" administered in his name by

a "highway to drunkenness" and vice, and that all liquor laws should be enforced. The church frequently had bootleggers arrested for illegal sales, but convictions were few.

This anti-liquor belief was exemplified by the story of a father whose son was near death after being bitten by a rattlesnake. When informed that whiskey was the only thing that could save his son, the father replied, "Better the boy should die than learn the taste of whiskey." I never did find out what happened to the boy.

There were two Elders in the Welton church in 1855, Lewis A. Davis and John Davis. John felt that the field was too small for both of them. At a meeting on February 9, 1855, John was relieved of his duty and given the privilege of reclaiming his standing in the Farmington, Iowa, SDB Church.

Some history books state that during the winter of 1856-57, religious interest in the area began to decline, and many became dissatisfied with the bitter winters in Iowa. Some wished to return East, and others wanted to head westward to Kansas and Nebraska. And why some wanted to head to Minnesota is a wonder!

The Welton church group voted to ask the SDB Missionary Society

cont. on page 26

### The Welton church started out with 21 constituents. By the end of the Civil War, they had 175 members.

for the well ordering of the Christian Church both in doctrines and discipline.

**2nd** We hold, that the practice of Sabbatizing on the first day of the week is of Romish origin, and is a practical violation of the Fourth Commandment of the Decalogue. Therefore we Sabbatize on the Seventh Day.

**3rd** We hold, that immersion of believers in water is Christian Baptism. Therefore we practice no other form.

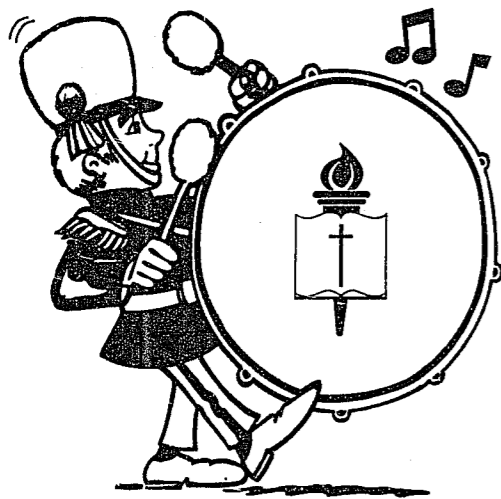
**4th** We hold, that the use of intoxicating liquors as a beverage is the highway to drunkenness and ruin. Therefore we have no fellowship with those who use it as such.

a majority vote of the members not under "sensure" and to them belongs the appointment of all of the same.

**7th** We hold, that the officers of the church are Elders, Deacons, Clerks, and Moderator.

These early Seventh Day Baptists took the Bible seriously. One of the tenets of the Church was that slavery was a violation of the rights of man and the laws of God. Twenty-two members of the Welton church backed up this belief by serving in the Union army. Four of these were killed, while three were wounded and maimed for life.

The Welton folks strongly believed that intoxicating beverages were



## Marching to a different drummer

*Standing up for my beliefs*

by Dennis L. Palmer

Growing up with a different religious orientation in a predominately Protestant, Sunday-keeping environment can be challenging. The whole process becomes a double challenge if you are a teenager and don't have the support of your family or peers.

About 25 years ago, I faced this awful predicament. I was never so confused in my life. Would I actually stand up for my beliefs and become a part of the religious minority?

### Under conviction

For a farm boy like me, Saturday was a full workday, from sunup to sundown. I had a typical Christian upbringing, but it bothered me that the Bible said that the seventh day—Saturday—was the day set aside for worship and rest (Exodus 20:8-11), and our family went to church on Sunday.

After completing a Bible study on the subject and looking deeply into the recesses of my own soul, I decided that I must keep the seventh day Sabbath. However, I faced some profound resistance in doing that.

### Family, peer pressure

First, some resistance came from my own family, who thought I should work on Saturday like everyone else. Instead, I agreed that I would work

on Sunday to make up for lost work on Saturday.

Another source of resistance came from peer pressure to play football on Friday night. Since sunset on Friday marked the beginning of the Sabbath, I would have to give up football to keep the Sabbath. Added to that peer pressure was the de-

my absence on Sabbath, he gave me an ultimatum. Either I would have to march on Saturday or quit the band.

By now things were heating up over my Sabbath convictions, and both my parents and my grandmother insisted that I should be marching in the band. I still remember going to bed that evening with

---

*Would I please my grandmother,  
my parents, and my band instructor,  
or would I hang onto my convictions?*

---

sire to letter in football during my junior year (I lettered in that sport during my freshman and sophomore years).

I had to make a choice. The question was not over winning or losing a game, but over winning or losing the battle to have a clear conscience. Before the game, I handed my football uniform to the coach.

### March, or else

The primary resistance came from my band instructor, who tenaciously clung to his opinion that I should march in the band on Saturday. Although I wanted to play in the band, and hoped he would excuse me for

two sets of clothes nearby. One was my band uniform, and the other was my Sabbath clothes.

What would I wear tomorrow? Would I please my grandmother, my parents, and my band instructor, or would I hang onto my convictions and keep the Sabbath?

### Day of reckoning

Saturday morning arrived, and without a word, I slipped on my Sabbath clothes. The issue was settled. From that point on, people knew where I stood on the Sabbath issue, and they stopped restricting my individual liberties. We had arrived at a mutual understanding. *SR*



Women's Society page by Donna Bond

## We're moving south!



Praise the Lord! After two years of formal and informal inquiries among "our women," the Daytona Beach, Fla., ladies have agreed to lead SDB women into the new millennium!

The SDB Women's Society Board of Directors, located in South Jersey since 1990, will officially pass the torch to their successors at Conference 2000. (It is interesting to note that four "Daytona-ites" were present when the Shiloh Ladies Benevolent Society voted in 1988 to accept the same responsibility.)

### "Be Ye Holy"—Conference Plans

Conference President Norma Rudert challenges us to seek holiness as plans are made for women at Conference 1999. The **Conference Committee on Women's Interests** will be chaired by Lorna Graffius who brings experience to the Committee and serves as a role model for holiness (having received the Robe of Achievement in 1998).

The **Women's Banquet** on Wednesday evening will feature Patti Wethington as keynote speaker. Patti, I'm told, has a "stirring testimony" and will be assisted by youth from the White Cloud, Mich., Teen Center.

Don't forget to bring/send your crafts for the annual **Craft Sale**. Proceeds from this sale have ranged from \$300 to \$1,200 since 1988 and have played a significant role in funding the Summer Christian Service Corps.

If you have enjoyed reading news of other women's societies on this page, please bring 50 copies of local **Highlights** from your own Ladies' Aid. Remember: we can't print news we don't have!

