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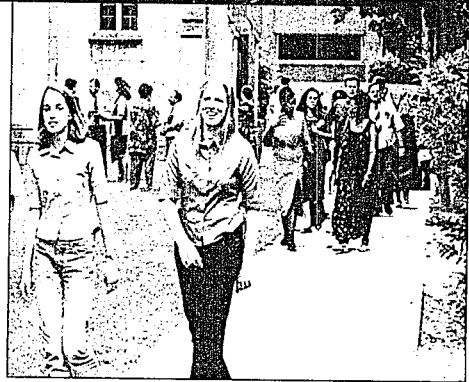
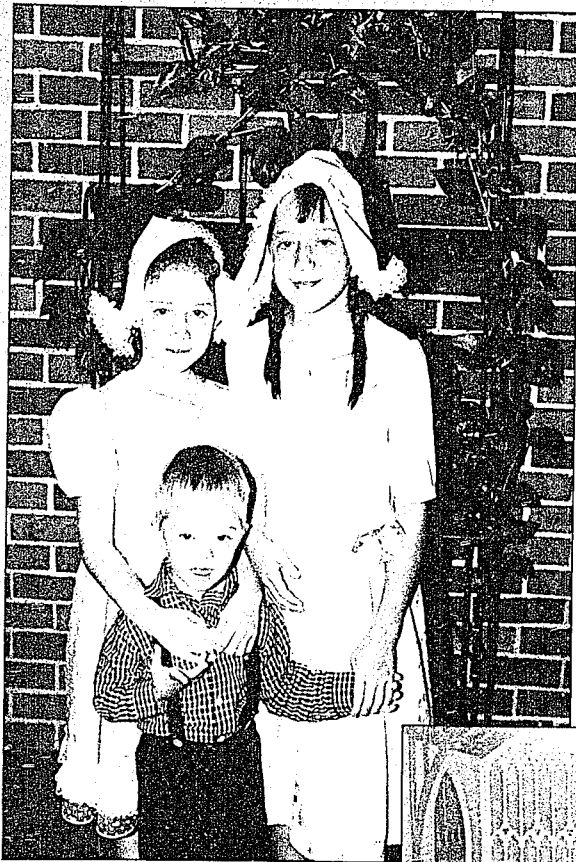
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News for and about
Seventh Day Baptists

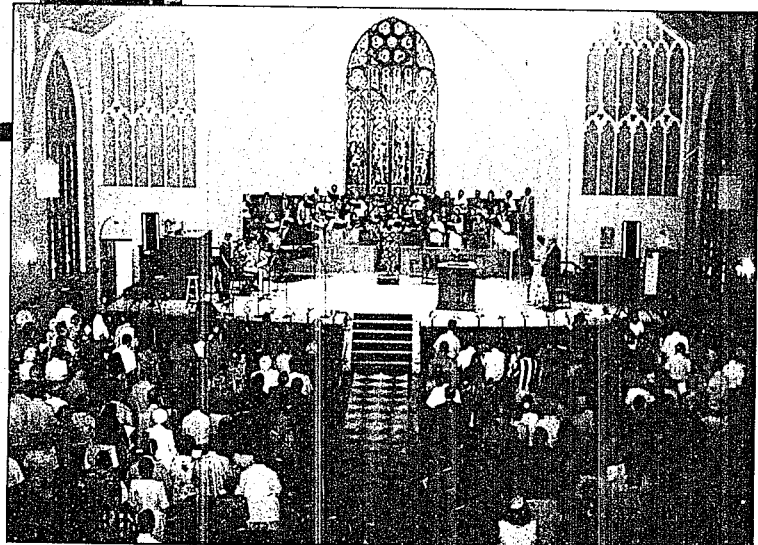
September 1999

R

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SDBs head to
Holland (Michigan)
for Conference 1999





Who are Seventh Day Baptists?

If you've never read *The Sabbath Recorder* before, you might be wondering who Seventh Day Baptists are. Like other Baptists, we believe in:

- salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.
- the Bible as the inspired word of God. The Bible is our authority for our faith and daily conduct.
- baptism of believers, by immersion, witnessing to our acceptance of Christ as Savior and Lord.
- freedom of thought under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- the congregational form of church government. Every church member has the right to participate in the decision-making process of the church.

The seventh day

God commanded that the seventh day (Saturday) be kept holy. Jesus agreed by keeping it as a day of worship. We observe the seventh day of the week (Saturday) as God's Holy Day as an act of loving obedience—not as a means of salvation. Salvation is the free gift of God through Jesus Christ. It is the joy of the Sabbath that makes SDBs just a little bit different.

If you would like more information, write: The Seventh Day Baptist Center, 3120 Kennedy Road, PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547-1678. Phone (608) 752-5055; FAX (608) 752-7711; E-mail: sdbgen@inwave.com and the SDB Web site: www.seventhdaybaptist.org

The Sabbath Recorder

Establ. 1844



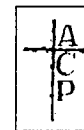
September 1999
Volume 221, No. 9
Whole No. 6,843

A Seventh Day Baptist publication

The Sabbath Recorder (ISSN 0036-214X) (USPS 474460) is published monthly (combined July & August) by the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference's Tract and Communication Council, 3120 Kennedy Road, PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547-1678. This publication is distributed at no cost to members and friends of Seventh Day Baptist churches and is made possible by donations from its readers. Periodicals postage paid at Janesville, WI, and additional offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Sabbath Recorder*, 3120 Kennedy Road, PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547-1678

This is the 155th year of publication for *The Sabbath Recorder*. First issue published, June 13, 1844. Member of the Associated Church Press. *The Sabbath Recorder* does not necessarily endorse signed articles.



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WRITERS: Please type manuscripts double spaced. Only manuscripts that include a stamped, addressed envelope can be returned. Unsolicited manuscripts are welcomed; however, they will be considered on a **space available** basis. No remuneration is given for any article that appears in this publication. Paid advertising is not accepted.

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Be ye holy in Holland

The SDB Church of Little Rock, Ark., will celebrate its 40th birthday on October 22-23, 1999. A cordial invitation is extended to y'all to come and participate with us!

We think back to two persons in particular who were instrumental in starting the Little Rock SDB Church: Drs. Lloyd (and Oma Pierce) Seager, and Paul (and Dorothy) Ewing.

What a joy it is to be a continuing part of the Ministry of Outreach and Church Planting, all in the name of Jesus, our Servant/Savior. As we are all members of the Body of Christ, let us pray and work for the up-building of His Body, the Church, in these days.

Come and join us as we celebrate the hand of God down through the years in response to His leading.

Floyd Van Horn, Moderator
Irving D. Seager, Deacon
Richard William Burks, Asst. Pastor

Cover photos

Top—Churchgoers head for lunch following Sabbath worship

Middle—Going Dutch! The Chris and Becky Mattison clan: Becky Faith, Kaitie, and Evan

Bottom—Sabbath morning worship at Dimnent Chapel, Hope College

Annual Corporation Meeting Notice Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education

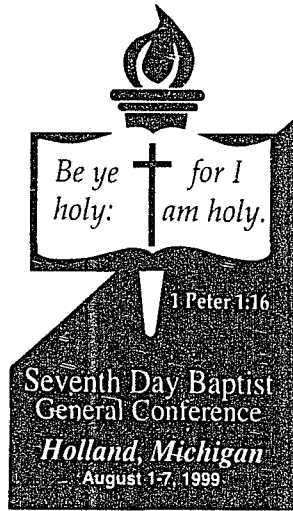
The annual meeting of the members of the Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education, Inc., will be held at the Edgar D. and Harriet Brown Van Horn Building, 892 Route 244, Alfred Station, N.Y., on Sunday, October 24, 1999, at 10:00 a.m.

The purpose of this meeting shall be to hear and act upon the 1998 Annual Report of the Board of Directors, to elect Directors, and to consider and act upon such matters that may properly come before said meeting.

Members of the member churches of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference USA & Canada, Ltd., are members of the Corporation. Accredited delegates attending the 1999 General Conference sessions in Holland, Mich., are entitled to vote at this annual meeting.



The 1999 General Conference



This year's Conference reminded us that "holiness" is part of our spiritual journey as well as our ultimate destination. It was a lesson we participants learned firsthand in the many aspects of our time together. Now it is our challenge to share this lesson with others who were unable to join us at Hope College in Holland, Mich.

Members of the Host Committee,

primarily from the White Cloud and Battle Creek, Mich., churches, had worked hard to prepare for the 1999 gathering. They also continued to work hard throughout the week to make sure everything ran smoothly. The weather, which had been extremely hot during Pre-Con camps, was greatly improved by the time 600-plus Conference attendees took over the campus.

For the dorm dwellers who learned to sleep through the frequent train traffic, it was a comfortable setting. Most of the scheduled activities were held in a closely-clustered section of buildings, the major exception being the Dimnent Chapel programs a short walk away.

The Sabbath Recorder will carry excerpts from some of the Bible studies and evening sermons over the next several issues. In this brief overview, the continuity of the theme—rather than a detailed account—is being emphasized.

When then-incoming President Norma Rudert announced her theme

for 1998-99 as "Be Ye Holy," based on 1 Peter 1:16, many of us probably wondered how such a theme could be developed. The answer would have to be: very well! From beginning to end, we not only learned about this seemingly mysterious quality of faith, but we even experienced it in tremendous ways.

