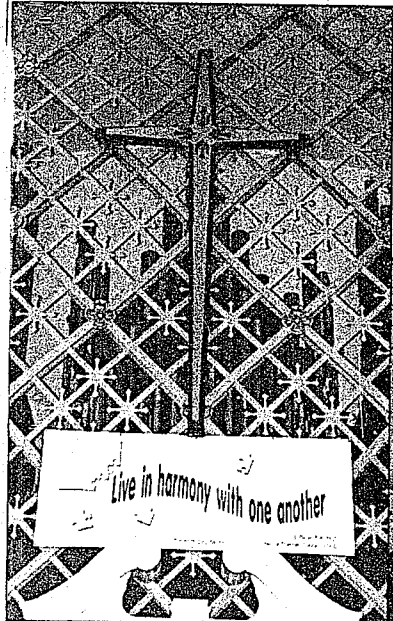


The **S**abbath  
*News for and about  
Seventh Day Baptists* **R**ecorder  
September 2000



**Live in  
Harmony**

General  
Conference  
2000



### Who are Seventh Day Baptists?

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

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

#### The seventh day

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

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

### Young Adult Retreat 2001

If you are a high school graduate, plan on coming to the year-end retreat December 28, 2000, to January 2, 2001.

This year's retreat will be held at the Boulder SDB Church in Colorado.

The cost will be \$15.

Look for more details in future *Sabbath Recorders*.

### As seen at General Conference

#### Baseball Caps and T-Shirts

\*\*\*

Shirts are white with maroon lettering of Conference 2000 theme \$10 plus \$2.50 p&h

Hats are white with maroon bill and lettering of SDB logo \$7 plus \$1.50 p&h

Send order to:

June Kenyon  
109 South Wade Ave  
DeLand FL 32724  
or e-mail: [dejunnie@excite.com](mailto:dejunnie@excite.com)

## Annual Corporation Meeting Notice Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education

The annual meeting of the members of the Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education, Inc., will be held at the Edgar D. and Harriet Brown Van Horn Building, 892 Route 244, Alfred Station, N.Y., on Sunday, October 22, 2000, at 10:00 a.m.

The purpose of this meeting shall be to hear and act upon the 1999 Annual Report of the Board of Directors, to elect Directors, and to consider and act upon such matters that may properly come before said meeting.

Members of the member churches of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference USA & Canada, Ltd., are members of the Corporation. Accredited delegates attending the 2000 General Conference sessions in Buckhannon, W.Va., are entitled to vote at this annual meeting.

### Pastors Wanted

Several of our churches are in need of pastoral leadership. Please check with the SDB Council on Ministry for more information. Call (909) 682-2002.

# The Sabbath Recorder

Establ. 1844

September 2000  
Volume 222, No. 9  
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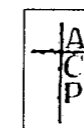


### A Seventh Day Baptist publication

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**Kevin Butler**  
Editor

**Leanne Lippincott**  
Assistant Editor

#### Contributing Editors

Aubrey Appel, Calvin P. Babcock, Gabriel E. Bejjani, Donna Bond, Andrew J. Camenga, John H. Camenga, G. Kirk Looper, Don A. Sanford.

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

## Features

**Thanks for the memory (card)** ..... 4  
*Snippets and snapshots (digital) drawn from a week of harmony in Buckhannon, W.Va.*

### From the *Conference Crier* (edited by Jane Lewis)—

**Do you know the rules?** ..... 6  
by Raakeli Watt

**SDB history illuminates faith** ..... 7  
by Thomas Goodson

**"...into his courts with praise"** ..... 8  
by Victoria Burdick

**Stained Glass opens Conference with song** ..... 9  
by Nadine Lawton

**Young organist inspires Conference** ..... 9  
by Jane Lewis

**Youth Pre-Con retreat rings with harmony** ..... 10  
by Julie Sias & Jessica Goodson

**SCSC shares similar summer experiences** ..... 10  
by Angi Neher

**"Tickets please!"** ..... 12  
by Lana Van Horn  
*A vivid dream links to spiritual reality.*

## Departments

<b>Women's Society</b> 13 <i>New Women's Beard named</i>	<b>Seek spiritual maturity</b> 21 <i>Conviction, not convenience</i>
<b>Christian Education</b> 14 <i>Scripture Memory Verses</i>	<b>Local news</b> 22 <i>Old Stonefort, IL Marlboro/Bridgeton, NJ Zambia, Africa</i>
<b>Pearls from the Past</b> 16 <i>Baba, white sheep</i>	<b>SR Reaction</b> 23-24
<b>The Beacon</b> 18 <i>"Well, it could happen..."</i>	<b>Family flux</b> 24-26
<b>Focus</b> 20 <i>Rwanda needs "permanency"</i>	<b>Kevin's Korner</b> 27 <i>Turkey legs and Conference</i>

*Cover photo:* Pastor Ray Winborne (left) and Conference President John Camenga during the closing hymn of our Sunday evening worship service.

# Thanks for the memory (card)

## Conference coverage goes digital

Most of the business of the 188th session of General Conference lived up to the theme: "Live in Harmony with One Another." Church delegates who gathered August 6-12 on the campus of West Virginia Wesleyan College in Buckhannon found themselves with more than just the last afternoon off as President John Camenga declared the business session closed by mid-morning Friday.

This year's images were captured not on film but on a memory card (or two) in a new digital camera. We hope that you enjoy these snippets and snapshots of our blessed week together. *SR*

*Business: President Camenga (r.) consults with Andrew Camenga (l.) and parliamentarians Nathanael Lawton and Rob Appel.*



*And pleasure: Spectators enjoyed watching the Pastors vs. Youth volleyball game.*

### The Week in Review

#### Statistics

- 700 registered guests
- 850+ at worship on Sabbath
- 363 delegates representing 55 churches
- 5 official visitors: Elnora Andries (Guyana); Petrona Hemans (Jamaica); Joyce Kelley (England); Peter Kube and Dorothea Shettel (Australia)
- 74 enrolled in Junior Conference
- 50 at Youth Pre-Con, directed by Dave Taylor with six on staff
- 60 at Young Adult, directed by George Calhoun with three on staff
- Women's Love Gift: \$3,600
- Conference offering: \$18,500
- Belly laughs during Tract Council program: dozens

#### Elections

- President 2000-2001: Clayton Pinder
- President-elect: Rev. Gordon Lawton
- General Council: Norma Rudert
- Council on Ministry: Philip Bond, Kenneth Burdick
- Faith and Order: Andrew Samuels, Janet Thorngate
- Committee on Support and Retirement: Dale Green
- Tract and Communication Council: Cheri Appel, Joel Osborn
- Memorial Fund Trustees: James Goodrich, Myron McPherson, Philip Watson
- Christian Social Action Committee: Melvin Nida, John Pethtel, Stephen Rogers, Edward Sutton



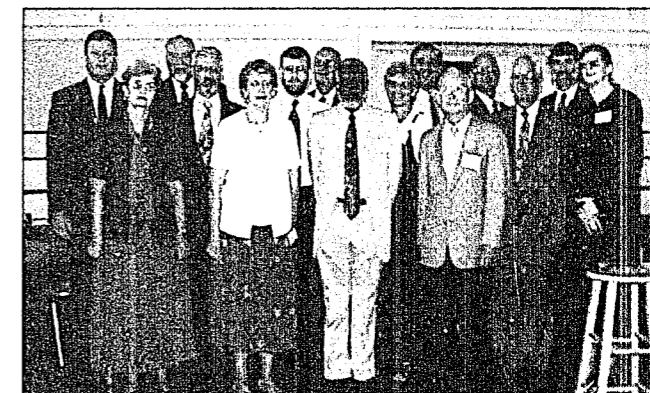
*Outside on a beautiful Sabbath morn.*



*Gordon Lawton (left, the 2002 President-elect) and Lorna Graffius were thanked for serving on the Council on Ministry.*



*Steve Rogers presented the Nominations Committee report.*



*The 1999-2000 General Council.*

#### Awards/Recognitions

- Women's Board Robe of Achievement: Nellie Jo Brissey, Salem, W.Va.
- Sabbath School Teacher of the Year: Esther Burdick, Waterford, Conn. (deceased)
- Mary G. Clare Scripture Memorization Bowl: a tie between the New York City and Toronto churches

#### Business Action

- Dr. Lewis H.V. (Pete) May, Executive Secretary, announces "2020 Vision" initiative of prayer and service
- Approved 2001 budget of \$859,349 calls for \$376,202 to come from current giving, less than 1% increase over 2000

- Following Conference sites recommended: 2001—Lindsborg, Kan.; 2002—Houghton, N.Y.

- Other Committee recommendations: From Christian Social Action—"...that the 'Standard Operating Procedures of the Christian Social Action Committee' be edited and condensed by the Standing Committee and then sent to General Council for approval." From Women's Interests—"...that the Women's Board establish an ad hoc committee by Conference 2001 with the intent to spearhead an effort to address women's issues within our denomination."

