

The

S

abbath

*News for and about  
Seventh Day Baptists*

November 2000

R

ecorder

# Rocky Mountain

# High



**Boulder, Colo., church  
dedicates new building**



## 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:

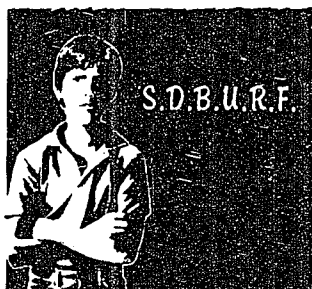
- salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.
- the Bible as the inspired word of God. The Bible is our authority for our faith and daily conduct.
- baptism of believers, by immersion, witnessing to our acceptance of Christ as Savior and Lord.
- freedom of thought under the guidance of the Holy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

*“Class, how do you spell relief?”*



“Correct! Your gift to the SDB United Relief Fund provides help for medical and emergency needs both here and abroad.”

Give generously to the SDB United Relief Fund through your local church on Thanksgiving Sabbath, or mail your gift directly to:

SDB United Relief Fund  
P.O. Box 1678  
Janesville, WI 53547-1678

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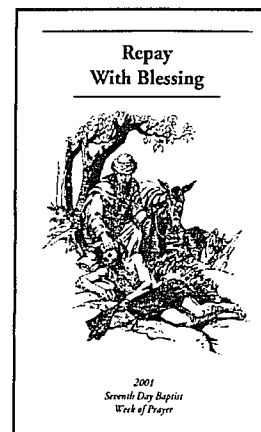
*Please remember  
the United Relief Fund  
on November 25*

## Seventh Day Baptist Week of Prayer January 7-13, 2001

This prayer booklet by Dale Thorngate will be sent to each Conference. Let us begin the year 2000 on our knees. Sponsored by the SDB World Federation.

**World Federation Sabbath  
January 13, 2001**

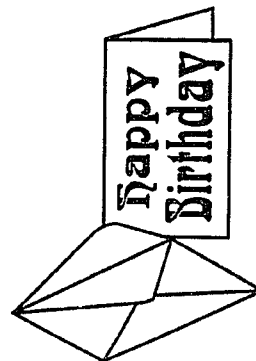
We ask that each church take a special offering for the SDB World Federation.



**To all friends of Leon Maltby:  
Leon is turning 95—Send a card!**

On November 26, Leon Maltby will celebrate his 95th birthday. How about making it extra special by sending him a nice birthday card?

**Rev. Leon Maltby  
2279 Nottingham Road  
South Daytona FL 32019**



# The Sabbath Recorder

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## Features

We celebrate with the members of the Boulder, Colo., SDB Church as they have officially dedicated their new building to the Lord.

This month's main features come from that long journey of hard work to completion. We thank Deb Skaggs for her permission to reprint stories from the church's "Flatirons Press" newsletter. Photos are by Boulder member Shari Severance and Editor Butler.

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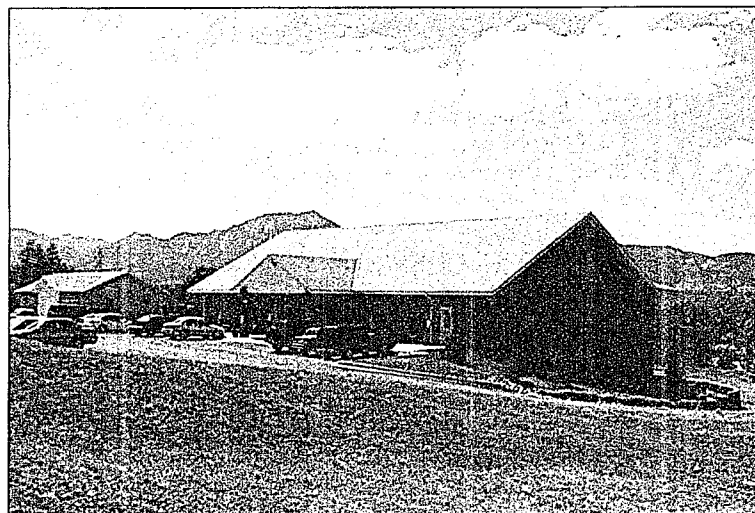
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# More than just a building

by Richard Steele



The Boulder SDB Church dedicated their new facility on September 2. The parsonage is on the left.

Lots of options for a new Boulder, Colo., SDB Church facility were explored, but finally some property on East Arapahoe began to look like a feasible option. It wasn't long before our congregation purchased this land from the proceeds of the sale of our church facility at 900 Arapahoe.

At last! A day was set for breaking ground. This happened on a Sabbath afternoon, and many of our key members brought shovels.

A proposal to construct our new facility was submitted to Boulder County so they could allow us to build. Jim and Fran August designed and presented plans to the congregation, and the best was chosen. The final plans were then submitted to the county. It wasn't very long before we were given the OK to build.

Early construction is sometimes frustrating to watch. I suspect that because my life's work centered around manufacturing and finishing a metal product from a flat sheet, it provided reason enough for my frustration.

Yet, as one thinks about it, the work accomplished on any building must have a solid foundation. It is a beginning that must be solid enough to withstand extremes in weather and minor movement within the

earth. Even our lives must have a solid foundation, and this, of course, is Christ Jesus!

A water well, a primary prerequisite, had to be drilled and cased so we would have water. *(That's a whole story in itself. See page 6.—Editor)* In due time the excavation was started by Dick Armstead, who provided the equipment as well as labor.

We began laying the foundation for the church under the direction of Jim August, who is very knowledgeable about such construction. Our church began to take its basic shape.

Stories of the blood, sweat, and tears of the actual construction could fill many pages. We praise God for the victorious completion!

Now, the sanctuary gives us God's presence in every way. Lovely chandeliers hang from the ceiling, where recessed lighting provides just the right amount of light for every occasion.

To sit through our services on cushioned pews is a joy. (A tremendous comfort, especially for those of us with "yelling" bones and muscles.) Praise God!

The sound system, although not quite finished, is a pleasure to those of us who are hard of hearing. I have worked with metal much of my life. Because of this, I was approached to figure out the best method of adding brass plates to the podium floor

where the wire runs to the sound system.

The first two plates were designed and constructed per my specs in early 1999, and a third smaller plate for under the pulpit was completed just before the start of the new millennium. Wall access plates on each side of the stage were machined for fittings as well.

**Our building is complete enough to think about the spiritual needs within our neighborhood and community. Our church is far more than just a building!**

The sound room at the back of the sanctuary required a long steel plate with over 100 holes drilled into it for controls. Even as I write this, there is a need for several more holes to be

**There is much to learn from just watching many in our church who practice their skills well.**

machined. Whoever said that one's work is ever finished?!

On the lower level, teaching space

for mostly the younger set is now adequate. A large room near the sanctuary was thoughtfully provided for those of us who have difficulty climbing stairs.

There is much to learn from just watching many in our church who practice their skills well.

Beyond the physical, though, our building is complete enough to think about the spiritual needs within our neighborhood and community. Our church is far more than just a building!

As a congregation, it is now time to move forward in the area of evangelism. Outside of our walls, people drive by, wondering what Seventh Day Baptists are like. They could be wondering how we are different from

other Baptists. Which causes us to ask, "Are we willing to open our hearts and minds to those who are 'raw' and bring them in so that Jesus can speak to their hearts?"

What a challenge this is from our God! We must do it! **SR**

Memories, what wonderful things to have!

My most treasured memory for helping with the Boulder church is of cooking for the building crew and praying that I had not only done a good job, but had cooked enough for everyone. I have to admit it was kind of "right" some Sundays, but it always seemed to come out okay, with help from the Lord!

One of the pictures I will always have in my mind is seeing Mary and Willard Wells working away at the specific job they had chosen to do. Willard was always working in his own quiet way, and Mary was whistling away, doing her job. What grand people!

Willard came into the kitchen one day with a badly cut hand. I fixed it up for him, and he went back to work with a cheerful smile and a big thank you.

My last but best memory of the church in progress was the day Richard and I were married in the finished basement. Our then-sanctuary on the lower level was gaily decorated by our children, and the ceremony was performed by our beloved pastor, Dave Thorngate.

In helping with the church and serving the Lord, I finally found the true meaning of Christ's love and happiness.

—Mary Steele



The choir sings under the cross (and beautiful recessed lighting).



Celebrants stepped outside to offer a unison prayer of dedication.

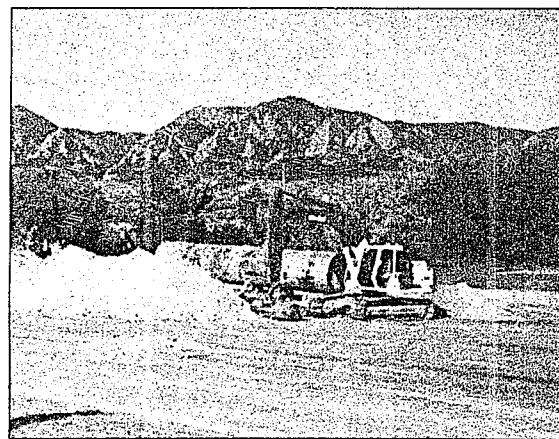
# The miracle at the well

by Jim August

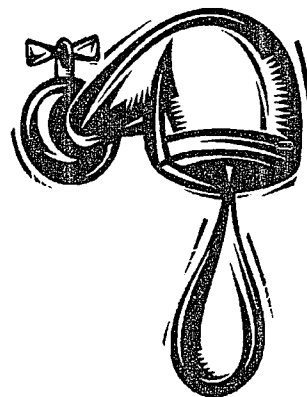
This "miracle at the well" isn't from the Bible. It occurred at the well that supplies the Boulder, Colo., church with water. This is just one of the many miracles we witnessed during the construction of our new church and parsonage.

Before we could turn the first shovel of dirt, we had to go through many major steps with various government agencies. Here's a short outline of what we needed to do before starting construction:

1. Find and purchase affordable land that was acceptable to construct our church and parsonage. This was a miracle.
2. Since our church is in unincorporated Boulder County, we had to prove that we had a source of water to support our development. This is where our modern day "miracle at the well" occurred.
3. Design the buildings and other improvements along with their locations for the county.
4. Get approval for the overall project from the county.
5. Revise the design to meet the county's requirements.



