

The

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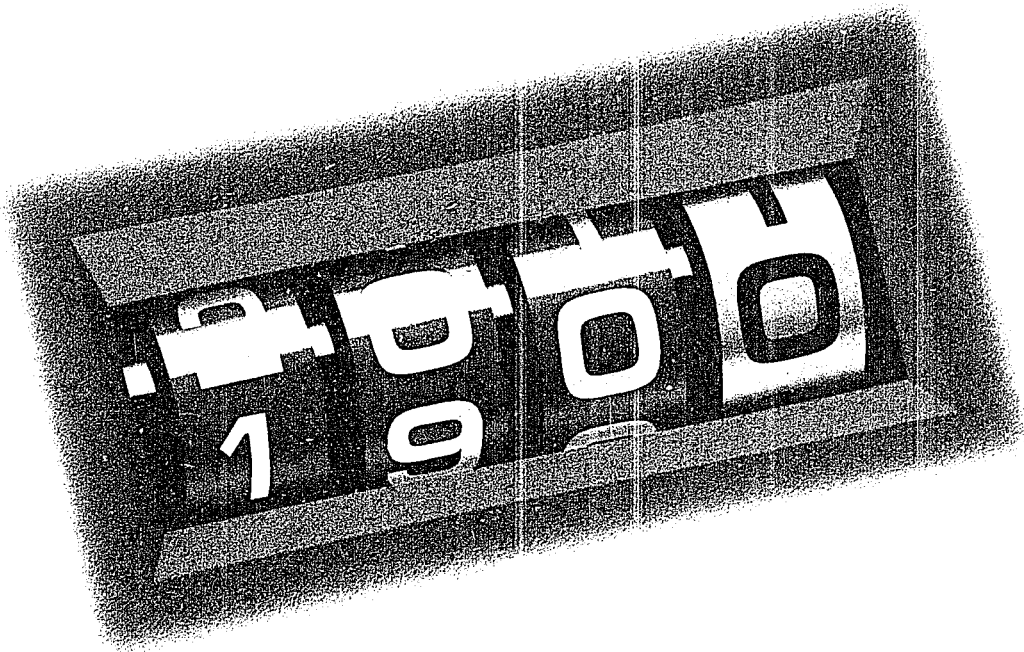
*News for and about
Seventh Day Baptists*

January 2000

R

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Starting the year



looking at

MISSIONS



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:

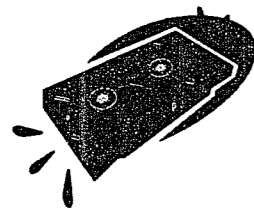
- salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.
- the Bible as the inspired word of God. The Bible is our authority for our faith and daily conduct.
- baptism of believers, by immersion, witnessing to our acceptance of Christ as Savior and Lord.
- freedom of thought under the guidance of the Holy 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

Listen to the SR



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

Cassette tapes are mailed free to each listener. To order, write:
The Audio Sabbath Recorder
Seventh Day Baptist Center
PO Box 1678
Janesville WI 53547-1678

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

New Directory

The Seventh Day Baptist Directory covering the year 1999 is now available at the SDB Center in Janesville, Wis.

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

Missionary Society Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the members of the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society will be held at the Pawcatuck SDB Meeting House, 120 Main St., Westerly, R.I., on Sunday, March 19, 2000, at 2:00 p.m. for the following purposes:

To elect voting members, a Board of Managers, and officers to hold office until the next annual meeting and until their successors are elected.

To hear and act upon the reports of the Board of Managers and officers for the fiscal year January 1, 1999, to December 31, 1999.

To ratify the appointment of independent public accountants for the current fiscal year.

To consider and act upon such other matters as may properly come before said meeting or any adjournment thereof.

The Board of Managers has fixed the close of business on February 29, 2000, as the time at which members entitled to notice thereof and to vote at the meeting and any adjournment thereof shall be determined.

—Cindy L. Nadeau, secretary

The Sabbath Recorder

Establ. 1844



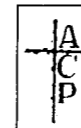
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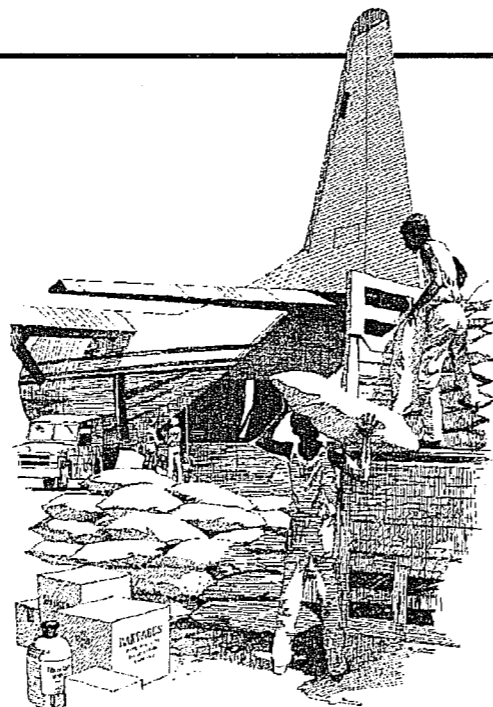
Doubting author discovers she does have the gift of evangelism as she steps out in faith and travels to Cameroon, Africa.

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Kenya: An almost- forgotten mission

by Kirk Looper



Within 25 miles of Kisii, Kenya, is a small settlement which is home to a large tea processing company. One of the two Seventh Day Baptist churches in Kenya is located within this settlement.

The religions in Kenya range from 38% Protestant, to 28% Catholic, to 6% Muslim. This indicates a strong

The Sabbath influence is widespread, evidenced by the number of businesses closed on Sabbath. It is amazing and also surprising to drive through a town on Sabbath and find few businesses open, even gas stations.

However, this influence comes from other Sabbath-keeping de-

lending any economic support to the church. Even though the literacy rate is over 69%, most educated people live in the cities and are not the type of workers found on the tea plantations.

It is interesting to note the number of youth under the age of 15 who speak and read English. Pastor A.M. Sarota was a teacher in the elementary school in Rogongo-Keera. His dedication to the students was only surpassed by his love for Christ and the Church. His influence in both areas is outstanding. With eight children of his own, it is easy to see the positive effect of his influence.

Even so, our hearts were touched by the needs reflected when we visited Pastor Sarota's family, as well as by his letters that followed. We see a man who has resigned his post in the school, hoping to spend more time in the ministry of church growth. He believes that the time invested in the ministry will result in a larger church, thereby helping to support him. However, growth is slow and the needs compound.

A school that uses their church building accepts students from 5

The Christian Child-Care and Medical Home works with the SDB churches in Kenya to facilitate the orphanage work. There is a definite need for clothing and supplies to maintain the home.

presence of those who follow Jesus Christ. Their love for God is also evident in the first two lines of their national anthem: "O God of all creation, bless this our land and nation." It is also reflected by the number of churches in the cities, towns, and throughout the countryside.

nominations, rather than Seventh Day Baptists. In fact, some of the SDB pastors and workers have been enticed into another Sabbath-keeping group.

Our churches and fellowships there are composed mostly of laborers and, therefore, are limited in



Pastor A. Moses Sarota and family.

years of age through a level equivalent to the 3rd grade in the United States. Many of the students come from poor families or are orphans. This means that part of the donated income is used to support some of these students.


An orphanage was established in Kisii to care for those who have no relatives. The Christian Child-Care and Medical Home works with the SDB churches in Kenya to facilitate this work. There is a definite need

in many other countries, fight an ongoing battle against losing their churches to other Sabbathkeeping denominations. Most of these losses occur because they do not have the financial stability and supplies to help new churches or groups.

Our people cannot purchase enough tracts, books, and Bibles to help in the fight. The representatives from other denominations simply visit and convince them that their organization would never leave them

without what they need to grow.

We estimate it would take as much as \$5,000 per year to have an adequate supply of tracts and books alone. This would enable the Kenyan Conference to provide beginning churches with what they need to evangelize and grow.

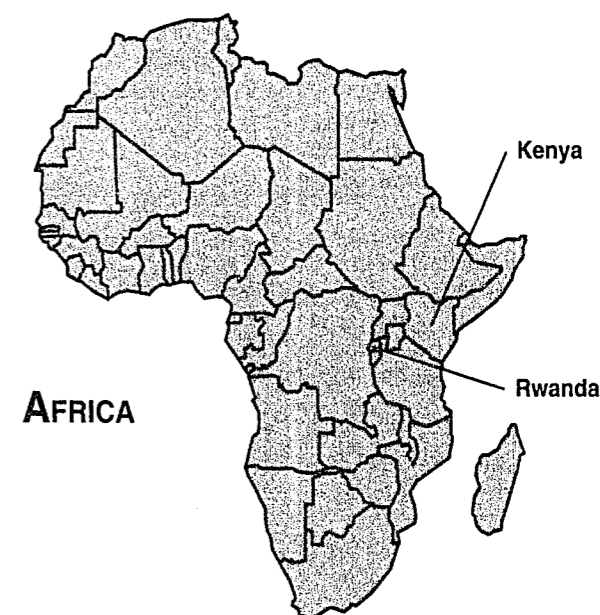
Please pray for the work in Kenya. Prayer support is the first step to rebuilding a bridge of compassion and care for our sister Conferences and churches. 

SDB churches in Kenya fight an ongoing battle against losing their churches to other Sabbathkeeping denominations.

for clothing and supplies to maintain the home.

The budget established by the coordinator for the orphanage is \$5,000. This is spent on supplies and medical needs. The address for the home can be obtained from the Missionary Society at 119 Main St., Westerly, RI 02891.