## Do you know the rules?

by Raakeli Watt,  
in the *Conference Crier*

Pastor Christian King of Charleston, S.C., had a unique approach to her subject in the Tuesday morning Bible Study: *Love as Brothers*, up close and personal. We found that we are divided into groups by interests, yet are united as children of the King.

We have been commanded to love each other. Using stick pins and sponges as examples, she showed us how we can love through the Holy Spirit. Pastor King then tossed out several balls and gave us 30 seconds to play the game—but what game? It's hard to play if we don't know the rules.

We know the rules of love in the Bible, but we may not follow them. Love is a responsibility. When we are called to love, it must be unconditional. Love is a debt that we owe to Christ for the price He paid for us. **SR**

## Our Bible Study leaders—



Chris King



Charlotte Chroniger



Paul Andries



Chris and Becky Mattison



Dale Thorngate



The young adults encouraged us to dump our 'spiritual garbage' during Tuesday's vespers.

President Camenga welcomed our foreign visitors: Joyce Kelley from England, Peter Kube and Dorothea Shettel from Australia, and Elnora Andries from Guyana.

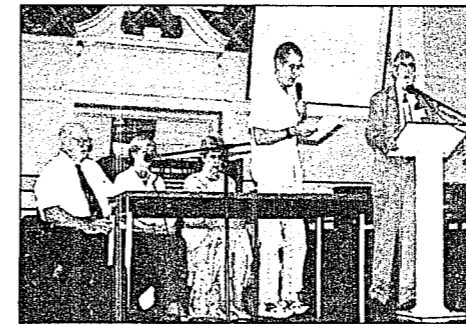


And they came bearing gifts... Gabe Bejjani (r. of podium) turned 50. We didn't forget.



## SDB history illuminates faith

by Thomas Goodson, *Conference Crier*



On Wednesday morning, members of the SDB Historical Society—Ken Davis, Janet Thorngate, Norma Rudert, Paul Green, and Don Sanford (l. to r. above)—presented reasons why we should study church history and how it can be put to use. Paraphrased from Mark Noll's book, *From Turning Points in the History of Christianity*, the study of Christian history:

•provides concrete demonstrations concerning the character of the Christian faith.

•provides perspective on the interpretation of Scripture. Church history also provides a caution on those interpretations which are fraught with distortions.

•can serve as a laboratory for examining Christian interaction with surrounding culture.

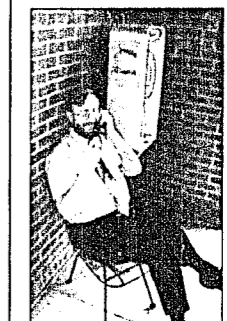
•can be useful in shaping proper Christian attitudes.

The study of history can be used by SDBs in outreach and witness to others. The members provided examples of ways in which SDB history has been used in this way. A high point of the presentation

was the singing of a hymn from the first SDB hymn book, published by the General Conference in 1826, written by Joseph Stennett (born in 1663).

The Historical Society members believe that one of their responsibilities is to both claim and proclaim Seventh Day Baptist contributions to Baptist history as a whole. The Society continues to share our distinction—the Sabbath—and our rich heritage with others, and should be commended for their efforts. **SR**

## Inventor among us

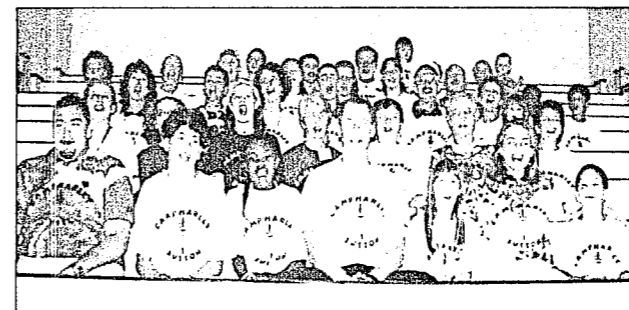


Much to the bemusement of Conference-goers, Bernie Yurke, member of the Raritan Valley (N.J.) Seventh Day Baptist Church, was often seen

talking to news reporters over the pay phone outside of his dormitory.

Bernie is a research physicist employed by Bell Laboratories, Lucent Technologies. In recent years he has been working on ways to construct molecular motors out of DNA, which are 100,000 times smaller than the head of a pin. This research came to fruition during General Conference week when an article he co-authored appeared in the August 10th issue of *Nature*. This article generated a lot of interest among news services.

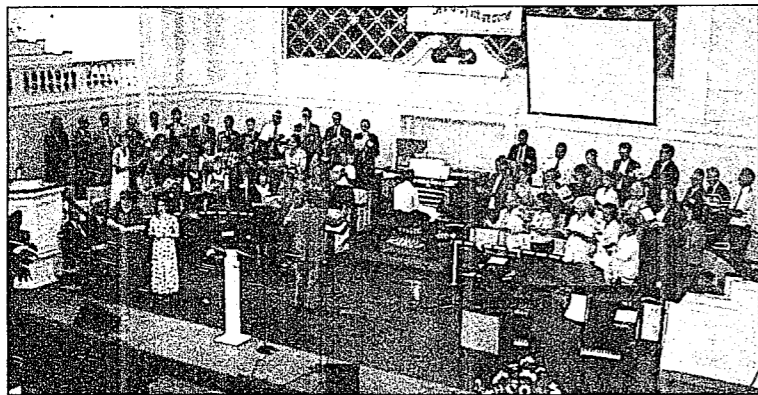
Bernie hopes that the techniques he used to assemble his small motors will also allow one to build computers that are very small and very fast. **SR**



Camp Harley Sutton devotees pose for their annual photo.



The New Jersey Women's Board presented Jim Jacob a gift for his many years of service to the Conference nursery. With Jim is Jan Bond (center) and Charlotte Chroniger.



Beautiful voices from all over North America.



Steve Saunders directed the men's chorus.



"Spiritual Harmony" from Toronto (l. to r.): Keith Ashley, Jamaal Fyffe, Omari Rhoden, and Jeffery Sinclair.



Becky Patterson and Bethany Chroniger blessed us on Wednesday morning.



Lorrie Bird accompanied Diane Andries at Thursday's Bible study.

## "...into his courts with praise"

by Victoria Burdick  
in the *Conference Crier*

To sing in the combined choir of all of the SDB churches at General Conference is a thrill that cannot be matched. At first, the prospect of "perfecting" ten anthems for use in the worship services is overwhelming. In actuality, perfection is neither desired nor achieved.

Pastor Paul Green of Milton, Wis., presented an awe-inspiring list of music to the "ragtag" group that dragged in on Sunday afternoon. We were haggard from traveling but willing to croak out a few notes. I'm sure that this first practice reduced our fearless director to muttering under his breath.

The next afternoon, persevering as only SDBs do, we gathered on the stage to give it another go. Lo and behold, there wasn't enough music; the number in the choir had surpassed Pastor Paul's expectation of 60. We were all willing to share copies (although it's more difficult with bifocals and trifocals). Then we really got down to business. We used our pencils, marked our music, and practiced our parts.

It's wonderful to be in a large church choir and even better to sit next to forgiving friends who smile, giggle, and laugh uproariously when you syncopate an even phrase, ignore sharps or flats, or come in a beat early.

All in all, the Conference choir experience is "user friendly," emotionally rewarding, and a blessing both to participants and listeners. Next year, come on down!

## Stained Glass opens Conference with song

by Nadine Lawton in the *Conference Crier*



Fresh from their "Soul Surrender" tour (l. to r.): Dusty Mackintosh, Anna Parker, Justin Hibbard, Lara Packard, Jeff Rood, Ben Calhoun, and Dustin Riley.

For this road-weary traveler, the Sunday evening informal praise service was refreshing. It was also a time of renewal, and a time when peace replaced the anxiety of traveling. "Stained Glass" led the congregation in songs of worship and praise. Many in the pews added to the music with rhythm instruments and even a recorder.

I'm thankful that these informal praise times are now included as part of the Conference schedule. Not only are they refreshing, renewing, and peaceful, they are less fattening than the refreshments in the dining hall. *SR*

## Young organist inspires Conference

by Jane Lewis, *Conference Crier* editor



Brett Greene

Brett Greene is an 18-year-old senior at Northwestern High School in West Salem, Ohio. He has been taking piano lessons since 1st grade and began playing the organ at age 12.

Two years ago at Conference, Brett was invited by Lannette Calhoun to play an organ prelude for the Sabbath morning worship service. He felt excited and surprisingly relaxed in front of the congregation.

Brett was inspired to hope that one day he might be able to be the

Conference organist, but he never imagined it would happen so soon. Since President John Camenga asked him last year to play for this annual meeting, it's been exciting for Brett to collect and prepare music.

He is the son of Martha and Wesley Greene of the Columbus SDB Church. After high school, he plans to major in organ performance. He's still seeking a college and a scholarship to help him accomplish his vocational goal. *SR*

Photo by Gordon Lawton



Brett at the console with pianist Garry Snyder.