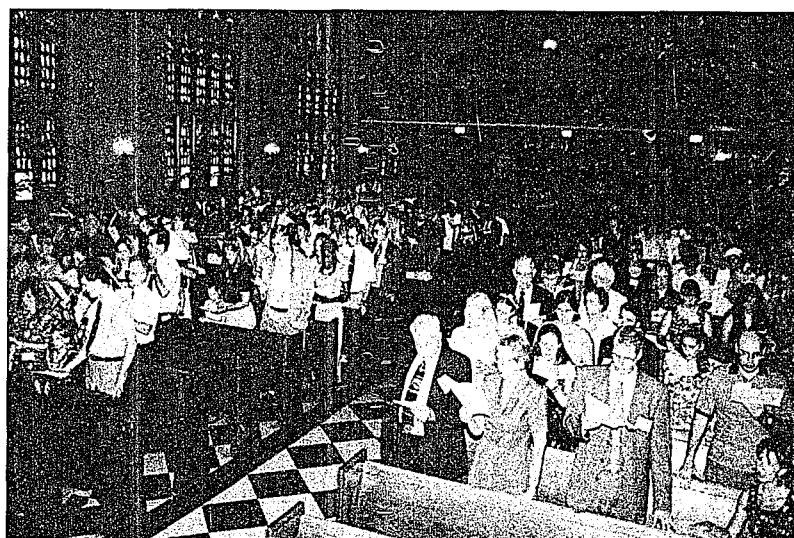
Each weekday began with dorm prayer groups, lifting up the program details of that day and specific concerns of those present. The morning Bible studies charted our journey:

- "The Road Map of Holiness" with Pastor Paul Manuel
- "Potholes and Pitfalls" with Dr. Pete and Nancy May
- "Service Stations" with Pastor Robert Van Horn
- "Detours and Flat Tires" with Dr. Victor Burdick
- "Refreshments on the Road" with Pastor Scott Hausrath

Musical interludes organized by Luan Ellis helped business sessions, *cont. on page 6*



As Oscar Burdick played...



...over 700 Seventh Day Baptists sang!



Dr. Pete May was introduced as our new Executive Secretary.



Representatives of five new SDB churches were welcomed into the Conference by Rodney Henry.



This year's "first family" (l. to r.): son Eric Rudert, President Norma and Don Rudert, grandsons Alex and Elliot Rudert, son-in-law David Hines and daughter Gigi Hines.



Ernest Bee accepts a plaque from Amanda Snyder honoring him for his years of service as Executive Director of the Board of Christian Education.

The Week in Review

Statistics

- 673 registered guests
- 700+ at worship on Sabbath
- 391 delegates representing 59 churches
- 7 official visitors
- 80 enrolled in Junior Conference
- 41 at Youth Pre-Con, directed by Andy Samuels with five staff
- 51 at Young Adult, directed by Scott Hausrath with three staff
- Women's Love Gift: \$3,920
- Conference offering: \$14,500
- Hours of sleep lost due to train horns blasting: countless

Elections

- President 1999-2000: Rev. John Camenga
- President-elect: Clayton Pinder
- General Council: Jeanne Yurke
- Council on Ministry: Steve Crouch, Karen Payne
- Faith and Order: John Peil, George Stillman
- Committee on Support and Retirement: Ralph Weber
- Tract and Communication Council: Ralph Hays Jr., Jeanne Yurke
- Memorial Fund Trustees: George Cruzan, Jon Cruzan, Doug Mackintosh
- Christian Social Action Committee: David Clarke, Duska Davis, K.D. Hurley, Laura Sutton

cont. next page

'99 Conference, *continued from page 4*

board and agency presentations, and interest committee meetings to flow gracefully along the paths of holiness. (For possible doubters out there, when was the last time NO "new business" was brought to the floor of Conference and all reports were received so peacefully?!)

Special note should be made of this year's seminars which presented a balance of practical and theological material:

"Presiding Over a Church Business Meeting" led by Jim Skaggs

"What Church Treasurers Should Know" led by Stephen Pierce

"The Intentional Christian Family" led by Dale Thorngate

"Becoming Whole and Holy" led by Melicent Vergeer especially for pastors' wives

"Foundations for the Dream" led by John Camenga about meshing church visions and facilities

"Special Needs Persons" led by Christian Mattison

"The Intersection of Church and State" led by James Dunn of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs

"The Fully Gifted Creation Perspective" led by Howard VanTill,

physics professor, author, and man of faith

Each seminar was well-attended, thought-provoking, and a vital part of the Conference program.

Evening worship experiences included vespers by Youth Pre-Con, Young Adult Pre-Con, and a men's chorus. The musicians throughout the week were outstanding and presented a variety of music, from classical to contemporary.

Preaching was also varied. After Pastor Andrew Samuels introduced the theme with the Sunday night sermon "The Mandate for Holiness," the preachers spelled out H-O-L-Y with their sermon titles, helped us to enter into the refreshment of Sabbath Eve, and led us in our joyful celebration of Sabbath Day:

- "The Heart of Holiness is Humility" with Pastor Bill Burks
- "The Obligation of Holiness is (extreme) Obedience" with Pastor Steven James
- "The Light of Holiness is Love" with Pastor David Taylor
- "The Yoke of Holiness is Yieldedness" with Pastor C. Justin Camenga, followed by a

"restoration service" (prayer and healing) for those who chose to remain with Pastor George Calhoun and other pray-ers in the sanctuary

- "Spiritual Refreshing" with Pastor Don and Charlotte Chroniger, followed by Communion led by Pastors Larry Graffius and Steve Osborn
- "The Rewards of Holiness" with Pastor John Peil

In addition to all the worship leaders and musicians, special thanks go to David Clarke for making sure that Sabbath Day included Sabbath School classes for all ages!

Some highlights of this year's General Conference can be captured in lists of names or statistics. For those of us who were blessed to experience the program, our memories of a great week will keep us excited for quite some time. For all Seventh Day Baptists, present in person or in spirit, the photographs taken by Kevin and Jenny Butler will help to tell the week's story. Enjoy these for the first time or for an almost-instant replay!

—Special SR correspondent

Awards/Recognitions

- Pastors Andrew Camenga and Scott Hausrath accredited
- Women's Board Robe of Achievement: Jean Lewis, Riverside, Calif.
- Sabbath School Teacher of the Year: Marilyn Merchant, Riverside, Calif.
- Historical Society's Gold-headed Cane: Rev. S. Kenneth Davis, Bradenton, Fla.
- Special recognitions given to Ernest K. Bee Jr. (retiring as BCE Executive Director) and Rodney Henry (leaving COM to pastor in Denver)

Business Action

- Dr. Lewis H.V. (Pete) May named new Executive Secretary. His wife, Nancy,

will serve as his administrative assistant. Their part-time service to begin October 1, 1999

- Approved 2000 budget of \$838,027 calls for \$374,751 to come from current giving, less than 1% increase over 1999
- Five new churches welcomed: All Nations, Gardena, Calif.; Colorado Springs, Colo.; Community Church, Los Angeles, Calif.; Cornerstone, Pontotoc, Miss.; and Shepherd's Fold Ministry, Blountville, Tenn.
- General Council confirms appointments of Gabriel Bejjani as Dean of the Council on Ministry (COM) and Director of Pastoral Services, and Rev. Andrew J. Camenga as Executive Director of the Sev-



The week's only 'board' speaker, Justin Camenga, talking about the yoke of yieldedness.



Doug and Jayne Lubke of the Milton, Wis., church shared their musical gifts.



The Daytona Beach, Fla., ladies presented a lovely quilt to Norma Rudert, listing the names of all Conference presidents since 1801.



While Karen Payne was reading a committee report...



...husband Doug took over the needlepoint work.

enth Day Baptist Board of Christian Education (BCE)

- The new South Atlantic SDB Association includes churches in Florida, North and South Carolina, and Georgia
- Recommended that "the Missionary Society investigate the possibility of creating a short-term mission program similar to the SCSC program"
- Due to changing locations of some Conference executives' offices, delegates recommended that "General Council shall evaluate the effectiveness of working relationships within the Coordinating Leadership Team (CLT) yearly and include a status summary in its annual report."

Conference 2000!

**West Virginia Wesleyan College
Buckhannon, WV**

August 6-12, 2000

President John Camenga
Theme: "Live in Harmony
with One Another"

1 Peter 3:8

Check the oil?

by Lorrie Bird

"Service Stations" on the road to holiness was the topic of Pastor Robert Van Horn's Bible study on Wednesday morning. A very entertaining but appropriate skit was used to demonstrate how full-service gas stations operate.

Since the Church is people, we need to be responsible "service stations" taking care of the needs of all peoples. What can we do for service as individuals in our own communities? That question must be answered: "To take care of God's people wherever they are no matter how unlovely, repelling, or whatever the case may be." We must be obedient to God's authority.

How can the church family be involved? We must meet the people and then share Christ's message.

Be a "full" service station. Check under the hood, see what the problem is, fix the radiator leak, use the proper oil, and keep the windshield clean so you can see where you are going.

—From the *Conference Crier*



Martha Greene (left) insisted on providing full service to driver Lana Van Horn.

A balanced meal

by Kristina Watt

Wednesday, the youth met at the "Kletz" for the annual Youth Banquet.

When dinner was over, guest speaker Scott Hausrath explained that our lives could only stand firmly with the Lord. He used a plate filled with things in our lives: popularity, represented by lipstick; food (Twinkies); work or school (pens); and money (rolls of quarters).

One by one he tried to balance the plate on these things. Each time, the plate would eventually fall, and we got to see that only the Lord could be a firm foundation for our lives.

His verse to illustrate this point was Matthew 7:24. "Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and acts upon them may be compared to a wise man who built his house upon a rock." This verse challenged the youth to listen to the Word of the Lord and not only to hear it, but to act on it, which is to have the Lord as our foundation.

—From the *Conference Crier*



A festive atmosphere greeted those who attended the Youth Banquet.

Detours on the road to holiness

by Jane Lewis

The metaphorical journey to spiritual maturity was led with wit and humor by veteran teacher and healer Victor Burdick in the Thursday morning Bible study.