SDB churches in Kenya, as well as





Churches emerge from refugee camps in Rwanda

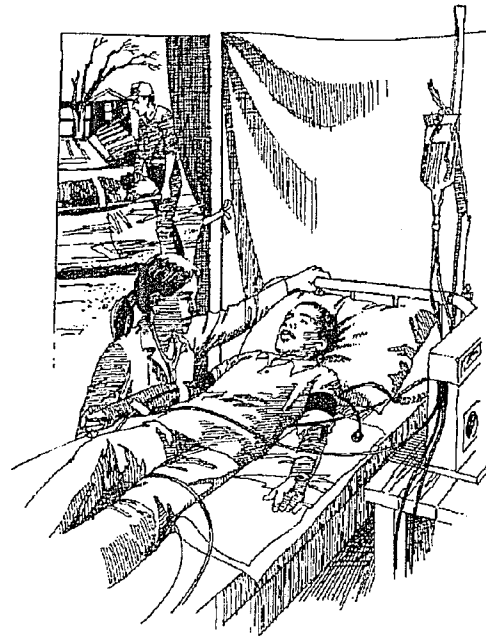
by Kirk Looper

If you are looking for Rwanda on a map (see page 5), you will find it in the middle of the African continent, near the equator. This means that the days and nights are nearly equal in length. It also means that the work-day is approximately 12 hours long.

When night falls, it comes with a "thud," quickly and quietly bringing mosquitoes that are noisy, disease-carrying pests. Small ones—Anopheles mosquitoes—make a fainter noise and can carry the malaria parasite. Since malaria can be deadly, babies and young children head indoors for protection at nighttime.

A day in the life of a Rwandan is shrouded with pain that we in North America can only imagine. During the past two years, mountain rebels caused so much trouble that the people in the mountain villages moved to the valley so they could be under military protection. They lived in makeshift huts made of poles and thatch, or poles with plastic tarpaulins.

The government soon restricted the camps to an area that could be easily patrolled and secured. The

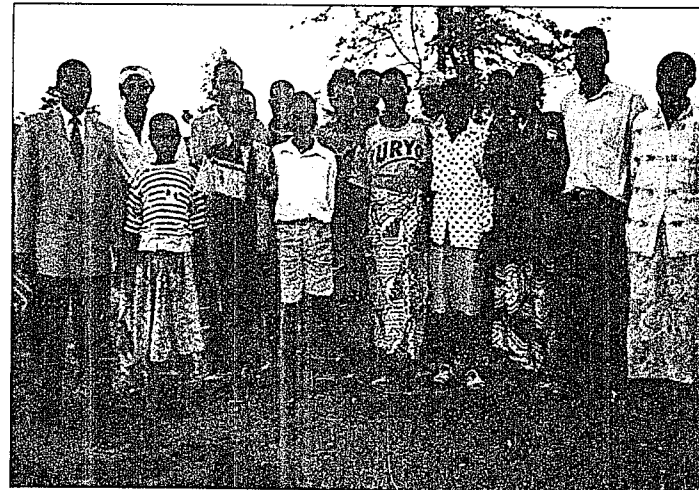


During the time of the camps, Seventh Day Baptist churches were able to exert some influence.

camps were rather large, with some numbering up to 80,000 occupants.

Thankfully, food and water problems were kept at a minimum with

government shipping and distribution. Finally, during the first half of 1999, people were able to return to their mountain homes.



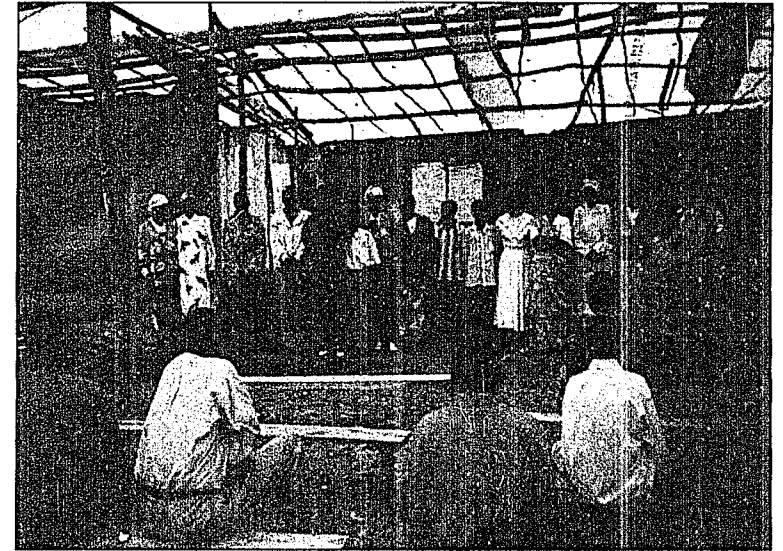
Some of the orphans and refugees who make up an SDB church in Rwanda.

During the time of the camps, Seventh Day Baptist churches were able to exert some influence. Clothing was taken to the occupants and, in many of the camps, church was held weekly. When they went back home, the church went with them.

While the rebels were in the mountains, the SDB pharmacy was moved into Ruhengeri, a village northwest of the capital, Kigali. While it was located there, the people in the village visited often and told Rev. Nduwayesu that they needed a clinic or pharmacy in Ruhengeri.

Rev. Nduwayesu hopes that they will be able to build a structure and turn it into a pharmacy. It would take about \$6,000 to complete the project. Along with the plan for this pharmacy, he hopes to erect several others in that rural region of Rwanda.

In addition to their refugee and orphan work, church members are sent to neighboring communities to meet those interested in starting churches. The dedication of these men



The scene of a typical SDB church in Rwanda.

(traveling on foot and using their own finances), is unequalled. Rev. Nduwayesu also spends much of his time on the road, meeting groups interested in affiliating with Rwanda Seventh Day Baptists.

Donated funds would encourage these trips and

guarantee a higher number of successes. Money to purchase tracts, study books, and Bibles would allow them the opportunity to teach those who do not know Jesus Christ.

Evangelism requires time. But it also requires funds to permit a full-time person to do the teaching and preaching. **SR**

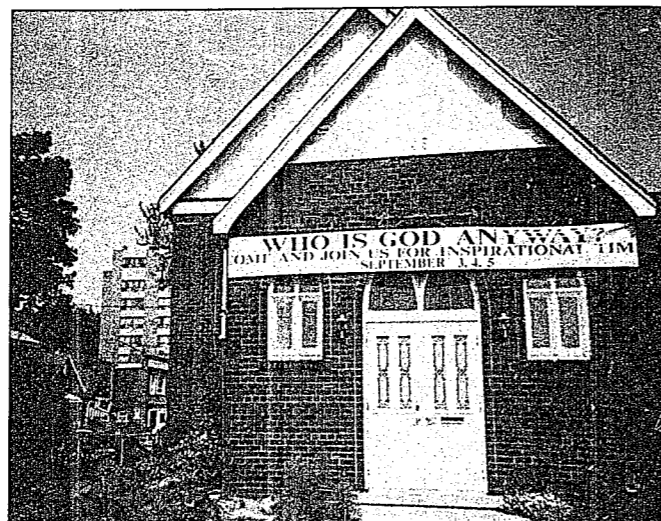


Rev. Nduwayesu hopes that they will be able to build a structure and turn it into a pharmacy.



“Who is God Anyway?”—the Toronto Crusade

by Ronald Elston



This banner invited people in Toronto to seek God.



National Extension Minister Ron Elston

When I was approached by Pastor Herliz Condison about a crusade in Toronto, I became excited. I had always dreamed of conducting evangelistic meetings in Canada.

Pastor Condison told me that the church had been praying about outreach meetings for a long time. I immediately accepted the invitation and began making plans for the crusade.

As the time approached, I learned that the Toronto Seventh Day Baptist Church had been fasting and praying for a blessing from the Lord. On the first of September, I boarded an Air Canada Flight in St. Louis and flew to Toronto.

During my stay, I was hosted by the Condison family. I immediately felt at home and even their 17-pound cat, Dudley, took a shine to me. I like cats. But once, while I was petting Dudley, he decided to bite me. Needless to say, Dudley was disciplined by Pastor Herliz, and additional food was given to him each day, just in case...

Prior to beginning the crusade, Pastor Condison and I were returning from the Canadian Expo. As we entered Highway 401, we encountered heavy traffic. Moving between

His provision, sent protection.

Suddenly, the traffic began to move, and we were no longer trapped between the two trucks. We both knew where that attack had come from: it was Satan's way of attempting to stop the crusade.

Shortly afterwards I began to have severe back pain. I have had back problems in the past, and the enemy knows where to concentrate his attack.

As the pain increased, I thought of going home, but the Holy Spirit reminded me why I had come to

As the pain increased, I thought of going home, but the Holy Spirit reminded me why I had come to Toronto—to tell people about Jesus.

two big trucks, we felt all was well—until we felt the impact of a big truck striking us from behind.

The traffic had stopped in front of us, and we were being forced into the stationery truck ahead. It was frightening. But the Lord, in

Toronto—to tell people about Jesus. I remembered how the church had been fasting and praying for a blessing, to see lost souls come to know the Lord.

I prayed that God would give me the strength to preach through the



Pastor Herliz Condison and the Voices of Praise choir.

crusade, and then I would go back to Missouri and seek medical treatment.

God was faithful! I would be in pain during much of the day and night. Sister Hazel was so gracious that sometimes my meals were brought to my room so I wouldn't

have to go downstairs.

God was still wonderful and His presence was powerful. Each evening, as I stepped onto the platform, the pain would go away and I could proclaim the Word of God in His power and move around. After the invitation was given and

I stepped down from the stage, the pain would return. I could live with that!