View from the balcony.

## Youth Pre-Con retreat rings with harmony

by Julie Sias and Jessica Goodson, in the *Conference Crier*

Fifty campers and 10 staff convened at Camp Joy in Berea, W.Va. (beautiful, beautiful West Virginia) for more than four days of fun, frolicking, Bible study, praise, and worship. Pastor David Taylor directed the camp, Pastor Matt Olson led the Bible studies, and Pastor Dave and Christina Thorngate led the music. John Nagle, Marjorie Patrick, Margaret Taylor, and several others pro-

vided nutritious and delicious cuisine.

A highlight of the retreat was the Evening Vespers with worshipful singing, scripture and devotional readings, testimonies, and prayer. The Bible studies, centered mainly in John 14 and 16, were about *the Peace that Passes all Understanding*. It is the gift of peace that one experiences when you have a personal relation-

ship with Christ. When we went to vespers, it all seemed to "click" and we felt it.

Another highlight was the Volleyball Tournament. The six teams were comprised of the five work crews and the counselor group. Team 4, Jessie's team (nana nana nana), won the tournament. It was great just to be with our friends again and have fellowship. **SR**



Youth Pre-Con girls singing at Conference.



Julie Soper



Ben Wiley

## SCSC shares similar summer experiences

by Angi Neher, in the *Conference Crier*

The SCSC 2000 team concept was called *Righteousness*. Each team took its name from one of the letters—

**Renewed:** Angi Neher and Holly Davis

**Israel:** Sharai Fyffe and Nicole Gilmore

**Grace:** Stephanie Ritchie and Jamaal Fyffe

**Honey:** Jenny Butler and Keith Ashley

**Treasure:** Tameka Edwards and Omari Rhoden

**Everlasting:** Jody Mclean and Mindy Barnes

**Overjoyed:** Marissa Van Horn and Taryn Wiley

**Unashamed:** Nathanael Lawton,

Kris Bonser, and Angie Petty

**Soteria:** Paula Reynolds, Steve Graffius, and Miriam Lawton

**Noble:** Cathy Rogers and Jennifer Martin

**Enriched:** Steven Pimple and Karlene Neher

**Steadfast:** Megan Clark and Patrick London

**Sanctified:** Andrea Davis and Jeff Sinclair

The amazing thing is that 28 individual summer experiences across the United States resulted in God teaching us the same lessons. During evaluation sessions at Camp Joy, we realized that this summer we learned about patience in His timing, and

waiting on the Lord for direction about how we should approach our tasks. We saw His awesomeness even in the little things.

Each team selected a scripture to relate to their team identity. Stephanie Ritchie of Team Grace reports that she and Jamaal Fyffe of Toronto selected Ephesians 2:8 as their team verse: "For it is by grace you are saved, through faith—and this not of yourselves, it is the gift of God." They served in Boulder, Colo., in three camps and did some street witnessing. The church welcomed them, and God touched their lives and taught them that His plan is better than anything one might have planned alone. **SR**

## Prayer of Appreciation

by Cindy Burks, Little Rock, Ark.

Written the day after Conference 2000

Thank you for love from my Christian brothers and sisters.  
Thank you for digital cameras, audio tapes and Kodak pictures.

Make me thankful for all that cafeteria food  
and for knowing when to ask: "Are you a Burdick or a Rood?"

Thanks for giving us five decades of cheer  
embodied in Pastor Gabe's birthday this year.  
Thank you for preaching and singing and prayers.  
Thank you for that oboe played upstairs.

The chapel was lovely; the windows were fine.  
Thanks for Stained Glass and that other kind  
which sounded so loud, but went on to make us proud  
by at last singing "on the same page."  
(This means they sang their tune in the same key together.)  
And, yes, Lord, we thank You for Your choice of weather.

The organ rang true; the choir was grand,  
exceeded only by preaching from a wee little man.

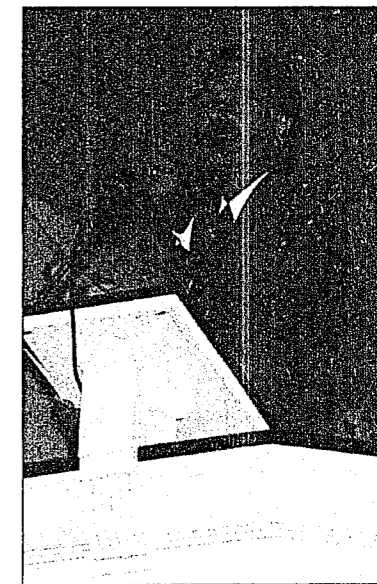
We liked shirts for sale, "SCSC emblazoned,"  
which could even be worn overseas by Jeff Hazen.  
(His e-mail gave clues of African news  
we enjoyed and shared with each other.)  
Putting faith into action was not a distraction,  
but helped us learn to love our brother.

You gave us these days, of singing and praise,  
ending with hearts filled with care,  
Last but not least, we had time to share,  
ending our Conference with prayer.

The next thing to do  
once we rest from the pathways we've trod,  
is to take to our hearts (and all other parts)  
the new Conference theme: "Try God."

Selah.

We pause to thank You for Larry  
hid with You in Christ above  
and to send forth to Jan (here with us) our love.  
We miss Bro. Graffius more than words can say,  
and look forward to a reunion some day.



Pastor Scott Smith preached powerfully, even after describing himself as a "Zacchaeus."



Singing out of harmony as part of Justin Camenga's Sabbath morning message was "Broken Glass" (l. to r.): Anna Vazquez, with Bethany, Patricia and Kecia Thompson Gordon.

# "Tickets please!"



by Lana Van Horn

The train had just dropped a few cars off on the sidetrack. Yet, with the activity of all the people, you would think this to be a major operation. Everyone in town must have been there.

I was surprised at the anxiousness on their faces as each plotted a way to attach themselves to the outside of the train. Some were helping others to wrap up in strips of cloth that would be tied to the car. Others climbed onto any overhang or grasped any protruding bar they could reach.

I could see the desperation in the eyes of those around me. I sensed the fear that they were experiencing; the fear of being left behind. Getting on that train was critical for each one. The train's destination was a place everyone wanted to reach.

Then, I glanced inside the cars. With very few boarded passengers, there was room for plenty inside. Somehow I knew that tickets were available to all, but not one of those around me would ask for one, even though the tickets were freely given.

This scene played out in a recent dream of mine. The minute I awoke, it was revealed to me that this is the way of salvation.

We cannot attach ourselves to the outside faith of others. Only through "the ticket"—given to us by accepting Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior—can we be permitted passage on the heaven-bound train.

Is this dream intended for you? Are you trying to find your way to heaven by trusting in someone else's faith?

Christ has led the way for each of us to have our very own ticket. All we need to do is ask for ourselves, in our own heart, and we can all have that ticket on the heaven-bound train. **SR**

*Lana Van Horn is a teacher in the Columbus, Ohio, School District and pastor's wife (Robert) at the First SDB Church of Columbus.*



Women's Society page by Leora Pinder, in the *Conference Crier*

## New Women's Board named

On Wednesday night at Conference, the ladies met for a wonderful banquet at beautifully decorated tables. Favors were small bags, hand-fashioned by the ladies of the Shiloh and Marlboro, N.J., churches with the heart and hand symbol (for loving service). The bags contained Friendship Brownie Mix and added a festive note to the occasion.

We were also favored with a testimony from Karlene Neher, who served in Summer Christian Summer Corps in Shiloh.

After dinner we had the introduction of ladies from the old Women's

Board (Shiloh-Marlboro area) as well as from the new Board (Daytona Beach and Carraway in the Palatka, Fla., area). We thanked everyone who has helped with SCSC in past years. A standing ovation showed special appreciation for Larry Graffius' support.

Plaques were given to Lois Davis and Mel Stephan for their valuable help in making travel arrangements for SCSC.

We were treated to a witty Fashion Show featuring women from the Bible! The clothing was very authentic and expertly described by Cathy

Dixon and Elizabeth Bowen. This was a memorable evening.

### Women's Society supports missions

More than \$3,600.00 was collected for the *Love Gift*. The Women's Interest Committee determined that the *Love Gift* will be distributed as follows:

- \$200 for Rwanda—medical supplies/blankets
- \$200 for Zambia—medical supplies/bicycle
- \$150 for Malawi—medical supplies
- \$150 Gambia—medical supplies
- \$150 Cameroon—medical supplies
- \$150 Jeff Hazen—missionary work support
- \$150 Yougal Kumar Sookdeo—treatment for injury
- \$200 Maiden Hall, Jamaica—chairs
- \$150 Val Bennett—Guyana construction/other

- 60% of balance to SCSC
- 10% of balance to Larry Graffius SCSC Endowment
- 10% of balance to Joe Samuels for medical expenses
- 20% of balance to Missionary Society. **SR**



*Far left: Sandy Layton portrayed the Biblical character Ruth; Valerie Probasco held an apple as Eve.*



*Cathy Dixon and Tukie Bowen provided narration for the fashion show.*



*Karlene Neher shared her SCSC experiences at the banquet.*

# Scripture Memory

Theme:

# Verses—2000-2001

“Try God”

The Scripture Memorization Program for 2000-2001 Conference Year will focus on Conference President Clayton Pinder's theme: *Try God*.