Also remember to bring a generous donation to the annual **Love**

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**The Women's Society Board of Directors  
will officially pass the torch to their  
successors at Conference 2000.**

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**Gift**, which is allocated by the Interest Committee. You may also wish to recommend recipients for the Love Gift.

### Our Holy Sisterhood—North American Baptist Women's Union

President Ruth Probasco represented SDB women at the **NABWU Executive Board** meeting in Bismarck, N.D., April 7-11, 1999. Ruth expressed that this fellowship is a good way for Seventh Day Baptists to become known to other Baptist sisters.

Workshops there stressed spiritual leadership for women and ways to involve younger women in leadership roles. Patsy Davis, Director of the Baptist World Alliance Women's Department, promoted the **Women's Leadership Conference** to be held in Melbourne, Australia, in January 2000. (A colorful banner is already in the works for our BWA representative to carry.)

The 40 women in attendance at NABWU were greeted by the host

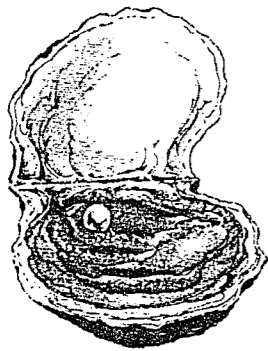
state's first lady, Nancy Schafer, as they toured the North Dakota Heritage Center and the North Dakota Capitol Building.

Ruth also contributed an article about SDB women's activities to the NABWU semi-annual publication, *The Tie that Binds*. (Keyworkers: don't "file" the spring issue without reading and sharing page 5 with your constituents!)

### Summer Christian Service Corps

As you read this page and prepare for Conference, 25 college-age SDBs are assisting 12 churches across the country with their summer programs.

Plan now to speak with some of these young people about their experiences. Pray that they will promote holiness among our children and teenagers and that God will show them how they can further develop the new skills they are learning. Pray, too, for those whose lives are impacted by the SCSC program. *SR*



Pearls from the Past by Don A. Sanford, historian

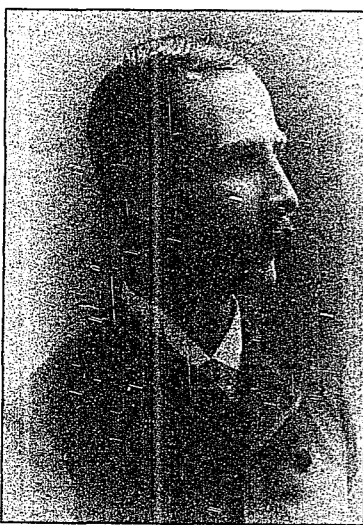
## The Holiness of a Call to Ministry

When A.H. Lewis was editor of *The Sabbath Recorder*, he invited a number of ministers to share their testimonies concerning influences which led them into the ministry.

The first question asked was, "Do you think that you inherited from your parents, or other ancestors, a definite tendency to enter the ministry?" Other questions dealt with the influence of their church, or specific individuals; preparations taken for ministry; and "other items that will throw light on the causes and influences that have brought you into the place you now occupy."

For several months, three or more ministers' responses were printed in each weekly *Recorder*.

In the December 31, 1906 issue, Rev. O.S. Mills, the grandfather of this year's president of General Conference, Norma Rudert, responded:



Rev. O.S. Mills

No, I never have supposed that I have inherited a tendency to the ministry. My nearest ancestor in the ministry was a great uncle. My brother, Nathan, followed me, after nine years. The giving of myself to the Gospel ministry was the result of God's dealing with me.

evening we were as David and Jonathan.

We were members of the Dodge Center [Minn.] Church of which Rev. G.M. Cottrell was then pastor. After some time I talked with him of my conviction and received much encouragement. I also told my parents

**"I knew I was very incompetent and could not see how I was to acquire the knowledge I believed every man should have before attempting to preach the Gospel."**

**—Rev. O.S. Mills**

The thought came to me as a possible duty, soon after my conversion in my 15th year. The thought made me unhappy and so, from time to time, I put it away, as I had the public acknowledgment of Jesus as my Savior.

About the time I became of age, this question of the ministry came up so frequently and with such force that I was in deep trouble. Just why I rebelled so fiercely I have never been able to see. But I knew I was very incompetent and could not see how I was to acquire the knowledge I believed every man should have before attempting to preach the Gospel.

I had no means and my people were poor. I told no one of my trouble, until one evening Brother Eugene Ellis (of blessed memory), for whom I was working, discovered me in the barn praying and weeping. He insisted on knowing the cause of my trouble. He was so kind and sympathizing that I told him, and when he prayed with me and urged me to trust the Lord, I felt better. From that

and received their blessing. Many of my friends also urged me forward.

At 23 years of age, and with only about \$175, I entered Milton [Wis.] College. After five terms, I went to Alfred [N.Y.] University because our Theological Seminary was there.

About this time I was licensed to preach by the Dodge Center church. I soon transferred my membership to the First Alfred church and was there ordained soon after receiving my B.D. from the university. I had been given the degree Ph.B. two years before.

Since that time, my study has been limited chiefly to the Bible and the problems pertaining to the welfare of our missionary churches. The strongest influence on my life has been the consciousness of God's goodness and power, and my greatest weakness the lack of implicit trust in God, and of a willingness to seek the counsel of my friends. The Dodge Center church is, I trust, in a fairly good condition, spiritually, and we hope will furnish her sixth candidate for the ministry in the near future. **SR**



# SR Almanac

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

### One year ago—July/Aug. 1998

Cover feature asks, "What to do with Buck?" Many readers wonder the same thing.

Feature highlights the George Barna seminar, "Nine Habits of Highly Effective Churches."

Pastor Ed Sutton recalls his dog "Appi" having a run-in with a skunk at Camp Joy.

Nadine Lawton asks, "Can the Old Testament relate to today?"

Riverside, Calif., church lists recent activities and ministries.

Colorado Springs fellowship honors faithful servant Doris Barber.

### Five years ago—July/Aug. 1994

Features look at new building projects at Shiloh, N.J.; Boulder, Colo.; and Milton, Wis.

Daryl White reflects on the Natural Evangelism Training team's teaching experience in Jamaica.

Hendersonville, N.C., church pays tribute to recently deceased pastor John Thompson.

West Palm Beach, Fla., church active in community improvement.

Paint Rock, Ala., and Tupelo, Miss., churches hold first joint gathering.

### 10 years ago—July/Aug. 1989

The topic of education is discussed by RuthAnne Peil (Christian schools), Jim Skaggs and Lannette Calhoun (Christians in public schools), and Jane Mackintosh (home schooling).