Dig this! Foundation work underway.



**A driller was selected and he bored a hole that was about 460 feet deep. Water did not come gushing out as expected...**

6. Obtain a permit from the county to move dirt.
7. Obtain a permit from the county to actually start construction of the parsonage, which was to be built first.
8. Finish the parsonage, get permits for the church, build the church, pass all inspections, and get permits to actually use the completed buildings.

We didn't anticipate any difficulty proving to the county that we had a source of water because the church property is included in the Hoover Hill

Water District, which is supposed to provide water and sewer service to all properties in its district.

Our property was included in the Water District before we bought it, so we had the legal right to get water service from them. However, the district gets its water service from the City of Boulder, which refused to allow the district to let us have water and sewer service.

After exploring many options and considering the legal costs that we would have to bear to force the city to comply with existing court orders, we decided to look into drilling a well for our own source of water.

We started the process of getting a permit from the State of Colorado to drill a well. Step one was to prove to the state that we didn't have any other source of water without a well. The city provided us this when they failed to approve our request.

We applied to the state for a permit to drill a well, but our request was refused. One of their concerns stated that they were afraid that the use of our well could "change the flow of the Platte River." Wow! Since we were building a church on the property, we would also be restricted on the amount of water we could pump out of the well.

After developing a dual system that would use the rain from our roofs as part of the water source, and meeting other requirements such as not letting any water from our improvements run off of the property, we were granted a permit to drill a well.

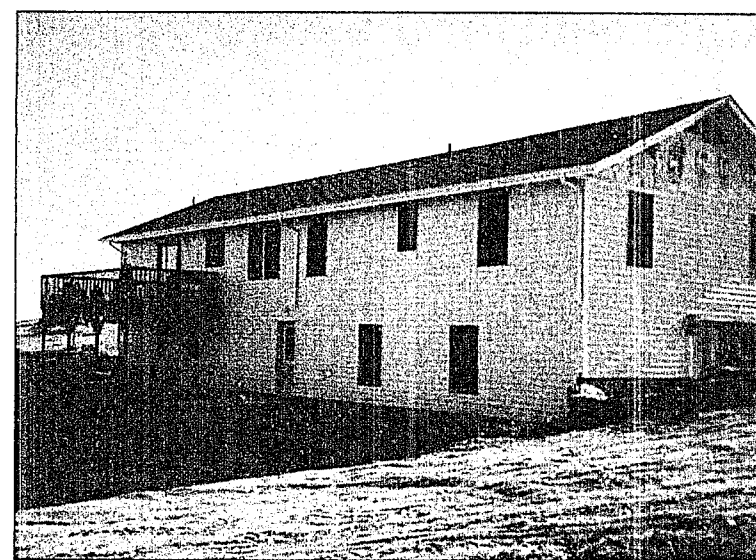
Now came the time we could hopefully drill a well to prove to the county that we had a source of water before we could actually start the application and permit process.

There are typically two different types of well-drillers in the area. Some drill in the rock in the mountains and expect very low flows from wells, while the others drill in the dirt in the plains. Since our property is in the plain, we chose the latter.

A driller was selected and he bored a hole that was about 460 feet deep. Water did not come gushing out as expected. He was used to drilling wells several miles east of us, where aquifers provide almost unlimited amounts of water. (Mountain drillers normally get much lower flows.)

So our well-driller gave up on that hole, declaring it dry. Three days later, he dug again, this time on the lower corner of the property in the trees. We hoped to find water there since the ground is damper in that area. But the results were the same.

As part of the cleanup, the driller cut off the top of the casing pipe that he had put in the first hole and start-



"Don't forget me!" The parsonage was the first huge building project.

fill a 460 foot well, so that was no small amount of water that appeared in the well over the weekend.

After the dry-hole driller was gone, another company came in and cleaned up the well. They tested the flow

filled our well with water. He performed a miracle so that we could build a new house in which to worship Him.

This is just another proof that Jesus provides the Water of Life. Praise the Lord! **SR**

*Jim August served as the "volunteer contractor" for the Boulder church project.*

**No one has yet been able to convince me that it wasn't the Lord who filled our well with water. He performed a miracle so that we could build a new house in which to worship Him.**

ed to cover the well with dirt. Maybe it was the "little boy" in me, but I dropped a clod of dirt into the top of the casing and heard it hit water very quickly.

I calculated the distance that the dirt could have traveled in that brief time, and discovered there was water within 20 to 30 feet of the ground I was standing on. Wow! Some "dry hole"!

Where did that water come from? It takes about 700 gallons of water to

and put on the proper casing so it could be used as our water source.

It wasn't, and still isn't, an outstanding well, but it provides water at more than three times the rate that the State of Colorado would legally allow us to pump.

With a proven source of water, we were finally able to fill out all the applications and permits, and begin building the church.

No one has yet been able to convince me that it wasn't the Lord who

Now we have a beautiful new church building, and I feel very much at home, especially since I lived in this subdivision for 20 years. However, the building isn't as important as the people who worship here.

May God continue to use us as we reach out to share Christ with our neighbors.

—Jane Meyer



# Long haul for the Lord

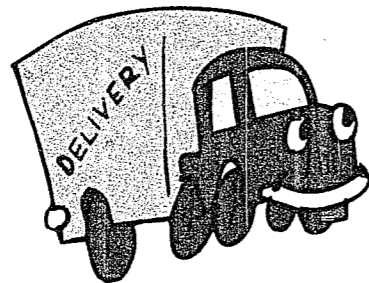
by Jennie Wells Munn

For several years, I have been privileged to watch, wait, and pray for the dear members of my home church in Boulder, Colo., as they planned and built a new church and a new home for their pastor.

On several occasions, when I left my Texas home and visited my loved ones back in Colorado, I would find time to pitch in myself. What a joy and privilege to work with longtime friends, and new ones, too! Most of all, I enjoyed working alongside my wonderful parents while sweeping snow off the floor before the roof was on, or picking up scrap lumber and nails—odd jobs, but significant.

Then came a new challenge: using my vacation time to assist in a bigger way. The church had purchased a baptistry from a company in Waco, Texas, near where I live. Normal means of shipping—such as by train or truck—were going to really hike up the cost.

My mother, Mary Wells, who was chairwoman of the Building Committee at the time, talked with me several times about the problem. I told her that I would be willing to haul the baptistry to Boulder on my Dodge



*I had to simultaneously keep on eye on the road and an eye on the skyline, scanning for tornadoes.*

truck (mini-commercial) since I would be coming for a visit anyway. After receiving the paperwork from the church, I went to the company and worked out the details. Then I planned my trip.

Thank goodness God knows what He is doing! Every circumstance worked for His good. I just got the wonderful (at times tense and scary) job of seeing my part through.

I had to head east out of Waco, then northeast to Jacksonville, Texas, where the factory was that made the baptistry. So, early on a Wednesday morning, my miniature

Schnauzer, Munzo, and I got in my packed truck and hit the road, with the blessings of my husband, Richard.

I took ropes and red flags, just in case the factory didn't provide everything I needed to legally haul something longer than the vehicle. I also put a large, protective sponge on the truck bed to help cushion the fiberglass baptistry.

When I arrived in Jacksonville, the men at the factory seemed a little surprised. As his workers hoisted the baptistry onto my truck, the foreman told them to secure it really good, since I had a long haul ahead of me. In fact, he emphasized, "She's going almost to the top of the state of Colorado, not just across the border." He knew full well that I still had to get out of the Lone Star State. (Not that Texas is big or anything!)

By then, it was nearly lunch time. So I filled up the gas tank and headed back to the Ft. Worth area so I could get on the Interstate. Along the way, I stopped and had lunch with a friend in Mansfield, just south of Ft. Worth.

With full stomachs and rested bodies, Munzo and I were on our way west. It took all afternoon and into the evening to get into west Texas. By the time I got to "no man's land," I was low on gas.



Send in the balloons...



...and celebrate!



One of the best views from an SDB church.

I got off the highway, only to discover that the one gas station that I could see was a "Co-op type," so I couldn't refuel there. A nice man pulled in and told me how to get to the only other station in that small town. ("Thank you, God!") I knew that the next stretch of road would be pretty desolate until I reached Lubbock.

To make a long story short, everything went well until that evening, when I was just outside of Lubbock. A storm was brewing. Since the baptistry was on its side, and the open part faced into the wind, I could feel the truck rock. I had to simultaneously keep on eye on the road and an eye on the skyline, scanning for tornadoes.

"Lord," I prayed, "I need your protection now."

Since there was no shelter, I just kept moving and tried to outrun the storm. I finally arrived in Clovis, N.M., where I could spend the night. I grabbed my dog and a few essentials, and headed through the rain to my motel room. Sometime during the night, the motel lost electrical power, but nothing else.

The remainder of the trip was unremarkable, other than the scenery God put all around to keep me company. Those men at the factory had secured the baptistry so well that I didn't have to change or tighten anything on the truck the whole trip.

I pulled into the church yard mid-afternoon on Thursday and, as usual, found my parents there, working. The next day, several people came to unload the baptistry and put it inside the church.

As I look back on these and many other memories, I realize I have really seen the work of God in His people. Many times my mother would

ask me to pray for certain needs and concerns that came up in the Building Committee, and I gladly did.

There were happy times and sad times, personality times and human times involved in all of the labor that went into the building. There were financial times, political times (governmental rules and regulations), impatient times. But, as Scripture says, our awesome God "worked good in those that love Him..." and they stayed focused on the goal.

For the most part, my memories are from a distance. But when we step back, sometimes we can see more clearly.

And what did I see? Fellow brothers and sisters in Christ putting in many, many hours of doing exactly what Paul speaks of in Romans 12—they are living sacrifices, pleasing to God, each staying focused on the goal, each bringing their own gifts, talents, faith and love. Is that easy? No. Is it possible? Yes. Praise God! *SR*

## "Sentiments"

Truly it was a sentimental fulfillment to serve on the Boulder Church Building Committee for our present facility on Westview and Arapahoe. My father had served on the committee for the 9th Street church. Seldom in one family does God use three generations in the same manner.

There was the day heavy snow fell on the sub-flooring. My husband was not too enthusiastic, but Pastor Thorngate and the two of us shoveled and saved the floor. Now Pastor Thorngate and I can look back and laugh.

