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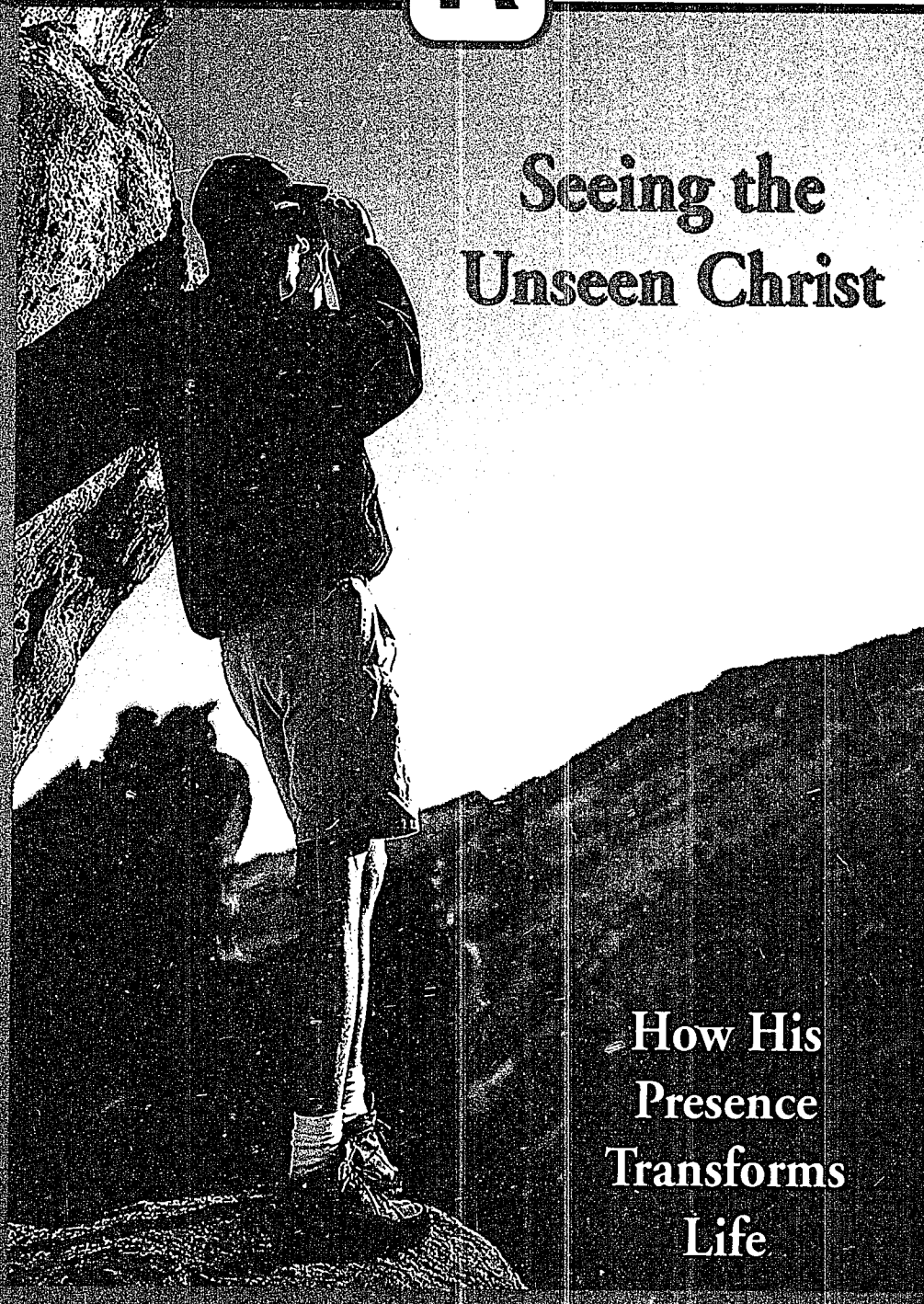
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*News for and about
Seventh Day Baptists*

February 2001

R

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Seeing the Unseen Christ

How His
Presence
Transforms
Life



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

"See the Unseen Jesus" with 50-Day material

Intrigued by this month's theme? More items to help you see Jesus include an Adventure journal and a guidebook, "The Unseen Guest."

To order your resources, call 1-800-224-2735 (U.S.) or 1-800-461-4114 (Canada). Or write, **Mainstay Church Resources**, Box 30, Wheaton IL 60189-0030.