Each night new people came and accepted the Lord. As they sought counsel for their lives, there was a great outpouring of God's Holy Spirit, with souls coming from darkness into the light of Jesus Christ.

It was such a blessing to be part of these meetings. I was shown great love and compassion by the saints at Toronto. I will always remember the outpouring of God's Holy Spirit, as He provided for Pastor Herliz and myself by shielding us from the harm planned by the enemy.

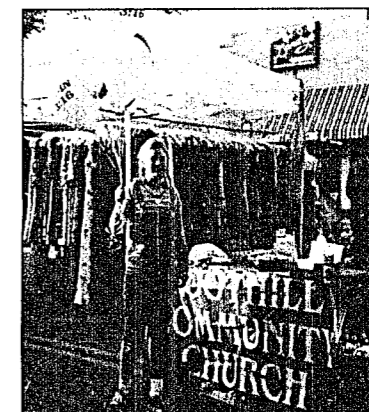
The crusade's theme was, "Who is God Anyway?" He is our Rock, our protector and provider. For those who came to know Him in a personal way during the crusade, He is the One who gives us salvation through His Son, Jesus Christ. **SR**

Foothill church offers Good News at monthly fair

by Ronald Elston

As a means of outreach, the Foothill Community Church in Montrose, Calif., sponsors a booth at the Montrose Street Fair each month.

During the event, members of this Seventh Day Baptist church pass out free "John 3:16 balloons" to people of all ages, including children. They also give out Bibles, cold bottled water, tracts, and free candy. I was blessed



Nicole Owen stands ready to hand out balloons at the Montrose Street Fair.

Church members give out free balloons, Bibles, cold bottled water, tracts, and free candy.

to take part in this outreach activity during a visit there.

While attending the Foothill church, I presented a program on services provided by the SDB Missionary Society and met with the Evangelism Committee, where we discussed church extension and outreach.

Several churches in the Pacific Coast Association have expressed interest in outreach projects for the year 2000. **SR**

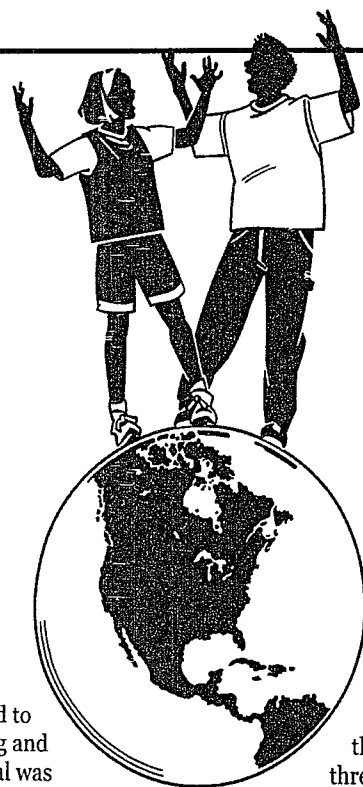


Young visitors help to advertise God's Good News to the people of Montrose.



My mission of praise

by Steve Weber



Steve Weber, a member of the Raritan Valley Seventh Day Baptist Church in Bridgewater, N.J., traveled to Nirgua, Venezuela, July 30–August 6, 1999, as part of a praise band.

He may have been the newest Christian in the band, but as the drummer, he helped set the beat for an exciting adventure in short-term missions. In this article, written especially for the SR, Steve shares his experiences.

This was my first time doing foreign mission work. Two years ago, I couldn't imagine that I would ever be traveling to another country as a missionary. Now, things have changed.

I went to Nirgua, Venezuela, for eight days with a praise team. The farthest I had been out of the United States prior to that was to the Baha-

to lead the unsaved to Jesus through song and preaching. Our goal was to lead 60 people to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

The first night's concert was well received, but I didn't see one person publicly respond to the altar call. At first, I thought we were going to have a hard time leading people to Christ, but then I quickly realized that we

me at first was that the weather was threatening up to performance time on most

days, yet God cleared the weather every day for us when it was time for the praise worship concert. At times there was even lightning all around us, but it never came to where we were. Still, I wondered, why wasn't there a better response from the people to accept Jesus?

The third night we played at a church camp on the top of one of the nearby mountains. The view was spectacular. The camp was made up mostly of teenagers from Nirgua, who responded enthusiastically to the music. The altar call that night brought forth about 50 youth to accept Jesus. All of us were spiritually energized again. Praise Jesus!

Five of us comprised the praise team. A worship team that also went with us stayed an extra week. Their responsibility was to teach English and craft classes, while tying in the story of Jesus. The music class met every afternoon at 4:30, with the children meeting with us outside to sing songs.

The children also learned dance

Jesus gave my voice the strength to sing my heart out just one more time that night.

mas on vacation. Now I had traveled to South America, another continent.

Hearing stories about not drinking the water, and others about safety, I went nonetheless. Why did I go? Because I felt a need and a "calling to go" that I believe was from the Holy Spirit.

I actually replaced a drummer who couldn't go. I became part of a five-man music praise team which played nightly concerts for services designed

were only instruments of God. It was going to be God's grace that would convert people, not us.

I didn't see anyone step forward the second night either. Nevertheless, the people were enjoying the music tremendously. We did a mix of English songs and Spanish songs, and backed up several people from the church in Nirgua, who sang familiar songs in Spanish.

One of the things that amazed

routines for some of the songs, and enjoyed singing with us and dancing to our music. They enjoyed it so much that they began singing and dancing at our concerts as soon as they recognized our songs. Such was the case on Tuesday night, day four of our visit.

For me, this was the high point of our concerts. The people of Nirgua sang praises to the Lord with us as they danced. In some songs, they threw their hands over their heads and swayed back and forth to the music as they sang. It was very emotional and spiritual.

This concert was in a poor part of town (ironically called "Pueblo Nuevo" or "New Town"), but it turned out to be the most energy-filled, exciting concert we experienced. After several pleas at the altar call that night, about 35 people publicly accepted Jesus as their Lord.

Wednesday night's concert was in a section of Nirgua called "Lagunita," which means "little lagoon." It used to be a lagoon, but they built houses there after it dried up. This was another successful concert, followed by an altar call, which led another 20 people to Jesus.

Thursday's concert was our last one before heading home the next day. It was to be in the Town Square, next to the statue of Simón Bolívar, who led Venezuela and other coun-

tries to independence from Spain.

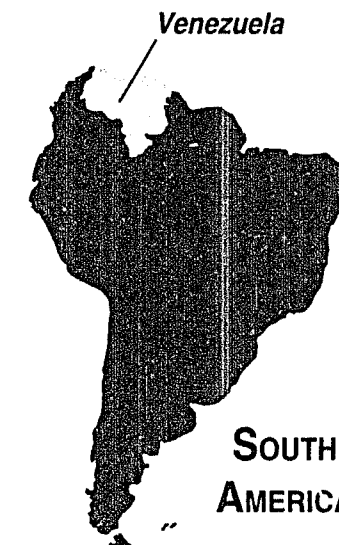
I prayed that my voice would heal by that evening because, after Wednesday's concert, it was just about gone. Several people from the worship team were praying for me and for others in the band who were also experiencing vocal strain because of daily performances.

Jesus gave my voice the strength to sing my heart out just one more time that night. At first, it started to rain lightly, but we continued to play, hoping it would let up. We prayed silently to Jesus to stop the rain while the concert was on. After about two minutes, the rain stopped, and it didn't rain again for the remainder of the concert.

Once again, I felt the Holy Spirit. We raised up songs and praise to Jesus for the next hour and a half. About 15 people, mostly young children, responded to the altar call. This was a wonderful way to end our concert series.

I estimate that 120 people received Jesus into their life during our concerts, twice our original goal. It was so exciting to see the Lord grace many people that week, and to be part of the mission.

The people of Nirgua are friendly and wonderful. We became part of their family, and they became part of ours. I'll never forget this experience, which is just the beginning of mis-



sion work for me. God willing, I'll return to Nirgua next year.

We might also do a mission trip to Africa, and locally, we're planning a trip of praise and worship to Newark, N.J. This is an exciting time for me. I thank God that He has called me to do His work in this way—a work of love. **SR**

Steve Weber and his wife, Carolyn, have two teenage sons, Drew and Bryan. All four have musical talents which they use in the Lord's service.



I quickly realized that we were only instruments of God. It was going to be God's grace that would convert people, not us.



“Lord, Send Someone Else!”

by Teresa Shattuck

*I could never be a missionary!
I don't have the gift of evangelism.
I don't have a medical background.
God couldn't possibly use someone
who types for a living on the mis-
sion field! Besides, I'm not a super
Christian!*

Those thoughts always flew through my head whenever I heard a missionary speak. At every missions-oriented event I attended, I would sit back, listen to the speaker, give to the special offering and pray for the requests mentioned.

I smugly thought I was doing all God would ever ask of me as far as missions were concerned. I was wrong.

“Why should I go?”

In 1997 Linda Weber, coordinator of the Women's Ministry Fellowship of North American Baptists, began working with missionary Pat Meinerts and the president of the Women's Union of the Cameroon Baptist Convention, Monica Wango, to plan a trip to Cameroon. Their vision was to take a group of North American women to Cameroon who could minister at the annual Women's Workshop in Bamenda.

When the concept of this trip was first presented to me, I thought, “What a tremendous opportunity—for someone else.”

Even though I have a heart for women, I have the gift of gab, not the gift of teaching. And I was sure that there was just no way that God would call the mother of two small children



to travel halfway around the world without her family. After all, what could I possibly contribute?