There was the evening when Fran August and son, Scott, were up by the cross. Darkness came before they were through, and her

husband, Jim, asked everyone to direct their car lights toward the spot.

I recalled seeing an unused medicine chest in the closet of the parsonage basement. Unlocking the door, I brought the chest to increase the reflection from the headlights. I apologized to Pastor for trespassing, but I grew up on the saying, "Necessity is the mother of invention."

This church has been blessed by so much sacrificial labor, planning, and insight or vision, that it would be hard to enumerate.

God has led us this far. He will lead in the future if we remain faithful to Him and His Word.

—Mary Hummel Wells

## A church's dedication (in many ways)

by Richard and Mary Steele, co-clerks

New church building dedications do not come that often, but when they do, they are very special. The last time the Boulder SDB Church had one was some time in 1928, almost three-quarters of a century ago.

For our September 1st Sabbath Eve service, Pastor Rod Henry spoke on "God's Omnipotence plus Our Obedience." This eloquent pastor from the Denver SDB Church did his homework and spoke of our church's past, pointing out the character and dignity which was evident at our last church at 9th and Arapahoe Streets.

Rev. Henry spoke about God moving us to this place, with its good ground for construction. Now that willing hands have built our church, we must look into what God wants us to accomplish here.

A number of church members testified about what this construction meant to them. Our pastor, David Thorngate, spoke of the indirect lighting in our sanctuary. Several people told us that this would be impossible to accomplish, but Jim August found a way to do it. Our lighting gives a halo effect, indicating that God's presence is with us.

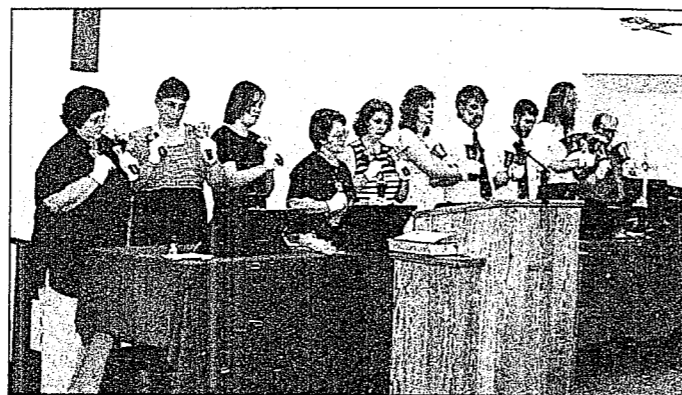
There were no negative words in the dozen testimonies given. Instead,

Be Thy Name." It was music not only to delight the heart, but it praised God in every way!

Pastor David Thorngate gave a sermon on "Dedication," based on verses from 2 Chronicles and Psalm 95.

In the Bible passage, the temple work was completed, and Solomon brought in the "things" his father

David had collected. He placed them in the temple treasuries as trumpeters and singers joined in unison to give praise and thanks to God. At the dedication ceremony, Solomon prayed to God, Who in turn sent fire from heaven to consume the burnt offering and sacrifices. With this,



Above—The Boulder bell choir. Right—Shepherds of the past and present (l. to r.): former Boulder pastors Gordon Lawton and Elmo Fitz Randolph, and current pastor David Thorngate.

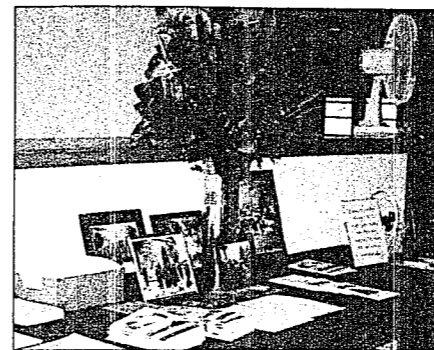


His glory filled the temple.

Indeed, as we listened to Pastor David speak, each of us felt God's glory filling our sanctuary; a sanctuary of the new Millennium, the 21st century!

As with the disobedient Israelites, is it so hard for us to listen intently to the message and apply it to our lives? God informed the Israelites that if they would humble themselves and pray, He would hear from heaven, forgive their sins, and heal their land. Are we that much different before our God?

We, too, must approach Him as little children. In such obedience, God will work wonders as we give ourselves in evangelism to bring others into His sanctuary. Their cleansing may take much time, but what is



Photos and memorabilia were displayed.

time before God?! In obedience, we just invite them in, despite themselves and the roughness they possess. Were we not the very same when we started out?

In the early '60s, Dr. Kenneth Smith answered my question by saying, "We are but rough cut stones which need faceting and polishing to make us as worthy people before our God! For us, this will take a lifetime to accomplish." I've never forgotten his words of wisdom.

For our Sabbath afternoon Dedication Service, the first anthem by the bell choir was "The Church's One Foundation." Those notes filled our sanctuary with the wonderful blending of many bells and the message which went with it.

Following the bells, visiting Pastor Gordon Lawton gave a prayer of thanksgiving. Many of us were glad to hear his voice fill our new sanctuary, remembering its special resonance from previous years.

Pastor Kevin Butler, editor of the *Sabbath Recorder*, used Numbers 13:26—14:4 for his dedication mes-



sage, "Standing on the Banks of Tomorrow." He brought out some very solid points concerning those who would cause us problems.

More than anything, we too often *overestimate* our enemies; just as most of the Israelite "spies" did in their report from the Promised Land. These disobedient people blew everything out of proportion as they described the people they had encountered. They were not allowing God be their "pilot."

Along with overestimating, people often idealize their past as the "good ol' days." But as we think about it, what definition could be applied to that term?

We had obedient people among us to finish our building program. But no matter how each of us faced it, there was sacrifice. Isn't the "here and now" really the "good ol' days"? It took months to complete some of those tasks, but we praise God for willing hands to do each job!

In some ways, this new building is our "promised land." Whatever needed to be done, we, in faith, just did it. No matter what the hurdles we had to go through, Jesus Christ was, and is, our Lord. There is no other. Many years ago, Paul Hummel wrote, "May God guide us to greater works." To which we say, "Amen!"

Our choir sang a second anthem for our Sabbath afternoon dedication program. "Family of Christ" was very fitting for the occasion.

After the hymn, we had a unison



prayer of dedication (see box).

Just when we thought the service was over, we were told to go outside on the top level and make a large circle in the parking lot. In a few minutes, several large plastic sacks filled with helium balloons were distributed to people standing in the circle.

At the proper time, these large sacks were opened and dozens of balloons floated into the heavens. We watched them follow a gentle breath of southeasterly wind until they disappeared. What a beautiful sight!

A man then stepped forth with a container of white doves. Individual birds were given to members of our congregation and all were released upon command. Most flew westward, but one that started to go south, then east, turned and flew west with its peers. Even a bird might pause in flight to know by its God-given instincts where it should return.

This lovely experience closed with a fitting benediction by Pastor Elmo Fitz Randolph. Praise God for our new sanctuary dedicated to Him! **SR**

### 'Prayer of Dedication'

"Lord, we offer this building to You for Your use. We are humbled to think that You would take our efforts and make them significant in Your Kingdom's work. We offer but little to You compared to what You have given us; but in Your grace, You accept our gifts and multiply our efforts. Now, Lord, help us to be good stewards of that which You have entrusted to us. Help us to use our own and our church's material blessings to accomplish Your Kingdom's purposes. Amen!"

Far left: Gretchen Zwiebel and Cleus Severance show off their doves. Left: Steve Johnson cradles his dove before the big release.

**A message from  
Executive Secretary Pete May**

## 20/20 Vision for 2020

Friends, it's time for us to look ahead!

Many of our churches have young pastors with new traditions, and church members with old traditions. Older SDBs are disappearing. The new SDB looks to the future, not just the past.

### WE NEED TO LOOK AHEAD.

Here is your chance to share in the long range Vision for Seventh Day Baptists. I'd like you to send me your Spirit-led ideas!

This is not to usurp the jobs of any committee or Board, nor to steal anybody's thunder. (This is also not a program to commiserate over everyday problems, personal problems, in-church problems, or General Conference problems.)

This is for looking and planning ahead for the positive witness of SDBs to North America and the world!

We need to have 20/20 VISION to both survive and serve effectively. This is not just for your eye care, but for your denomination's future—2020 and beyond.

I foresee that this 20/20 Vision will involve all Board members, pastors, and laymen in a network of ideas, plans, and insights sent to the Executive Secretary.

A 20/20 Vision is not a plan just to tell someone what they should do or be doing. This is to open our hearts and hopes to each other, looking for a Holy Spirit-guided understanding of what God wants us to do together.

Follow-up is important. As your correspondence comes in to me, it will be read, sifted and shared with our denominational agencies. Will it "die" in a flood of paper and e-mail?

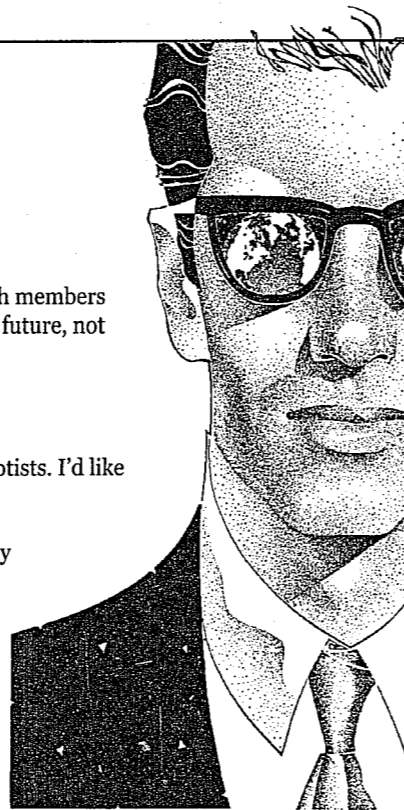
Or, can we positively share our hope and be a body of Christ working together? I believe we can!

I invite you to study your suggestions, pray about them, and send them to:

**Dr. Pete May, Executive Secretary**  
269 W. Wistaria Ave.  
Arcadia, CA 91007  
Or, e-mail me at phvmay@aol.com

Let's start our evaluation, then identify our common options of service to our Lord. I believe that He will be faithful and grant us His power to serve His people.