As examples of *Sanctification through Suffering*, we considered the trials and suffering of Bible patriarchs such as Job, Joseph, David, and Paul. Modern day heroes such as Mother Teresa, Chuck Colson, Joni Eareckson Tada, and John Conrod were also discussed for our personal comparison. Dr. Burdick asserts that if we want a godly life, we must expect suffering. Following is the heart of the lesson:

Each person mentioned above, in retrospect, would not consider themselves to have suffered much—especially compared to what Jesus suffered for us all. Nor would they admit to have attained to any significant degree of sanctification through their suffering, especially compared to the glory that now belongs to Christ.

However, as we observe their lives, we admire the manner in which they have endured suffering for Christ's sake or as part of His plan for their lives. We can clearly see that they have attained to a measure of spiritual growth that would not have

been possible without their suffering. We can see the marks of holiness in their lives.

Each one becomes a model for us—whether the suffering is a result of accident, disease, personal misdeeds, voluntary choices, or Satanic attacks permitted by God—so that we might be encouraged and comforted in our times of suffering. These times of testing and trial are the means by which we may grow spiritually; that is, that we may continue in the process of sanctification.

—From the *Conference Crier*

A start on the right foot

by Christine Lindo
in the *Conference Crier*

To get to Conference, we left Toronto, Canada, very early. We had no difficulties on the way and arrived without mishap. I guess you could say we started on the right foot, with the right guide (our Lord and Father).

We registered and settled in, ready to begin another journey, a week at Conference. Would my expectations be fulfilled? Would I still be happy that I came? But, of course!

Conference started on the right foot. Sunday night began with a rousing time of praise and worship. This was followed by a powerful message delivered by God's instrument, Pastor Andrew Samuels.

Focusing on the Conference theme, Pastor Samuels gave a five-step process to holiness. He said we should:

- know the Word of God
- have the mind of God
- have the heart of God
- have the character of Christ and become Christlike
- do all to the Glory of God.

Wow! Conference was hopping all right. Man!! I was energized. I went to get on the crest of the wave.

But wait! Next morning, what a slam dunk! "Roadmap to Holiness." We got some good stuff to help us walk the path to holiness.

My eyes popped wide open as Dr. Paul Manuel said, "Holiness is not an option." That's true. When God says "Do A," we must not, should not, do B.

It is mandatory to do as God commands. It is imperative to be holy.

Oh yes, we started on the right foot. May we keep on the right foot and not forget what we learned.



Kirk Looper gets set to introduce Jamaican missions trip members Karlene Neher, Miriam Lawton, Jenny Butler, and Jessie Olson.



Rod Henry reacts to the General Council's "Good Guy Award" presented by Norma Rudert.



Any future "Stained Glass" members here?

Choir makes a joyful noise

by Amanda Snyder



God has blessed SDBs with many gifts. One of these gifts is music. Psalm 150 encourages believers to "Praise God in his sanctuary... with trumpet, psaltery, harp, timbrel, dance, stringed instruments, organs, loud cymbals, everything that hath breath, praise the Lord."

I have been blessed this year to

be the Conference choir director. It is so exciting to hear notes and words come together to bring all of us God's message.

I thank all the choir members for giving time during this busy week for coming to rehearsals and singing at worship.

Thank you, Jayne Lubke, for being

the choir accompanist. Thank you, Oscar Burdick, for being flexible with your abilities to help the choir. Thank you, Doug Mackintosh, for all your work with the sound system and coordination of rehearsal times. Thank you, Kory Geske and Greg Fick, for helping with set-up.

Thank you, instrumentalists Ben Calhoun, Steve Graffius, and Doug Lubke, with your talents for Sabbath worship. Thank you, Steve Saunders, for leading the choir Monday evening. This allowed me to sing with Paul and Denise Green, my second pastor and his wife. Thank you for your help on Sabbath Day.

Special thanks go to my husband, Nelson, who has been so faithful with his support not only this week, but always.

If you are asked to be a Conference choir director, please prayerfully consider this. When God says, "Yes," know that you will be blessed. **SR**

—From the Conference Crier



Nancy May dressed for her part of Tuesday's Bible study.



These Seattle church folks sang this year's memory verses.



Pastors Larry Graffius and Steve Osborn prepare to serve the elements.



Incoming Christian Education executive Andrew Camenga.

Tract Council skit a scream



Larry Graffius interrupts his own book review to pitch the new logo shirts.



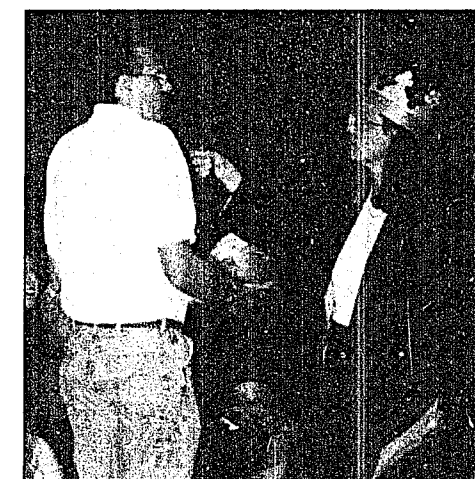
Doreen and David Davis review the latest SR issues.



Jim Skaggs displays some new technology at a 'press conference.'



TCC Director Kevin Butler (as Keyv Chase) 'interviews' Joel Osborn via television.



Rob Appel gets quizzed by reporter Tizzy Fitt (wife Cheri).

Obligation of holiness is obedience

We were treated to another lovely Conference worship service as Pastor Steven James developed the topic of "Extreme Obedience."

Pastor James made seven points as he examined the definition of obedience; recognizing that true obedience can only come from a humble heart. He reiterated that obedience is best exemplified by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ as He gave up His

position to be obedient, even unto death on the cross.

Obedience is expected of us by God. We can point to numerous examples for our lack of total obedience, but it does not absolve us of our responsibility to meet God's expectation of total obedience.

The family of Jonadab was ex-tolled by God through Jeremiah for

their demonstration of obedience over 300 years. Peter exhorted the early Church to greater obedience.

Finally, we were challenged to explore our own life experience with obedience and specifically to look at our Sabbath observance and bring it in line with our obedience to the other commandments.

—From the Conference Crier



Team Never Ashamed—SCSC 1999

The theme verse for the 1999 Summer Christian Service Corps (SCSC) was Romans 1:16. "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek" (KJV).

Training for Team "Never Ashamed" at Jersey Oaks Camp (Shiloh, N.J.) was challenging, deeply stirring, and spiritually uplifting. The project directors, training staff, and team members shared many testimo-



Team "New Spirit":
Marcy Payne and
Jeff Sinclair.

nies of God's marvelous working in their lives. We prayed for each other, prepared for our projects, worshiped together, and learned about leadership and being a healing community in our churches.

A video series and book, "Connecting" by Larry Crabb, was used as a basis for discussion. Team members and project directors continued to study the book during their projects, and followed up at evaluation during Conference in Michigan.

Studies on leadership and Christian Education, leading worship and praise, giving testimonies and children's messages, leading campfire and vespers, relationships and the importance of prayer, all contributed to the intensive training.

Staff included Althea Rood, training coordinator; Pastor Bernie Wethington, Helen Goodrich, and Pastor Andrew Samuels. Vivian Looper and Barbara Davis provided delicious and "interesting" meals, and part-time staff member Pastor Larry Graffius led sessions during campfire and vespers. Veteran SCSCers Karen McPherson (music) and Debbie

Moncrief (recreation) provided additional leadership and training.

The variety and number of projects presented a challenge this year, but God is good, and He has and is meeting our needs. Following is the list of projects and individuals, including team names and verses:

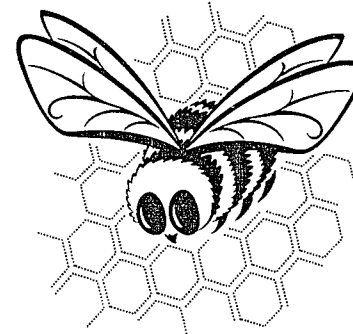
- Battle Creek, MI**
New Spirit, Ezekiel 11:19
Marcy Payne, Jeff Sinclair
- Boulder, CO**
Encourage, 1 Thessalonians 5:11a (NIV)
Joanna Halter, Nathanael Lawton
- Central, MD**
Victory, 1 Corinthians 15:51-57
Keith Ashley, Patrick London
- Daytona Beach, FL**
Eternal, 1 Peter 5:10
John Mark Camenga,
Cathy Rogers
- Lost Creek, WV**
Revolution, Isaiah 43:19
Karen McPherson,
Christina Shearer
- Marlboro, NJ**
Ant, Proverbs 6:6&8
Steve Graffius
- Milton, WI**
Shine, Matthew 5:16
Ben Calhoun, Nathan Davis,
Jennifer Osborn
- North Loup, NE**
Hope, Psalm 62:5-8
Debbie Moncrief, Sharai Fyffe
- Riverside, CA**
Agape, 1 John 4:7&8
Angie Neher, Paula Reynolds
- Seattle, WA**
Messenger, Malachi 3:1
Nate Walker, Jamaal Fyffe
- Verona, NY**
Expectation, Philippians 1:20
Marissa Van Horn, Steven Pimple
- White Cloud, MI**
Diligent, 2 Peter 1:5,10 (KJV)
Justin Hibbard, Omari Rhoden,
Nicole Gilmore **SR**



Team "Shine" at the microphones: Nathan Davis, Jennifer Osborn, and Ben Calhoun.

Women's Banquet a sweet experience

by Luan Ellis



At the Women's Banquet head table (l. to r.): Nancy May, Meleta Babcock, Lorna Graffius, Norma Rudert, Patti Wethington, and Ruth Probasco.