Despite my resistance, God began to work in my soul.

While reading through the Gospel of John, several basic concepts began to leap out at me. I began to realize that I do nothing on my own (John 8:28); that it is the Father, living in me, Who is doing His work (John 14:10); that I have been chosen to go and bear fruit (John 15:16); and that I am not alone for my Father is with me (John 16:32). My heart began to soften.

Finally I said “yes” to God. I was filled with a sense of peace.

Missions and practical needs

As the vision for the trip inched toward reality, I saw God work in amazing ways, showing me again and again that He wanted me in Cameroon for two weeks during the summer. I had no idea, however, that the lessons God had to teach me were just beginning.

As we journeyed throughout Cameroon, we visited many different projects that the women there have

undertaken. Walking through these buildings in progress—which included a church, a women's hostel, a day-care center, and several Home Economics centers—I began to realize that there were many practical needs on the mission field that did not include evangelism and medical relief.

Following God's call

As I talked to missionaries in Cameroon, I discovered that they are a lot like me. They're not necessarily super Christians. They're ordinary people who, like the heroes of the Old Testament, chose to follow the call God placed on their lives.

I finally learned to say, “Here am I, Lord. Send me!” instead of “Lord, send someone else!”

If God calls you, what will you say? **SR**

Reprinted by permission from the Nov./Dec. 1999 issue of NAB Today, published by the North American Baptist Conference. Teresa Shattuck is an editorial assistant for the Women's Ministry Fellowship and lives in Oak Park, Ill.



Women's Society page by Donna Bond

Modern SDB women in missions

Seventh Day Baptist women have traditionally been involved in local, denominational, and worldwide missions. In fact, our Women's Society was founded in 1884 for the very purpose of promoting missions. A significant number of our programs, service projects, and contributions still minister to human need.

encourages us to be “doers of the word, not just hearers” (1:22-25). Some of our many service projects have already appeared on this page in other issues. Here are a few more:

In the community

We have taken care of our elders and/or shut-ins by providing May

pantry was kept at Albion; funeral dinners were served in Hebron, Alfred, Battle Creek, Alfred Station, and Milton.

Battle Creek also supported “Safe Place,” a women's shelter; collected blankets for Church Women United; and provided socks, hats, mittens, and coats for Charitable Union.

Overseas ministries

While we all can't go to the foreign mission field, our women have traditionally been generous in sharing what they have. During the past year, the Daytona Beach, Fla., ladies sent men's clothing to student pastors in Malawi. The North Loup “Dr. Grace Missionary Society” lived up to their name by sending garage sale children's clothing to Rwanda. They also sent sewing supplies overseas and asked their youth to send 100 Bibles to the mission field.

Finally, financial contributions too numerous to mention were made throughout the year by our women to individuals, SDB concerns, and local or foreign missions.

If “God loveth a cheerful giver” (2 Cor. 9:7), then He surely must be pleased with many Seventh Day Baptist women today. **SR**

Our Seventh Day Baptist Women's Society was founded in 1884 for the very purpose of promoting missions.

Of 38 specific programs listed in 1999 “Highlights” from 13 societies, at least eight were identifiable as mission-related.

In North Loup, Neb., Pastor Chris and Becky Mattison and youth shared their experiences in a Blue Ridge Mountain program at a community luncheon; reports were given in Shiloh, N.J., by a new member about her experiences with a mission project and later by an SCSCer; and Battle Creek, Mich., learned about African-American churches and worship style.

Alfred Station, N.Y., ladies were treated twice—to a program about Snell Farm, a ministry to troubled teenaged boys, and then a slide show on work in the Southwest entitled, “Adopt-a-Native-Elder Program for Navajo Indians.”

Milton, Wis., ladies also had a double treat: a church member shared her experiences on a hospital ship called “Project Hope,” and a guest from Mercy Hospital spoke on “Senior Connection.”

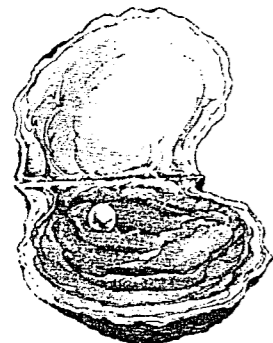
While it is nice to hear about others' mission experiences, James

baskets, lap robes, holiday tray favors, cookies, “Meals on Wheels,” or other home-delivered weekly meals as reported by North Loup; Dodge Center, Minn.; Battle Creek; Albion, Wis.; Riverside, Calif.; Alfred Station; and Shiloh. Hebron, Pa., hosted a coffee hour at a hospital long-term care unit.

At the other end of life's spectrum, some of our projects benefited the little ones whom God entrusted to our care. Hebron provided one-piece undershirts for a local obstetrics unit; Albion sponsored a monthly Kids' Club; both North Loup and Dodge Center used meeting time to create quilts for newborns and newlyweds; and Shiloh and Alfred Station maintained their church nurseries, including new handmade crib sheets in Shiloh.

Nor were the Baby Boomers or the Generation Xers forgotten. Towels and sheets were provided from a “treasure chest” in North Loup when a home was destroyed by fire; various greeting cards were sent at appropriate times by ladies in Dodge Center, Shiloh, and Alfred Station; a food





Pearls from the Past by Don A. Sanford, historian

Following "The Voice"

In 1971, Sister Emile Smikle gave her reminiscence of the beginning of the Jamaica Seventh Day Baptist Church. Her taped remembrances were transcribed by Leon Lawton, giving insight into the personal witness of one person who not only heard a voice from above, but also read a "Voice" from abroad. She began by saying:

"I am old, I am ninety and one years old the 31st of May coming, and so I feel I should not be doing much of the running around; therefore, I only visit the (Chapelton) hospital twice a month. But at the same time I also do the housework in Chapelton. I go to different homes and read and leave reading materials. And at home I go from house to house on the Sabbath after Divine service and read and visit them, so I'm still on the job.

"I vexed with the little booklet and throw it down and said, 'You don't know anything.'"

"I am the first Seventh Day Baptist in the island of Jamaica. I was a member of the Seventh-day Adventist for 16 years, and I left through some things that did not seem godly and I became a Free Seventh-day Adventist. That was in 1921, when I leave and started my little mission with two small children—one was born 1915 and the other born 1917.

"Now this was 1921 when the

trouble arise in the church and I leave with those two little children. And so I start service with them. I have the Sabbath School lesson and Divine service, and we carry on the three of us. The next week we had another girl about 8 years.

"The second week my husband promises us he would join, and another brother say he would join. So the third week I have half the Post Road Seventh-day Adventist came and joined us to this church that has no name. We have no building, we don't know of any other church that we could join on to.

"Then we get on to the Free Adventist, 1922. Our minister was Elder H.M. Mignot. He join on to us, having joined the Free Adventist. And as he gone on to visit other homes, I note his bag left here.

"So I trouble his book bag, and I found a paper entitled *The Voice* that said about the Seventh Day Baptist, and it told that not in 1844 Christ enter the most holy place. And I vexed with the little booklet and throw it down and said, 'You don't know anything.'

"That evening when Pastor Mignot

and my husband return from their visit, I told Mignot that I trouble his book bag and I found this paper in there that told that Christ did not go into the most holy place in 1844. I said to him, that unbelief that Christ went into the heavenly sanctuary once for all."

Sister Smikle told how she got the address of the editor of *The Voice* and ordered the free copies offered which came about three weeks later.



Sister Emile Smikle in Jamaica, 1961

While reading them with her husband, she said, "I got up off the floor and put my two hands on my head and walk through the room and say, 'If no Seventh Day Baptists then I am a Seventh Day Baptist!' so the two of us became Seventh Day Baptist."

The Voice was a paper written and published by Rev. Robert C. St. Clair, pastor of the Seventh Day Baptist church in Detroit, Mich. He was described as being "a conscientious man who frowned on everything that had a shade of dishonesty."² He had been an evangelist with the Methodists until he discovered the Sabbath.

St. Clair came to the Sabbath and attended some Adventist meetings where he agreed with them on the Sabbath question but disagreed with their end-time theology and the prophetic teachings of Ellen G. White.

As pastor of the SDB Church in Detroit, Rev. St. Clair continued his evangelism through preaching, social work, and wide distribution of his publication, *The Voice*. Aside from its influence in the West Indies, the publication was also credited with helping establish a few churches in the Calcutta area of India during the mid-1920s.

Sister Smikle wrote to Robert St. Clair, who referred her letter to the

cont. on page 26



SR Almanac

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

One year ago—January 1999

Features by Kirk Looper, Missionary Society Executive Director, focus on a church-run school in The Gambia, and a pharmacy in Rwanda.

Ronald Elston reports on a new training program for volunteer Dedicated Field Workers.

New SDB work develops near Durango, Colo.

Recent construction nearly doubles the size of the Salem, W.Va., church building.

Conference Host Committee describes the campus of Hope College in Holland, Mich.

Editor Kevin Butler points out the changes in this first, all-computerized issue.

Five years ago—January 1995

National Extension Minister Russell Johnson reports on new SDB works in Nova Scotia, Canada; Portsmouth, Va.; Blountville, Tenn.; and West Palm Beach, Fla.

Kirk Looper visits the Mexico SDB Conference in September. Patty Peterson serves as translator. Kirk also shares news from Africa in this missions emphasis issue.

Young Adult Interest Committee introduces officers and plans.

The Marlboro SDB Church in Bridgeton, N.J., dedicates the new addition to their church building.

Glen Warner shares personal memories in tribute to the late Alton Wheeler.

10 years ago—January 1990

Testimonies and reports come out of Malawi from new missionaries Ian and Trudy Ingoe.