New and old Seventh Day Baptists have a future! Be a part of that future. Invest your time in lives. Have your heart checked and have your vision checked. The Lord is waiting to give us our 20/20 Vision!



Women's Society page by Laura Price

## Highlights of Ladies' Aid Reports

*Continued from last month.*

**Alfred Station, N.Y., Union Industrial Society** hosted a variety of monthly programs, service projects, and fund raisers. Topics for some of their programs included a Bible study of the 2000 Conference theme ("Live in Harmony"), a report from a local couple who had done volunteer work with a business in Zambia, and a slide and music program on "Western National Parks."

For services, their ladies were in charge of a worship service in November. Funeral dinners requested by church and community families were provided, and monthly contributions were made toward the church janitor's salary and Pre-Con expenses for the young people of the church.

**Leonardville-Brookfield, N.Y., SDB Ladies Aid** reported that their chosen theme for the year was "Joyfully Serving."

"At our meetings, we have devotions and discuss business. We also have monthly offerings and give to Sunshine Mountain and the Women's Board Love Gift, plus we pay the electric bill and maintain supplies for the Parish House.

"Our major fund raiser is a trail ride turkey dinner in July, when we serve about 100 people at the nearby fairgrounds. This has been done for 20 years with the help of the whole church."

**Battle Creek Ladies of Michigan** have a special offering each month for "Save the Children" fund and continue to sell their latest cookbook. Their Society also hosted May Fellowship Day for Church Women United, preparing and serving the luncheon and helping with the program.

Their report also voiced concerns of getting older and having difficulty finding workers who are able to help or contribute support to the programs they have in mind.

**Women's Study & Serve Society in Hebron, Pa.**, reported that "A chapter from a Bible Study guide begins each meeting, followed by a short business session. An inspirational or entertaining program for the evening is presented by a volunteer."

Some of their service projects included serving two Coffee Hours at the local hospital, providing items for needy mothers in the obstetrical unit, donating books to a nursing home resident, and providing meals for the Allegheny Association meeting last October.

They stated that their main fund raiser for the year was a Turkey and Biscuit Dinner in October.

**The Dodge Center Ladies Aid in Minnesota** reported several fund raisers during the year, including a salad luncheon, their annual SCSC luncheon, and making pies to sell on three separate occasions.

They made a donation to the Dr. Grace Missionary Society in North Loup, Neb., to help with the postage for sending collected goods to Zambia.

Last year, they mailed "care" packages to their college students to let them know that they were in their thoughts. They also sent notes of encouragement to many people in their church family and denomination.

Their community service included twice delivering Meals on Wheels to shut-ins, and assisting at the local blood drives.

**The Afternoon and Evening Women's Circles of Milton, Wis.**, complement each other, whether working individually on projects or combining forces.

The Evening Circle opened each of its meetings this year with a study on the book of Nehemiah. "We were challenged to review Nehemiah's prayer life and build up our own." The Afternoon Circle's activities included coordinating prayer chains.

**The Women's Society of Riverside, Calif.**, filled a request for "Quiet Packs," used by younger children during worship times. The Society finished 24 packs, which were filled with small Bible books and small plastic toys.

They held a Passover Dinner and Foot-Washing. A church member, who is a local hospital dietitian, presented a vegetarian cooking class, focusing on "tofu and the various ways to prepare it."

Society contributions (to Sunshine Mountain, SCSC, the Women's Society Love Gift, and Maiden Hall in Jamaica) were funded mostly by their yearly bazaar. "The unique aspect of our bazaar for the last two years has been the pre-preparation of frozen foods and mixes that can be used for last-minute holiday meals.... The cookie mixes sold very well. We ran out, and almost all of the frozen foods were sold. At our Soup & Pie Supper, we ran out of soup again." (More soup makers needed?!)

**The Albion, Wis., Missionary & Benevolent Society** spoke of its "community focus."

"Spurred on by the men, we organized a second Ice Cream Social for the community in June. But *we*

*cont. next page*



spurred on the church to put together two food baskets at Christmas for needy families in our town. We also collected baby gifts for a community mother expecting twins." (She had a boy and girl!)

The Society began a Secret Sister project, which is open to guests. "One guest, Gertrude Williams, had participated in a similar project as a past church member, and we welcomed her back enthusiastically. Sadly, she died in April."

They continue to be actively involved with the "Kids' Club Project," providing treats and assistance with supervision, crafts, and other special requests.

And, finally, the last paraphrased words from the **Dr. Grace Missionary Society of North Loup, Neb.:** "As hard a decision as it was—and it was harder than most of you will understand—a vote was taken at the May meeting to disband the Dr. Grace Missionary Society.

"In the early 1950s, a group of younger women in the church formed the Dr. Grace Missionary Society to aid the Women's Society in their work. They chose for their name and model Dr. Grace Burdick, a missionary to China. Through the years, they have enjoyed an active fellowship and were able to contribute to the work of the church..."

"Committees were formed to do jobs... in caring for the kitchen and dining room, funeral dinners, community functions, cleaning at camp, quilts for newlyweds, Lenten breakfasts, hospital hospitalities, and missionary work. A treasure chest was filled and given to anyone who had a need following fires, tornadoes, and whatever the need. For several years they had an outreach project to the Hastings Regional Center and Bethpage Mission at Extell.

"One by one, the members were gone..."

"Hopefully, this last year we have completed well the work we felt Dr.

Grace would have stood for, sending nearly 400 lbs of seeds to Africa, bedding to the hospital in Malawi, sewing materials to several African missions, and over 500 lbs of used clothing to the work there. The \$1,357.81 needed to mail our packages was left in the hands of the Lord, and He provided well....

"Our prayers are offered in gratitude for those of you who were such a vital and contributing part of the mission of the Dr. Grace Missionary Society."

So, SDB ladies, there is still plenty of work which needs to be done as we are able and willing through God. We salute all who have so diligently worked in the service of our Lord. And our prayers will continue for one another, that we might—in humility, faith, and love—meet the challenges and changes that God allows.

"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven" (Eccles. 3:1). **SR**



In this quadrennial year of the Olympics, we have been reminded of the contribution of the Greeks to the athletic world.

The Greeks were noted for the training of the mind as well as the body. This training of the mind was an ongoing process where there were no losers. Their stadium was a "Lyceum," so named because they met near the temple of Apollo Lyceus in Athens. Men such as Aristotle, Plato, and Socrates shared their knowledge with students and bystanders.

It was in such a setting that Paul shared the Gospel with those worshipping before the idol dedicated to an unknown God (Acts 17:16-28).

This public teaching was not limited to ancient Greece, but has continued in various forms, often carrying the name "Lyceum." In more modern times, the Lyceum is traced to Josiah Holbrook of Derby, Conn. In 1826, he outlined a plan for a worldwide federation for the advancement of learning.

By 1834, there were nearly 3,000 branches in practically every state. These local lyceums were voluntary associations for self-culture, community instruction, and the discussion of public questions.

One of the most successful and continuing lyceum assemblies was started in 1874 at Chautauqua in western New York State. It grew out of a camp meeting for the study of Bible and church school teaching methods. Gradually, it expanded until it embraced the whole field of education, including popular entertainment of music and drama.

Pearls from the Past by Don A. Sanford, historian

## The Lyceums live on

Before the advent of modern media, this assembly was copied by hundreds of communities throughout the country. In 1904, a circuit Chautauqua plan was developed in which lyceum bureaus supplied programs of lectures, music, drama, and travelogues to both large and small communities.<sup>1</sup> (Growing up in Little Genesee, N.Y., I recall some of those circuits coming each year and filling the church hall to its limit.)

It was at one of those early programs on the shore of Chautauqua Lake that Rev. A.H. Lewis spoke to several hundred ministers on the subject, "Sunday Laws, Past and Present." The address was shared in print with more than 6,000 people at Chautauqua, and later circulated in tract form to thousands more.<sup>2</sup>

Two years later, George Babcock suggested establishing a headquarters for the Bible Sabbath in Chautauqua. He proposed that "all the publications upon the subject could be had by earnest inquirers, and the sign above which could be a constant reminder that there was a Sabbath of Jehovah in contradiction to the Sunday of pagan Rome."<sup>3</sup>

In 1883, General Conference adopted a resolution expressing the opinion that a Seventh Day Baptist headquarters at Chautauqua could be a rallying point and a means of supplying information to those who seek to know the truth. A committee was appointed with power to solicit funds and erect a building for that purpose, with the understanding that the General Conference would have no financial involvement.

Subsequent Conference sessions revealed no action, and the matter was dropped. One can only speculate as to whether this was a missed opportunity for Sabbath promotion.

One successful extension of the Chautauqua program is alive and well in Green Lake, Wis. Each fall, well over 100 people gather for

about five days at the American Baptist Assembly grounds for spiritual refreshment and fellowship.

No lectures like A.H. Lewis' have been given, but Seventh Day Baptists' participation has been noted.

This year, speakers included Wyatt Watkins, a talented violinist who spoke on "Forward to the Past—Ancient Hymns of Faith" and "Britain on Five Hymns a Minute—200 Years of English Hymnology."

At an evening hymn sing, I was able to extend that 200 years of English hymns by a full century. The booklets, "Hymns Composed for the Celebration of the Holy Ordinance of Baptism" were distributed. It was written by Joseph Stennett (1663-1713) and copied by the SDB Historical Society.

Hymn number V was sung to the tune of "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing." As so often happens at a typical hymn sing, only two or three verses are used. My suggestion that the first two verses would give the sense of baptism in Christ by immersion—in what Stennett called "the liquid grave"—was ignored by the congregation of 150 people. They wanted to sing *all seven* verses.

Many of the attendees expressed appreciation for these hymns which they intend to use in their own churches. For some, it was their first introduction to Baptists that observed the seventh-day Sabbath. Others were unaware of the long history of Seventh Day Baptists.

Even in this age of electronic communication, some phases of the Lyceum and face-to-face learning and sharing continues. **SR**

<sup>1</sup>*The Encyclopedia Britannica, 14th Ed., 1937, Vol. 14, p. 511-512.*

<sup>2</sup>*"Chautauqua Address," Conference Minutes, (SDB Yearbook, 1882), p. 25.*

<sup>3</sup>*George H. Babcock, "Letter from Chautauqua," Sabbath Recorder, Vol. 35, August 30, 1883, p. 4.*

## Learning to walk

by Jeff Hazen

This is Mukumbo. He's the youngest son of Faith Liyena, who is the founder of the Zambian Faith Orphanage Foundation and daughter of Rev. Edwin Mukumbo (my host). I took this picture of little Mukumbo because it was the first time I saw him walking.