Wednesday evening, the women were treated to a delicious banquet and wonderful entertainment. Thanks to the Battle Creek, Mich., and Daytona Beach, Fla., ladies for the table favors. And lots of thanks to Calvin Babcock and his bees for the wonderful honey.

The Love Gift offering was taken, and \$3,920.05 was received. The gift will be distributed as follows:

- \$200 for keyboard request from Myanmar
- \$200 for one bicycle for Zambia Women's Board
- \$100 for books/uniforms for orphans in India
- \$100 for medical supplies for Philippines Women's Board
- \$100 for medicine/clothing/food for refugees in Rwanda

- \$100 for Bibles to Ghana Women's Board
- \$100 for Bibles to Gambia Women's Board
- \$100 for Bibles to Cameroon Women's Board
- \$100 for Bibles to Malawi Women's Board
- 50% of balance to SCSC
- 25% of balance to Maiden Hall Jamaica Conference/Learning Center
- 15% of balance to Guyana construction
- 5% of balance to Codi VanDalen medical expenses
- 5% of balance to Pastor Keith (Darcy) Julson family.

Patti Wethington gave her testimony of how she and Bernie ended up in White Cloud, Mich., and told

the history of the establishment of the Teen Center there.

The SCSC Team from 1998 (Melissa Winkleblack and JohnMark Camenga) shared their experiences of working at the Teen Center last summer. Comedian JohnMark sang a song he had written about the Center, interspersed with side comments. He also noted that Pastor Bernie is not a good loser at foosball.

Nicole Gilmore, Omari Rhoden, and Justin Hibbard were the SCSC Team that worked in the Teen Center this summer. They each shared their experiences working with the youth. Christina Shearer of White Cloud shared how she came to Christ and became a member of the SDB church through the Teen Center.

Patti closed the program with a picture presentation of the Center showing the building and some of the teens who attend. It was also interesting to see pictures of pool sharks Norma Rudert and Calvin Babcock, and photos of General Council members "suffering for Jesus" while on a break during their pre-Conference meetings.

Thanks to all who made the banquet a memorable time. **SR**

—From the Conference Crier



Team "Diligent" spoke at the banquet: Omari Rhoden, Nicole Gilmore, and Justin Hibbard.

Scripture Memory

Theme: "Live in Harmony

Verses—1999-2000

with One Another"

Month **Youth/Adult**

October Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble. (1 Peter 3:8)

November He answered: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' " (Luke 10:27)

December May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus. (Romans 15:5)

January I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought. (1 Corinthians 1:10)

February ...Aim for perfection, listen to my appeal, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you. (2 Corinthians 13:11)

March Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. (Galatians 6:10)

April Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. (Ephesians 4:2-3)

May Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. (Colossians 3:13)

June Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. (Hebrews 10:23-24)

Junior

Primary

...Live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers.... (1 Peter 3:8)

...Live in harmony with one another.... (1 Peter 3:8)

" 'Love the Lord your God with all our heart and with all your soul...'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' " (Luke 10:27)

... " 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' " (Luke 10:27)

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves.... (Romans 15:5)

May... God... give you a spirit of unity among yourselves.... (Romans 15:5)

I appeal to you... that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you.... (1 Corinthians 1:10)

...Agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you.... (1 Corinthians 1:10)

...Be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you. (2 Corinthians 13:11)

...Be of one mind, live in peace.... (2 Corinthians 13:11)

...Let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. (Galatians 6:10)

...Let us do good to all people.... (Galatians 6:10)

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. (Ephesians 4:2)

Be completely humble and gentle.... (Ephesians 4:2)

...Forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. (Colossians 3:13)

Forgive as the Lord forgave you. (Colossians 3:13)

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. (Hebrews 10:24)

...Spur one another on toward love and good deeds. (Hebrews 10:24)

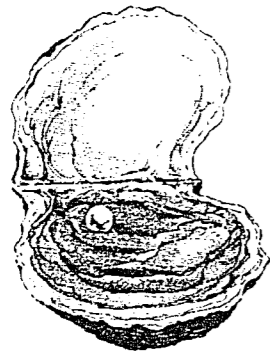
The Scripture Memorization Program for the 1999-2000 Conference Year will focus on Conference President John Camenga's theme: *Live in Harmony with One Another*.

The Board of Christian Education has chosen these verses to be memorized by the family.

Anyone who prefers may memorize one or more of these verses from a different Bible version.

A list of persons from each church who have completed this Scripture Memorization Program should be submitted to the Board of Christian Education Office. The postmarked deadline is June 30, 2000. These people will be honored at General Conference.

All Scripture quotations in this list are from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION® NIV® Copyright© 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society.



Pearls from the Past by Don A. Sanford, historian

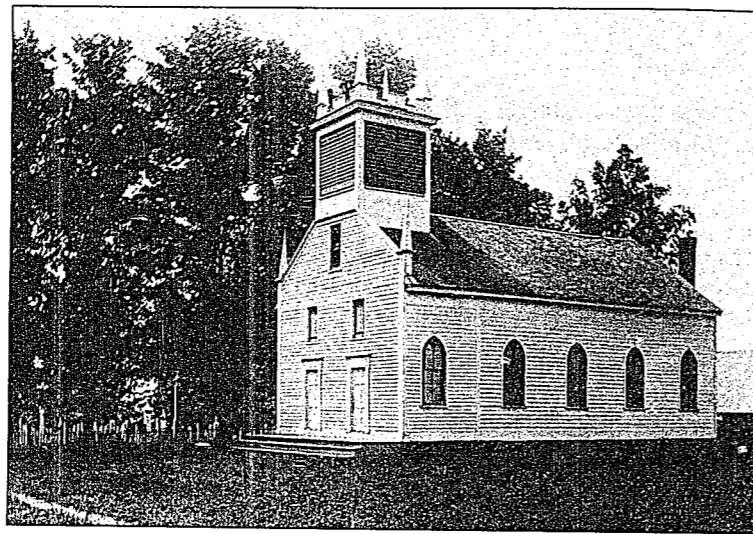
The great Scott church

The *Consumer News* of Cortland, N.Y., published a series of historical articles prepared each month by municipal historians highlighting items of interest from their towns. The May 17, 1999 issue featured the Seventh Day Baptist Church in Scott, N.Y. While it contained some inaccuracies, it was descriptive of the history of not only the Scott SDB Church, but the history of other Seventh Day Baptists of the area.

SCOTT—In 1819 a group of like-minded individuals in the young town formed a unique and dynamic religious group that was a vital force for decades before fading away.

The Seventh Day Baptist, or Sabbatarian Church, was an offshoot of the Baptist branch of the Protestant Reformation. Holding the belief that baptism should follow a profession of faith, this group went further in embracing a strict interpretation of scripture, especially the commandment to worship on the seventh day, or Saturday. Asserting this sect behaved more like Jews than Christians, the anti-Semite Puritans persecuted Seventh Day Baptists unmercifully. Many were burned at the stake. *[This statement is unsubstantiated by historic fact.]*

The Puritans detested the dissenters for their belief in the separation of church and state, as the Puritans equated church membership with citizenship. Those lucky enough to escape fled to the safe haven of Rhode Island, a place Cotton Mather deemed a "cesspool



Seventh Day Baptist Church at Scott, N.Y., circa 1903.

of religious thought." Families with names such as Burdick, Babcock, Stillman, Maxson, and Hubbard helped found America's first Seventh Day Baptist Church in Newport before emigrating westward to Scott.

The Seventh Day Baptist Church in Scott was run in an efficient and democratic fashion. Built from 1822 to 1824, moneys to fund construction were raised by subscription. An appointed collector went to the home of each member soliciting funds. Those without money subscribed work, and did physical labor.

Leadership roles were chosen impartially, drawing names at random, assigning offices by age and voting. Serving the church was strongly encouraged and apathy promptly addressed. Membership in the church rose from 24 members in 1824 to almost 300 members in 1834. The church had its own school and an abundance of pupils. Extensive revivals in the summertime helped boost mem-

bership, with families spending whole days listening to visiting evangelists.

Unfortunately the zeal seemed to turn from loving to legalistic. The harsh disciplinary measures of the church eventually checked the growth of the organization. Rather than reaching out to the community, the church focused upon itself. Exclusion, dismissal, and excommunication were severe methods of keeping the church pure. Regrettably, in 1935 the once thriving church was sold, used for hay storage, and finally demolished in 1965.¹

While there may be some truth to the autopsy of its demise, it fails to consider the factor of migration which diminished many of the churches in the east and augmented those in the west. Many of the names in the record books identified as "dismissed" were dismissed to join another Seventh Day Baptist Church. Some left for better farmland, but a significant number left for educa-

tional advantages offered at such places as DeRuyter Institute, and Alfred University in New York, Milton College in Wisconsin, and Salem College in West Virginia.

On a research tour of New York Seventh Day Baptist Churches, we had trouble finding the location of the old Scott church because many of the inhabitants gave false clues as to its possible location. However, a stop at a cemetery gave no doubt, for the names on the tombstones were familiar. In the membership roll of the church from the book, *Membership Records of Seventh Day Baptists of Central New York State 1797 to 1940*, the list included 76 Babcocks, 71 Burdicks, 60 Barbers, 39 Lewises, and 38 Clarks, with a liberal scattering of others from Allen to Wells and Wilcox.²

Among its most prominent offsprings was George H. Babcock, whose philanthropy through the Memorial Fund endowments is still giving assistance to the work of the denomination. Scott was the early home of Rev. A.H. Lewis, the most

prolific writer for the Sabbath at the turn of the century. Scott claims the proud distinction of being the home of *The Protestant Sentinel*, one of the early predecessors of *The Sabbath Recorder*. While the press work was done in Homer, seven miles away, the editor and founder was Deacon John Maxson, a loyal member and faithful worker in the Scott SDB Church and Sabbath School.