Pastors' Conference 2001

April 17-21
Alfred Station, NY

with instructors
Dr. William Brackney
(Church history)

Dr. Paul Manuel
(Biblical interpretation)

Robe of Achievement nominations

The SDB Women's Society is accepting nominations for the Robe of Achievement for 2001. Please be considering a woman in your church who meets these criteria for nomination:

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

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

Send all nominations to:

Rowena Van Horn
209 First Avenue
Daytona Beach FL 32114

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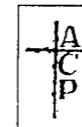


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Inviting the unseen Christ to church



by David Mains

Editor's note: The material in this month's feature section comes from Mainstay Resources and their 50-Day Spiritual Adventure called, "Seeing the Unseen Christ: How His Presence Transforms Life." To order Adventure journals and guidebooks, see inside front cover.

What if the Lord Jesus Christ actually came to our church as other visitors do, with no publicity, no sensationalism? Merely word of mouth in the congregation let people know he would be here.

As he visited the Bible classes, heard the choir sing, and listened to the sermon, would his presence make any appreciable difference in what normally happens?

Personally, I believe it would make a *huge* difference! Let me suggest some specific ways this would be so.

What's the difference?

I sense that the problem some people have in arriving late for worship would all but be eliminated if we could see the unseen Christ in our midst.

The formal call to worship would almost sparkle with spiritual electricity regardless of the music or Scripture used. These lines written years ago illustrate the approach I'm talking about:

Lo, God is here! Let us adore,
And own how dreadful is this place;
Let all within us feel His power,

And silent bow before His face;
Who know His power, His grace who prove,
Serve Him with awe, with reverence love.¹

It's amazing how even old words like these come alive when we're aware that the one to whom they're addressed is present to hear them.

I sense that the public reading of Scripture would be infused with great meaning. Taking part in the offering would seem a privilege. The hymns would be sacred to us. The preaching of the Word would be a solemn re-

sponsibility not only for me to give but for the congregation to receive.

You get the idea. And what would bring it all alive? The simple awareness of the presence of Christ among us!

However, having our Lord physically attend our service would create a problem for the rest of the churches not only here in town but also around the world. The excitement we sensed would be missed by those who live elsewhere unless, of course, Christ could somehow be freed from the limitation of a body and by his Spirit be present in all churches.

Isn't this what our Lord had in mind when he said something like, "It's to your advantage that I go away; otherwise, the Spirit, my Spirit, wouldn't be free to come and do his work."

But if Christ has released the Spirit on earth, does that mean that our living Lord is no longer present when his body gathers in this sanctuary or the one down the street? Not at all! He *is* here with us as truly as he is with other congregations that honor his name. In fact, were he to reveal himself in his resurrected body, he wouldn't be any more *with* us than

he already is by his Spirit. That is an awesome truth!

Lord in our midst

Conversely, how sad it is if we see the gathering of Jesus' Church as nothing more than the gathering of humans. So fix in your minds this marvelous truth that *our Lord is in the midst of his Body, and when we see the unseen Christ our lives are transformed.* "And when I turned," writes John in Revelation, "I saw seven golden lampstands, and among the lampstands was someone 'like a son of man'" (Rev. 1:12-13).

Would his presence make any appreciable difference in what normally happens?

My prayer has been: O God, give us a vision like that of the apostle John. Enable church custodians to whistle with joy in the routine of getting the facilities ready for our Regal Guest. Help the teachers prepare early and diligently because the King has promised to be present when even two or three gather in his name.

Help Scripture readers and ushers do their work sensing the privilege of helping worshipers adore Christ. Aid soloists and choir members to rehearse well and to do their best to merit his approval. Be near those who speak words on Christ's behalf. May we be conscious of the importance of saying what our Lord himself would say if he chose to do the preaching.

Is this just imaginary thinking?

If a given congregation received proof that Christ had bodily returned and was going to their church, everyone would say, "I'm *happy* to do my job. It's no burden at all. It's the *very least* I can do. *The King* is going to be present, you know." Am I then unrealistic to expect the same when Christ comes in his Spirit?

If I told you Christ wouldn't be here during this special Adventure, my words would be heretical—because he *is* present and *will* be. Since Christ graces our church services by his Spirit, am I therefore wrong to suggest that we view this as a most unique privilege—not one to be taken lightly? I am challenging all of us to fix our minds on the amazing truth that Christ is in the midst of his Church.