The growth stages of children are exciting moments. Each stage—whether birthdays, learning to walk or talk, or graduating from high school—gives us reason to celebrate.

Churches are like children. The SDB church in Zambia is still a "baby"; Rev. Mukumbo founded our sister denomination just ten years ago. The Conference has grown from one family to about 30 churches in the last decade, but it still lacked the ability to train its pastors in SDB doctrine and to publish literature.



But now they are starting to walk, and who knows where they will soon go?

With a church/Conference headquarters that now has a roof, a church truck that prompts the

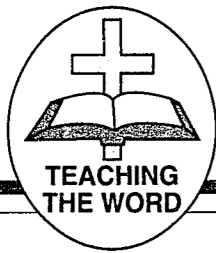
question "What is 'Seventh Day Baptist'?" and a computer, printer and photocopier to publish literature, the church is starting to "use its legs." What remains is the training to manage this powerful equipment, which is my prayer and goal for my last couple months in Zambia.

The Conference center in Kitwe still lacks the funds to finish and furnish the building. Without that, who will want to congregate in an unfinished building with no pews? The Zambian churches have vision for more centers, like mobile clinics, pre-schools, conference centers and offices for the various SDB associations.

If God has blessed you with resources, please think about teaching these people how to walk without stumbling.

You may send your gift to the SDB Missionary Society, 119 Main Street, Westerly RI 02891. **SR**





# 2000 Sabbath School Teacher of the Year

Esther A. Burdick of the Waterford, Conn., Seventh Day Baptist Church, was the recipient of the Crystal Apple Award as the 2000 Sabbath School Teacher of the Year.

As the Sabbath School Committee chair, Rev. Gordon P. Lawton presented the posthumous award to Esther's pastor, Rev. Leon R. Lawton, during the summer's General Conference ceremonies at West Virginia Wesleyan College in Buckhannon. (Esther died on July 25, 2000.)

Each year, the Sabbath School Committee seeks one teacher who exhibits the qualities of faith and

**Esther positively influenced the lives of many people.**

teaching demonstrated by our Lord, and who currently serves as a Sabbath School teacher of the nominating church. This teacher is recognized as the Sabbath School Teacher of the Year and awarded a crystal apple.

While the Board of Christian Education has chosen to recognize only one individual each year, we encourage every church to recognize and support their teachers.

Esther A. Burdick served as the Women's Sabbath School Class teacher for the last 15 years. Members of her group stated that her class



Pastor Leon Lawton (left) accepts the Crystal Apple on behalf of Esther Burdick. Sabbath School Committee chair, Gordon Lawton, made the presentation.

was "cheery." One person wrote, "As a women's Sabbath School teacher, Esther used all sorts of maps,

teaching aids, references, and resource material in teaching her class. She used challenging questions as outlined in *The Helping Hand*, asking each woman to try to answer."

Class members also described her as a woman of prayer and dedication. She served many years as the moderator and Sabbath School Superintendent for the church.

Her faith was also known beyond the church walls. A colleague wrote about her influence on troubled individuals: "She would very quietly drop a pebble of wisdom into the dark water, and over time you could see concentric waves of influence and learning very subtly fan out and take shape. Esther positively influenced the lives of many people." SR

## The Directors of the SDB Board of Christian Education



Back (l. to r.): Andrew Camenga, Matthew Olson, Olin Davis, Kenneth Chroniger, Gordon Lawton, David Clarke. Front (l. to r.): George Bottoms, Mae Bottoms, Carl Greene, Evelyn Hauber, Amanda Snyder. Not pictured: Victoria Burdick, Charlotte Chroniger, Melissa Noel.



Rev. Uchegbonu continues to lead the Nigeria Conference. He tries to keep up with the needs of the country and asks for our help. I am always amazed at the work that is being done there by our churches.

Nigeria is largely inhabited by adherents of Islam. As a predominately Muslim country, the level of religious tolerance varies—from a more liberal attitude toward Christians in the South, to no tolerance in the North.

Rev. Uchegbonu has worked in the North to help Muslims understand and eventually embrace the Christian faith. In most cases, converts need to be moved to the southern regions of Nigeria. They simply pick up their possessions and leave. When they find work, they settle down to a new way of life.

When Muslims become Christians, they often lose everything. Sometimes when a spouse refuses to convert, these new Christians even lose their families. And they lose their property and other possessions as well. In some of the countries of Northern Africa, they even lose their lives.

There are rumors of converts being dragged from their homes and killed. Muslims believe strongly that they are the only ones to be saved. So they view non-Muslims as worthless and treat them cruelly.

Against these odds, it is exciting to find that the Christian faith is growing in Nigeria, and that Seventh Day Baptist churches are being established. Within the past few years, they have opened four centers in the country. The most recent is located in Oneiga, Rivers State.

This center is led by Pastor C.U. Marcus, who is very active in this area. They have been a hub of outreach and development, and have also been aiding Rev. Uchegbonu in his travel and teaching.

Recently, a devastating storm ravaged the coast of Nigeria, extending up past Oneiga and leaving many buildings in shambles. Pastor Marcus' church happened to be one of those buildings. The roof was torn off, and the walls were damaged. The houses of several church members were also affected.

Their pastor requests help in rebuilding the church. Apparently, the funds that could have been used to repair the church were used to ensure that members were safe and housed. (The pictures on this page show the congregation and the extent of the storm damage.)

The growth and development of the Nigerian Conference is in our thoughts and prayers. We pray that the Lord will bring safety and commitment to the work that has already been established.

We also pray that they will be able to present the Gospel in a way that changes hearts, so that the Muslims will tolerate Christians and allow them to express their beliefs and worship God. SR



Members of the SDB Church in Oneiga, Nigeria.



Pastor C.U. Marcus (right) surveys the damage to the SDB church following a recent storm in Nigeria.



# the BEACON

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

November 2000

## Tons of fun for youth in Oregon

by Tracy Bruce, Portland, Ore.

Last winter, the youth groups from Portland, Oregon (as in OR-GAN, not Or-a-GONE, for those of you who mispronounce it), and Seattle, Wash., went camping. Our theme was "Spam"—even though no one who was camping knew it! Definition of Spam: a whole lot of stuff put together!

After church on Saturday, we Portland kids went to Camp Magruder. We got to our cabin and set things up, while waiting for the Seattle Youth to show up. BOY DID THEY TAKE FOREVER! (Ha-ha! Just kidding!)

They got to camp around 5 or 6 at night and got situated. Then the fun began. Everyone explored the camp.

Because it was by the beach, there were trails and everything. Our younger members got to ride on donkeys, but those of us who are over 125 pounds were discriminated against and could only watch. For the remainder of the evening we just hung out and ate food. (GOOD FOOD MADE BY MY MOM!)

After we had regained our energy we went on little hikes. The trail was dark, and I think we had one flashlight, and it was really quiet. I personally was ready to scream, but I held myself back. Well, we made it back to the cabin alive, and hadn't been scared yet.

So, we got warmed up and went

out again. A few of us laid on the beach and pondered. My main thought was how small we are compared to the brilliant stars. Yet, we are so special God. God made the stars for us. It was hard to fathom, yet it made me smile inside to think how special Tracy Bruce is to our Lord.

Well, while I was pondering, I noticed a red light in the distance. What could it be? A lighthouse? No... A boat? No...

What was it? The rest of the youth! They were making a documentary of "The Majestic Water Buffalo." Well, if you haven't gotten it yet, Heather Hemminger, Ginny Burdick, and I were the Water Buffalo...

My brother, BJ, was the host of this well-informing documentary about the habits of water buffalo. Once we noticed what was going on, we three girls ran at the future filmmakers with full force. It made the documentary quite interesting. So, tired, cold, and ready to break the video camera, we headed back to the cabin for bedtime.

The next morning after breakfast, we got to play on a swing (a rope tied to a tree). There was a bit of elastic in a loop where you put your body and held on. Yup! ALL of us this time—no discrimination here! It was quite the experience. I was scared at first, but once Ginny got the guts to try it, I had to go. I couldn't look like a wimp, could I?

We were all really sad that we had to leave each other so soon. We said our goodbyes, and made plans for the next time we would get together, and headed our separate ways.

All in all it was a great weekend. Among everything else, we got to see pictures of Conference and talk about good times with our friends. A great reason for getting together with fellow Christians is the love you know you'll receive. All of you who go to Pre-Con and Conference understand what I mean. You are accepted for who you are. You are loved no matter how weird, or smart, or funny you are. You are not compared with anyone else.

During school, I am teased for my beliefs, but after weekends of getting together with my friends in Christ, I feel stronger. As the Bible says, "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you" (Matt. 5:11-12). Alone, we may tremble and stumble along the path of life. But together, as one unit, we walk straight and will prosper.

I pray that you all have the fun weekends that I had and have friends that keep you strong in the Lord's name. I love you all and you are always in my prayers. **SR**

## Summer Christian Service Corps 2001



are you...

- 17 and a high school grad? (by June '01)
- 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:  
Linda Camenga, 209 First Ave., Daytona Beach, FL 32114  
Phone: (904) 255-4743 SCSC@saintly.com

### Application Deadlines:

Team members — Jan. 1  
Churches — Feb. 1

Corps member training: June 22-28  
Director training: June 19-25  
Project dates: June 29 - July 29

## Youth Retreat coming!

Hey You Guys! Guess what time it is? Time to think about journeying to Wisconsin for our next National Youth Retreat!!

**Location:** Camp Wakonda, Milton, Wis.

**Dates:** Dec. 27-31, 2000

**Director:** Steve James

**Ages:** 15 - 18; or if you're eligible to go to Youth Pre-Con 2001

**Price:** \$15—such a deal!

There is only enough room for 30 girls and 30 boys, so first come, first served! Check at your church for forms.