Dr. Pete and Nancy May enjoy a loving welcome and stirring meetings in South Africa.

Missionary Society executive Leon Lawton focuses on the theme of missions. Missions meditation, "Trust God for the Harvest," comes from Earl Cruzan.

"The Beacon" offers choices for the National YF's new name and logo.

Outreach news included from the Middletown, Conn., and Miami churches.

25 years ago—January 1975

The first in a series on the Ten Commandments is written by Rev. Addison Appel.

Looking ahead to the bicentennial of the United States, Editor John Bevis shares how Benjamin Franklin had contact with Seventh Day Baptists.

Mynor Soper begins full-time work as Director of Evangelism. He continues to work with the Light Bearers for Christ musical team.

John Conrod is welcomed as new pastor of the Denver, Colo., church in November.

New sewing machines—made possible by the Women's Society love offering at Conference—aid SDBs and others in India.

50 years ago—January 1950

Founders of the White Cloud, Mich., church are honored. Surviving founders of the church, constituted in 1917, include Adelbert and Erastus Branch.

Rev. Walter Greene donates 1,000 volumes of his personal library to the School of Theology at Alfred (N.Y.) University. Greene taught church history and Christian education at the seminary for 33 years.

Helen Ruth, Georgia, and Paul Green Jr., of Milton, Wis., sing as a trio at the National 4H Congress in Chicago.

Ashaway, R.I., church hosts a Missionary Weekend in November. Miss Sarah Becker of Grace Hospital in China speaks at the closing session.

A "49ers Day" was celebrated at the Shiloh, N.J., church in November. Forty-two individuals qualified as '49ers, having been church members for 49 years or longer.

...where are we headed?

Pray for—

- our SDB witness around the world
- our short-term missionaries
- denominational boards and agencies
- lasting effects from year-end retreats
- our college and seminary students
- useful ministries for older church members
- churches in the pastoral search process



Retiring executive receives thanks

Acknowledgment of Ernest K. Bee Jr. as Executive Director of the Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education, Conference, August 3, 1999, at Hope College, Holland, Michigan:

Ernest—The Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education thanks you for 14 years of Christian witness and service to this denomination as Executive Director. You have focused our denomination on the need for imparting Christian witness among ourselves and in turn enabling us to reach out to others with the message of Jesus Christ.

- Your vision has returned the Board to its place of ministry among Seventh Day Baptists and God's Kingdom.
- You, early on, gave us a call to evangelism—starting and developing the NET (Natural Evangelism Training) program.
- You showed concern for our local churches through Leadership Training Workshops.
- Your concern for Lay Leadership in our churches has become a part of the Board's mission through the Called Program and the Muriel Osborn Seminar for Teachers (MOST).
- Your role as Executive Director and your hope for the Seventh Day Baptist Denomination encouraged you to initiate the "Invitation to Conversation" ministry.

- Your constant call to have quality in ministry has blessed us with your supportive tracts, and your books *Baptism: Ordination to Christian Vocation* and *The Teaching Leader*. As the writer of Hebrews states, "And what more shall I say? For time will fail us" if we tried to list all the accomplishments of your ministry during the last 14 years.

One time at a meeting you asked us, "What is the essence of Christ's message?" We thought it was a trick question. You answered your own question with "Love."

That is what you have been teaching us... Love of God and living His Ten Commandments, Love of Christ so that we may be able to "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you" (Matt. 28:19-20a, NAS).

We will continue to thank God for your many gifts and wish you God's many blessings.
Thank you, Ernest

When God does it His way

by Jessy Olson, Milton, Wis.

The seven of us (Heather Wright, Jenny Butler, Luke Jakubowski, Ben and Sarah Calhoun, Erik Henry, and myself) began our trip to Jamaica with a clear "wake-up call."

God prepared us to serve by making sure we knew He was going to do it *His* way. It took us two days to get to Jamaica with delayed flights and birth certificate difficulties. We met Pastor Andy Samuels and his daughter, Tsafiq, in the Kingston airport, tired, smelly, and in two-day-old clothes, but broken. Believe me, after two days of airport lines and food, you would be beat into submission too.

The project last July consisted of helping to build Maiden Hall Conference Centre, running VBS at the

area schools. But the project seemed a facade compared to the reality of what God did in us and

The Jamaicans have very little, but what they have, they give. They don't let things worry them or run a crazy schedule like we do.

Charles St. Church in Kingston, helping the Greater Portmore crusade, and leading some sporadic devotions

through us and what He is continuing to do in Jamaica.

The trip was difficult for each one of us in different ways. Heather had never flown before, and since our trip required us to take eight planes in all, she was petrified. Jenny was attacked by "mosquitoes on steroids" for 10 days. The Patoian dialect of the people was hard for all of us to understand. Many times it was too hot at night for Ben and Erik to sleep well.

But the most trying for everyone: the food was... different... and often we were served more than we could eat. And me, well, I disliked Jamaica as soon as I set foot on the island. I disliked the tropical vegetation, I disliked the people who would stare and shout "whitey" at our van, I hated that I could not understand what the Jamaicans were saying, and I detested the

cont. next page

Short-Term opportunity!!!

If you feel led to some short-term mission work, Maiden Hall needs workers like crazy this spring. The Jamaican SDB Conference is building a three-story building for camps, Conference, pastoral training, and rental use. It is slow going because it is all being done by hand; so the more hands, the better! If interested please contact me:

Jessy Olson
Judson College, CPO #638
1151 N. State St.
Elgin, IL 60123

or
9149 N. John St.
Milton, WI 53563

fact that every house and building had huge iron gates surrounding the doorways as if to shut out the world.

But as the 10 days passed, I grew to love the people. They are the epitome of hospitality. They have very little, but what they have, they give. They don't let things worry them or run a crazy schedule like we do.

The way they worship is amazing, in style and in spirit. In some ways they may be legalistic, but they are truly obedient people and, consequently, they are powerful in the Holy Spirit.

The Jamaicans made me see more

clearly the power that unfolds in a life that is set apart and free of sin. That's what God asks of us.

Well, God asked something more than holiness and purity of me in Jamaica. The day before my team was scheduled to leave, He asked me to stay for another week. Since I disliked the country so much, it had to be Him!

So I gritted my teeth and said, "Okay, I'll eat food off of trees for another week, or two, or three. Whatever you ask." That very day, He began to show me all the beautiful things about Jamaica.

The next morning the flight plans were finalized, I found a place to stay, and there I was. And I loved every minute of it! Through my obedience, God gave me family there and opened doors of ministry between here and Jamaica.

I can't imagine what impact it will have on the future, but I'm so excited I can't stop talking about God and the wonders He does. It seems like I'm in a constant state of jumping up and down in excitement and praising Him.

Oh, how I pray you're sharing in the adventure! *SR*

Miriam Lawton wanted to go on a missions trip for at least three years. She had read advertisements in her Christian magazines about missions put on by other organizations, but she really wanted to do this through Seventh Day Baptists.

She contacted the Missionary Society, but unfortunately they had no programs for short-term missions. They did, however, put her in touch with Rev. Joe and Joyce Samuels, who still had contacts in Jamaica. Eventually, the trip was worked out and became a reality.

Kirk Looper, Executive Director of the Missionary

Society, felt that Miriam needed to have someone to go with her. Karlene Neher, from Dodge Center, Minn., also felt a call to Jamaica, and she became Miriam's partner. The girls worked hard all year to earn the \$1000+ needed for the trip, working, in Miriam's case, long hours at McDonalds, babysitting, etc.

While in Jamaica, the girls planned and taught VBS in Kingston and at Maiden Hall, the Conference Center. They worked in the Conference office, helped clean and prepare Maiden Hall for the Jamaica Conference sessions, attended a crusade, and sang in church each week.

Jamaica journey, mon

by Miriam Lawton, Little Genesee, N.Y. Reprinted from the church's internet newsletter, "Renewed."

Okay, so I may be stubborn. So what? That just means it may take a "2 by 4" to get my attention.

Or you could just take away all of my securities and present me with obstacles that must be hurdled.

I went on to Jamaica last summer. It was quite a learning experience for me. I had never been so scared in my life. There I was, with strange people in a strange place, eating strange food, learning strange customs, and

way. I like to know where my things are at all times, and I need personal space.

I like being able to stop eating when I am full—whether I have eaten all the food on my plate or not. But when I was in Jamaica, those things were, well, luxuries. You see, I didn't do the "tourist thing" a whole lot. Karlene and my sponsors—the Samuels—wanted us to have a real Jamaican experience. "Lucky" us.

Going to Jamaica made me realize how I have to surrender all of myself to God... So, every morning, we would have akee and saltfish. Akee is the Jamaican national fruit. It is a red fruit that grows on trees, and

cont. next page

There I was, with strange people in a strange place, eating strange food, learning strange customs, and being laughed at everywhere I went.

ed. Apparently, God doesn't like the "2 by 4" idea.

I'm talking about the work project

being laughed at everywhere I went.

In case you don't know, I am a huge control freak. I like things *my*



Young
Adult
Connection

Faith goes to school, unarmed

by Nathanael Lawton

One day, young Faith came to school without bringing his works in his pack. He looked quite different.

World, Faith's ever-present challenger, approached him on the playground.

"Hey Faith," World prodded, "if that's who you really are. Where are your works? You say you're Faith, but I don't believe you."

Faith stammered, "I—I—I believe that—that, ah—that—umm..."

"Words!" shot back World. "Is that all you have for me? Prove yourself."

But since Faith had no works with him, he could only walk away, having done nothing for World, for whom

Faith had so much hope and love.