How would we respond?

Were Christ to make himself bodily visible, probably our first response would be to bow before him. Some of you would kneel. These actions are the body language of worship. To worship is to adore, laud, applaud, and magnify the name of our Lord.

By the time you get to chapter 17 in the Book of Matthew, the disciples

had become a bit accustomed to Christ. True, he did miracles, and that set him apart. But in many ways, he probably started to seem very human.

Chapter 17 begins with Christ leading Peter, James, and John to a high mountain. "There he was transfigured before them," reads the text. Listen to these words: "His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light."

You can't look at the sun very long, can you? It's too bright. That's what Christ's face was like. That's not all. "There appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus."

What an intimidating experience! The disciples knew that here were Moses and Elijah, great figures from their national past. They had come from the other world to speak with this man who was their leader.

"A bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, 'This is my son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!'"

When the disciples heard this, they fell face-down to the ground, terrified. Their actions were saying, "We're not worthy to be here. You

are someone who causes us to be filled with awe. We're frightened!"

Knowing their reaction, Jesus said in verse 7, "Don't be afraid." Then they looked up and saw no one except the Lord.

Possibly we have grown a little too accustomed to our Lord. We need to be struck anew by the wonder of who he is. We need to see him in our midst and be constantly aware of his presence in our lives.

Get ready to worship

Worship needs to be *our* response, just as it was the response of the disciples.

One of the ways the Church worships is through music. This worship music could be old hymns addressed to God, focusing on His attributes. Maybe it's modern choruses, the simple love songs that say to Christ, "We adore you; we come and lay our lives before you."

Worship can be expressed corporately when we meet together as a body, or individually, throughout the week. But it's important.

Our Spiritual Adventure involves five action steps to be done over the course of the 50 days. The first action step is to prepare your heart for meaningful worship every week. The Adult and Student Journals suggest about a dozen simple ways to prepare yourself. For example, "Get rid of things that might keep you from focusing on the unseen Christ during the worship service."

Each week you are to choose one of these suggested worship activities. Through this simple action step you should come to church with a spirit of anticipation rather than with your mind focused elsewhere. I believe this discipline will be beneficial for all of us. [See "Tennis, anyone?" on page 13.]

The preaching themes during this series will center on how seeing the unseen Christ in our midst transforms our lives. For example, when we practice the presence of Christ, we



Worship needs to be our response, just as it was the response of the disciples.



are led to lavish his love on others. Our Lord will insist on it. You know that's correct. It's consistent with what Scripture teaches.

Action Step 2 will give us a practical way to care for one another. Each week you are to show Christ's love through secret acts of kindness.

When we practice the presence of Christ, we'll want to live righteously. With him among us, we will be aware of sin and embarrassed when we fall prey to temptation. So another of the five action steps, number three, relates to reversing a self-destructive pattern.

Bring on the revival

The presence of Christ is the outstanding characteristic of all times of authentic revival. During such periods of awakening in the Church, it's as though the veil that normally hides the Lord is drawn back and people see him, not totally, but more fully than what they've been accustomed to. They feel most privileged.

And I'm praying that in a small way we will sense what we read about in Revelation 5, where the 24 elders fall before the Lamb and sing a new song:

"You are worthy... because you were slain,

and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation....

Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!"

Worship has consistently marked past times of revival in the Church. Here's an example from C.L. Culpepper's book, *The Shantung Revival*:

Another result of the revival [Shantung, China, 1932-33] was a continual singing of the people. They put songs and other scriptures to music. Old people who could not read or write memorized the songs and sang with their eyes closed, their bodies swaying to the rhythm of the melody and tears of joy running down their cheeks.

God had taken away their sorrow and given them a new song. I saw that many old women who could not carry a tune were filled with the Spirit, singing a melody that seemed to come from an angel of heaven.

One of the greatest personal blessings which I received from

the revival was the wonderful spirit in the worship services. Entire congregations bowed in silent meditation for several minutes, and the atmosphere became charged with spiritual power. Suddenly someone would begin to pray and praise God. As long as an hour would pass before

the speaker would speak.

Conviction became so evident that the preacher would simply give an opportunity for anyone who wished to accept Christ to come forward, and there was always some response, often in large groups. I knew it was the natural result of a spirit of worship and adoration which followed revival.

The ordinances also became more meaningful. One missionary commented, "I was never so blessed in my life as when taking the Lord's Supper with Spirit-filled Chinese brothers and sisters in Christ."