Dr. Wayne Rood's inaugural address for the Rex Zwiebel Lecture on Christian Education is printed. The address was given in Alfred Station, N.Y.

Board of Christian Education presents Resolution of Appreciation to E. Donald Van Horn for his many years of service to the Board, and his donation of the Board office facility, now named the Van Horn Building.

Page highlights the life and recent passing of Rev. Francis Saunders.

### 25 years ago—July/Aug. 1974

Doug and Jane Mackintosh now serving as missionaries to Jamaica.

General Conference to be held at Salem (W.Va.) College. Several tours of SDB interest are listed.

Pastor Elmo Fitz Randolph hosts the "Creative Camping Project" at Camp Paul Hummel in Boulder. Thirty SDBs from across the country come to enrich their camping programs back home.

Alton Wheeler continues his Ambassadorial Mission with a visit to SDB churches in South Africa.

Battle Creek, Mich., church involved in "Project Philip," a Scripture distribution and Bible correspondence school program.

### 50 years ago—July/Aug. 1949

General Conference held in Riverside, Calif., with Loyal Hurley presiding.

Pastor Ralph Coon of the Richburg and Friendship, N.Y., churches uses a telescope and stargazing to point to God.

K. Duane Hurley promotes Pre-Con at Pacific Pines Camp.

Planning to re-enter the pastorate, the Rev. Victor Skaggs presents his resignation as corresponding secretary of the Tract Society.

Pastor Kenneth Stickney ordained in Piscataway, N.J.

### ...where are we headed?

#### Pray for—

- highly effective church ministries
- Summer Christian Service Corps
- Christians involved in education
- the Maiden Hall project in Jamaica
- churches with building projects
- our Conference President and Host Committee
- our summer camping programs





# PRE-CON CAMPERS

## 1999 Youth Pre-Con Camp

**Dates:** July 28, 4:00 p.m. - August 1, 1:00 p.m.  
**Campers:** Ages 15-18 (or completed grade 9)  
**Location:** Camp Manitou, 15787 McKenzie Road, Cassopolis, Michigan  
**Theme:** Dare to Be Different  
**Director:** Pastor Andrew Samuels, Miami, Florida  
**Staff:** Pastor Larry Graffius, Marlboro, New Jersey  
 John Pethel, Salem, West Virginia  
 Christina Thorngate, Boulder, Colorado  
 Pastor David Thorngate, Boulder, Colorado



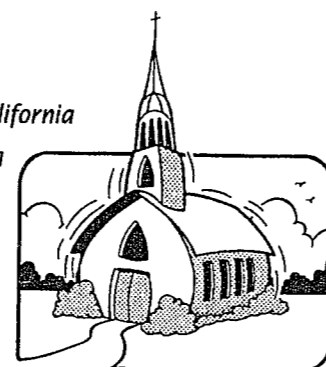
**Fee:** \$80.00 (Medical Form required)



## 1999 Young Adult Pre-Con Camp

**Dates:** July 28, 4:00 p.m. - August 1, 1:00 p.m.  
**Campers:** Ages 18-29 (or in SCSC)  
**Location:** Hope College, Holland, Michigan  
**Theme:** Let's Rock the House!!  
**Director:** Pastor Scott Hausrath, Montrose, California  
**Staff:** Pastor Eric Davis, Riverside, California  
 Anna Santiago

**Fee:** \$130.00



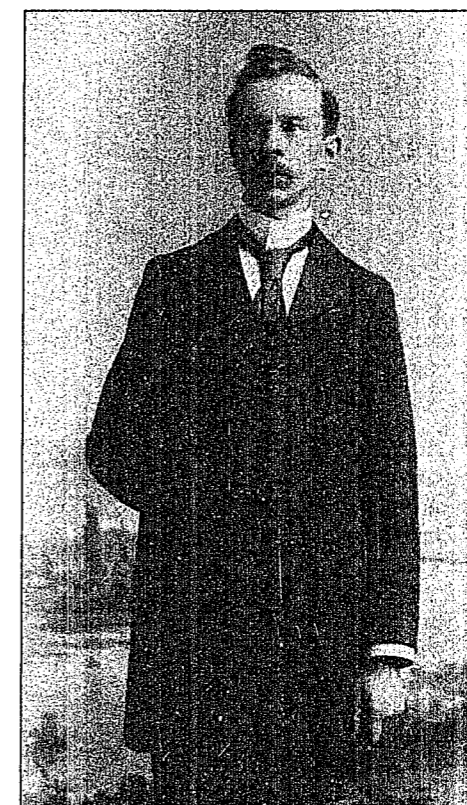
"Tragedy struck the Gold Coast (Ghana), West Africa, mission in the death of Peter H. Velthuysen in 1902, less than three months after his arrival on the field as missionary and teacher. Born in Haarlem, Holland, son of Elder Gerard Velthuysen, the early Dutch leader, he had prepared for service at the Alfred [N.Y.] Theological Seminary. His untimely death was widely felt across the denomination, and memorial services were held at Alfred and at the anniversary of the Missionary Society held in connection with the next General Conference" (from *Seventh Day Baptists in Europe and America*, Vol. 3, p. 8).

A tragedy? Yes. But a worse tragedy is the fact that this man, as well as several other SDB men and women, gave their lives in the service of God and His Son, and nobody remembers them. Since they were "on the field," we cannot easily relate to their ministries or the effect they had upon the work being done at the time. How tragic!

Today, our young people look everywhere for heroes and examples to follow. And we are missing a great chance to share with them the dedication and sacrifices that so many gave for the work of Seventh Day Baptists worldwide.

Peter Velthuysen was a young man. He had not been out of seminary very long before he volunteered for the work on the Gold Coast. He had probably heard of the life-threatening environment that existed in the African countries, and no doubt spent hours praying over his decision and how it corresponded with God's perfect will.

Going to Africa would mean that Peter would be away from his family, friends, and home ministries for a long time. He would be in a hostile territory rampant with dis-



Peter Velthuysen

ease, beasts, and pagans. It would be a far cry from the life of relative ease experienced by missionary workers in the United States and Holland.

How long did it take for Peter to come to this decision? Actually, not long.

Peter's training was not "skimpy." In fact, he had a life-long preparation as a pastor's son. As noted above, his father was Rev. Gerard Velthuysen, missionary pastor of the Harlem church and its branch in Amsterdam. He was nurtured in the love and dedication for Jesus Christ, which resulted in his willingness to sacrifice all for the work of God's Kingdom.

Peter was in the United States to present his father's report to the Missionary Board when he volunteered for the mission on the Gold Coast. After he discussed the mission with the Board, he returned to Holland to bid his parents and friends good-bye.