When the bell rang, Faith went into the classroom and started to hang up his coat. The teacher said, "That's Faith's coat hanger, little one. You need to use the extra one for visitors."

Then the teacher continued, almost to herself, "I don't think I heard anything about a new student, did I?"

"I am Faith," the child said in astonished defense. "See, right around my neck I have this fish. And I know John 3:16. 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should

not perish but have everlasting life—'"

Then Demon spoke up, "Even I know that," and continued the recitation, "'For God did not send his son into the world to condemn the world,' etcetera, etcetera..."

"If you're going to prove yourself," said the teacher, "you'll have to show me some works."

Then Faith turned his head in search of help, and caught a glimpse of himself in the mirror. He was so pale. No wonder no one recognized him.

Without works, Faith was dying.

(Taken from James 2:14-26) SR

Jamaica journey, continued

opens up like a flower when it is ripe. Inside, there are three yellow things sticking out with huge black seeds at the end. You take these out, cut off the seed, then boil and fry the yellow part. The end result looks like scrambled eggs. Some people swear they taste the same, but I don't think so. Maybe that's because eggs make me nauseous and I had to eat the akee.

I probably had just about every Jamaican food there is: curried goat, rice and peas, stewed peas, chicken foot soup, rundown, jerk chicken, avocados (which they call pears), pineapple, coconuts, mangoes (there are about 15 kinds), guinepps, boiled green bananas, cow's foot, goat liver (for BREAKFAST!), shu-shumba, dashi, guavas, coconut water, and the like.

And we didn't always have running water. No hot water. Ever.

Even in the country (that is, not in Kingston), people were everywhere, always talking or being loud or busy. And it was hot. Not an extreme hot, but more of a constant hot that never went away.

This all would not have been so bad if I had been able to plan my days, or prepare a little for the next day. But they don't do that in Jamaica. They "go with the flow," "play it by ear," "improvise." I don't do that well.

It's strange how God uses experiences in our lives to teach us. I believe I learned more from going to Jamaica than I gave. God used every single circumstance to teach me to give Him complete control.

I had no other choice. In the

States, it is so easy for me (and other people) to think that I don't need God, or that I don't have to give Him every single part of me every second of every day. I show lack of faith in God by worrying about where I am going to go to college, or what I will do with the rest of my life, or if I will ever get married, or what I will wear to the Prom.

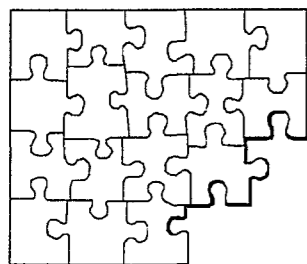
These are things that God has complete control of, things that He created—yet I still try to take control.

Going to Jamaica made me realize how I have to surrender all of myself to God, all of the time. The trip showed me what wonderful benefits we can reap.

So here is my point: don't play God.

There already is one. There cannot be another. *SR*

Live in Harmony with One Another



The President's Page

A bumper crop in 2000?

by John Camenga

One of my favorite winter activities in past years was to go through seed catalogs. I was on the mailing list for several seed companies, and early in the year I would enjoy browsing through the colorful pages, thinking about garden time ahead.

Some new varieties would be presented along with old, familiar names. "What should I plant this year?" I would ponder. "Is the 'new, improved hybrid' really better than the old familiar one?"

Those seed catalogs held a promise of spring. The snow might be deep on the ground and the temperature might be hovering around zero, but more pleasant days were ahead.

Chatting with other gardeners, I would find out what varieties they used. There were some basic crops I knew I had to plant in order to feed the family.

Every year I would order something old and something new. And every year the results from my own garden were never quite as luscious as the pictures in the catalogs.

Let me move from this illustration to another one. This one also has to do with seeds.

Before the days of seed catalogs, farmers would save the best of their crop to use for seed the next year. The best beans, corn, and squash would be set aside for this purpose.

The wise farmer knew that no matter how severe the winter, he must save his seed. If he ate it, he would have nothing to plant the next year.

In times of near starvation he still saved the seed because he knew that without it, he was simply postponing starvation. Almost any method would be used to keep that seed for the next planting.

Our General Conference is beginning a New Year with a new budget. We have been through some lean times with severe restraints on what we could do. We have "downsized" about as far as we can.

Wise leaders have tried to cut wherever possible in order to "save our seed" for next year. Many of our

executives are doing the basics because they have little or no staff to help them. They need time to dream and to listen.

They need travel money so they can see what is happening in our churches and find out how they can help. They need to be able to share "success stories" with other churches to encourage us all to be active in the Lord's vineyard.

Will this year be the one when we have a bumper crop? When we go "over the bottom" and can add dynamic, effective ministries to the basics we do every year?

Maybe you have been hoarding some seed of your own. Maybe the Lord is touching you to plant it this year in the garden we call the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference. **SR**



The wise farmer knew that no matter how severe the winter, he must save his seed. If he ate it, he would have nothing to plant the next year.

Seeking Spiritual Maturity:
through Sabbathkeeping



Passing the Sabbath truth on

by Larry Graffius

An annual emphasis of
the SDB General Council

Excerpted from Larry's book True to the Sabbath, True to Our God, chapter 16, pages 167-172, 178-179.

One of my goals in writing this book was to set forth some of the basics of practical Sabbath keeping, so that the next generation might take hold of them and practice them.

We may or may not be able to overturn laws, or unseat evil men from power, or change unbiblical standards and policies across the country. But there is one place where we can make a very pronounced difference in our communities and in our nation—our homes. We can teach our children the most basic and most important principle of all of life: to guide our lives by God's Word.

How can we accomplish such an awesome task?

The situation that we face today is very similar to that which the Children of Israel faced as they stood on the threshold of the Promised Land. Here, at the banks of the Jordan River, Moses called them all together for his last great teaching.

Knowing that he was about to die, that he would not be leading them any farther, and knowing that they would soon be entering into the Land of Canaan without him, he spent hours, days, even weeks, reviewing with them the most important principles of God's Word.

The Children of Israel were about to become citizens in a land where the majority of people did not follow God's ways. They would be constantly exposed to ungodly values, unholy behaviors, and unhealthy influences. Their families would be

tested, again and again, as to their faith and commitment to God's Word.

They needed some guidance. They needed some spiritual reinforcement. These are Moses' last instructions:

"Hear now, O Israel, the decrees and laws I am about to teach you. Follow them so that you may live and may go in and take possession of the land that the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you.

"Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the LORD your God that I give you.... Observe them carefully, for this will show your wisdom and understanding to the nations" (Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6).

In order for us to pass on the Sabbath principle—or any Christian principle—effectively, we must first of all declare and model the standard.

Deuteronomy, the Second Law, was a repeating of the standard for the Israelites. It was a restatement of things that they already knew. But Moses knew this very important principle of human behavior: We need more than just to be told, we need to be reminded.

Likewise our children need to hear the standard of obedience to God from us. And they need to see it modeled. They need to see it reinforced by the things we do.... What you tolerate in moderation, your children will excuse in excess.... They are watching your decisions, and they are recording your choices.

If a child lives with joyful Sabbath keeping, he learns faithful and loving obedience to God. If a child lives with Sabbath keeping, in an experience of joy, blessing and spiritual enrich-

ment, he learns the value of faithfulness to God's Word.

Primarily and fundamentally, we must clearly state and repeatedly model the standard for our children.

It is so easy to let down our guard, to relax our standards, to fudge a little. And there goes the standard. This is particularly true of our Sabbath keeping.

Be alert to signs of erosion, Moses warns. "Be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not let them slip from your heart" (Deuteronomy 4:9). So many spiritual principles go this route. We don't guard them. We don't protect them from compromise or erosion, and before we realize it, they just slip from our heart.

We have the responsibility for the care and keeping of a precious treasure, given to us by God. It is the truth of the Sabbath, God's holy day. Let us be careful how we treat it. Let us consider how we are keeping it. And let us be diligent in passing it on to [the next generation] as part of the whole counsel of God. **SR**

All too quickly, Larry Graffius entered his eternal Sabbath rest in December (see obituary, page 25). During the year 2000, proceeds from the sale of Larry's book will be added to the special endowment fund to benefit Summer Christian Service Corps.

Outreach Bible church installs new pastor

In December of 1998, Pastor Keith Julson was called Home to be with the Lord. Following the loss of their leader, the Outreach Bible Church of Portage, Wis., called Daron Smalley to be their new pastor.

Installation services were held in March, with National Extension Minister, Rev. Ronald J. Elston Sr., attending. Daron had assisted with church leadership since the new church was formed several years ago.

Pastor Smalley, who was Keith's brother-in-law, lives in Baraboo, Wis., with his wife, Paula, and son Andrew.

The church continues to grow and



Paula and Daron Smalley of the Outreach Bible Church, Portage, Wis.

reach out into the Portage area with the message of the Good News of Jesus Christ. The group meets in the Zona Gale Center of the Arts in Portage. **SR**

SR Reaction

Kevin,

As much as I enjoy reading all the articles in the *SR* when it arrives each month, I could not have been more delightfully surprised when I read the letter to the editor in the November issue from Beula DeVard, who wrote that she had just turned 101.

Beula was one of my parishioners back in the 1950s when I was the pastor of the Chicago SDB Church. I was also surprised to have recently found Beula mentioned on the World Wide Web when I did a search for Seventh Day Baptists. I reprinted that article about her, along with her picture, in the April 1999 Fishermen's Net Newsletter, which can still be read in the archive at <http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Academy/6829/apr99.htm>

John Conrod, Lakewood, CO

Summer Christian Service Corps 2000



are you...

- 17 and a high school grad? (by June '00)
- a member of a local SDB church?
- wondering what to do next summer?
- wanting to serve God?