In 1829, Maxson proposed that Conference publish a weekly "devoted to subjects of general interest and the discussion of the distinguishing tenets of the denomination." It was undoubtedly some of the extensive writing of this period that Rachel Oakes Preston shared with the followers of William Miller in New Hampshire that led to the adoption of the seventh day Sabbath by the Seventh-day Adventists.

In Curtis D. Johnson's book, *Islands of Holiness; Rural Religion in Upstate New York*, the Scott Seventh Day Baptist Church is cited as one of three rabidly abolitionist churches in Cortland County which "sought the

immediate eradication of slavery and the severing of ties to religious institutions that in any way tolerated the 'peculiar institution' of slavery."³ *The Sabbath Recorder* of July 12, 1866, lists the names of 11 members of the Scott SDB Church, plus eight from the SDB Society who served actively in the Civil War.

The Scott Seventh Day Baptist Church is dead, but its legacy to the denomination and to the lives of descendants continues. **SR**

¹Cortland, N.Y., "Consumer News," Monday, May 17, 1999, "Seventh Day Baptist in Scott sold in 1935," by Cathy Barber, Scott Deputy Historian.

²Ilou Sanford, *Membership Records of Seventh Day Baptists of Central New York 1797-1940*, (pub. by Heritage Books, Inc., 1993, Bowie, Md.), pp. 48-60.

³Curtis Johnson, *Islands of Holiness; Rural Religion in Upstate New York, 1790-1860*, Ithaca: Cornell Univ. Press, 1989, pp.96-97.



Don Sanford (left) receives the "Mighty Modern" award from Calvin Babcock for his "efficient handling of the Conference's vital e-mail correspondence."



"All right, which one of you takes this to your father?" Janet Thorngate tries to hand the Gold-headed Cane to one of Rev. S. Kenneth Davis' offspring (l. to r.): Susan Bond, Jan Noel, Deborah Giles, and Dr. Paul Davis. Seated is award ceremony emcee Ed Cruzan.



the BEACON

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

September 1999

Youth Pre-Con near perfect

by Peter Fox

This is the second year I had the opportunity to go to Youth Pre-Con. The camp was held at a church camp facility called Camp Manitou. It is difficult to know where to start. I think I'll start at the very beginning—a very good place to start.

Leaving from Ohio at 8:30 Wednesday morning, it took about seven hours to get to Pre-Con, including stops. When I first arrived, I saw little arched shelters about three feet high, dotting the field and bordering the driveway. "I hope that's not where we're sleeping," I told my grandparents. It turns out these were pig shelters. Shew!

I was not the first one to arrive at Camp Manitou, so I had some friends to catch up with while waiting for things to start.

The director of Youth Pre-Con was

Pastor Andrew Samuels. Throughout the week, Pastor Andy shared with us his wisdom and knowledge along

rather large lake behind the camp. With the stifling heat and humidity, the swimming and boat rides were

***We learned more about ourselves
and how to make choices that would
be right in God's eyes.***

with a few jokes. On staff were Pastor Larry Graffius (Marlboro, N.J.), Pastor David Thorngate (Boulder, Colo.), John Pethtel (Salem, W.Va.), and Debbie Moncrief (Shiloh, N.J.). These people are to be commended for their willingness to put up with us—or labeled insane...

Camp Manitou was a near perfect place to hold Pre-Con. There was a

fun way to cool off. There was even a beach for building sand castles.

The theme for the week was "Choices." We met in small groups throughout the day and learned more about ourselves and how to make choices that would be right in God's eyes.

As Sabbath rolled around, the youth put together a worship service of praise songs and personal testimonies. Pastor Andy gave us a lesson on how to determine our purpose in life. We must look at our SHAPE: Spiritual gifts, Heart, Abilities, Personality, and Experiences. When we look at our shape, our purpose can be discovered.

As everyone packed up to leave for Conference on Sunday, we reflected upon the past few days. Despite heat and more than a few bites and stings from insects, the SDB youth had a wonderful time at Pre-Con '99.

—Reprinted from the *Conference Crier*



FOCUS
on Missions

Executive visits Poland

by Kirk Looper

In July, I visited Poland, which is one of the countries we have been looking forward to traveling to for several years. Since we hear so little about that country, I wasn't sure what to expect. It was exciting to be able to visit with Polish SDBs, and view their work and ministries.

Poland is a beautiful country. The area around Gorki is an undulating landscape suited for farming and gardening. The roads wind and twist through the countryside, showing off a colorful and richly rugged land that supports families in a grand way. A variety of home styles and family units matched those in the United States.

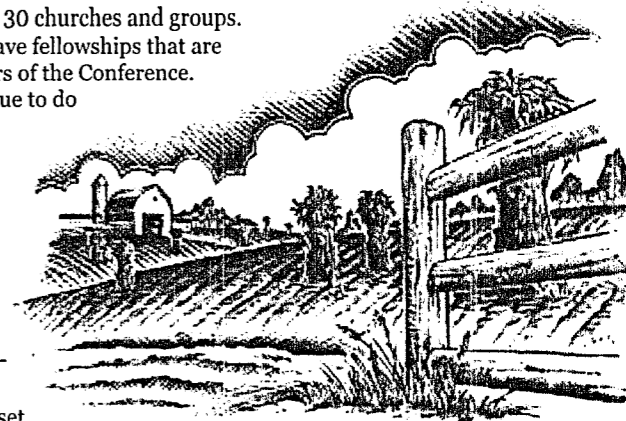
The Seventh Day Christian Churches in Poland are headquartered in the city of Bielsko-Biala, in the south central region near the border of the Czech Republic. In fact, a visit to the home of Powel Bujok, one of the Czech pastors, is only a short trip over the border. The headquarters building includes a church sanctuary, the Conference office, a kitchen, and another apartment.

Meeting in the office, we discussed the work being done in Poland and the surrounding area; however, they spoke mostly of their work in Poland. They have about 500 mem-

bers in over 30 churches and groups. They also have fellowships that are not members of the Conference.

They continue to do evangelism using tracts and books produced in their printing house.

Their printing house, located in Gorki, holds an offset printer and a Gestetler duplicator. The Gestetler is used to print small quantities of materials, and the offset is used for larger print jobs. The offset printer is used a lot and breaks down periodically. This results in a loss of time and the pos-



The published materials are distributed to Conference church members.

Their monthly publication is very informative, relating the thoughts of their leadership concerning many of the questions currently being dis-

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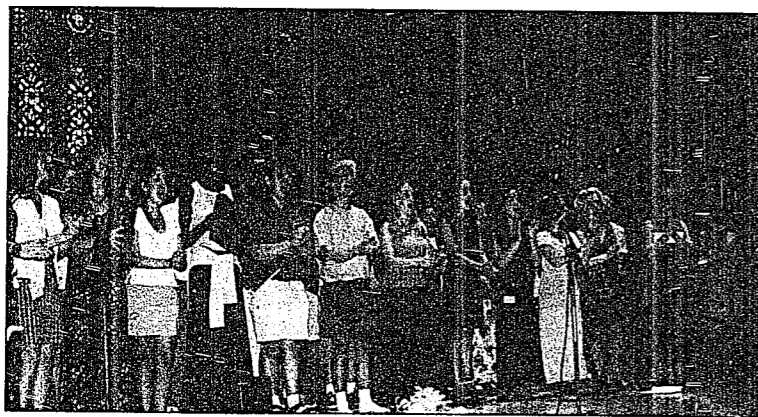
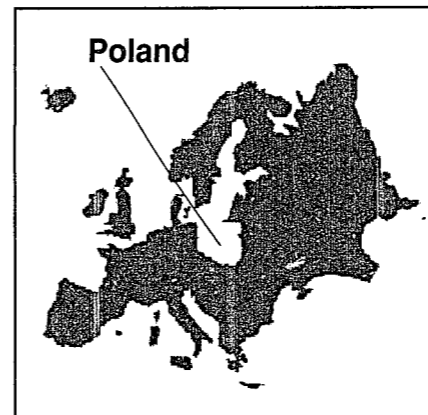
sibility that the periodicals will be sent out late. They are currently evaluating their printing process to determine if they need to replace the offset printer with a copy machine.

The printing consists of many tracts used in their evangelistic outreach program, plus quarterlies, study books, and a magazine. Each item is developed by one or more Conference members and edited by Stanislaw Kosowski or his office staff. It is then handed over to the printer, Slawomir Podziewski.

cussed in Poland. These opinions, such as those of president Marek Hoffman, carry a lot of influence, and the members of their Conference look to this wisdom each month.

Upon leaving, we received a warm invitation to return for another visit. Because we could hear the strong meaning behind it, this made the parting even more difficult. They also asked that we share this invitation with others who may be traveling in Poland.

Please take time to stop and visit with the officers and members of the Seventh Day Christian Churches in Poland. **SR**



Participants of Youth Pre-Con sang at vespers on Monday night at Conference.

Bejjani to lead Council on Ministry

At a special meeting on June 28, 1999, the Council of Ministry called Rev. Gabriel Bejjani to become the new Director of Pastoral Services and Dean of the School of Ministry. He accepted this call and will begin his employment with COM on October 1, 1999. (General Council, which met just prior to General Conference, voted to confirm the appointment.) Bejjani replaces Rev. Rodney Henry, who became the pastor of the Denver, Colo., SDB Church in late August.

Currently, Rev. Bejjani is the senior pastor at the Riverside, Calif., SDB Church. He will continue to live in Riverside and maintain an office in the Riverside church during a three-year trial period to examine the effectiveness of the Dean working away from the SDB Center in Janesville, Wis.

Born in Lebanon on August 10, 1950, Pastor Bejjani came to the United States in 1975 and has been a minister for 25 years. He was ordained in 1979 and accredited in 1986.