It was not unusual to see people in tears during the observance. As one young widow told a missionary, "My eyes were streaming tears all the time. It wasn't that I was sad or glad; it was simply that I was broken before the Lord."

Baptism took on new meaning. Unbelievers, witnessing the baptisms, often came under deep conviction. Invitations were frequently given and conversions resulted. I realized I had never fully understood the meaning of worship until I saw the Spirit of God renewing the hearts of His people.²

My prayer is that we will be touched in a special way by the same Lord, and that we will know revival in our churches as well. May it be so. **SR**

Dr. David R. Mains is CEO of Mainstay Resources, Wheaton, Ill.

¹Gerhard Tersteegen, tr. John Wesley, "Lo, God Is Here!" in *The Christian Book of Mystical Verse*, ed. A.W. Tozer (Harrisburg, PA: Christian Publications, Inc., 1963), p. 62.

²C.L. Culpepper, *The Shantung Revival*, pp. 66-67, cited in *The Sense of His Presence* by David Mains (Dallas: Word, 1988), pp. 48-49.

Service is a choice

by John White



The reason Peter gives for the urgent nature of loving is that "love covers over a multitude of sins." This indicates that genuine love is continually covering sin. What does this mean?

"Cover"—overlooks, ignores, hides. It is to bear another's discourtesies, faults, mistakes, failings, tactlessness, offenses, weaknesses—whatever rubs us wrong, the sharp edges.

In 1 Peter 4:8-11, the apostle Peter addresses the subject of how we should live until Christ returns. By his words, "The end of all things is near" (4:7), Peter directs our eyes toward the coming, unseen Christ and urges us to behave as if we could literally see him in our midst right now.

As we see the unseen Christ, this captivating vision will transform us into a body that serves him with gratitude and eagerness.

"Lucas, Spielberg and Stallone—watch out! The sequel of all the centuries is coming soon! No, it's not *Rocky XII* or... *Superman LX* nor... *Jaws 3-D*. It's not even another returning Jedi... it's *The Return of Jesus!*

"This full-length spectacular is guaranteed to break all box-office records (actually, it'll break all box offices). This sequel isn't reel fiction, it's real truth. It was scripted, cast, directed and produced by the Creator Himself, and no one can match His special effects!

"The Messiah is coming again, and everyone will see him. If you missed the first coming, don't miss the second. There won't be a third."

[Adapted from a tract by Susan Perlman, "The Sequel to End All Sequels," *Jews for Jesus*.]

Yes, Jesus Christ is coming again, and everyone will see him. When that happens, things won't be the same.

What if it were possible to see the unseen Christ now? What changes would take place in our church and in our lives? Believers would begin to worship him with genuine enthusiasm, lavish his love on others, and embrace righteousness and renounce evil.

The gist of Peter's word to us in the next few verses is that when churches see the unseen Christ, believers *will serve him with gratitude and eagerness*. Let's look at some of the transformations that this captivating vision of Christ will make in our church.

•When we see the unseen Christ, we'll serve him with intense love for others (4:8).

We will love "deeply." That word means to stretch or strain. It's a love that reaches out like a runner stretching to break the tape. The idea is of strenuous, intense activity.

Paul defined love as keeping "no record of wrongs" (1 Cor. 13:5). One writer shares, "We bear with each other because we know our own failings... To cover a multitude calls for a greater strain than to cover a few."

I recall an early ministry experience when I was paired with another single guy to share an apartment. We were of opposite personalities, so I began to pray that God would "sand off" any potential sharp edges to our relationship and produce love in my heart, even before we were together.

As my intense prayers continued through the weeks, I grew in respect

Five Action Steps

- 1 — Prepare your heart for meaningful worship
- 2 — Show Christ's love through secret acts
- 3 — Reverse a self-destructive pattern
- 4 — Live a lighthouse lifestyle
- 5 — Converse with Christ about life at its best



and love, and truly experienced Peter's point in this verse.

Close your eyes and look at Jesus for a moment. Who is he bringing to your mind that needs your fervent love? Ask Jesus what he wants you to do about it.

•When we see the unseen Christ, we will gladly practice hospitality (4:9).

We should literally, "love strangers"; in this case, Christian strangers ("one another").

In Peter's day, many were cut off from their families by persecution. Many believers were traveling evangelists, and the only inns were filthy and dangerous.