The Board of Christian Education has chosen these verses to be memorized by the family. Anyone who prefers may memorize one or more of these verses from a different Bible version.

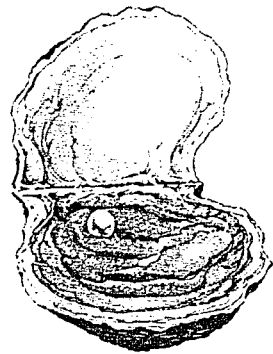
A list of persons from each church who have completed this Scripture Memorization Program should be submitted to the Board of Christian Education Office. The postmarked deadline is June 30, 2001. These people will be honored at General Conference.

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

Month	Youth/Adult	Junior	Primary
<b>October</b>	To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; in you I trust, O my God. Do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me. (Psalm 25:1-2)	To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; in you I trust, O my God. Do not let me be put to shame.... (Psalm 25:1-2)	To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; in you I trust, O my God.... (Psalm 25:1-2)
<b>November</b>	Show me your ways, O LORD, teach me your paths; guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long. (Psalm 25:4-5)	Show me your ways, O LORD, teach me your paths; guide me in your truth and teach me.... (Psalm 25:4-5)	Show me your ways, O LORD, teach me your paths. (Psalm 25:4)
<b>December</b>	Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in his ways. He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way. (Psalm 25:8-9)	Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in his ways. (Psalm 25:8)	Good and upright is the LORD.... (Psalm 25:8)
<b>January</b>	Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. (Proverbs 3:5-6)	Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. (Proverbs 3:5)	Trust in the LORD with all your heart.... (Proverbs 3:5)
<b>February</b>	You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you. Trust in the Lord forever, for the LORD, the LORD, is the Rock eternal. (Isaiah 26:3-4)	Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD, the LORD, is the Rock eternal. (Isaiah 26:4)	Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD, the LORD, is the Rock eternal. (Isaiah 26:4)
<b>March</b>	“This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time,” declares the LORD. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.” (Jeremiah 31:33)	...“I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.” (Jeremiah 31:33)	... “I will be their God, and they will be my people.” (Jeremiah 31:33)
<b>April</b>	“If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—” (John 14:15-16)	“If you love me, you will obey what I command.” (John 14:15)	“If you love me, you will obey what I command.” (John 14:15)
<b>May</b>	“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” (John 14:27)	“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.... Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” (John 14:27)	... “Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” (John 14:27)
<b>June</b>	May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13)	May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him.... (Romans 15:13)	May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him.... (Romans 15:13)





Pearls from the Past by Don A. Sanford, historian

## Baba, white sheep

When my 8-year-old granddaughter, Elizabeth, was faced last spring with open heart surgery for a defective mitral valve, she found great comfort in the 23rd Psalm and the knowledge that she is God's lamb. A sheep cote (shed) is located just a short distance from her house, and she and her sister, Tacy, enjoy petting the little lambs and observing their trusting dependence upon the care they receive.

One day, while searching through the Historical Society archives, I found a little booklet written in 1924 by Mrs. T.J. Van Horn, a good friend of my mother. I shared the booklet with Elizabeth and feel that it deserves to be shared with others, for we are all a part of God's flock.

LITTLE BABA  
OF THE BETHLEHEM HILLS

*He leadeth me, O blessed thought,  
O words with heavenly comfort  
fraught*

"Nestle closer, Baba. The night is chill."

Baba, the white lamb, moved nearer to the side of his mother, and gave a soft little cry of contentment.

The stars were very bright above the sheep-fold and a young moon hung low in the western sky. The dews were heavy in the walled enclosure, and occasionally a sheep stirred restlessly in sleep. Mostly it was very quiet on the hillside, and only the watch-dogs were awake. Even the shepherd dozed in a corner of the fold, his staff near at hand, in case

the dogs warned of danger to the flock.

"Mother, how good it is to rest," sighed little Baba. "I was so tired when we came home at twilight."

"It is good to rest in safety after the day's journey, my child," answered Marah. "But we have had a pleasant day. Our good shepherd has taken the best of care of the sheep today, as always. He loves us. Now rest and be refreshed for the morrow, little one."

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**The shepherd  
chooses the right  
path for the  
sheep, and when  
they follow him  
he will bring  
them safely  
through.**

---

"Yes, mother. Only tell me again the story of how the good shepherd boy cares for us. And be sure to put in the part about the dark valley."

*The Lord Is My Shepherd,  
I Shall not Want.*

"In the morning, dear one, we shall be quite refreshed by the night's slumber. And he will lead us out to find pasture. The hillsides hereabout are bare and rocky. It is the shepherd's task to seek green fields for us. He searches out the best places where the grass is green and tender. You need not fear, little Baba. He will provide for all our need.

"All morning the shepherd goes

before us, to show the way. He walks quietly and slowly, for the lambs are tender and they soon grow tired. Some of the sheep are careless and they wander from the path. You must learn, Baba, to follow close to the shepherd. He will lead you safely. Heed his gentle voice, always, my child."

*He Maketh Me to Lie Down  
in Green Pastures.*

"How weary and thirsty we were at midday! Just when we were ready to faint with the heat, we came to a gurgling brook. But the sheep were frightened by the noise of the rushing waters, and they would not drink. The shepherd bade us lie down, and we obeyed. He dipped from the stream and filled the long stone water trough. Then he called us and we drank and drank our fill. How good it was."

*He Leadeth Me Beside  
the Still Waters.*

*He Restoresh My Soul.*

"And how refreshed the sheep were by that quiet rest beside the still waters!"

*He Leadeth Me in the  
Paths of Righteousness  
for His Name's Sake.*

"Afterwards we followed him along a narrow path which wound down the mountainside to a dark valley. Often the paths are so many and so crooked that the sheep cannot tell which to choose. But the shepherd chooses the right path for the sheep, and when they follow him he will bring them safely through. It is a matter of pride, among the shepherds, to have the name of being wise and faithful."

*Yea, Though I Walk  
Through the Valley of  
the Shadow of Death*

"The path today crossed a chill and fearsome valley. O Mother, how frightened I was..."

"Yes, Baba, till our kind shepherd lifted his arms, and carried you in his bosom."

"O yes, mother, I hid my face in the folds of his robe till we had passed through that awful place."

*I Will Fear No Evil,  
For Thou Art with Me.*

"Well, Baba, he watched over the rest of us too. The way was difficult, and strange to us all. But it was necessary to pass through, in order to reach the place he had prepared for us."

*Thy Rod and Thy Staff  
They Comfort Me.*

"Once when I slipped on the rocks and almost fell, his rod was quickly there to help me up. It was such a comfort to know that the shepherd was there to look out for us. After the first few moments of dread I was not afraid. When we pass that way again I will not be fearful."

*Thou Preparest a Table Before Me  
in the Presence of Mine Enemies*

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**In his hand he held a horn of  
healing oil, and as the sheep came,  
one by one, he watched for  
the bruised and torn.**

---

"After we had left the dark valley we came out into a beautiful place. It was wild and lonely, but the green grass stretched away toward the forest, lovely flowers bloomed in profusion, the birds were singing, and the sun's rays felt warm and grateful af-



*The Good Shepherd.  
(Illustration from the Little  
Baba booklet.)*

ter the shadows of that chill valley.

"Baba, you are still too young to know how many dangers lurk unseen, waiting to pounce upon the sheep. Snakes lie in the grass to bite the noses of the sheep. Wolves prowl about the flock. Poisonous grasses sometimes grow where sheep cannot distinguish them. Briars and thorns catch in the wool, and tear us.

"But our shepherd has gone on before us. He has killed the ugly snakes, uprooted the poison grasses and driven the wild beasts away. Here was our 'table' spread out before us, and our enemies could not harm us."

Baba shuddered a little at the thought of these dreadful foes. Then he remembered, "The shepherd was with us. I will trust him."

"That is right, my child," said Marah. "He will guard us, even at the risk of his life."

*Thou Anointest My Head With  
Oil*

"Toward evening the shepherd called us and we turned homeward. As we came near to the sheep-fold, he stood in the doorway. In his hand he held a horn of healing oil, and as the sheep came, one by one, he watched for the bruised and torn. My knee was bleeding from the fall among the rocks, so he poured oil upon it, and bathed my face and head."

*My Cup Runneth Over*

"A brimming cup of cool water was ready to quench my thirst, and I was comforted."

*Surely Goodness and Mercy Shall  
Follow Me All the Days of My Life*

"The watch dogs have followed us all day and are guarding the fold tonight. It is good to lie down in his care and rest."

"Let us never be willful and stubborn. When we have such a tender, loving shepherd, we will always follow him. Hark, Baba, do you hear him singing? Sleep sweetly now my little lamb."