"My pastoral call came to me a couple of years after accepting Christ as my personal savior at age 17," Bejjani commented.

"While studying theology in Lebanon, I pastored my first church in the mountains. It was a small congregation of 15 members. Upon getting my B.A. in Theology and Biblical Languages, I pastored a college church in Beirut, and then was appointed the youth leader for all of the Middle East countries. This position took me around the Arab world conducting youth camps and evangelistic meetings." He worked in Muslim evangelism in Libya, Iraq, and Lebanon from 1969-1975.

"My strong desire to evangelize the Muslim population of these countries caused me to form an evangelistic team devoted to Muslim out-



The Bejjani family (l. to r.): Salma, Gabriel, Hayat (seated), Elie, and Joseph.

reach," Bejjani said. "However, two years later, the war tore my native country apart. So I decided with my wife and kids to come to the USA and finish my Master's Degree."

He received an M.A. in Sociology from Loma Linda (Calif.) University. He also received a Master of Missiology from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif.

"My life in Southern California was both easy and hard," he said. "Culturally, I was flexible and adapted easily. However, my calling to the ministry was harder to fulfill. I considered teaching options because, in Lebanon, I had paid my way through college by teaching. But that had proven difficult. So, here in the U.S., I ended up washing dishes at the school's cafeteria to support my family and pay for my schooling."

Gabe exercised his ministry gifts by teaching and occasionally preaching at the Riverside church. Eleven months later, he received a phone call that changed his life.

"The church called me to become their assistant pastor, and they offered to continue my education at a seminary, if I so desired."

After prayerfully considering the call with his wife, he accepted.

Gabe decided to change from Fuller's School of Theology to the School of World Missions because of his background and calling. He wanted practical courses on church growth and world evangelizing. "This proved to be the guidance of the Holy Spirit," he said.

From 1981 to 1984, Gabe directed Middle Eastern Church Ministries and Outreach ministry to the Muslims in Garden Grove, Calif. He has spoken on Muslim Evangelism at the Samuel Zwemer Institute, the U.S. Center of World Missions, and in various churches in California. He has also taught Muslim Evangelism seminars in Jamaica and in Sydney, Australia.

Pastor Bejjani is president of the Seventh Day Baptist World Federa-

Ministry experience

Position	Church	Years
Pastor	Bikfaya, Seventh-day Adventist	1971-72
Pastor	Middle East College	1972-73
Pastor	Aramoun, Seventh-day Adventist	1973-75
Youth Leader	East Mediterranean Field	1973-75
Assistant Pastor	Riverside Seventh Day Baptist	1976-79
Pastor	Stanton SDB	1979-82
Senior Pastor	Riverside SDB	1984-Present
President	SDB World Federation	1986-Present

tion, which consists of 22 Conferences of SDBs around the world. Initially elected to the post in 1986,

he is currently in his third term.

"In this capacity, I have traveled to over 15 countries in Asia, Africa,

Australia, New Zealand, and the Middle East. I preach at evangelistic meetings, conduct leadership training for pastors, and help in conflict resolution among leaders and Conferences," he explained.

Gabe and his wife, Hayat, a registered nurse, have been married for 28 years. They have two sons, Joseph, 20, and Elie, 24; and one daughter, Claudine, died in her teens in a car accident. **SR**

D.C. church installs new pastor

by Lorrie Bird

February 13th was a day of celebration for the Washington D.C. church as family and friends gathered to install Paul Andries as their new pastor.

Barry Clapper served as worship leader. He shared a few Scriptures and personal stories of Paul's Christian growth. Church member Larry Bird welcomed guests and read letters of congratulations from the churches unable to send representatives.

A beautiful song testimony was sung by Paul's aunt, Elnora Andries. Sharon Shah read the pastor's favorite Scriptures from Habakkuk 3:17-19 and Jeremiah 1:1-10. We continued the service by singing praises to the Lord and entering into a time of adoration and worship.

Pastor Dave Taylor of the Pawcatuck SDB Church, Westerly, R.I., gave a charge to the church using 1 Corinthians, 1 and 12. He went on to say that we, the Church, must have

unity in mind and thought, and equal concern one for another.

The charge to the pastor, taken from Isaiah 6:1-10, was given by Pastor Joe Samuels of the Plainfield, N.J., SDB Church. As Isaiah was

**When your travels
bring you to the
nation's capital,
we hope you'll find
the time to
worship with us.**

instructed, so Pastor Paul was charged to go and equip the people to hear, see, and understand with the heart of God.

A sharing time allowed the congregation to express their support for Pastor Paul and his family—wife, Diane, and children Aaron, Joshua, and Gabrielle. Their exhortation and

words of encouragement might have gone on for hours if someone hadn't called a halt!

Pastor Taylor conducted the laying on of hands for the new pastor and his family, followed by a closing song.

After the service, the celebration continued as we enjoyed dinner in our church's newly-tiled and painted basement. We are indeed thankful and praise God for our new pastor!

In the spring, we began a Wednesday night Bible study. We now have a dozen or more people attending each week as Pastor Paul walks us through the history of the Old Testament.

A Men's Fellowship group also meets each month. The men (and young men) planned a special church service for mid-July, attempting to return the favor to the ladies who held a wonderful Women's Day service in May.

There's a new excitement in the air. When your travels bring you to the nation's capital, we hope you'll find the time to worship with us. **SR**

News from Old Stonefort by Alice J. Brooks

First, we praise God for all our willing workers at the Old Stonefort, Ill., SDB Church.

In early spring, Don Pyle made supports for most of our pews. He also made two bookcases in memory of Sister Jeanette Appel, and he and Ron Brooks installed them.

The family of Howell Lewis donated his books to the church. Steven Lewis, who brought the books last summer, came to us in late April and offered to paint the interior of our church. After agreeing that it was a nice gesture, the church bought the paint. Steve came with his tools and ladders, and camped out in the church basement for one week, doing a beautiful job.

On Mother's Day, seven men, two moms, two children, and one dog assisted Steve so the job could be completed in time for our Homecoming Sabbath, held the third weekend in May. Our 128th annual meeting was

attended by 65-70 people from various states.

Also in early spring, Kirk Bethel and his son, along with a few other church members, sanded our 15-passenger van. Raymond Gunning volunteered his services and did an excellent job painting and lettering.

In June, our pastor, Rev. Doug Burkhamer, and Rev. Tim Parsley, Randy Bethel, and Hubert Lewis took the van on a trip to Houston, Texas, to Southwestern Association.

Our church hosted the Saline County Singing Convention in June. About 35 people came from all over the county to hear the "Glad Hearts," special singers from West Frankfort, Ill.

We praise God for all the young people we have every Sabbath, including visitors who sang after having won first place at school competitions. Martha, Heather, Kim and Alice teach lessons to the younger



Don Pyle (l.), and Ron Brooks with bookcase.

people. Rachel Lynn Burkhamer (Pastor Doug and Jane's 10-year-old daughter), plays piano solos during the offering, picking out songs and playing them by memory.

We've been working on a visitation program, and informed people of our "Special Service" on July 9-10. Bible School was planned for August 9-13, with hopes of many young people giving their lives to the Lord. **SR**

Riverside accepts new branch church

by Signe Wattenford

Being fully convinced that the Sabbath of the Old Testament is as valid today as it was when God ordained it, Pastor Allen R. Stanfield and the congregation of the First Baptist Church of Lucerne Valley, Calif., have opted to become a Seventh Day Baptist Church.

Pictured with Pastor Stanfield (left) are Pastor Gabriel Bejjani, Mathew Skaria, Nancy May, Dr. Pete May, Signe Wattenford, and Norman Burdick, all members of the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Riverside, Calif. This group attended the Lucerne Valley Church on April 25, 1999, which was their final Sunday service.

Pastor Bejjani was their guest speaker. Afterwards, everyone en-

joyed a bountiful luncheon and a time of fellowship. Bejjani then conducted an informal discussion period and answered questions regarding this important transition.

Both congregations mutually agreed that the Lucerne Valley church be officially recognized as a branch of the Riverside church.

A sense of joy and victory perme-



Pastor Allen Stanfield (left) of the First Baptist Church of Lucerne Valley welcomes visiting members of the Riverside SDB Church.

ated the activities of the day, and God was praised and glorified. **SR**

Sowing seeds to sow seeds

by Marge Goodrich

Be careful what you ask the Lord for because He may grant your request, heaped up and running over. Our North Loup, Neb., church's Missionary Society learned this firsthand.

We contacted a national seed company to see if they had any "extra seeds" because we had some African

missions where we wanted to send them. The company said they'd see what they could do and would let us know where the seeds could be picked up.

Well, imagine our surprise when there were enough cases to fill a car, amounting to around 400 pounds. And what a variety! Besides basic

corn, beans, and peas, there were herbs, flowers, and about any vegetable you can think of.

On a Sabbath afternoon following our fellowship meal, the Dr. Grace Missionary Society, aided by all ages of the rest of the church family, had a veritable assembly line of repackaging seeds in plastic bags to save packing space. We put smaller seed packages around the repacked bags; then closed, sealed, and addressed them to our mission stations or orphanages in Malawi and Zambia, Africa.

It was a fun, exciting afternoon, and we pray those receiving them had as much fun opening all 387 pounds of seeds as we had packing them. The seeds needed to be there by the August planting season, so we pray they have arrived safely and on time.

We thank Jesus for allowing us to sow seeds for Him so that our brethren overseas will be able to "sow seeds" also. **SR**



All ages helped repack seeds for missions at the North Loup church.

Southwestern Association in review

Excerpts from The Communiqué, newsletter of the Southwestern Association, edited by George Stillman of the Houston, Texas, church.