After spending a short time at home, he boarded a ship for the Gold Coast and started a trip which lasted weeks. Severe seasickness and the hot equatorial climate left him weak and exhausted. On October 20, 1902, he died of tropical fever. His ministry had not even begun.

However, many years later, in 1993, a young man who was looking for a church saw a reference to Peter Velthuysen and Seventh Day Baptists, and contacted our denomination. This in turn gave birth to the church which exists today in Accra, Ghana—a congregation that is full of faith and has a strong desire to do God's will. This church has become the living legacy of an all-but-forgotten missionary.

Are our children knowledgeable about Peter and other Christian heroes? We should make every effort to ensure that they are! **SR**



# the BEACON

Produced by the Youth Committee of the Board of Christian Education  
For and by members of the SDB Youth Fellowship July-Aug. 1999

## Wednesday night R.A.W.

by Aubrey Appel

When it comes to pride in a small town's youth group, my enthusiasm is tough to beat. Every Wednesday night at half past six, 20-50 teenagers gather and worship at the Milton (Wis.) Seventh Day Baptist Church. We aren't all SDBs, or even all Baptists. We're a mixed collection—from those who have been Christians for as long as they can remember, to people who couldn't care less about spending eternity with God. But we love them all.

Here is how it goes: On Wednesday nights, we have R.A.W., which stands for "Reality At Work." During R.A.W., we worship with a big ol' group a-singin' and a-praisin'—which doesn't do much for the warm fuzzy feeling we all know and love. To get to know each other better and have that warm fuzzy feeling, we break

into smaller cell groups after R.A.W. On Thursday nights, Erik Henry leads our Bible study so we can expand our brains with "the good stuff."

Erik is our fearless leader, and Angie Neher and Nick Kersten try to control our cell groups (but you know how it is when a bunch of Jesus-crazy teenagers get together!), and they do a fan-tas-tic job.

We have three cell groups which are very competitive. We have totally awesome names like "J. Crew (junior high); "I.Q." (Janesville kids); and my personal favorite, "FAHPin' Fish" (Milton kids).

FAHPin' comes from one of Erik's first messages during R.A.W. and stands for Faith, Atonement, Humility, and Praise. Our cell groups do cool stuff like make silly videos, have

cookouts, pray for each other, make T-shirts, or just talk about stuff that is important to us.

Once a month, on Wednesday, we have a great big party with most of the other youth groups in our area, and it's a blast. All the different youth groups contribute their part to the night. We get to meet all these Christians we didn't even know before. And what's the best part? We are one big family in Jesus! Pa-raise the Lord!! We get to know each other and worship together and eat a lot of food.

I pray God continues to bless our ministry and bring people closer to Him and each other. Oh yeah, before I forget: When is God good? Aw yeah, now that's what I am talking about.

Thanks for reading, everybody, and thank you especially, Father.



Erik Henry sharing God's Word.

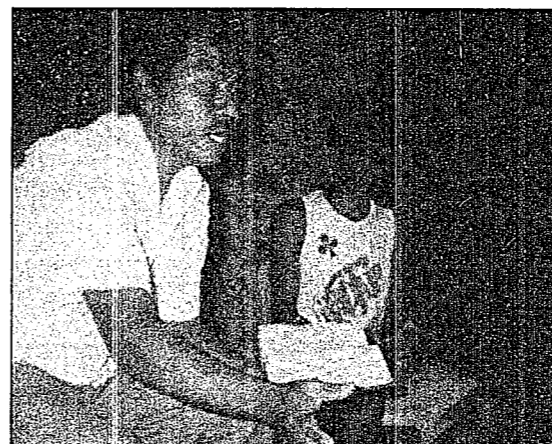


"Reality At Work" at the Milton SDB Church.

## God's Word spreads in Philippines



Above:  
Squeezing together for a Bible study in Anda, Bohol.



Left:  
Pastor Zafra opening the Word of God.

**We encourage all the young people to participate in any activity for their spiritual growth, and to experience the abundant life that Jesus promised.**

Levi Zafra, went to Anda, Bohol, to hold a Bible study and spread the Word of God. And we were happy that the people were very receptive to His Word.

Through God's grace, Pastor Zafra was able to baptize three souls in Anda, and another five souls in Cebu City. In the month of May, 18 were added to the Cebu City SDB Church.

My prayers are with you. May God keep you all in His loving care always.

Yours in Him,  
Angela Catayen  
Cebu City, Philippines

Dear Sister Aubrey Appel,

Holy and sincere greetings in the name of our Heavenly Father.

Thank you for featuring my report in *The Beacon* last February.

Over the past months, the Cebu City, Philippines, SDB youth group has been involved in some church activities and in making plans for the months to come. For the good of everybody, we have elected a new set of officers so that somebody can take charge of the different activities undertaken by the young people, with the help of other youth.

Our brothers and sisters here in

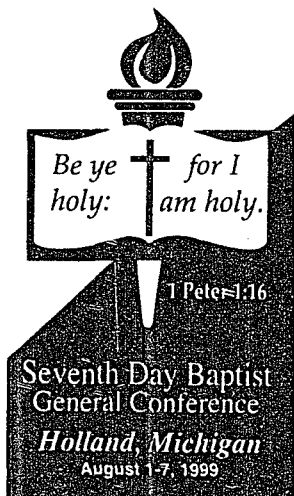
Cebu City encourage all the young people to participate in any activity for their spiritual growth, and to experience the abundant life that Jesus promised and feel the joy of serving.

One of these activities is a plan to hold another camp meeting this coming October. But we can't move along the way due to the lack of financial support. I'm very thankful to the SDB church in Sydney, Australia, headed by Pastor Kube, for sending us monetary support. Please remember these needs in your prayers.

On May 3, some of our young people, headed by our youth pastor,



Pastor Zafra baptized three new believers.



The President's Page  
**Conference week at a glance**

by Norma Rudert

Here's the lineup, folks. Please be in prayer for all of these activities, planned to encourage us to "Be holy in everything we do."