In his corner, near the sheep, David the shepherd boy, had wakened. The flock was quiet and the watch-dogs still. He sat for a while gazing thoughtfully at the star-lit sky. Some memories of the day just past stirred in his heart. Softly and sweetly he lifted his voice in reverent song.

*And I Will Dwell in the House  
of the Lord For Ever. SR*



# the BEACON

Produced by the Youth Committee of the Board of Christian Education  
For and by members of the SDB Youth Fellowship September 2000

## "Well, it could happen..."

by Gabe Vaught, Portland, Ore.

The time is 6:30 EST. I wake up groggily in my quarters and wipe the sleep from my eyes. The sun shines brightly through the room portal. It's the first day of Conference... aboard a luxury cruise liner in the Bahamas.

As I pull on a bathrobe and gather up some toiletries, I come awake instantly at the sound of people already bustling in the hallway outside. I make my way down to the next deck to the showers. There, most of my friends are already finished and ready for breakfast in the huge, luxurious mess hall.

I hurry to catch up with them, taking a five-minute shower. I'm still pulling my shirt on as I stumble out of the lavish locker-room-type bath facility and hurry into the mess hall. I'm dumbstruck by the number of crystal chandeliers hanging from the ceiling and a large grand piano in the center of the floor.

Food is ordered from the tables on the main floor. If you want buffet-style, you have to dine on the upper level.

I find the tables where my friends are sitting, and take a seat just as "Le Garcon" approaches to take our orders. I look across at the massive portions of food Ben Wiley is ordering, and decide on a lighter course. Ginny Burdick sits down a minute later carrying little Duane, whom she "borrowed" from his parents. Many more of the youth are also here—

some new faces, some familiar—but there are too many to name.

With breakfast over, we all traverse outside to the morning Bible study, where Pastor Steve Osborn is teaching about being humble in the midst of God's goodness. Since it is held by the side of the rather large pool on the main deck, he tries not to get too close and fall in.

From there we go immediately to the spacious Chapel for the morning service, where Pastor Andrew Samuels is giving a sermon on how to focus on God in the most distracting of situations. We sing hymns, accompanied by a full orchestra, all dressed in white robes—very magnificent.

After the service, we talk and say "hello" to old friends, hug relatives, and generally "catch up" before going to lunch.

Lunch is held outside on the aft deck on what doubles as the playing field (fake turf, of course). I look at my menu. Whatever "fillet de sole" with crushed herbs in a lemon-butter sauce is, it sure sounds interesting. So I order that.

The tables are small; room enough for only three people. I look at my tablemates. Jonathan Mackintosh can't seem to decide what he wants, and Donna Packard has ordered a small salad. I tell Jono, "When in doubt, always order the lobster." I think he has ordered a large water.

A few tables over, I notice Scott

Bruce and Jeremy Bullinger creating a ruckus with large slabs of steak, trying to see how much can possibly go into their mouths at one time.

Joanna Harris, Bethany Thompsongordon, and Crystal Butler, trying to scoot their table away from the fray, inadvertently collapse it. But they recover quickly due to the deft, almost-orchestrated movements of a hovering garcon. What a lunch!

At the Youth Interest Committee meeting, we discuss how well the youth did at fund raising this year, and how if it weren't for them, none of this would have been possible.

We all congratulate Ginny Burdick and Heather Hemminger on how



they were able to get jobs as Bill Gates' personal advisors. Ginny showed him that if he gave out all the "bug fixes" at once, people would be a lot happier. And happy people equal more profits. Heather headed his public relations board and got things straightened out there.

We all express amazement as we learn how Mr. Gates supplied the 50 million dollars it took for all the accommodations of this Conference. It was his way to say "thanks" for getting him out of legal hot water. We hope that next year's fund raising committee can do as well. Now

we all pray really hard and set goals...

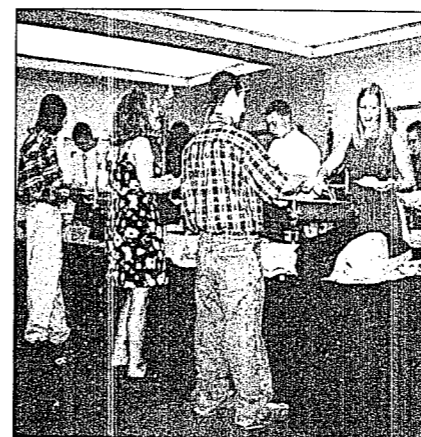
In the afternoon, we have fun exploring this awesome vessel and get approval to have the youth activity after dinner and the service. The service is incredible, very vibrant as Pastor Gabe Bejjani delivers a message along the Conference theme of "Humility."

The evening youth activity is the culminating event of the day. A Youth Pool Party is held in and around the ship's pool, complete with Chinese lanterns and mini-palms, set to the backdrop of a red sun sinking into the sea. Deck

chairs are set out and Caribbean music plays as people dive into the water and socialize on the sides of the pool.

Garcons go around offering drinks (non-alcoholic, of course) and little fruit dishes. Games of Twister and limbo spring up all over the place. It is great! There are even random acts of comedy and a live performance by the Supertones (flown in earlier—by helicopter).

I am going to sleep well tonight I believe, because there is more to look forward to tomorrow. Ah, well, good night and God Bless. SR



Gabe Vaught (in white shirt) goes through the real buffet line at Thursday night's Youth Banquet.



A great turnout of great youth.



The male delegation from Youth Pre-Con sings out at the Monday night vespers service.



Crystal Butler and Aubrey Appel share a duet at vespers.



## FOCUS on Missions

# Rwanda needs "permanency"

by Kirk Looper

If you were to visit Rwanda today, you would find it very similar to the Rwanda that I visited in 1996. Much of the land still needs farmers to cultivate it, and camps of various types are located throughout the countryside.

The population of those camps has changed to some degree. In 1996, most of the refugees were Rwandans who had returned after being out of the country for many years. Today, the camps mostly house people who have fled their homes in the countryside to find protection against the hill rebels. There are also some refugees from other countries.

Although there are few changes in the country itself, the Seventh Day Baptist work in Rwanda has changed a lot. We are now a large force in the area north of Kigali, the capital. We have over 15 churches in that area,

and many more want to join our denomination.

One problem area is the shortage of tracts, music books, Bibles, study materials, and funds for roofing the churches. In addition, the SDB Coordinator, Rev. Elie Nduwayesu, needs some form of transportation so he can more easily visit the scattered groups that need education in church growth and development.

More and more of the countries of Africa are tightening regulations for religious organizations that enter their lands to establish churches. Zambia, Rwanda, Ghana, and The Gambia all require religious organizations to have permanent buildings, which designate them as real denominations and not cults.

We, as a Christian organization, are often our own worst enemy.

Cults enter a country and establish meetings in their name, gathering under the trees and in canvas or tarp-covered structures. They bring the people together with promises of help. Once the people join a cult, they are taken for all they are worth. In some cases, the cults preach against the culture, local conditions, and even

the government. A few cult leaders have led their members to mass suicide.

Because of all these problems, the government makes demands upon all "religious" organizations, Christian and non-Christian alike.

In a recent telephone conversation, Rev. Nduwayesu told me that the local authorities are threatening SDBs. They are expected to tear down all temporary structures and discontinue worship.

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**The churches in  
Rwanda cannot hope  
to grow if they are unable to  
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legal problems, there are other  
denominations which would  
just as soon not have  
SDBs in Rwanda.**

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Rev. Nduwayesu asks that I plead with our Seventh Day Baptist members and friends to raise enough funds to cover all the SDB churches that are currently without roofs. They also need to secure a building for an office. The total bill comes to about \$15,000.

The churches in Rwanda cannot hope to grow if they are unable to show that they are permanent and

stable. Along with the legal problems, there are other denominations which would just as soon not have SDBs in Rwanda.

Rev. Edwin Mukumbo is dealing with a similar situation in Zambia. SDBs are expected to have a permanent office, and the churches are expected to have permanent roofs.

God has blessed the Zambian Conference with Jeff Hazen, who has been helping to build a Conference office and has worked on some of the churches. They will be in fairly good condition, building-wise, when Jeff returns home at the end of the year. He would be thrilled to have you join him in supporting the building efforts in Zambia.

As we continue to spread the Gospel by establishing Seventh Day Baptist churches, we are going to find that more and more of our sister Conferences and churches will need permanent structures and office buildings. It is our prayer that those who are led to help in this tremendous undertaking will open their hearts and help us to secure the Conferences in the African countries. **SR**

## Seeking Spiritual Maturity: through Sabbathkeeping



An annual emphasis of  
the SDB General Council

*General Conference is a time for recharging our spiritual batteries and making fresh commitments to God. Following the Babylonian exile, God's people were similarly challenged. In this excerpt from Pastor Larry Graffius' book, we reflect on Nehemiah's stand for obedience and our own response to God's call for faithfulness."*

*From Larry Graffius' True to the Sabbath, True to Our God, chapter 11, pages 111-112, 114.*

### Convenience store mentality

Sabbath keeping is not very convenient. Not then [in Nehemiah's day]. Not now. But then, keeping the Sabbath is not something you do for the sake of convenience.