The 1999 meeting of the Southwestern Association of Seventh Day Baptist Churches was held June 4-6 at the First SDB Church of Houston. The gathering featured much singing, good fellowship around the tables (and other places), and excellent messages from the Word.

Mynor Soper began Sabbath Eve with an excellent sermon on President Frank Chaffin's theme, "Servanthood." Jim Barclift of the Houston church brought the Sabbath morning message, and Tim Parsley preached from a text based on 2 Timothy 1:12, emphasizing our need for commitment to God's plan for our lives.

Visiting delegates included Doug Burkhamer, Hubert Lewis, Randy

Bethel, and Tim Parsley, all from Illinois; a Missouri delegation made up of Ron Elston, Louis Nimon, and Dean and Wesley Gilbert; and an Arkansas delegation of Mynor and Marian Soper, Fay Wear (Texarkana), and Bill Burks (Little Rock). Ellen Taylor (with friend Betty Gentry) and Sandra Cooper came across town from the Beth-El SDB Church.

We were also blessed to have Nadine Lawton of the Pawcatuck, R.I., SDB Church as a visiting delegate from the Eastern Association. An unofficial count of 48 was reported at Sabbath services.

Business items included welcoming the Pontotoc Cornerstone Church (Tupelo, Miss., area) to membership in the Association. They are a branch church of the Paint Rock, Ala., SDB Church, and have been ministered to by John Bevis of Florence, Ala., and by Tom Harp of our Memphis, Tenn., church. On the minus side, the St.

Louis, Mo., church has been disbanded.

"The Wall," a drama put on by Paula Chaffin and the Houston young people's group, demonstrated what happens when we build walls around our lives and keep others out, and what happens when we tear down those walls.

Ron Elston, Extension Director for the SDB Missionary Society, reported exciting news about projects across the country, including a church planting in Owensboro, Ky.

Musical highlights included Tim Parsley singing "I Want to Stroll Over Heaven with You"; Sister Ellen Taylor singing "To God Be the Glory"; Mark Prause kicking Sabbath worship into orbit with "When We All Get to Heaven"; and Marian Soper playing *whatever* was handed to her, whether she had ever seen it or not, and making it beautiful! **SR**

Marriages

Watwood - Crump.—Captain Robert K. Watwood and Lisa A. Crump were united in marriage on February 28, 1998, at Stauffer Chapel, Pepperdine University, Malibu, CA. Pastor Robert Babcock officiated.

Harris - Walker.—Joshua Harris and Margot Walker were married on May 1, 1999, at the Milton, WI, Seventh Day Baptist Church, with the Revs. George Calhoun and Carter Crenshaw officiating.

Dutcher - Lippincott.—Jamie Steven Dutcher and Jennifer Robin Lippincott were united in marriage on May 29, 1999, at the Milton, WI, Seventh Day Baptist Church. The Revs. George Calhoun and Kevin Butler officiated.

Bass - Wright.—Clifford Bass and Elizabeth Wright were married on June 11, 1999, at the Bethel Congregational Church on Wash-

ington Island, WI. The groom's father, Rev. Leroy Bass, officiated.

Rood - Woods.—Christopher Edward Rood and Janelle Jo Woods were married on June 12, 1999, at the Sylvan Dale Guest Ranch in Loveland, CO.

Burkhamer - Grahmer.—Ben Burkhamer and Julie Grahmer were united in marriage on June 19, 1999, at the Nazarene Church in Royalton, IL. The groom's father, Pastor Doug Burkhamer, officiated.

Accessions

Ashaway, RI
D. Scott Smith, pastor
Joined by letter
Aaron Smith
D. Scott Smith
Jeanie Smith

Births

Moffitt.—A son, Elias Joseph Moffitt, was born to Heath and Heather (Burkhamer) Moffitt of Zigler, IL, on April 19, 1999.

Stover.—A daughter, Shaley Jean Maraya Stover, was born to Kenny and Rebecca Stover of Rome, NY, on May 1, 1999.

Lillibridge.—A son, Kyle Stephen Lillibridge, was born to Jennifer Huntley of Ashaway, RI, on May 22, 1999.

Robinson.—A daughter, Kylie Faith Robinson, was born to Shane and Jacinta (Neher) Robinson of West Concord, MN, on May 23, 1999.

Elms.—A daughter, Maryjo Beth Elms, was born to Ron and Mica Elms of Colorado, Springs, CO, on June 22, 1999.

Wrong church pictured

Due to misinformation supplied to the author, a photo in the July/August issue was *not* the former SDB church in Welton, Iowa. According to Thelma Hall of Sherrill, N.Y., the SDB church on Seventh Day Hill was sold by auction and later torn down. Many of the furnishings were given to the Garwin, Iowa, and southern Wisconsin churches. Some members did move for employment reasons, but more importantly, Thelma says, they moved to let their young people attain a higher education by attending Milton College. The *Recorder* apologizes for the error.

Obituaries

Irish.—William Arthur "Bill" Irish Jr., 89, died on January 28, 1999, at Wellsville (N.Y.) Manor Nursing Home after a long illness.

He was born on April 20, 1909, in Alfred, N.Y., the son of William A. and Hattie E. (Burdick) Irish Sr. On January 8, 1949, he married the former Alta M. Robertson in Friendship, N.Y.

Mr. Irish lived most of his life in Friendship and attended the Alfred School District. He graduated from Alfred Agricultural and Technical College, majoring in agricultural management.

For 33 years, he owned and operated a poultry farm at Five Corners Road in Alfred. In 1945, he came to Friendship, where he was employed at Daystrom Furniture for a short time. He was employed at Acme Electric in Cuba, N.Y., from 1950 until his retirement in 1974.

Mr. Irish was a member of the Richburg, N.Y., Seventh Day Baptist Church, and also attended the United Church of Friendship. He was a 72-year member of the Alfred and Inavale Grange, and the Belmont Grange 1243. He was also a member of the Friendship Senior Citizens organization.

In addition to his wife, survivors include several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by a son, William A. Irish; and two sisters, Gertrude Burrows and Mary Oman.

Funeral and committal services were held on January 31, 1999, at the Treusdell Funeral Home in Friendship, with Rev. Rick Kiddy officiating. Burial was in Mount Hope Cemetery, Friendship.

Barber.—Dell Claude Barber, 86, of Colorado Springs, Colo., died on May 18, 1999, at Pikes Peak Hospice following an extended illness. He was born on September 20,

1912, in North Loup, Neb., the son of Glenn Douglas and Cora Winnifred (Rogers) Barber. He married Doris Leonore Goodrich on July 20, 1935, in Scottsbluff, Neb. The couple lived in North Loup until 1948, when they moved to Parlin, Colo., and Colorado Springs with four of their children.

Over the years, Claude was a strong witness for his Lord and Savior. In recent years, he was a charter member and deacon of the Colorado Springs Seventh Day Baptist Church. Before this church developed, he was ordained a deacon and served as an interim pastor at several Southern Baptist churches in the Colorado Springs area.

He was a retired home builder and carpenter, and in years past had been a rancher and mechanic.

In addition to his wife, Doris, survivors include one son, Charles of Colorado Springs; three daughters, Carley A. Hazelton of Garden City, Kan., Bonnie B. Watts of Las Vegas, Nev., and Dixie R. Boyer of Rush, Colo.; three brothers, Kenneth of Vallejo, Calif., Merton of Battle Creek, Mich., and Wayne of Napa, Calif.; three sisters, Iris Priestly of Florissant, Colo., Jeanne Dress of Omaha, Neb., and JoAnne Antoniuk of Englewood, Colo.; 12 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, one great-great-grandson, and a host of friends. He was preceded in death by one son, Theron D. Barber.

Funeral services were held on May 22, 1999, at the Memorial Gardens Chapel, with his grandson, Douglas Barber, and Pastor L.B. Lee and Rev. Jin Wha Hong officiating. Interment was at the Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Colorado Springs.

Owens.—Pamela J. Owens, 57, of Charlestown, R.I., died on June 29, 1999.

She was born on January 17, 1942, in South Kingstown, R.I., the daughter of Robert E. and Honor S. (Whitford) Owens. She was a member of the Pawcatuck Seventh Day Baptist Church in Westerly, R.I.

In addition to her parents, survivors include one son, Mac Hindle of Westerly; one daughter, Jerin Peloquin of Groton, Conn.; three sisters, Julia Buchanan of Bradford, R.I., Shirley Boyd of North Stonington, Conn., and Heather Owens of Wakefield, R.I.; one brother, Thomas Owens of Charlestown; and three grandsons.

A memorial service was held on July 2, 1999, at the Buckler-Johnston Funeral Home, Westerly, with the Rev. David Taylor officiating.

Joubert.—Eva H. (Hall) Joubert, 81, of Hopkinton, R.I., died on July 25, 1999, at the Conn Hospice in Branford, Conn.

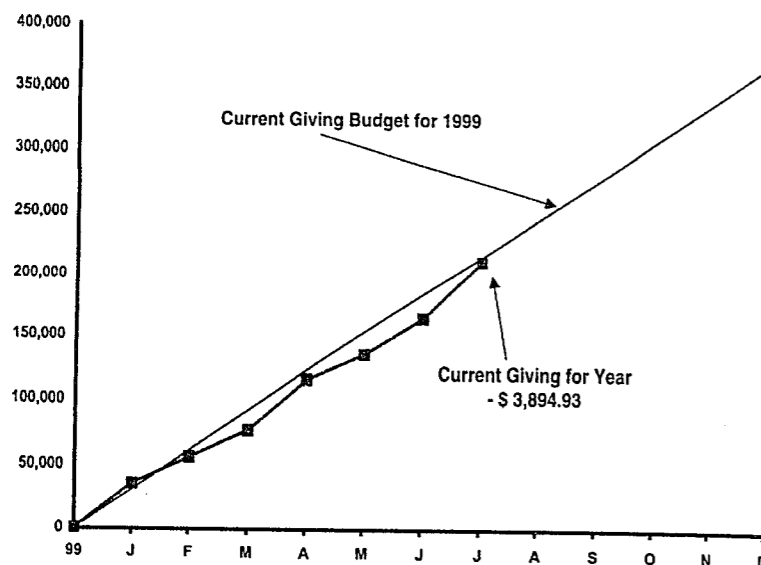
She was born in Voluntown, Conn., on June 26, 1918, the daughter of Benjamin Stanton and Mary Esther (Cole) Hall. On February 24, 1940, she married Clement W. Joubert in Hopkinton City.