**General Conference 1999 — "Be Ye Holy"**

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sabbath
6:30 am	MORNING PRAYER IN THE DORMITORIES					
7:00 am	BREAKFAST— 7:00-8:30					
8:30 am	BIBLE STUDY AND CHILDREN'S CONFERENCES— 8:30-9:20					
9:30 am	Business Session	Council on Ministry	Memorial Board	Missionary Society	Historical Society	Breakfast 7:30-9:00
10:00 am	General Council	Board of C.E.	Business	Business	Tract Council	Sabbath Schools— 9:15-10:15
10:30 am	Executive Secretary Interest Committees	Interest Committees			Business	Break 10:15
11:30 am	LUNCH— 11:30-1:00					
	Pastors' Wives	Women's Business	SCSC Evaluation	Pastors' lunch	Past Presidents	Sabbath Worship Service— 10:30
12:30 pm	Youth and Young Adult Bible Studies— 12:30					
1:00 pm	Interest Committees	Seminars	Interest Committees	SCSC	Business	Sabbath Dinner— 12:00 Noon
1:30 pm		Break			—or—	Organ Prog.— 2:00
2:00 pm		Seminars	Business	Seminars	Free Time	Children's Program— 2:30
4:00 pm	CHOIR PRACTICE— 4:00-5:00					
5:00 pm	DINNER— 5:00-6:30					
7:00 pm	Youth Pre-Con	Interest Comm. 6:30	Women's Banquet	Youth Banquet		Awards— 3:30
7:30 pm	EVENING WORSHIP— 7:30-9:00					
8:30 pm						
9:00 pm	FELLOWSHIP AND YOUTH ACTIVITIES					
12:00 am	MIDNIGHT CURFEW					

**Make final plans for Conference!**

From the Conference Host Committee

It's not too late for final arrangements to attend General Conference at Hope College in Holland, Mich., August 1-7, 1999. (See the May SR for registration and housing information.)

**Arrive early and worship with us**

The college campus will provide a perfect setting for our meetings, and Michigan and Holland are beautiful in the summer! If you can plan your arrival for Sabbath, July 31, both Michigan churches invite you to worship with them. White Cloud is about 90 miles northeast of Holland, and Battle Creek is about 60 miles southeast.

**If you're driving**

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/Business US 31 exits, to 16th St. Turn west one mile to College Street, and then turn north six blocks to the Hope College campus.

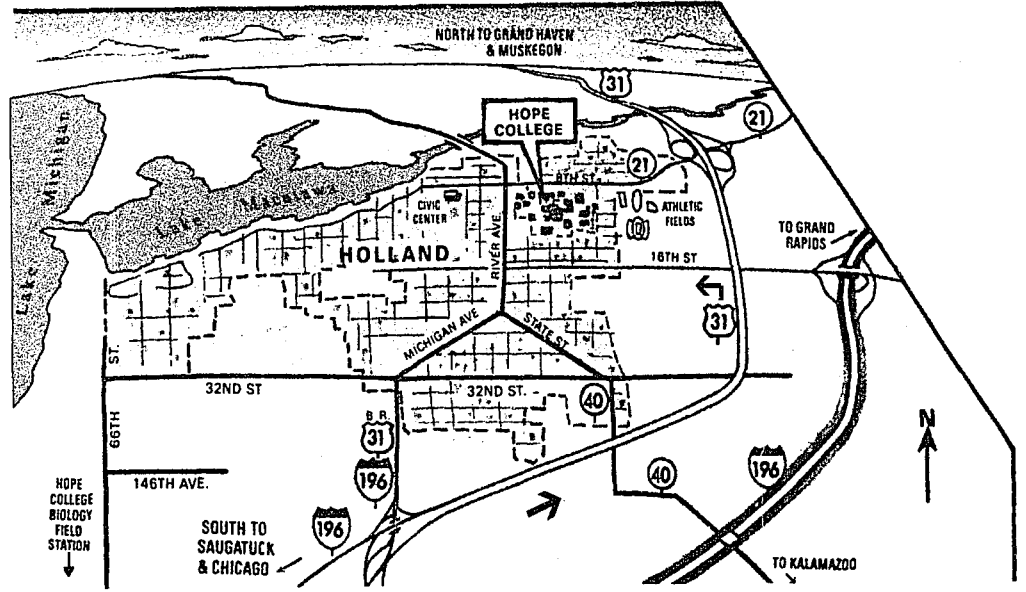
**Planes, trains, and buses**

Those arriving by air should make flight reservations to Kent County Airport in Grand Rapids where the Host Committee will pick you up and provide transport to Holland. Please be sure to list arrival and departure information on your registration form. Bus and AMTRAK service is available right to Holland, and again the Host Committee will see you to the campus.

**Y'all come!**

Make every effort to come to Conference; you'll be glad you did! For the children to the teens to the seniors and all in between, President Norma Rudert and the Host Committee are planning a very special time of fellowship, learning, and worship of our Holy God. See you soon!

Judy Parrish, Publicity Chair  
Home: (616) 965-9085; Work: (616) 345-0053



## SDBs in the market

The Foothill Community Church (SDB) of Montrose, Calif., has done some other outreach besides their punk rock concerts (see June *SR*).

Via the SDB pastors' network, Pastor Scott Hausrath logged this praise report about the Family Festival in Montrose:

"It's a farmers' market/community fair which occurs weekly in the main shopping district of town. We finally got the opportunity to host a church table there on April 29. The community received us very well; maybe only three or four negative reactions.

"We gave away about 275 helium balloons with 'John 3:16' printed on them, and also gospel coloring books for the kids. We were able to make contacts with a few community members, giving out salvation tracts and SDB literature. Some were interested in where our congregation meets.

"It was a fun time for us, and we're planning to do it again."

Let's encourage the Foothill church through our prayers. *SR*

## Portland camps out

Weather permitting, the Portland (Ore.) Area SDB Church was expected to hold a camp outing over the July Fourth weekend, with a worship service and potluck dinner at the camp. This is an annual event—taking place for the past seven years—which everyone looks forward to.

This year's outing was at Hoover Campgrounds at Detroit Lake, just east of Salem, Ore. Pastor Jerry Vaught's clan and one other family usually stay for a couple extra days.

According to Pastor Vaught, the weekend is a time of fishing, swimming, boating, hiking, exploring, and just plain relaxing.

"As with our SDB Conferences, we have more people join us for Sabbath than we do for the actual camping," he explained.

"Mostly it is a time where the church family can have fun and fellowship in a camp setting, and all of the kids love it," Pastor Jerry pointed out. "The adults do, too," he added, "but the kids are more expressive about it!" *SR*

## Conference Youth activities planned

Hello, I'm Miranda Mackey, the Youth Secretary for the 1999 General Conference. I'm from the Battle Creek, Mich., Seventh Day Baptist Church.

The Youth Committee has planned many fun activities for Conference. Some of these things include a movie, which will cost \$3 per person; a trip to Craig's Cruisers, which will cost \$6 per person; and a bowling trip, which will also cost \$6 per person. Another possible activity is a trip to Lake Michigan.