The people of Jerusalem had slid into a convenience store mentality: Don't make me go out of my way. Don't make me wait. Don't put me to extra trouble or bother. I will be willing to pay more, to give you more money just so I can have what I want now, without any sacrifice or waiting. I want what I want when I want it. That is the convenience store mentality.

Consider this list: Instant foods, microwave meals, preassembled products, electronic banking, telephone transactions, FAX communications (so that a message can be conveyed today), e-mail (so that a message can be conveyed this minute!), the shopping network, 24-hour availability of goods and services, and continuous access marketing.

The currency of our day is not

## Living by conviction, not by convenience

by Larry Graffius

money, it is time. We will let go of our money if it will buy us more time.

At the time of Nehemiah's reforms, the people of Jerusalem had come back home from Babylon with high hopes. They were getting a new start. They had great expectations.

But sadly, they did not have discipline. They did not understand the concepts of faithfulness and obedience. And they were not in the habit of keeping the Sabbath as a holy day.

And so they plunged right into setting up their shops and buying, selling, marketing, engaging in all types of activities on Sabbath.

### The Sabbath: A Holy Day

The Sabbath is God's *holy day*. A time from sunset to sunset when we *stop*, we cease, we rest. Recall that this is the literal meaning of the word "Sabbath." To stop. To desist from what you are doing. And then to devote that day, that 24-hour time period to God.

Consequently, Nehemiah responds: "*When evening shadows fell on the gates of Jerusalem before the Sabbath, I ordered the doors to be shut and not opened until the Sabbath was over*" (Nehemiah 13:19).

It is important that we understand and believe this about the Sabbath: It is not just a day of the week that we take time out of our busy schedule to go to church. It is not just a time when we allow God to interrupt our crowded agenda and list of errands for a couple of hours. It is not a time when we "work God in" to our schedule. It is a holy day. It is God's holy time. It is really time that does not

belong to us, but to God. The other six days of the week are the time God has given to us for use; our schedule. The seventh day is God's day.

And so Sabbath-keeping is not just a brief interlude on Sabbath morning. It is a whole day, as Nehemiah demonstrates, from evening to evening, which is to be devoted to God and His purposes.

And remember, this is just what the people *promised*. Complete obedience. Full compliance. They made a commitment to obey the Lord in everything. They made a covenant promise, a sacred vow which specifically included keeping the Sabbath Day holy.

We, too, as members of the Body of Christ, are a covenant people. We pledge to God, and to each other, to obey God's Word—and that includes Sabbath keeping.

Nehemiah makes it clear to us that keeping the Sabbath holy means no buying, or selling, or trading, or marketing. No more commercial activity. We won't be going to the mall on Sabbath afternoon. We will not be out grocery shopping on Sabbath.

We will not be taking care of business; we won't be going to the office or calling on customers. The Sabbath is holy time. From Friday evening to Saturday evening we will set aside the business activity and the commercial activity. It will be a day of rest, worship and devotion to God.

We, as God's people, in our Sabbath keeping and in every other area of our lives, are going to live what we say we believe. We are going to live by convictions, not by convenience. **SR**

## Picnic, VBS, and growth in Old Stonefort

by Pastor Doug Burkhamer

Greetings from the Old Stonefort, Ill., SDB Church!

On the third Sabbath in May, we celebrated our 129th year as a Seventh Day Baptist Church. We are proud of our SDB heritage.

This year it was our honor to ordain Alice Brooks, and Carolyn and Sue Bethel as deaconesses. We also licensed Bob Farr as a minister of the Gospel.

Brother Tim Parsley has helped to establish a branch church of Stonefort. They have three families meeting on Sabbaths in an auction house on Market Street in Red Boiling Springs, Tenn.

On June 24, we held a church picnic at Bellsmith Springs following

our Sabbath service. From June 26-30, we hosted a Vacation Bible School at our church. The theme was the acronym FROG—"Fully Rely On God." **SR**



(L. to r.): Ryan Cruzan, Janet Peterson, Kim Cruzan (with Sarah), Marie Davis, Sharon Davis, Randy Dickinson, and Jeanne Dickinson.

## Marlboro adopts road

The Marlboro SDB Church outside of Bridgeton, N.J., has adopted a section of highway near the church. Here are the helpful hands who pitched in during the July clean-up.

## Life Lessons from Zambia

by Jeff Hazen

What are some of the things I see in Zambia, which are hard habits for me to learn?

1. To spend time visiting and talking with people during business hours.
2. To give money even when it's not asked of you.
3. To walk a long (hour-long) distance for a short (one hour or less) meeting.
4. That making a friend is worth more than the money you get from that person.
5. Not to worry when the phone line gets cut, there's no food in the house, and you haven't worked for months, but to have faith in God.
6. To share with others, even when it seems that you don't have enough for yourself.
7. To visit the sick (and bring

something for them) and attend funerals of people you don't know.

8. To not complain when your things are missing or used up by living with a large family.

9. To be determined and continue in the path God gave you at the start, even when authority figures tell you that such a path is impossible.

10. When you don't have the money for something, to simply pray and wait.

In Zambia, I see that people come first. Generally, people are generous "beyond their means." Guests often get treated better than family members. People will accept too low a payment from someone, just to make a friend.

It's difficult to know what lessons to learn. One might say, "Well the

reason people are so poor is because they're too generous with the wrong people, and they don't plan out their time and expenses." However, there is a joy, strength, and goodness among the Christians here that I hope to gain from living with them. **SR**

*Note: For more information about my project in Zambia, some of the needs that have been expressed to me, or just to find out more about myself, e-mail me at jhazen@zamnet.zm. Or write Phil and Ruth Hazen, 330 Highview Rd., Tracy's Landing, MD 20779.*

*My mailing address: PO Box 23168, Kitwe, Zambia*

*Donation address: c/o SDB Missionary Society, 119 Main St., West-erly, RI 02891-2112*

## SR Reaction

*Opinions do not necessarily reflect the views of the SR or all SDBs. Letters may be edited according to space and editorial style.*

To Kevin Butler:

I see from the July-August issue of the *SR* that once again Seventh Day Baptists are wrongly accused of putting more emphasis on the Sabbath than they place on salvation.

The Great Commission is what we should all want to obey, but a person should not ignore some of what Jesus said in the Great Commission. Jesus not only said to "make disciples of all nations," Jesus also said in this Great Commission, "teaching them to observe all things that I commanded you" (Matthew 28:19-20). Making disciples, baptizing those disciples and teaching those disciples all that Jesus commanded!

The Great Commission also includes teaching new disciples about keeping the seventh day of the week as the Sabbath, which most churches do not do. Just as the Lord put the Sabbath command right in the middle of His Ten Commandments, part of the Great Commission says that new disciples were also to be taught not to steal or kill or break the Sabbath Commandment.

If we claim that salvation is more important than obedience to God, we had better remember Jesus' words of warning: "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity" (Matthew 7:21-23).

John Conrod, Lakewood, CO

Dear Editor:

I appreciated Kevin Chroniger's candor on the matter of the Sabbath.

If, as he put it, he has been bothered by the emphasis put on the Sabbath, then he probably did the right thing by joining some other denomination which was more suited to his personal needs or tastes.

In my 40 years of SDB membership, I have never heard an SDB minister refer to the Sabbath as a basis for salvation. I can't speak for the other groups that he mentioned. However, I do believe that the Sabbath may be a basis for something:

I love my wife (of 57 years). Always have. When our last child was born, he got all the attention possible during his first night home from the hospital. And I noticed something else: my wife didn't get a bit angry or upset when I got up to attend to the baby!

When I changed him and brought him to her in bed to be nursed, she understood this to be an act of kindness and concern. It was what I could do to show my wife that I cared about her and our son as well.

I want Jesus to know that I love Him. He said, "If you love me, keep my commandments..." It seems to me that keeping the Sabbath holy is one positive thing that I can do. The burdens He gives us are light.

Ben Peil, Apple Valley, CA

Dear Editor:

It was with concern and sadness that I read Kevin Chroniger's letter to you, saying he had left the Seventh Day Baptist denomination, but even more so, his reasons for doing it.

It is true we emphasize the Sabbath in our *Recorder*, on our web site, and in many of our tracts for outreach. But it is, after all, our most distinctive difference from the majority of other denominations.

When you buy a car, you take it for granted that the engine is the source of its power, but you want to know what else will help you decide which

make or model to get. The same is true of those searching for a church denomination.

They take it for granted that if you are a Christian denomination, God and salvation through Christ is your main message. But if they are looking for something specific to differentiate one from another, what better way for us than to emphasize the seventh day Sabbath of the Bible.

There is no Seventh Day Baptist church that I am aware of that preaches polity over the message of salvation. Perhaps that is the way some perceive it because they were reminded of it so often, especially during their growing up years.