-or-

- a church member wanting an SCSC team?
- a church looking for a camp staff?

Summer Christian Service Corps can answer your questions. You can serve God and get acquainted with some of our fantastic youth. You will also see what it's like to commit yourself to a challenging experience.

For applications, write to:
Jeanne Dickinson, 1256 Roadstown Rd., Bridgeton NJ 08302
Phone: (856) 455-5137 scsc@interactive.net

Corps member training: June 22-29

Director training: June 21-25

Project dates: June 30 - July 30

**Application
Deadline:
February 1, 2000**

CLT meets in Janesville

Members of the denominational Coordinating Leadership Team (CLT) gathered at the SDB Center in Janesville, Wis., for meetings on December 2-3, 1999.

New executives welcomed to the CLT include Andrew Camenga of the Board of Christian Education and Gabe Bejjani of the Council on Ministry. Executive Secretary Lewis H.V. (Pete) May called and chaired the meeting and attended with his wife, Nancy, who serves as his administrative assistant.

Other CLT members are Kevin Butler of the Tract and Communication Council, Kirk Looper of the Missionary Society, Ruth Probasco of the Women's Society, and Don Sanford of the Historical Society. Invited guests were Ronald Elston, National Extension Minister, and Calvin Babcock, General Services Administrator at the Center. New part-time Center worker, Paul Green, served as secretary.

Don Sanford prepared and presented a summary of General Conference actions gathered from the last three years. Team members reviewed the minutes and reported on how their agencies have address-

ed those needs.

Members agreed on the need for a new Bible study correspondence course which would cover the topics of salvation, the Sabbath, and other areas of belief and polity. An increasing number of internet contacts have

asked for such a document, and the need is certainly there overseas. Andrew Camenga volunteered to develop the course, with input from other Team members. The studies will be prepared as separate lessons, and printed in smaller quantities to be available on an as-needed basis.

Discussion was held on the role of our Associations. This was generated after reviewing a proposal being developed by the Southwestern Association. With new groups and fellow-



The Coordinating Leadership Team (seated, l. to r.): Andrew Camenga, Calvin Babcock (guest), Ruth Probasco, and Nancy May (admin. assistant). Standing (l. to r.): Paul Green (secretary), Gabriel Bejjani, Kirk Looper, Pete May, Don Sanford, Kevin Butler, and Ronald Elston (guest).

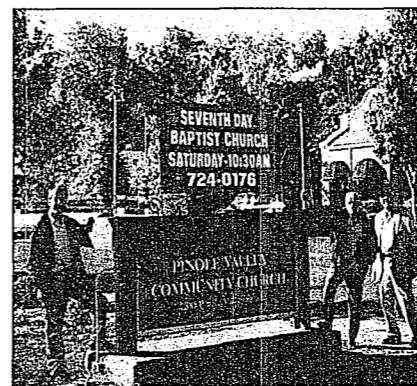
ship possibilities appearing in their area, the Association has a vision to secure a Growth and Outreach Missionary.

Team members expressed their appreciation for the Center staff and the facilities. Several Milton church families helped to host the out-of-town visitors.

The agency representatives also spent time developing a coordinated plan to visit our Conference churches within the next year to 18 months. **SR**

On the road with the Executive

Executive Secretary Pete May (far right) visited the Bay Area SDB Church on a special day in late October, when Pastor Steve Crouch (left) and Mori Simms (next to Dr. May) unveiled the church's new sign. Brother Simms instigated the project and made the initial contact with the signmaker. The sign, made of thick vinyl, is erected every Sabbath morning. The church meets in Pinole, Calif.



While visiting the new church facility in Texarkana, Ark., in November, Dr. Pete May had the opportunity to pass out his popular "prayer rocks." These small and colorful polished stones are to remind their "owners" to pray for their family, church, denomination, and their own ministry and place in God's Kingdom. Pete carried 40 pounds of rocks to this exciting gathering.

Marriage

Soper - Kelly.—Stanley Soper and Tammy Kelly were united in marriage on November 13, 1999, at the North Loup (NE) Seventh Day Baptist Church. The Rev. Christian Mattison officiated.

Accessions

Little Genesee, NY
Gordon Lawton, pastor
Joined after baptism
Elizabeth Goetschius

North Loup, NE
Christian Mattison, pastor
Joined after testimony
Iva Williams

Obituaries

Blegen.—Rebekah Blegen, 49, of Maple Lake, Minn., died suddenly on September 28, 1999, near her home.
Rebekah, known as "Becky D." by those she associated with at the Dodge Center Seventh Day Baptist Church, was born in 1950 to Donald and Darleen Carlson. She graduated

as valedictorian of her class at McGrath in 1968. She graduated from technical colleges in Brainerd and St. Cloud, Minn. She attended St. Cloud State University, and was a student of Trinity Bible College and Theological Seminary.

She felt her greatest accomplishments included her time as a medical secretary at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., and raising her three sons. She began attending the Dodge Center church while working at Mayo in the late 1980s.

Becky loved God and people. She enjoyed helping people, especially through her nursing home ministry. Her favorite saying may be attributed to St. Francis of Assisi: "Love in your heart isn't put there to stay. Love isn't love until you give it away."

Survivors include her husband, Larry; three sons from a previous marriage—Joel, Jay, and Timothy Fredin; step-children and grandchildren; her mother, Darleen Carlson; and younger siblings, Rhonda, John, James, and Lois. She was preceded in death by an infant sister, Ruth, and by her father, Donald.

A memorial service was held on October 7, 1999, at the Countryside Christian Center in Sauk Rapids, Minn.

White.—Daryl D. White, 76, died on November 1, 1999, at Wheatridge, Colo.

He was born on July 18, 1923, in North Loup, Neb., the son of Paul James White and Gladys (Hurley) White. He attended school in North Loup until 10th grade, then quit to help his ill father take care of their farm. He later moved to Colorado, got his GED, and went on to be a successful computer technician.

On February 26, 1944, he married Barbara Davis in Boulder, Colo.

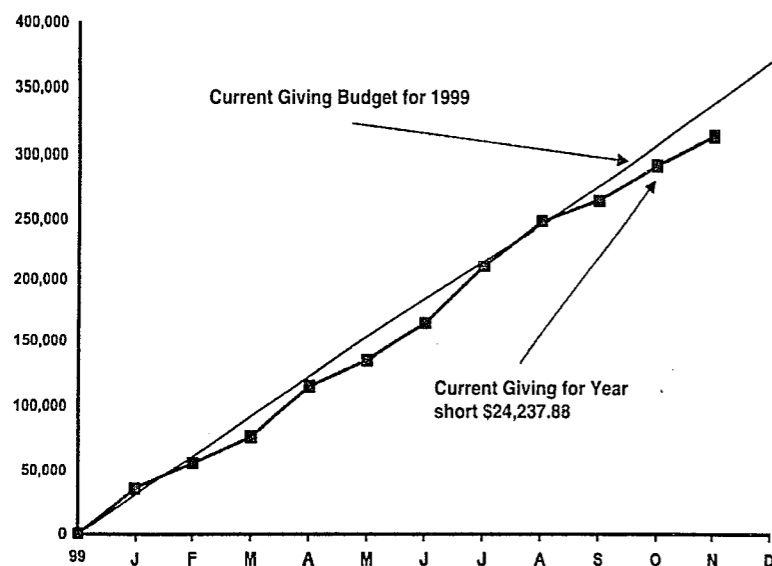
Daryl spent 18 months in Seoul, Korea, during World War II. He was

Births

Severance.—A son, Colton Ryan Severance, was born to Andy and Maureen (Constanso) Severance of Omaha, NE, on October 5, 1999.

Greene.—A son, Austin Michael Greene, was born to Larry and Dolores Greene of Dodge Center, MN, on November 22, 1999.

Current Giving 1999



Obituaries, continued

baptized and became an active member of the Boulder Seventh Day Baptist Church on December 10, 1946. From that time on, the SDB church family and ministry became the center of his Christian life.

In 1959, Daryl accepted a job in Denver, Colo., and he and Barbara became active members of the Denver SDB Church. He was a deacon, trustee, and Sabbath School teacher. At the time of his death, he was a charter member, deacon, and trustee of the Colorado Springs SDB Church.

Daryl was active in the camping programs of Colorado SDB churches for over 50 years, including work at Camp Paul Hummel. He was an avid

"rock hound," and shared his love of God's creation through rocks with many campers over the years. He loved to sing, either solo or in male quartets and church choirs. He also loved fishing.

Daryl put his heart and soul into God's work and the spreading of the Gospel. He was a member of and on the Board of Managers of the SDB Missionary Society, and was on the Mexico Committee. He was also a former member of the SDB Board of Christian Education.

He and Barbara worked closely with the churches in Mexico from the onset of their affiliation with SDBs. In 1990, they started work

with the SDB Natural Evangelism Training program, which led them to Jamaica and across the United States to train others.

Survivors include his wife, Barbara; one son, Robert, of Brighton, Colo.; one daughter, Patricia Davis, of Lakewood, Colo.; two sisters, Gonzalla and Dorothy; eight grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his two brothers, Owen and Derwin.

Funeral services were held at the Denver SDB Church, with Rev. Rodney Henry and Pastor L.B. Lee officiating. Burial was at the Fort Logan National Cemetery in Denver.

Pastor, author, Sabbath promoter with the Lord

Rev. Larry Edwin Graffius, 45, died on December 2, 1999, from a snorkeling accident while vacationing in Hawaii with his wife.

He was born on October 22, 1954, in Altoona, Pa., the son of Rev. Charles and Anne Graffius. On December 21, 1974, he married Jan Williams in North Loup, Neb.