### Contact:

Matt Olson at molson63@cleanweb.net  
or PO Box 284, Berlin, NY 12022  
Phone: (518) 658-2868

## Worship Leaders



**Young Adults serving in the local church**

**What:** Young Adult Retreat  
**Who:** High School Graduates  
**Where:** Boulder SDB Church, Boulder, CO  
**When:** Dec. 29, 2000 to Jan. 1, 2001  
**Cost:** \$15.00 by Nov. 30. Make checks payable to Kecia Thompsongordon with "Young Adult Retreat" in memo.

### Send fee to:

Kecia Thompsongordon  
515 1/2 E. High St., Milton, WI 53563

See registration form in the October SR, or call Kecia at (608) 868-6130, or e-mail her at shawngordon@hotmail.com



The President's Page

# What God will do

by Clayton Pinder

Last month, we learned from Psalm 25 what we must do as believers: Trust (vv. 1-2a); Know Him and His covenant (vv. 14-15); and have Integrity and Commitment (vv. 21, 10).

If we trust in God, know Him, and stay committed to Him, what will God do?

First, we receive *salvation*. We get to be with Jesus through all eternity. See what it says in Psalm 25:5-7. What a blessing to have God in our lives! To know Him, to know He's watching over us; that He's forgiven me of my sin and made me a new person; that I have the Holy Spirit to comfort and guide me.

But in Psalm 25:4-5, 8-9, God says He doesn't let us do it alone. He *teaches* us, shows us the right paths to follow, leads us in Truth. He instructs us sinners in the way (His Way). As a result of following Him and His teachings, we get to know Him and enjoy His many blessings.

And that leads to the third part of what we receive: *Blessings*. Read Romans 15:13, John 14:27, and Psalm 25:13. Three of the blessings God gives us are peace, joy, and prosperity. In my life, that's the order they came to me.

While living in Baltimore, Md., I did everything I thought would give me these three things. I had graduated from Wharton with my MBA, taken a new management

**When you follow God and put your trust in Him, you'll receive the prosperity you need.**

job with Montgomery Ward, and we had just had our third child. We were living in a nice house and thought things were going okay.



Clayton Pinder

Then one evening I was notified that the company I worked for was doing away with its new management program. I was out of a job. It was then that I decided that I had done all that I could do, and I would ask for God's help.

All I asked for was peace of mind. I had prayed with my wife, Lee, and we asked God to give me peace. And what do you know?! He gave me peace—the peace that passes all understanding. And I've had that peace from then until now.

All this occurred in early 1960. Since then, I've never worried because I know that God knows my situation and will guide and direct me through it.

Once you have God's peace, you have joy in your heart. When you follow God and put your trust in Him, you'll receive the prosperity you need. Like the hymn says, "God will take care of you." SR

What We Must Do	What God Will Do
1. Trust (Faith) Ps. 25:1-2a	1. Salvation Ps. 25: 5b-7
2. Know Him and His Covenant Ps. 25:14-15	2. Teaching (Follow) Ps. 25:4-5, 8-9
3. Integrity (Commitment) Ps. 25:21, 10	3. Blessings Rom. 15:13, John 14:27, and Ps. 25:13

Seeking Spiritual Maturity:  
through Sabbathkeeping



# The habit that will change your life!

by Larry Graffius

An annual emphasis of  
the SDB General Council

From Larry Graffius' "True to the Sabbath, True to Our God," chapter 14, pages 149-152.

Once we recognize the importance of establishing Sabbath keeping as a habit, making it a top priority behavior pattern in our lives, we then need to take the steps necessary to make it happen.

If you are not already a "habitual" Sabbath keeper, how do you become one? And if you already consider yourself to be a Sabbath keeper, is it *your* custom? Are you faithfully, consistently obedient to God in this area of your life?

Habits are formed as a result of choices. Habits are based on actions that have been tried, experienced, processed and found to be workable or comfortable to us. Once tried, we evaluate the action and the way we felt about it.

If that action or behavior tends to conform with what is valuable or important to us, we will likely be open to trying it again. In other words, *a habit is a commitment that we repeat*. And that, too, is an excellent description of Sabbath keeping.

Let me say, parenthetically, that I recognize that many of you who are reading this... are already firmly committed Sabbath keepers. And for you, it may not be necessary to make many adjustments in your life in this matter of setting aside the seventh day.

But I also want to speak to those who are not yet strongly consistent in their ways. I want to encourage and offer some guidance to those

who may have only recently come to their belief in the Sabbath. And I would also seek to reinforce and restore those who may have once been more faithful in their Sabbath keeping, but have, for one reason or another, gotten out of the habit.

If you are ready and willing to make the Sabbath a powerful pattern in your life, here are some basic steps in building a new habit.

•*Make a strong start.* You do this by first of all committing your goal to God in prayer. *It is God's will* that you keep the Sabbath Day holy, and He is ready to respond to your commitment, even before you are!

A further way of making a strong start is to build in some accountability for yourself. Writing down your goal, sharing it with others, and enlisting the help of a supportive friend are tried and true ways of keeping you on course. With the involvement of friends, you are much less likely to go back on your word. In the church, in the fellowship of brothers and sisters in Christ, our commitments are reinforced and strengthened. I challenge you to set some specific goals and share them with each other, working together to build them into your lives.

•*Continue in your new Sabbath keeping pattern*, without alteration, *for a long period of time*. Repetition is like the central nervous system of a new habit. For a weekly habit to become established in your lifestyle, at least seven weeks of faithfulness are needed. (Weight Watchers reports that it takes a minimum of 38 days to establish new eating patterns!)

•*Allow no exceptions* until the habit is fully established. The most likely chance for failure is to allow yourself "just one miss."

•*Evaluate your progress.* Check how you have done after one month of Sabbath keeping; then three months. Most likely, you have spent a long, long time in following your old pattern of behavior. So it will take a long time to replace it with a new one.

Establishing a lifelong pattern of Sabbath keeping could be the most spiritually beneficial thing you ever do as a Christian. The habit of Sabbath keeping is an indicator of a lifestyle committed to obedience.

Keeping the Sabbath is a habit that will change your life! SR



To order your copy of Larry's book, send \$11.50 (\$9.95 plus S/H) to:

Seventh Day Baptist Center  
PO Box 1678  
Janesville WI 53547

Checks payable to T&CC



## Lambs roast shepherd

by Marilyn Merchant



Pastor Eric Davis (right) receives well-wisher at his party.

One of the problems for a church transitioning a pastor from one position to another is that some of the traditional gets left behind. So it was with Pastor Eric Davis, who accepted our call to the Riverside, Calif., SDB Church from his position as Associate Pastor and Youth Pastor.

Time had arrived to rectify this oversight, so over 150 people gathered toward the end of the Sabbath, September 9, to welcome Eric properly with a dinner of prime rib, Chilean sea bass, or veggie burgers, plus the usual accompaniments.

The R.S.V.P. on the invitation had been ignored by about half the attendees, so we saw a real "loaves and fishes" miracle—and some mighty concerned staff in the kitchen. We were joined by members from our Southern California sister churches of Los Angeles, Lucerne Valley, Pastor

Scott Hausrath of Montrose, and some from San Diego.

Many took part in the "roast" following the dinner, emceed by Dr. Pete May and his ever-present helpmate, Nancy. Victoria Burdick made sure the kitchen staff received their just rewards.

Rev. and Mrs. Vernon Burke of Los Angeles kept the first part on a high note, he offering the grace and she joining him in singing a chorus from Jamaica very dear to their hearts.

Eric's former youth group, now young adults, joined the current

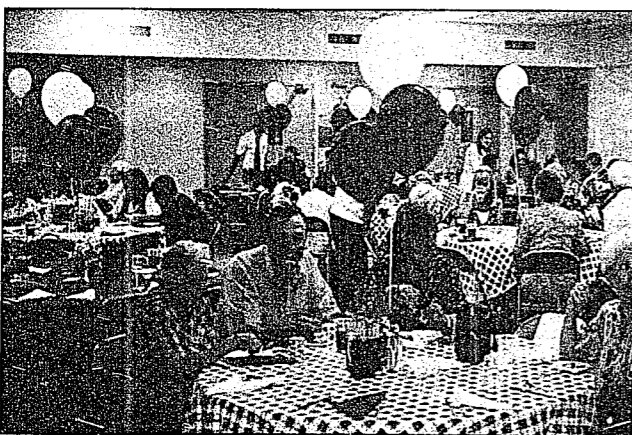
youth in presenting a photograph and lovely letter thanking Eric for his efforts on their behalf. He also received a photo of his family taken while in denominational service in Jamaica, but it was discovered that Eric was no more than a gleam in his father's eyes when it was taken. His late father Duane and mother Kathie are still so beloved by us all that they were often called to mind.

In "rebuttal," Rev. Eric spoke of his reluctance to become a minister after growing up in a pastor's home, but that the Holy Spirit would not let him rest until he fulfilled the profession the Lord had called him to.

Once again Seventh Day Baptists had participated in one of the things we seem to do best—eating! (The other being singing, which this correspondent had expected since Pastor Eric so loves music. Another time, perhaps.)

At the close of the program, he was presented with the contents of a Pantry Shower. We all wondered how he would get it back to his tiny apartment and where it would be put when it arrived. He won't be hungry for awhile.

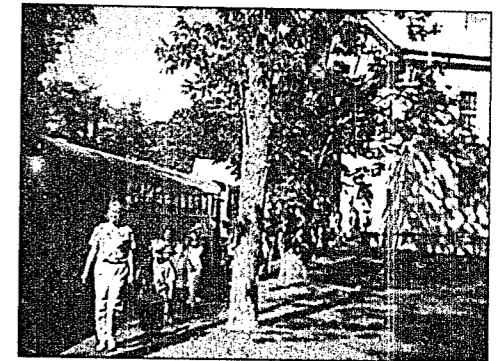
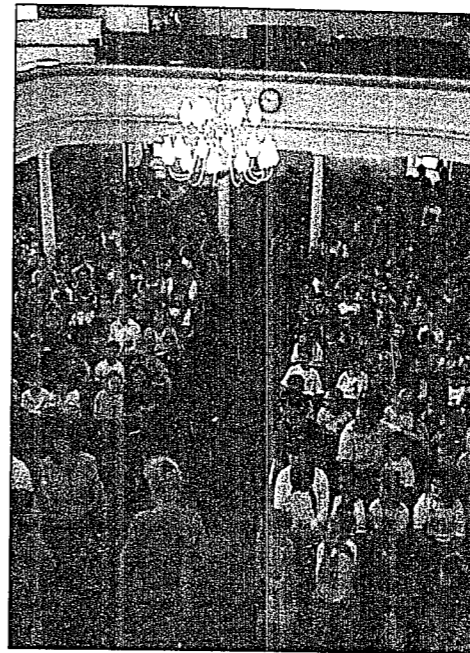
We praise the Lord for Eric's presence and his willingness to shepherd us through the coming years. **SR**



## Cooperation of Church and State!

by D. Scott Smith

Over 450 students from the Ashaway, R.I., Elementary School practiced what they would do in the event of an emergency at their facility. The children walked the one block to the First Seventh Day Baptist Church of Hopkinton and entered the sanctuary all within ten minutes. Principal Linda Perra discussed the reasons for the drill with her "standing room only" crowd of students.