Our Youth Group has been having fund raisers monthly and would appreciate it if other groups would join us in the efforts. If each group could raise at least \$100, we know that everyone could participate in these activities.

## SR Reaction

Mr. Butler,

I read *The Sabbath Recorder* fervently, word by word. I want to be assured that I'm being led by God's will and not by my own desire. Like a spiritual vacuum, I inhale and savor it. Then, taking no chance on missing something, I re-read it.

I cried great volumes of spiritual tears as I read the article edited by you on page 5 of the May issue. I cried even more when I read it for the second, third, and fourth time. That's why I felt convicted to write you.

It was nearly 11 decades ago that Rev. Madison Harry asked a question so

similar to the one I find myself asking today. His question was, "Why so few Sabbatarians?" Mine is, "Where are the witnessing Sabbatarians?"

SDBs aren't the only ones with "witnessing and contact" programs that are found lacking. It seems as though many denominations witness more to "the saved" than to "the unsaved." They extend welcomes to those who are already "in" rather than to those who stand "just outside the door."

Kansas has one SDB church building. It's located in the northeast area of the state and has been there many years. I would think that after all this time,

there surely are more than enough Sabbatarian Baptists to add another one! If it were to be more centrally located—and if an aggressive witnessing program were to be instituted—then perhaps in another decade someone else won't be asking the same questions Rev. Harry and I did.

My husband is retired and not in the best of health. But he and I would be willing to help as God wills and do the best to our abilities, remembering that with God, all things are possible.

Sincerely, in Christ's Love,  
Kay Battle  
Sedgwick, KS

# Pastor Profile



### Name:

Rev. Michael L. Burns

### Birthdate and place:

February 11, 1950 Easton, Md.

### Current pastorate:

Albion, Wis., Seventh Day Baptist Church

### Family:

Wife, Jill; son, Desmond, 10; daughter, Sara, 9.

### Education:

Vocational High School—Electronics.

Technical School—Radar, Communications, Computers.

T.I.M.E. (Training in Ministry by Extension) program.

### Former pastorates/employment:

Pastor, Washington, D.C. Seventh Day Baptist Church.  
Pastor, First SDB Church of Hebron, Coudersport, Pa.  
Also served American Baptist congregations in Emporium and Port Allegany, Pa., and the Seventh Day Community Church of Sweden Hill near Coudersport.

Through the years, I have owned and operated a Radio & TV Repair Shop; was an Associate Engineer at NASA installations in Wallops Island, Va., and Greenbelt, Md.; worked as a Field Engineer at the New Cumberland Army Depot in New Cumberland, Pa.; and as a computer operator, programmer, and consultant.

### My first job was:

Oystering and dredging clams on the Chesapeake Bay.

### Personal hero:

Dr. Desmond Ford

### Favorite Bible passage:

1 Corinthians 10:13

### Favorite author:

Dr. Desmond Ford and Charles Spurgeon

### Most people don't know (about me):

If I revealed that, it would no longer be unknown.

### When I have time, I enjoy:

Pitching horseshoes, reading about and visiting battle-field sites of the War of Northern Aggression (The War Between the States or as known among "Bluebellies," the Civil War).

### A great answer to prayer was:

The healing of our daughter, Sara, after a seizure and near death at the age of 3.

### A church project I'm excited about:

Outreach to the kids of Albion.

### My vision for SDBs:

To see our people become more evangelistic.

## Accessions

### Asheville, NC

*Donald Fox, pastor*  
Joined after baptism  
Christine Taylor  
Laura Taylor

### Daytona Beach, FL

*John Camenga, pastor*  
Joined by testimony  
Elton David  
Margaret David  
Marie Ward

### Houston, TX

Joined after testimony  
Mary Lou Broadway  
Linda Ziganay

### Palatka, FL

*Jack Morgan, pastor*  
Joined after baptism  
Steven Sykes  
Gurney Webster

### Miami, FL

*Andrew Samuels, pastor*  
Joined after baptism  
Cortney Charlery  
Richard Davis  
Cassandra Murphy  
Tsafiq Samuels  
Loretta Sweeney  
Pamela Wilson  
Joined after testimony  
Noel Currey  
Marcia Livingston

### Ewart Rose

Ava White  
Kinly Wilson  
Leonie Wilson  
Theonathan Wilson

### Milton, WI

*George Calhoun, pastor*  
Joined after baptism  
Rick Mullen

### Shiloh, NJ

*Don Chroniger, pastor*  
Joined after testimony  
Andrew Vicente

## Marriages

**Vicente - Dixon.**—Andrew Vicente and Danielle Dixon were married on April 10, 1999, in the Shiloh, NJ, Seventh Day Baptist Church, with the Rev. Don Chroniger officiating.

**Hampton - Johnson.**—Charles Hampton and Glenda Johnson were united in marriage on May

27, 1999, in Florence, Ala. The Rev. John Bevis of the Paint Rock, AL, SDB Church officiated.

**Tank - Smalley.**—Paul Tank and Debbie J. Smalley were united in marriage on May 28, 1999, at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Merrimac, WI, with Pastor Dale Smalley officiating.

## Births

**Meyer.**—A daughter, Rachel Elizabeth Meyer, was born to Jason and Shari (Smalley) Meyer of Portage, WI, on January 5, 1999.

**Aulita.**—A daughter, Rebekah Angelina Aulita, was born to Mark and Debbie Aulita of East Berne, NY, on March 22, 1999.

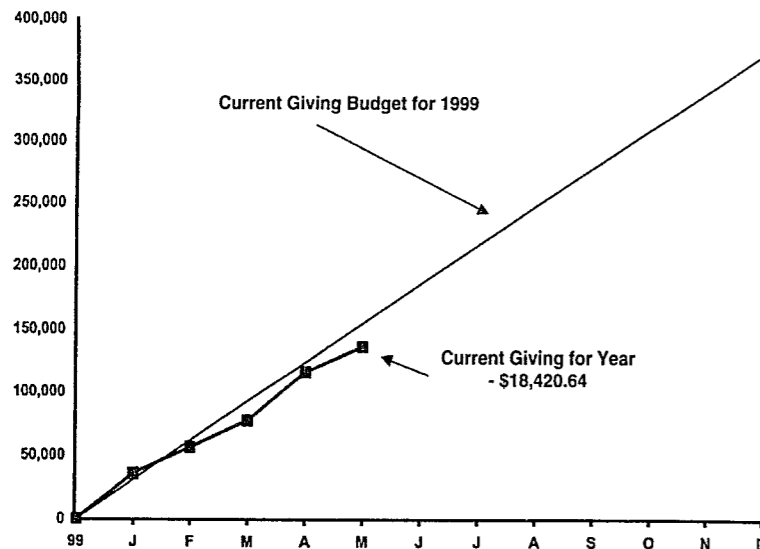
**Murphy.**—A daughter, Mary Jennie Murphy, was born to Buddy and Audrey Murphy of Ashaway, RI, on March 30, 1999.