Larry graduated from Northern Bedford High School in New Enterprise, Pa., in 1972, and from Salem (W.Va.) College in 1975. He went on to graduate from North American Baptist Seminary in Sioux Falls, S.D., with a Master of Divinity and had recently begun work on his doctorate.

He had served 18 years in full-time ministry, and for the past four years was serving the Marlboro SDB Church in Bridgeton, N.J. He previously ministered at Seventh Day Baptist churches in White Cloud, Mich.; North Loup; Rapid City, S.D.; and Lost Creek, W.Va. Larry especially enjoyed his involvement with youth camps and ministries.



Rev. Larry Graffius
1954 - 1999

Since 1991, Larry served as chairman of the Sabbath Promotion Committee for the American Sabbath Tract and Communication Council. He revitalized the Council's work in promoting God's Holy Day, and devised creative ways to promote our denominational logo. With the help of his church members at Marlboro, Larry authored a marvelous book on practical Sabbathkeeping, *True to the*

Sabbath, True to Our God, in 1998.

In the past, Larry worked in financial planning and was currently working as a substitute teacher. Other interests included various art mediums, golfing, gardening, and music.

Survivors include his wife, Jan, of Bridgeton; two sons, Scott of Janesville, Wis., and Steven of Lakewood, Colo.; his father and stepmother, Chuck and Lorna Graffius of Oviedo, Fla.; one brother, Don, of New Enterprise, Pa.; and one sister, Cindy McKenzie, of Mandan, N.D. Larry was preceded in death by his mother, Anne, in 1990.

Memorial services were held on December 12, 1999, in Salemville, Pa., with the Revs. Paul Manuel and Kevin Butler officiating; on December 21 in Bridgeton; and on December 28 in Boulder, Colo. Burial was in Salemville.

Contributions in Larry's memory may be made to the Seventh Day Baptist Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547, for a Summer Christian Service Corps endowment.

Robe of Achievement nominations

The Women's Society is accepting nominations for the Robe of Achievement for 2000. Please be considering a woman in your church who meets these criteria for nomination:

- Was / is active as a volunteer in some phase of denominational effort
- Has shown evidence of special service with her family and / or community
- Must be a committed Christian
- Must be an active member of a local Seventh Day Baptist church

A complete resumé must be submitted containing a life history, including her achievements and activities. Without a resumé in hand, the committee cannot make a competent choice among many nominees. If an individual has been nominated before, and you still want that person considered, please re-submit the name as well as the resumé.

Send all nominations to:

Elizabeth Bidwell, P.O. Box 136
Shiloh, NJ 08353

Deadline: March 31, 2000

Following "The Voice," cont. from page 14

Northwestern Association. The Association urged that two men be sent immediately to Jamaica.

The Tract Society and Missionary Society joined in the effort, and Pastor C.A. Hansen of Chicago and W.L. Burdick visited the newly opened door in 1923. They found that the Free Seventh-day Adventist Conference of Jamaica was about to break up over dissatisfaction with management of the Conference's affairs and the polity of the denomination.

The two representatives visited the discouraged churches and explained

sions for the 21st century. The interest of one person can spread to family and local church. The distribution

not only in Jamaica but to England, Canada, and the United States, where their witness continues. The "Voice" for today may come in the form of electronic media, but the response still needs to be by people who see and hear.

Doors are opening. How do we respond? **SR**

The interest of one person can spread to family and local church. The distribution of evangelistic literature is still a tool.

SDB beliefs and practices. As a result, 10 churches formed the Jamaica Seventh Day Baptist Association and were soon joined by five other congregations.

Sister Smikle's story can provide insight for Seventh Day Baptist mis-

sions for the 21st century. The interest of one person can spread to family and local church. The distribution

of evangelistic literature is still a tool. The involvement of an Association and the various agencies of the denomination can provide the personnel and support for working with inquiring people.

The seeds sown over 75 years ago have brought an abundant harvest,

THE VOICE

"The Voice of one Crying in the Wilderness: PREPARE YE THE WAY OF THE LORD: MAKE HIS PATHS STRAIGHT." John, the Sabbath-Keeping Baptist.

VOL. 3, No. 10 DETROIT, MICH., U. S. A. 50 Cents Per Year

THE GREAT IMPORTANCE OF SAVING OUR YOUTH.

Eld. R. B. St. Clair Addresses the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference, Milton, Wisconsin, August 21, 1924.

To the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference: dear people wander about the city day after day and week after week, in search

KEVIN'S

CORNER

Well, if you're reading this page, then the "Y2K" bug must not have stopped the presses or the mail.

This first edition of the year 2000 caused me to reflect on my "vast" experiences of the 1900s, specifically some milestones during years which ended with the number "9."

In 1979:

With my college career coming to a close, I received a phone call from my Dad that Mom passed away unexpectedly in the night. After her funeral and numbly trying to cope, I graduated the next week and began my first real job the following day. Later that summer, Jan and I got married, drove our new

little Fiesta to a wonderful honeymoon in Florida, then settled into our own home.

In 1989:

This last year of the '80s, I began a new ministry with the *Sabbath Recorder* and the Tract Council. What a time of learning and challenges while getting to know some great servants on the General Council. I was happy to glean from their collective wisdom and experience. We bought a house and moved to Janesville around the first day of spring, and enjoyed watching our youngest go through his first year of life.

In 1999:

As I celebrated a decade of work at the Center, we also marked the 155th year of the *Recorder*, upgraded the pre-press process, and moved the printing to a shop in Ottawa, Canada. We watched our oldest graduate from high school then head off to college. I witnessed my assistant survive both an empty nest and breast cancer. We said our final earthly goodbyes to pastor and co-laborer Larry Graffius. And I also sat close to the President of the United States.

I ask you to please set aside the politics of the day and try to enjoy this moment with me. (Hey, I didn't vote for the guy, either.)

We were at the Key Bridge Marriott in Arlington, Va., celebrating James Dunn's service as executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. As chair of the Transition Committee—charged with find-

ing James' next role after retirement—I was scheduled to make a short presentation after the \$100-a-plate dinner. This placed me at one of the head tables, providing me a "ringside seat" to learn from featured speaker Bill Moyers, and to catch the appearance of an unscheduled guest.

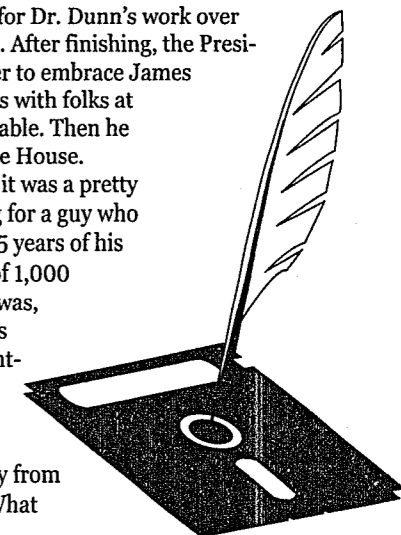
I did have some clue that Clinton might be attending. Right before the dinner began, I was in the large room making sure my props were safe behind the podium. Friendly guests had been mingling and smiling, but all of a sudden I saw some very serious, unsmiling men with earpieces. (And these guys were much too young and athletic to be hard-of-hearing.) "Secret Service agents," I deduced, especially when I was escorted out of the room for their final pre-dinner clearance check.

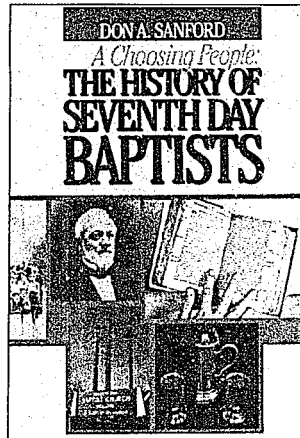
My part of the program included some silly gag gifts (why was I chosen to give those?), so I began to wonder if the President would laugh at my jokes. Well, I had to wonder no longer. He never had the chance.

As we began digging in to our salads, the newly-announced BJC executive, Brent Walker, approached the microphone and declared, "Ladies and gentlemen, it is my pleasure to introduce to you the President of the United States." Several of those very serious, unsmiling men emerged from a workers' entrance behind the podium, and then appeared William Jefferson Clinton.

The whole room became electrified as we stood and applauded. Clinton shared some fine words of appreciation for Dr. Dunn's work over the last 19 years. After finishing, the President walked over to embrace James and shook hands with folks at the other head table. Then he left for the White House.

I must admit it was a pretty exciting evening for a guy who spent the first 25 years of his life in a village of 1,000 people. There I was, near the nation's capital, representing a small denomination of Baptists, sitting a few yards away from the President. What a country!





The freedom and responsibility of choice is one of the basic tenets of Baptist beliefs. Seventh Day Baptists, as a part of this Baptist heritage for nearly 350 years, have upheld and practiced that right. The decision to follow the Bible instead of ecclesiastical authority and tradition led them to accept the seventh day of the week as the Sabbath holy unto the Lord. This choice of the Sabbath sets them apart from other Baptists, but as Dr. Winthrop Hudson noted, "Seventh Day Baptists are separate but not sectarian."

A Choosing People: The History of Seventh Day Baptists documents the history of this oldest Sabbathkeeping Christian denomination within the framework of both religious and secular history, from the Reformation in Europe to modern times in America.

From their origins in mid-17th century England and American colonial Rhode Island, the book traces their development of associational relationships during the 18th century; expansion with the Western frontier, the organization of General Conference and related societies in missionary and education outreach in the 19th century; and grappling with social, theological, and organizational issues in the 20th century.



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