Following the disaster drill, the 450 students that ranged from kindergarten to fifth grade, returned to the school aboard a long line of yellow school buses.

### What's going on at your church?

Please send us your news to the address listed in the front, or e-mail the story and photos (as these were on this page). E-mail us at [sdbmedia@inwave.com](mailto:sdbmedia@inwave.com)

## New branch church in R.I./Conn.

by David Taylor

I would like to introduce you to Vision Christian Fellowship. We are a new Seventh Day Baptist Church which began meeting at the Rockville, R.I., SDB Church on June 3, 2000.

The Rockville congregation, which meets at 3:00 p.m. Sabbath afternoon, graciously gave us use of their meeting house and parish house, and in July voted to accept us as a branch church. We used their facilities for four months and will be forever grateful for their love and support.

On October 7, we moved to the United Congregational Church in Pawcatuck, Conn. That facility will allow us to expand our Sabbath School and do other ministries the Lord is calling us to be involved in. We also have a handicap-accessible bus which transports young and old to our services. And we have made that bus available to other churches in the area who might need it.

In September, we were accepted into New England Yearly Meeting membership as we met in Newport, R.I.



The Vision Christian Fellowship.

We sent delegates to serve on the Lewis Camp Board of Directors in October. We also look forward to being involved with Eastern Association. **SR**



## New members

**Bridgewater, NJ**  
*Jeanne Yurke, pastor*  
 Joined after baptism  
 Ryan Clare

**Dodge Center, MN**  
*Dale Rood, pastor*  
 Joined after testimony  
 Alane Medicraft  
 John Medicraft

**Lake Elsinore, CA**  
*Leland Davis, pastor*  
*Leland Pike, associate pastor*  
 Joined after testimony  
 Meg Schenck  
 Lyn Smith  
 Scott Smith

**Philadelphia, PA**  
*Kenroy Cruickshank, pastor*  
 Joined after baptism  
 Leighton Lewis  
 Rohan Lewis  
 Stacy-Ann Lewis  
 Joined after testimony  
 Ulett Lewis

**Waterford, CT**  
*Leon Lawton, pastor*  
 Joined after testimony  
 Anthony DiBlasio  
 Denise DiBlasio

## Births

**Meyer.**—A son, Caleb Daniel Meyer, was born to David and Joy (Wallstrom) Meyer of Gilbert, AZ, on October 16, 1999.

**Lucas.**—A son, Matthew Robert Lucas, was born to Matthew and Heather Lucas of Battle Creek, MI, on June 3, 2000.

**Noyes.**—A daughter, Johannah Christine Vivace Noyes, was born to Charlie and Melodie Noyes of Kent, WA, on August 17, 2000.

## Marriages

**Camenga - Rood.**—Andrew Camenga and Kristin Rood were united in marriage on June 10, 2000, in the Dodge Center, MN, Seventh Day Baptist Church. Pastor Dale Rood, father of the bride, and Pastor John Camenga, father of the groom, officiated.

**Biermann - Greene.**—Mark Biermann and Lisa Greene were united in marriage on September 30, 2000, in the chapel of Ironwood Christian Ranch, Stewartville, MN. Pastor Dale Rood officiated.

Are you moving?  
 We need to know...



Please remember to send us your new address. The post office will not forward the SR. In fact, they send it back to us and charge us 50 cents for each copy.

Send your  
**change-of-address to:**  
 Seventh Day Baptist Center  
 PO Box 1678  
 Janesville WI 53547-1678

or e-mail:  
 sdbmedia@inwave.com

## Obituaries

**Johanson.**—Dr. Ellis C. "Doc" Johanson, 93, died on June 30, 2000, in the Baptist Retirement Home of Maywood, Ill.

He was born on May 14, 1907, in Chicago, Ill., the son of Dr. Benjamin F. and Bessie (Thomas) Johanson. He graduated from Battle Creek, Mich., Central High School in 1924, and attended Milton (Wis.) College. In 1931, he graduated from the Chicago College of Dental Surgery.

Doc went into dental practice with his father. Working as a civilian contract dentist, he cared for hundreds of men working at Fort Custer in the Civilian Conservation Corps. On November 6, 1934, he married Mary Louise Clarke. She died in 1990.

He joined the U.S. Army Dental Reserve in September 1933, and was promoted to captain and called to active duty in June 1941. On D-Day plus 30, his division landed on Omaha Beach, and he helped care for the wounded. The division took part in five campaigns, including the Battle of the Bulge.

He left active duty in 1946 and returned to Battle Creek, where he continued his dental practice until retiring in 1986. He retired from the Army Reserves in 1967 with the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Doc was a member of the Battle Creek Seventh Day Baptist Church for 54 years, where he served as church moderator, trustee, choir director, and organist. He was also a member of the Battle Creek Exchange Club and dressed up as Uncle Sam for parades, passing out American flags. For many years, he played the alto saxophone and clarinet in a number of musical groups. He was a life member of the American Dental Association and the Southwestern Michigan District Dental Society, which he served as president.

Survivors include one daughter, Ruth E. Davis of Des Plaines, Ill.; three grandchildren, and five great-

grandchildren. In addition to his wife, he was preceded in death by one son, Robert, and two sisters, Ila B. Heinz and Marilyn Johanson.

Funeral services were held on July 6, 2000, at Bachman Hebble Funeral Service, Battle Creek, with Rev. Harold King officiating. Burial, with military honors, was in Memorial Park Cemetery, Battle Creek.

**Jewett.**—Virginia "Ginny"

(McCarthy) Jewett, 69, of Earlville, N.Y., went to meet the Lord on September 8, 2000.

She was born on October 14, 1930, in Oneida, N.Y., the daughter of Myron J. and Florence (Ingalls) McCarthy. She graduated in 1948 from Stockbridge Valley High School in Munnsville, N.Y. On October 15, 1950, she married Granton J. Jewett at the Verona, N.Y., Seventh Day Baptist Church.

The Jewetts lived in the Oneida area until 1961. She enjoyed showing Registered Brown Swiss cattle with her father-in-law. In 1961, she and Granton purchased their current home and farm on Earlville Road. She enjoyed working beside her husband on the farm, and in 1970 started Jewett's Cheese House.

Ginny was active in community work wherever she lived, and in SDB churches in Verona, Brookfield, and Leonardsville, N.Y. She was the Women's Chairman for the Madison County Farm Bureau, and worked with the farm bureau on the state level. She was a member of the Poolville Home Bureau, and served on the Board of Directors of the Madison County Farm and Home Center in Morrisville, N.Y.

Ginny was a loving wife and caring person who helped many elderly friends and neighbors in times of need or sickness.

Survivors include her husband of nearly 50 years, Granton; two daughters, Terri Larkin of Poolville, and

Patti Dowse of Perkasio, Pa.; two grandsons, and several cousins.

Funeral services were held on September 12, 2000, at the Burgess Funeral Home, Earlville, with Rev. Rex Burdick officiating.

**Bennett.**—Alton D. "Al" Bennett, 53, of Battle Creek, Mich., died of a heart attack on September 10, 2000.

He was born on September 5, 1947, in Battle Creek, the son of Charles H. "Herb" and A. Ruth (Bird) Bennett. He graduated from Battle Creek Central High School in 1965 and attended Kellogg Community College for a year. He was a member and past trustee of the Battle Creek Seventh Day Baptist Church. At the time of his death, he was the business manager and host of Camp Holston.

From November 1967 to August 1971, Al served in the U.S. Marines during the Vietnam War, receiving the Vietnamese Service Medal and the National Defense Service Medal.

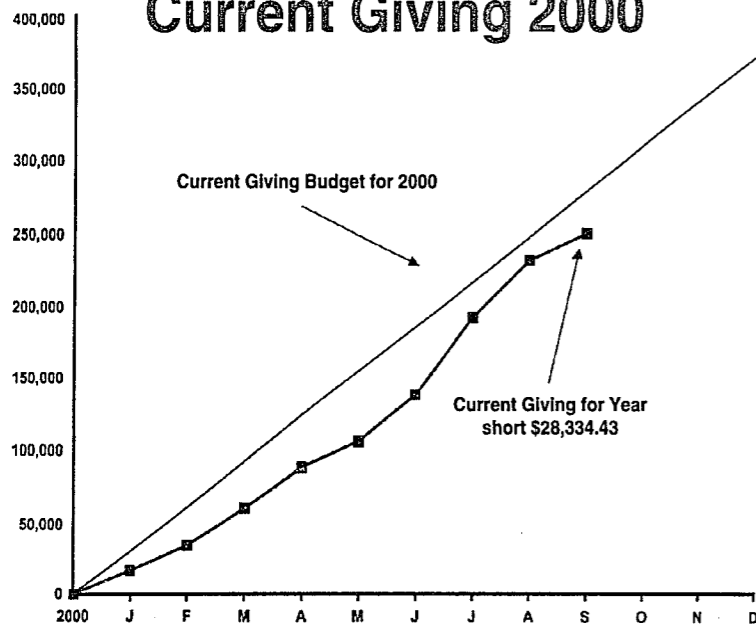
Since 1993, he worked as a night auditor at Knights Inn in Battle Creek. Previously, he managed Sizzler restaurants in Texas and Florida, sold cars at Horner-Coppin, worked as a salesman for Kirby Vacuum, and managed the Kentucky Fried Chicken franchise in Kalamazoo, Mich. He was also the co-owner of the Butcher Block for four years.