To know in one's heart that the seventh day is the day God created to be His Sabbath, and then ignore it by saying that the Sabbath is only a distinctive, is very wrong. Should we regard the other nine Commandments only as distinctives also, and that it doesn't really matter if we keep them?

God loved us so much that He gave His Son to die for our sins, that we might have salvation. So how can we ignore the fact that God said, "If you love me, keep my commandments." People need to know "by what authority" we are Sabbathkeepers. The majority of people do not know the *real* reason they are worshipping on Sunday rather than on the Sabbath of the Bible.

The biggest reason Seventh Day Baptists have stayed a relatively small denomination is not that we have stressed the Sabbath, but that we have strayed from the Sabbath. Our early churches had members in the hundreds. They were so faithful to their Sabbath beliefs that when they moved to a new area where there was no Sabbathkeeping church, they started one, and it grew. Not so today.

When many leave their home

church and move to new territory, they are too busy, too tolerant, too hesitant, or too afraid to share the Sabbath for fear of rejection. Of course, there are also those who feel the inconvenience, pressure from society in general, or the need to please someone in particular (often of the opposite sex) that convince them to turn their backs on the Sabbath.

True, the salvation message is the most important. And, yes, it is true that the Sabbath is not the way to salvation. But we should not be lulled into believing that it is really not important, either.

In Matthew 5:19, Jesus says, "Whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever keeps and teaches them, shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."

Ruth Bottoms, Little Genesee, NY

arrived, and the contents were delightful. Ken Camp's article on creativity in worship should be of great help to pastors. Just a few days ago, I listened to a speaker who avoided using one word if ten words sufficed.

But my favorite article was "Pew Number 12" by Jerry VanHorn. It reminded me of when new pews were being considered during a business meeting in my home church years ago. One member spoke of the historical significance of the old ones—"The pioneers of our congregation have sat in these pews," she stated. "It would be sacrilege to replace them."

"But," another member shot back, "they didn't have splinters in them then!"

Keep up the good work with *The Sabbath Recorder*. Blessings to the staff.

Yours in His work,  
Eugene Lincoln, Hagerstown, MD

Dear Brother Kevin:  
The July-August issue of the SR just

## Accessions

**Marlboro, NJ**  
Joined after baptism  
Melissa Rankin

**Milton, WI**  
*George Calhoun, pastor*  
Joined after testimony  
Darlene Leitel  
John Lima  
Sarah Lima  
Joined after baptism  
Jamie Dutcher  
Joined by letter  
Angie Osborn  
Steve Osborn

**Paint Rock, AL**  
*John Bevis, pastor*  
Joined after baptism  
Jon McClary  
Sherrie McClary

**West Palm Beach, FL**  
*William Vis, Alcott Lynch, co-pastors*  
Joined after testimony  
Cecil Bell  
Donna Lynch  
Ivy Mullings

## Birth

**Lippincott.**—A daughter, Amber Gail Leanne Lippincott, was born on June 2, 2000, to Jay and Angelia (Herndon) Lippincott of Jacksonville, FL.

## Marriage

**Heath - Cruz.**—Brian Michael Heath and Brianna Suzanne Cruz were united in marriage on June 24, 2000, at the Boulder, CO, Seventh Day Baptist Church. Rev. David Thorngate officiated.

## Obituaries

**Samuels.**—Rudolph T. Samuels, 73, died on July 24, 1999, at Robert Wood Johnson University Medical Center in New Brunswick, N.J.

He was born on April 11, 1926, in Manchester, Jamaica, West Indies. A resident of the Plainfield, N.J., area in recent years, he formerly lived in Pottstown, Pa., and Gary, Ind. He married Vivian Fields on May 22, 1988.

Mr. Samuels was a security guard for the K. Hovnanian Company in Edison, N.J. He was a trustee and head usher at the Plainfield Seventh Day Baptist Church.

In addition to his wife, survivors include three sons, Anthony of Plainfield, Lawrence of Kingston, Jamaica, and Berris of Michigan City, Ind.; three daughters, Marjorie and Sandra of Kingston, and Fieona Taylor of Oceanside, Calif.; three sisters, Kathleen Durrant of Kingston, Mavis Taylor of New York City, and Louise Dunn of Philadelphia, Pa.; two brothers, Benjamin of Philadelphia and Pastor Joe A. Samuels of Plainfield; 18 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Services were held on July 29, 1999, in the Plainfield SDB Church. Since Pastor Joe was in Jamaica and Guyana on denominational business at that time, Pastors Cormeth Lawrence and Kenroy Cruickshank officiated. Entombment was on July 30, 1999, at the Hollywood Memorial Park Mausoleum, Union, N.J.

**McPherson.**—Myron K. McPherson, 91, a 51-year resident and East Lewis County rancher, died on May 24, 2000, at the Sharon Care Nursing Home in Centralia, Wash.

He was born on March 1, 1909, in Fort Rice, N.D., the son of John and Karen (Johannessen) McPherson. He attended grade school in Morton

County, N.D., and graduated from high school in Steele, N.D., in 1929.

Myron attended college in Dickinson, N.D., from 1934-35. He then taught in rural country schools in Morton County for three years before taking up farming and ranching.

On December 28, 1942, he married Corrine Metcalf. The couple moved to Lewis County in 1948.

Myron was a member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church, the Gideons International, the John Birch Society, and the Tree Farmers Association.

In addition to his wife of 57 years, survivors include one daughter, Corrine Marie Chuinard of Randle, Wash.; two sons, Lynden of Randle, and Myron of Boca Raton, Fla.; eight grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, three step-grandchildren, and numerous step-great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his brother Archie.

Funeral services were held on May 31, 2000, at the Morton Chapel of the Brown Mortuary, with Pastor Thomas Mitchell officiating. Interment was at the Morton (Wash.) Cemetery.

**Babcock.**—Flora Elizabeth Babcock, 91, died on June 13, 2000, at Berlin (Wis.) Memorial Hospital.

She was born on March 16, 1909, in Rome N.Y., the daughter of Thomas Smith and Carrie Palmiter. She graduated from high school in Verona, N.Y., and from Milton (Wis.) College. On August 14, 1935, she married Kenneth Babcock in Verona. She lived in Milton until moving to Berlin two years ago.

Flora was a member of the Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church. She was also a member of the Sojourner Truth Group, Milton Historical Society, Milton College Alumni Association, Milton Women's Club, and the Ripon Garden Club.

She is survived by her husband, Kenneth; three daughters, A. Jeanette Freigang and Sue Foster, both of Saginaw, Mich., and Virginia Field of Berlin; two sisters, Agnes Marquardt of Huntington, N.Y., and Anna Davis of Columbia, S.C.; one brother, G. Allison Smith of Verona; eight grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held on June 18, 2000, at the Milton SDB Church, with burial in the Milton Cemetery. Pastor George Calhoun officiated.

**Williams.**—Ada Jessie Williams, 89, of Boulder, Colo., and Seattle, Wash., died on June 21, 2000.

She was born in New Auburn, Minn., on April 19, 1911, the daughter of Wells and Jessie (Beebe) Crosby. She first married Elno Davis, who passed away in 1979. On September 1, 1984, she married Vernon D. Williams in Denver, Colo. He preceded her in death.

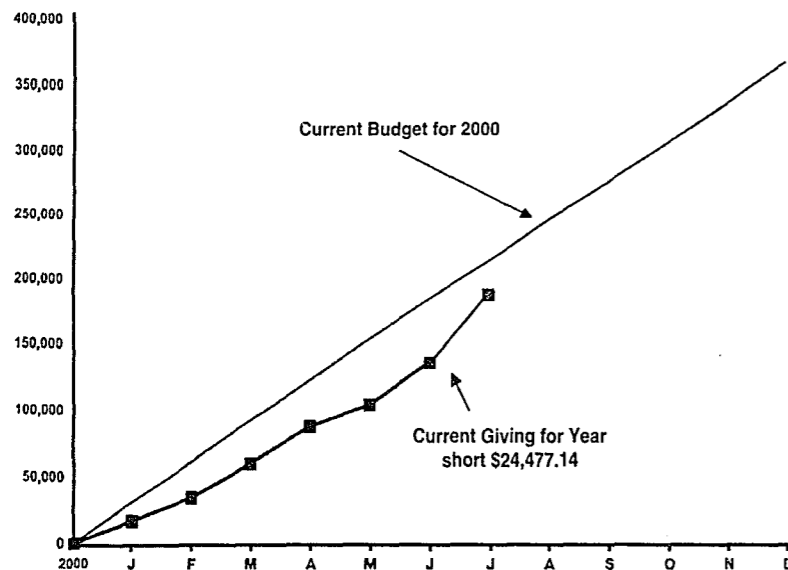
Ada graduated from Wheat Ridge (Colo.) High School and Barnes Business School. She worked as a secretary for the U.S. Bureau of Mines until retiring in 1973. She was a founding member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Denver.