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

**Nadeau.**—Twin sons, Adam Christopher Nadeau and Patrick James Nadeau, were born to Donald and Cindy (Hays) Nadeau of Pawcatuck, CT, on May 3, 1999.

**Coffin.**—A daughter, Emily Rose Coffin, was born to Matthew and Jordyn Coffin of Colorado Springs, CO, on May 24, 1999.

## Current Giving 1999



## Obituaries

### Fitz Randolph.

Sandford Fitz Randolph, 85, of Bridgeport, W.Va., died on February 24, 1999, in Ruby Memorial Hospital, Morgantown, W.Va.

He was born in Salem, W.Va., on April 5, 1913, the son of Norma Randolph. On December 26, 1935, he married Virginia Thompson.

Sandford earned B.A. and B.S. degrees from Salem College, where he later served on the Board of Trustees for over 27 years. Following college, he worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture/Treasury. He also sold group health insurance, owning the Randolph Insurance Agency in Clarksburg, W.Va., from 1939-1953.

During World War II, he served in the U.S. Navy. Afterwards, he worked as a part-time service officer for American Legion Post No. 13 in Clarksburg. With National Homes Corporation, he sold and supervised the construction of many homes in central West Virginia.

In 1953, Mr. Randolph began a career with the cable TV industry as General Manager of the Clarksburg cable and was a founding member of the Pioneer Cable TV Association. He was hailed as a "cable TV pioneer" and was active in many business and civic organizations, including the March of Dimes and United Way.

Sandford had been a member of the Salem Seventh Day Baptist Church since his baptism there in 1926. His several offices included trustee of the church and of the Randolph Terrace Apartment complex. He also attended the Bridgeport United Methodist Church.

In addition to his wife, Virginia, survivors include one daughter, Karen Randolph Aman of Drums, Pa., and five granddaughters. He was preceded in death by one son, Sandford Fitz Randolph II, and one daughter, Virginia R. Grottendieck.

A funeral service was held on February 27, 1999, with the Rev. Dale

Thorngate officiating. Burial was in Bridgeport Cemetery.

**Gore.**—Clare Edith Gore, 64, of Bedford Township, Mich., died on April 25, 1999, in The Laurels of Bedford.

She was born on May 1, 1934, in Lexington, Ky., the daughter of James Clarence and Mona (Masters) White. She attended school in Kentucky.

Clare was employed as a nurse's aide by the American Legion Hospital, Augusta, Mich., and then by Providial House (now Tendercare Nursing Home) for 17 years. She had been a member of the Battle Creek, Mich., SDB Church since 1958.

Her first marriage, to James Maxson, ended in divorce. She then married Lawrence Gore on August 14, 1965. He survives.

Also surviving are one son, Gordon Maxson, of Denver, Colo., and one brother, James C. ("JC") White of New Vienna, Ohio. She was preceded in death by her parents and one sister.

Services were held on April 28, 1999, at Memorial Park Cemetery in Battle Creek.

**Piccolo.**—Edna Margaret (Coon) Piccolo, 88, of Westerly, R.I., died on April 30, 1999, at the Westerly Nursing Home.

She was born on Chase Hill in Ashaway, R.I., on January 2, 1911, and was the daughter of Robert Lee and Mabel (Ellis) Coon. She was the widow of Achille V. Piccolo.

Mrs. Piccolo graduated from Emerson College in Boston, Mass., with a bachelor's degree in literary interpretation. She continued her education at the University of Rhode Island, the University of Connecticut, and Rhode Island College while teaching in local schools. She retired from teaching in the Connecticut school system in 1979.

She was a member of the First Hopkinton Seventh Day Baptist Church in Ashaway, where she had been a member for 77 years.

Survivors include one son, Achille A. Piccolo of New Hampshire, and one grandson.

Services were held on May 5, 1999, at the Buckler-Johnston Funeral Home in Westerly. D. Scott Smith, pastor of the First Hopkinton SDB Church, officiated.

**Butler.**—Mary Alice Butler, 73, died on May 12, 1998, at Huntsville (Ala.) Hospital.

She was born on July 18, 1925, the daughter of Robert L. and Almira (Bottoms) Butler. She graduated from New Hope High School and received her B.S. degree from Alfred (N.Y.) University.

At age 12, she publicly professed her faith in Christ and was baptized. Some years later, she found a deeper spiritual experience and was rebaptized. She was self-sacrificing and dedicated to what she felt was God's will for her life, and held strongly to what she believed to the end.

Mary's first job was as secretary at the Seventh Day Baptist headquarters in Plainfield, N.J. She later served in secretarial positions and taught at various levels in Alabama, California, Tennessee, and Georgia. She returned to Scottsboro, Ala., for retirement.

Survivors include three sisters, Nancilu Burdick Rankin of Orchard Park, N.Y., Ruth Potts of Florence, Ala., and Bettie Pearson of Aragon, Ga.; two brothers, Gilbert of Guin, Ala., and Dan of Woodville, Ala.; and 10 nieces and 10 nephews. She was preceded in death by two brothers, James E. and Robert L. Jr.

Funeral services were held at the Paint Rock, Ala., SDB Church, officiated by Pastors Luis Lovelace, John Bevis, and Dennis Salley. Burial was in Bethel Cemetery, New Hope, Ala.

Can the dead witness, cont. from page 11

and Board to send a missionary to them. They pledged \$176 toward a missionary supply and also voted to ask L.A. Davis to accept the appointment of the Board as their missionary. This kept up the congregation's spirit and apparently uplifted the church.

In April of 1861, L.A. Davis headed to Illinois. It seemed wise to choose a successor, so on December 29, 1861, Davis resigned, and they installed Elder Charles A. Burdick.

I counted 16 or more pastors until 1946, the year when Seventh Day Baptists "ceased to be" in Welton.

When the Delmar, Iowa, newspaper reported that the Welton church was for sale, Perley Hurley asked the Missionary Board to temporarily secure the buildings so that they could try to build up the church again.

At the 1944 Conference in Alfred, N.Y., the subject of the Welton church came up, and the SDB

Women's Society started a "helpers' fund." Individuals and other women societies were urged to contribute.

Two lay workers, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur J. Burns of Berlin, N.Y., heeded the call and arrived on the Iowa mission field on November 14, 1944. They visited the scattered members and held a Sabbath School made up of some non-Sabbathkeeping children. Even though there were weekly services, they held a Sunday evening service as well.