Al was a member of VFW Post 565, Battle Cats Booster Club, and Calhoun County Red Cross Clowns. He attained the rank of Life Scout. He had a clown ministry and was an avid sports fan.

Survivors include his mother, Ruth; one brother, James, both of Battle Creek; two sisters, Lorrie J. Bird of Alexandria, Va., and Marilyn K. Discher of Battle Creek; one niece, two nephews, and one great-nephew. He was preceded in death by his father in 1990.

Obituaries cont. next page

## Current Giving 2000



Funeral services were held on September 14, 2000, in Bachman Hebble Funeral Chapel, Battle Creek, with Pastor Harold D. King officiating. Interment, with military honors, was in the Fort Custer National Cemetery, Battle Creek.

**Davis.**—Margaret Jane Davis, 87, died on October 2, 2000, at Surrey Place, Bradenton, Fla., following a prolonged illness.

She was born on January 27, 1913, in Colorado Springs, Colo., the daughter of John and Flora McCartney. She married E. Keith Davis, M.D., on May 27, 1934. He died on December 21, 1999.

Margaret attended public schools in Colorado Springs. In 1934, she graduated as a Registered Nurse from the Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing in Denver, Colo.

She was a member of the Denver SDB Church and, along with her husband, was active in the Bradenton SDB Church for several years. The couple was instrumental in the organization of both churches.

Survivors include one daughter, Sheila Noon of Half Moon Bay, Calif.; one son, Phillip, of Bradenton; three granddaughters, and two great-grandchildren. In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by two brothers and a sister.

A memorial service was held on October 5, 2000, at the Bradenton SDB Church, with Pastor Leland Bond officiating. The National Cremation Society, Sarasota Chapter, was in charge of arrangements.

**Cosgrove.**—Eleanor Brooks Cosgrove, 72, died on October 8, 2000, at Lawrence & Memorial

Hospital in New London, Conn. She was born on October 3, 1928, in New London, the daughter of Albert and Mary (Smith) Brooks. On August 2, 1941, she was baptized and joined the Waterford, Conn., Seventh Day Baptist Church. She married Harold Cosgrove, who died in 1989.

Mrs. Cosgrove was a foster grandmother for five years at Ballestrini's Daycare Center in Waterford. She and her husband once owned and operated Larry's Chatterbox, a restaurant in Albany, N.Y.

Survivors include one daughter, Elizabeth Tenczar of Latham, N.Y., and two grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on October 11, 2000, at the Waterford SDB Church, with Rev. Alan Scott and Pastor Leon Lawton officiating. Burial was in West Neck Cemetery, Waterford.

*One more obit. back cover*

## White Christmas—2000

The following are suggestions for "White Christmas gifts." Donations may be sent to the SDB Missionary Society, 119 Main Street, Westerly RI 02891.

- Bicycles** for leaders and pastors in most of our countries. These bicycles will cost from \$200 to \$400 depending upon the country. Countries included are Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Malawi, Rwanda, Zambia.
- Medical supplies** and medicines are needed for Rwanda, Malawi, Zambia, The Gambia, and The Cameroon.

- School supplies**, books, and equipment for The Gambia.

- Funds to purchase **uniforms** for the ladies in Zambia, Malawi, and South Africa.

- Sewing supplies** and material for Zambia, Malawi, The Gambia, Ghana, Rwanda, and Nigeria.

- Blankets** for the refugees and camps in Rwanda and the hospitals in Malawi.

- Bibles** and study materials, including *The Helping Hand*, for our sister Conferences and churches.

- Children's Bibles** in The Philippines.

- Church roofs** in Rwanda, Zambia, Malawi, and The Philippines.

- Funds to help **ship boxes** of clothing and supplies to different countries.

- Leadership materials** and supplies for most of the sister Conferences and churches.

- Funds to send Mrs. Nduwayesu for an **English course** so that she can better communicate with the members of other Conferences (\$500).

- Keyboards** for many churches in our sister Conferences. These will cost between \$400 and \$800.

- Hymnals** for the churches in Guyana, Zambia, and Rwanda.

- Funds to support the **outreach literature** in most of our churches.

- Computers** and printers for our churches and Conferences. (These will need to be purchased in the country in which they are to be used, since the amount of duty taxes make you end up paying almost as much as it costs there anyway. Plus, repairs and upgrades are more easily available when you purchase it in the country.) Need over 10.

- Photocopiers** for our churches. (Advice same as the computer.) Need over 17.

- Scholarships** for Makapwa Bible School, \$500 per semester.

- Funds for **building plots** in Zambia, \$2,000 to \$3,000.

- Funds for **building plots** in Rwanda, \$200 to \$500.

# KEVIN'S

## ORNER

It was a study of stark contrasts, laden with many similarities.

Within a span of three weeks, I had the honor of speaking at the dedication of a brand new church building in Boulder, Colo., then headed to Rhode Island and got to preach inside our oldest existing SDB church building in Newport.

What were the differences?

In Boulder, we were surrounded by modern conveniences: beautiful ceiling fans and chandeliers, fancy indirect lighting, an electronic organ, and a state-of-the-art sound system.

In Newport, we had a dickens of a time finding a power outlet for the portable hymn machine.

In Boulder, we found plenty of open parking spots adjacent to the building.

In Newport, we made several trips around the block to find an open space on the street. (It didn't help that the annual "Taste of Rhode Island" was being held there the same day.)

In Boulder, we marveled at the view of snow-capped foothills in a country setting.

In Newport, we could see the facades of other buildings crammed into a tiny area.

So, did I have a totally different experience at each church? Hardly.

At each place, God's Word was lifted up. Beautiful people with beautiful smiles sang out His praises. Brothers and sisters of the faith shared testimonies and prayed in Christian unity. We all enjoyed the fellowship around the tables at the noontime Sabbath meals.

Seventh Day Baptists are "family," no matter where you are.

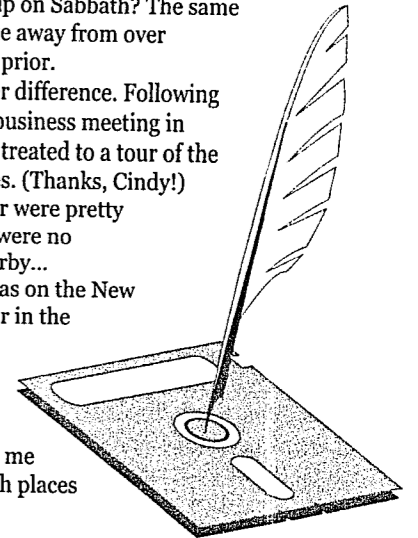
At the New England Yearly Meeting in Newport, a friend pointed out one memorable prayer request that could have been heard in that same building 300-plus years ago: "Pray for my son who is going out to sea." How many times did concerned mothers utter that same prayer over the decades?

And here's a twist of irony. After renting worship space from Sunday churches during their construction period, the Boulder folks mentioned the possibility of letting a Sunday group use their sanctuary in the future.

Not to be outdone, the irony gets even "twistier" in Newport. Back in 1671, the Seventh Day Baptists broke away from the United Baptist Church over the issue of sharing communion with those who had forsaken their Sabbath conviction. And just a few years ago, when talk began of starting a new SDB witness in Newport, guess who opened their doors for us to worship on Sabbath? The same church we broke away from over three centuries prior.

Oh, one other difference. Following an after-lunch business meeting in Newport, I was treated to a tour of the local lighthouses. (Thanks, Cindy!) Folks in Boulder were pretty sure that there were no lighthouses nearby...

Whether it was on the New England coast or in the foothills of the Rockies, our kinship system laid out a welcome that made me want to visit both places again soon.



## Next month will be special!

Chances are, you won't recognize your December *Sabbath Recorder*. We are working on a full-color outreach issue which will guide readers through our Statement of Belief in an entertaining story fashion.

There will be no regular Board pages or family news, which means the 2000 year-end index will appear in January. Happy reading!

The Rev. Orville Wells Babcock, beloved Pastor Emeritus of the White Cloud, Mich., Seventh Day Baptist Church, passed away peacefully on September 2, 2000, just 12 days short of his 91st birthday.

The son of Rolla and Hattie (Green) Babcock, Orville was born on September 14, 1909, on a Nebraska farm homesteaded by his Grandfather Babcock in the 1870s. One of his ancestors, James Babcock, had emigrated in the 1640s from England, where he was a member of a Sabbthkeeping church. Orville estimated that he was the 14th generation of Sabbathkeepers descended from James.

After graduating from North Loup (Neb.) High School in 1928, Orville heeded the wishes of his mother and his own inner urgings and prepared for the ministry. He entered Milton (Wis.) College, financing his education with a variety of odd jobs, including washing the science lab windows and tending a residential coal furnace.

During his college years he was a member of the Glee Club and a male quartet. He was also on the football team, lettering all four years and serving as captain his senior year.



**Orville W. Babcock**  
1909 – 2000

In the fall of 1932, Orville enrolled in the Alfred, N.Y., School of Theology. He shared a house with three other ministerial students. One of them, Al Rogers, became a lifelong friend and preceded him in death by only a few days.

In 1934, Orville became pastor of the Adams Center, N.Y., SDB Church. He transferred to the Presbyterian Seminary in Auburn, N.Y., and received his Bachelor of Theology in the spring of 1935.

Orville married Mabel Butts of Adams Center in 1937, and she became his first baptismal candidate. (Due to his inexperience or her apprehension, Mabel used to claim that he held her under the water a little longer than necessary!) Their only child, George Richard was born in 1940.

Mabel died in 1985. In 1990, he married the former Laura Burke, who died in 1996.

Orville's pastorates include Salemville, Pa.; Milton Junction, Wis.; and White Cloud. In 1957, he resigned the pastorate to become a full-time science teacher in the White Cloud Public Schools. He retired in 1972.

He was a charter member of the White Cloud Rotary Club and served many years as president of the Newaygo County United Way Board of Directors. He had a lifetime interest in music and directed a local community chorus for several years. His fine tenor voice was a welcome addition to the United Methodist Church choir.

Orville's sense of humor and kind, gentle manner endeared him to many. They were immeasurably blessed by having known this faithful servant of the Lord.

Survivors include his son, George, of Allegan, Mich., and three grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted at the White Cloud SDB Church on September 6, 2000, by Pastor Bernie Wethington. Burial was in the White Cloud Cemetery.