Survivors include three daughters, Katherine Spreadborough of Renton, Wash., Myrna Cox of Englewood, Colo., and Beverly Wells of Sandusky, Ohio; one son, Gary Davis of Lakewood, Colo.; one brother, Kenneth Crosby of Tucson, Ariz; 10 grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held on July 8, 2000, at the SDB Church of Boulder, with Rev. David Thorngate officiating.

**Saunders.**—Dorothy Margaret Saunders, 77, of Boulder, Colo.,  
*cont. bottom next page*

## Current Giving 2000



## Pastor, professor, author dies in Berkeley

**Rood.**—The Rev. Dr. Wayne Ray Rood, 84, died on May 20, 2000, in Berkeley, Calif.

He was born on June 24, 1915, in Neillsville, Wis., the only child of Warren Ray and Eleanor (Babcock) Rood. He attended second grade through Junior College in Riverside, Calif., and graduated from Salem College (W.Va.) with Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts degrees. In 1940, he married Anna Loofbourrow.

Wayne received a Bachelor of Divinity degree from Alfred (N.Y.) University's School of Theology, a Master of Religious Education from The Hartford (Conn.) Seminary Foundation, and a Doctor of Theology (magna cum laude) from the Pacific School of Religion (PSR) in Berkeley. During two sabbatical years, he was a student at Oxford University in England.

He was ordained by the Riverside Seventh Day Baptist Church and pastored SDB and First Baptist churches in Rhode Island. He also ministered at Congregational and Presbyterian churches in western New York, and at Swedenborgian and Baptist churches in El Cerrito, Calif., and Berkeley.

During World War II, Wayne served as a chaplain in New Caledonia and the Solomon Islands. On July



**Dr. Wayne R. Rood**  
1915 - 2000

4, 1945, he participated in the last offensive action of the War, and was among the first Americans to occupy Tokyo.

He left the Army as a Major and became an Associate Professor of Historical and Systematic Theology at Alfred University. From 1952 to 1981, he was Professor of Religious Education at Pacific School of Religion, and continued as Adjunct Professor of Theater and Theology until 1996.

He also taught at The College of

Theology at Silliman University in the Philippines, Stanford University in California (where he was Acting Dean of the Chapel), the University of Colorado (Resident Theologian), and Berea College in Kentucky (Lilly Visiting Professor). He led summer sessions for PSR in Hawaii, Cuba, Georgia, and California.

As founder and artistic director of the Bay Area Religious Drama Service, he brought plays into many churches in the Bay Area. As lecturer and actor, he appeared on college campuses in California, Washington state, and British Columbia. He was on the Board of Directors for The Bread and Wine Mission and its successor, Intersection, in San Francisco; and the Episcopal Drama Foundation.

He authored several books, including ones on SDB history and procedures. His many writings—sermons, lectures, scripts, textbooks, etc.—are in the archives of the Flora Hewlett Library at the Graduate Theological Union.

In addition to his wife, Anna, survivors include one daughter, Suzanne Cox; one son, Wayne; and two grandsons.

A memorial service was held on June 4, 2000, in the PSR Chapel, Berkeley.

### Obituaries, cont. from page 25

died on July 2, 2000.

She was born in Schenectady, N.Y., the daughter of Maurice and Christine (Plunz) Moore. She married Herbert W. Saunders on August 9, 1941, in Berlin, N.Y. Her family always remembered her as "going out west to marry a cowboy."

Dorothy moved from New York to Boulder in 1942. She worked with several University of Colorado professors and with a cleaning service. She was also a homemaker.

She was a member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Boulder, and was well known for the youth messages she gave to young people during worship services over the years.

Dorothy was always willing to help others in need until health difficulties prevented it. She was also always ready with treats to give the children. Whether it was gum or a piece of hard candy, she was always there to sweeten someone's life.

Survivors include her husband,

Bill Saunders of Boulder; two sons, Carl of Lafayette, Colo., and William of Superior, Colo.; one daughter, Harriet Newnham of Lafayette; one sister, Brenda Sweet of Concord, N.C.; four grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by one brother, Walter Moore.

A memorial service was held on July 5, 2000, at the SDB Church of Boulder. Rev. David Thorngate officiated.

## K E V I N ' S

### O R N E R

The brochure promised "Passion," "Romance," "Action," "Adventure," and...  
...and—

"Turkey legs"??

This was the description for the Bristol Renaissance Faire, a recreated Elizabethan-era village in southeastern Wisconsin. Hundreds of characters dress up in 16th-century garb and trade their wares or ply their skills to the delight of thousands of summer weekend visitors.

And I wanted to go.

Janet asked me why I was so interested. For me, that time period has always held a certain attraction: the chivalry, the jousting knights, the costumes, Queen Elizabeth,

Shakespeare, the food (including Henry-the-8th-style turkey legs).

But she asked, "Do you really want to drive that far, pay a lot of money to get in, just to be with people all dressed up and living a different lifestyle?"

Wait a minute. Why did that sound so familiar?

That's it! We had just spent a whole week in a different area of the country, paying good money to observe other people dressed up and living a different lifestyle!

It's called "General Conference."

Thankfully, there was a welcome lack of jousting on the business floor. Everyone did fine work in presenting their committee reports and recommendations. Well done!

But what of the other elements? Trust me, they were there:

"Passion"—in certain interest committees and meal-time discussions.

"Romance"—no comment, although there were at least three sets of newlyweds on campus.

"Action"—check out the Tract Council presentation.

"Adventure"—ask Kirk Looper and the disciplinary committee making dorm checks in the wee hours of the morning.

And "Turkey legs"? Those would be attached to the boisterous bodies who chose to ignore the posted "quiet hours" in the dorms. Common courtesy—and lessons on closing doors quietly—would have been appreciated.

Conference week includes a fair(e) share of royalty (through Jesus), skilled craftspeople, talented writers and musicians, and a healthy dose of court jesters.

People have been flocking to the Bristol Faire for over a dozen years. SDBs are approaching the 200th anniversary of their own "renaissance" gatherings. May this grand tradition continue until the Lord returns.

## Who wants to be an Editaire?



Andy Samuels (left) was the first contestant on "Who wants to be an Editaire?" The Tract Council program was hosted by Reject Philbladder (Kevin Butler).



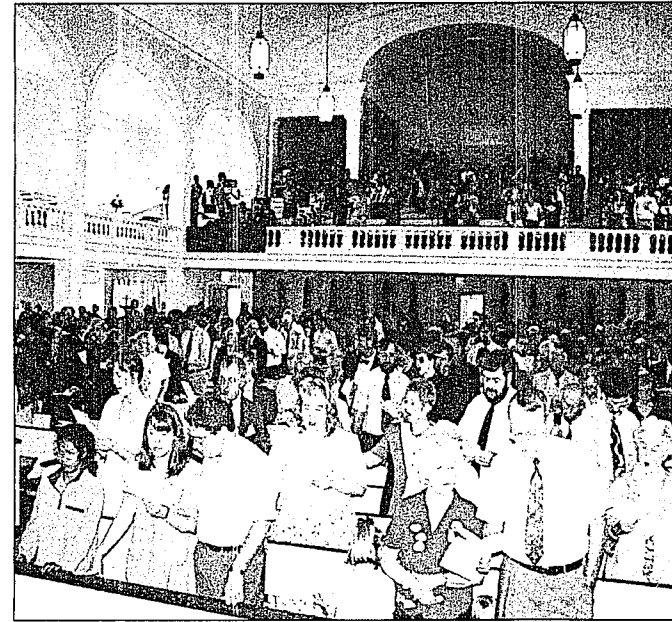
Paul Manuel may have won the game...



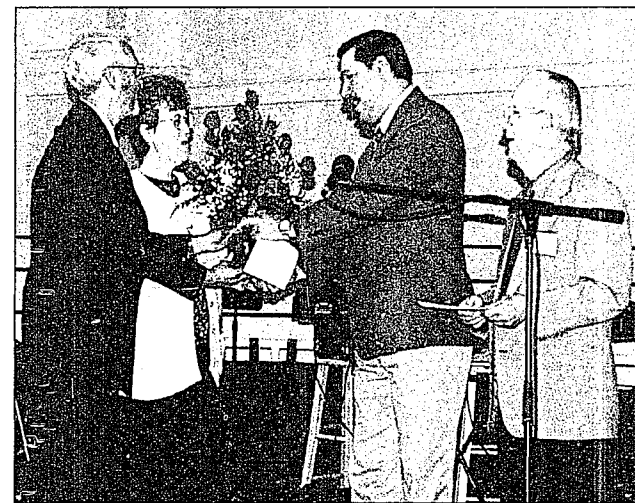
...but Barbie Dull (Cheri Appel) stole the show.



*Cynthia Calise accepted the Robe of Achievement for her mother, Nellie Jo Brissey, who is recovering from heart surgery.*



*Sabbath morning worship in Wesley Chapel.*



*Linda Camenga receives a bouquet from Dean Fox and our new president (far right), Clayton Pinder.*



*Is this kids' program ever going to end?? Hunter and Kansas North from New Auburn, Wis.*