Apparently, most of the Welton church members moved out of the area for employment reasons, so money was a vital issue. It's unclear whether the members who were left failed to support the Burns' efforts to revive the church. In any event, the couple returned to Berlin in the fall of 1945, and the Welton church officially closed in 1946. For some unknown reason, the seeds planted by the Welton SDB Church

didn't continue to grow.

I felt led to write this story to show that even though these early pioneers can no longer communicate with us, they left us a legacy to strengthen our own faith. And for that, all of us should be grateful. Their works followed them, and the trail they left of the Bible Sabbath will continue to affirm our faith. **SR**

*[Editor's note: Historian Don Sanford adds that Perley Hurley was born in Welton and served two years as president of General Conference. Hurley's son K. Duane was editor of The Sabbath Recorder, president and Executive Secretary of General Conference, and president of Salem College. Five native sons of Welton became prominent Seventh Day Baptist ministers: T.J. Van Horn, Edgar Van Horn, James H. Hurley, Eli Loofboro, and Charles S. Sayre.]*

## Three attend Institute

by Leanne Lippincott

Two Seventh Day Baptist pastors and one seminary student attended Summer Institute at the SDB Center in Janesville, Wis. The course on Sabbath Theology was held from May 31 to June 16 and was taught by Rev. Rodney Henry, Director of Pastoral Services and Dean of the Council on Ministry.

The course included 38 hours of lecture and discussion time, with required reading assignments and a major paper.

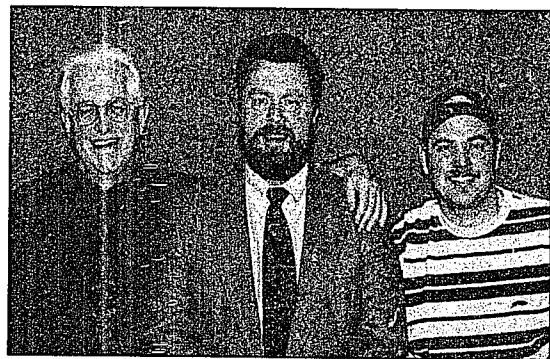
"That paper is an articulation of the student's personal Sabbath theology," Henry explained.

This year's Institute attendees were Matt Berg, L.B. Lee, and Tom Mitchell.

Berg is a member of the Riverside SDB Church. Currently, he's a bivocational student at Regent College in Vancouver, British Columbia,

Canada, where he's working on a Master of Divinity degree. He works three days a week as a vocational counselor for the British Columbia Paraplegic Association (he has a Masters in Vocational Rehabilitation from San Diego State) and spends the other two days at seminary.

Tom Mitchell pastors the Centralia (Wash.) SDB Church and lives in Vancouver, Wash., with his wife, Bonnie. This fall, he plans to re-enroll in Multnomah Bible College in Portland, Ore., where he'll be a junior. Upon graduation, he'll have B.S.



Tom Mitchell, L.B. Lee, and Matt Berg.

degrees in Bible and Pastoral Studies.

The third Institute attendee, L.B. Lee, pastors the SDB Church in Colorado Springs, where he lives with his wife, Angela. They have three daughters: Kristen, 10; Lauren, 8; and Brittany, 4. He has completed the New Worker Orientation program and is currently in the T.I.M.E. program. **SR**

# KEVIN'S

## CORNER

### Timing

Five years ago, a dear friend of this ministry offered to help pay my way to the Baptist World Congress gathering in Brazil. He felt that I would gain much by the experience and was willing to support that idea monetarily.

Timing. The World Congress meets every five years, so the meeting dates are set far in advance. Our week of General Conference coincided with part of the World Congress, so I needed to decline the generous offer. (Seems that some folks expect me to attend Conference for some reason, bless their hearts.) My friend still sent a large gift so

I could attend that year's Associated Church Press convention.

Well, those five years rolled by quickly, and Baptist delegates from around the world plan to meet in Melbourne, Australia, this coming January.

Timing. I wondered if my friend had seen the meeting announcements and would be willing to help me get Down Under to represent SDBs. (Seems that our Conference will *not* be held in January next year...)

After several weeks of pondering and praying, I mustered up the courage to give him a call. He was not in his office. I stumbled through a voice-mail message and got on with the day's work.

Later that morning, a phone call quizzed me on how much the airfare was to Australia. It was my generous benefactor.

I told him the current cost (much more than his offer of five years ago), and without missing a beat, this wonderful man said, "The check will be in the mail."

I nearly fell off my chair!! While blathering out my litany of "thank yous," he interrupted by asking, "What about your wife?"

*What about my wife??* I thought, *Well, she's beautiful and I love her very much...*

"If she is willing to go," he said, "I will pay her airfare as well."

Silence.

Do you ever have those dreams where you can't speak or move your body?

My friend added that he would be out of town (Paris!) for awhile and I could tell him of her decision the following week.

Timing. Being a loving and conscientious mostly-at-home mother, getting Janet to go on even a state-side trip with me can be like pulling teeth. Add an extra dozen-plus hours in the air, soaring over a billion-plus gallons of ocean, and my vision of her accompanying me appeared fuzzy.

Yet, when I presented the offer, she was immediately interested! After hearing friends and our own children encouraging her, she said "yes"! We now hold two tickets to Melbourne.

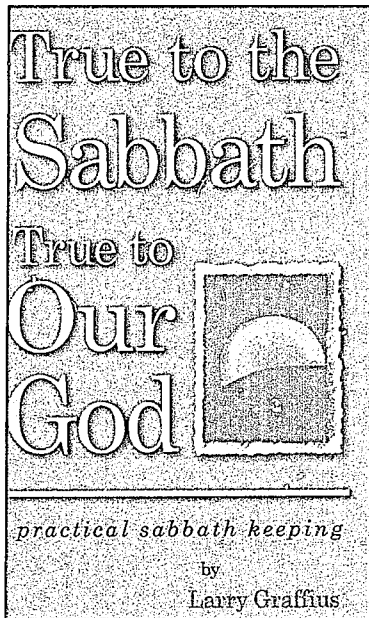
Timing. Was it God's will for me to go to Brazil? Probably not. Since then, I have had five more years of ministry experience, been in close contact with national church leaders through the Baptist Joint Committee, and our youngest has doubled in age.

Is it God's will for us to go to Australia? Sure looks like it. Especially since receiving a letter from our friend where *he thanked me* for giving him the opportunity to support us, and credited the loving SDB church in Verona, N.Y., for teaching him the importance of sharing.

When is God good? ALL the TIME.

Oh, and... G'day, mate!





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