Eva was a lifelong member of the Rockville, R.I., Seventh Day Baptist Church.

In addition to her husband of 59 years, she is survived by two daughters, Marilyn J. Greene of Hopkinton, and Donna Williams of Hope Valley, R.I.; one foster daughter, Nola Treacy of Seekonk, Mass; one sister, Bertha Gordon of West Kingston, R.I.; four grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Private funeral services were held on July 28, 1999.

Current Giving 1999



The intentional Christian family

by Donna Bond

One of Tuesday afternoon's seminars at Conference, "The Intentional Christian Family," was a mini-condensation of Dr. Dale Thorngate's Marriage and Family course at Salem-Teikyo University.

Sociological developments have impacted, for better or worse, the very nature of the family as we have left the family farm, had fewer children, and led longer lives.

Very often our young adults have had to leave their extended families to find employment. In these cases, churches have had a tremendous opportunity and responsibility to become the extended family. (It was pointed out in discussion that the Bible's use of the word "family" nearly always refers to the extended family.)

Increased longevity has given additional responsibility to "adult children" caring for aging parents along with their own offspring. The marriage vow, "til death do us part" may mean a 50-year commitment rather than the 20 years afforded to our ancestors. This phenomenon is

particularly significant when children leave home and middle-aged parents become reacquainted in an empty, lonely house.

Since Dr. Thorngate's course is primarily directed at college stu-

A family should have interdependence with just enough independence to prevent co-dependence.

dents, his challenge is to "think about what it means to be married" and to *intentionally* become a family. The very basic unit of society is the family wherein differing needs are met and leadership is developed.

Pastor Dale listed on the board 14 characteristics of an intentional Christian family, giving a brief verbal

explanation of each. He stressed that this was not a prioritized list, but that all qualities are necessary and are interrelated. These are:

- Interdependence with just enough independence to prevent co-dependence.
- Clear, sensitive communication consisting of talking and listening as "God gave us each one mouth and two ears."
- Intimacy which shares hopes, dreams, and feelings as well as expressions of passion.
- Intentional commitment to fully participate in this relationship.
- Fidelity to keep intimacy within the family boundaries.
- Trust that each family member will be accountable for living within the boundaries.
- Risk of loss of partner or that a family member will make a mistake.
- Forgiveness even when offenses are remembered as lessons learned to prevent further injury.
- Reconciliation after an offense has been forgiven.
- Love as an act of the will.
- Respect for oneself, the partner, and the relationship itself.
- Compromise in appreciating one another's point of view.
- Nurturance providing for understanding, growth, and maturity.
- A religious foundation to provide for moral principles and a world view.

Our seminar leader concluded by stating that every individual needs a spiritual base to provide a personal sense of security and purpose in the larger community. If our faith is strong, our family will be strong; if our family is strong, our faith will influence the community in which we live. *SR*

—From the Conference Crier

Foundations for the dream

Rev. John Camenga, who was instrumental in the Daytona Beach, Fla., SDB Church's recent expansion, conducted a workshop for churches thinking about changing facilities.

He discussed the 20/20 rule: A church is too empty if it is only 20% full, and suffers "facility strangulation" if less than 20% empty.

Any church considering a facilities change needs to start each step with prayer.

The first step is the **Dreams**—a brainstorming of ideas for ministry. Second, the church must **Discover** its neighborhood and community.

Third, they should **Define** their goals and develop floor plans before

hiring an architect. Fourth is the **Design** session. An architect is necessary to ensure the roof works, to pay attention to appearance and aesthetics, and to make sure local codes are followed.

During the **Development** stage, one person should be designated to deal with contractors, and the church must consider the pros and cons of volunteer labor.

Pastor John has a wealth of material, ideas, and suggestions for anyone considering making a change in facilities. *SR*

—From the Conference Crier

KEVIN'S

CORNER

Be ye holy in Holland

What an excellent week! The plans and prayers for General Conference 1999 proved fruitful as we gathered together at Hope College in Holland, Mich. I could not imagine a better "flow" among the business, fellowship, and worship sessions this year. There was a true sense of cooperation.

And once again, the feeling of "family" prevailed for me at Conference. That feeling peaked on Sabbath eve as we shared the elements of the Lord's Supper. Many deacons from across the nation sat in the front pews, ready to serve. As I visually surveyed these leaders, I realized that I knew all of their

names, had been in many of their homes, and that we share more than the ritual of communion. We share a common heritage and a bond of love that can only be described as "family." What a blessing.

A big "Thank You" goes to those "family" members of the Host Committee and host churches. Bernie and Patti Wethington, this must have been one of your busiest summers ever. Great job! All of you Committee folks, ditto!!

President Rudert? Wow! Remember how I bugged you to consider a run at this years ago? I knew you could do it! 'Tweren't easy, though, was it?? You maintained your gracious presence throughout Conference, even after hosting some of us for General Council during the scorching week before, and squeezing in a 50th wedding anniversary to boot! Don, you have a real "keeper" there, and I know how Norma treasured your support over this busy year. God bless you both.

I don't know what we would do without ol' Calvin Babcock. Besides loading and hauling and unloading and loading and hauling and unloading the trailer full of Conference office necessities, Cal had to run around answering questions as both General Services Administrator for the Center and Office Manager for the Memorial Fund. Plus, if that wasn't enough, he volunteered to represent General Council as the Disciplinary Committee chairman! That meant checking the dorm doors past the midnight curfew to see how many Butlers he could find...

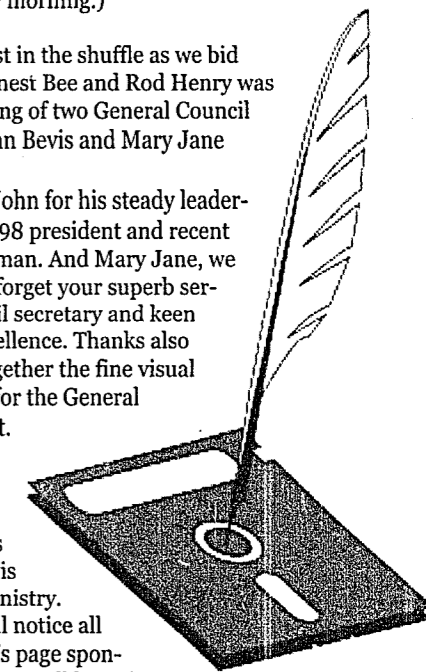
Another guy running around all week was Scott Hausrath. On the heels of directing Young Adult Pre-Con, Scott helped Doug Mackintosh with the sound systems, spoke at the Youth Banquet, led the Friday morning Bible study, then was gracious enough to run the overheads and play the announcer for the Tract Council program. Thanks, buddy! I mean, Dude.

Speaking of the Tract Council program, thank you members for playing your parts so well! As I bemoaned the time and effort of preparation, a friend at Conference reminded me that we are generating excitement for what we do in this ministry. And as we convey the info, we share lots of smiles and laughs along the way. (Oh, and thanks guys, for my 10-year service plaque. What a nice surprise! Yes, I even moved a lighthouse picture to place the plaque on my office wall first thing Monday morning.)

Perhaps lost in the shuffle as we bid farewell to Ernest Bee and Rod Henry was the quiet exiting of two General Council members, John Bevis and Mary Jane McPherson.

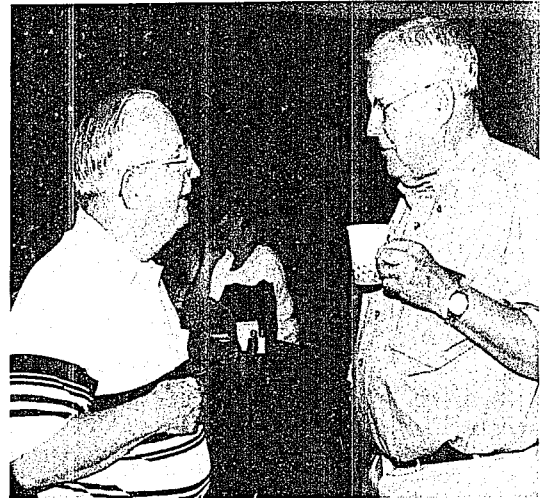
We thank John for his steady leadership as our 1998 president and recent Council chairman. And Mary Jane, we will not soon forget your superb service as Council secretary and keen desire for excellence. Thanks also for pulling together the fine visual presentation for the General Council report.

And thank you, family of readers, for your generous support for this part of our ministry. I hope you will notice all of this month's page sponsors. More pages will list other names next month. For every one of those sponsors, scores of other contributors have "cast their vote" to keep the *Recorder* coming your way. May the Lord bless you all.





Jean Lewis of Riverside, Calif., heads to the stage to accept the Women's Society's Robe of Achievement.



President-elect for 2001, Clayton Pinder (left), chats with this year's "First Husband" Don Rudert.



Volunteer collators Tom and Bonnie Mitchell (foreground) and Ed Sutton fold bulletins for Thursday's worship service.



One of our host churches even provided good music. From White Cloud: Eric Rudert, Ed and Cathy Cruzan, and Patti Wethington.