Peter qualifies the love: "without complaint"—no grumbling, murmuring. A mark of a serving church is its hospitality.

A Wycliffe missionary wrote, "When I was first married, I equated hospitality with entertaining. This hampered me and made hospitality burdensome.

"When I quit thinking of entertaining people and began to think of

simply caring for and enjoying them, I felt new freedom and spontaneity. I saw hospitality as a basic attitude."

Close your eyes and look at Jesus again. Are there some "strangers" with whom you could practice hospitality? Confess any attitude of complaint in serving Jesus in this way.

•When we see the unseen Christ, he will supply the strength we need to serve (4:10-11).

The Bible says that all believers are gifted to serve Christ and others ("charisma"). Therefore, we must choose to serve ("use" those gifts).

When we serve, we are good stewards of his manifold (many-colored, every color of grace to fit every color of need) grace. Whether we serve with speaking gifts or serving gifts, God supplies what is required, so the glory will be His.

As we become more aware of Christ among us (as we see the unseen Christ), this captivating vision will transform us into a body that serves him with gratitude and eagerness.

Care is right between prayer and share and is so important. It might mean sending a note of encouragement, shoveling someone's driveway, or sharing some of the produce from your garden or a loaf of fresh-baked bread.

You might offer to take an elderly friend to the doctor, offer to baby-sit for a young couple who desperately needs a night out, or volunteer to help a co-worker complete a task.

The opportunities are endless, and the unseen Christ will reveal them to us as we let him take control of our lives.

Jean Frederic Oberlin, a minister in 18th century Germany, was traveling by foot in winter when he was caught in a severe snowstorm. He soon lost his way in the blowing snow and feared he would freeze to death.



Whether we serve with speaking gifts or serving gifts, God supplies what is required, so the glory will be His.

In despair he sat down, not knowing which way to turn. Just then, a man came along in a wagon and rescued Oberlin. He took him to the next village and made sure he would be cared for.

As the man prepared to journey on, Oberlin said, "Tell me your name so that I may at least have you in grateful remembrance before God."

The man, who by now had recognized Oberlin, replied, "You are a minister. Please tell me the name of the Good Samaritan."

Oberlin said, "I cannot do that, for it is not given in the Scriptures." His benefactor responded, "Until you can tell me his name, please permit me to withhold mine."

Serve the Lord and others with gratitude and eagerness. **SR**

Dr. John White serves as Director of Foundation Development at Mainstay Ministries, Wheaton, Ill.

Eight weekly themes for the 50-Day Adventure

- Worship Him with genuine enthusiasm
- Lavish His love on others
- Embrace righteousness and renounce evil
- Serve Him with gratitude and eagerness
- Surrender to the truth of God's Word
- Experience the privilege of authentic prayer
- Delight in introducing Him to others
- Celebrate God's gift of life at its best

Prayer that pleases God

by Roger D. Haber

Whenever I answer the phone and there's too much silence, I know a computer has dialed my number and I am about to talk with a telemarketer.

Now, I'm sure telemarketers are wonderful people, just doing their job. But they seem to always call when I'm having dinner with the family. I usually hang up. I really don't listen to telemarketers.

However, when someone I know and love calls, I drop everything and listen intently.

What happens when you "call" God? Does He hang up? Does He say, "Not interested"? Or does He know someone has called who knows and loves Him? Does He listen intently?

Let's look at Luke 18:9-14, and see how the unseen Christ responded to the prayers of two people. One prayed words; the other prayed a heart prayer that pleased God.

Prayer that pleases God has very little to do with religious position or experience.

The Pharisee was a religious man. He knew God's Word. He just didn't know God.

What happens when you "call" God? Does He hang up? Does He say, "Not interested"? Or does He know someone has called who knows and loves Him? Does He listen intently?

He behaved correctly. He just didn't believe correctly. He was a proud, arrogant man.

He didn't sin (so he thought). He fasted and tithed. His problem: He didn't have authentic prayer, and God ignored his empty words.

Prayer that pleases God has very much to do with the heart and attitude.

The tax collector was most likely dishonest, despised, and dejected. One wonders what he was doing at the temple anyway.



He couldn't even look toward heaven like the Pharisee. He pointed his eyes at his shoes and beat his chest in humble sorrow. He did not use long, flowery words. He simply spoke his heart.

He demonstrated an attitude that reflects total dependence on God. He simply said, "God be merciful to me, for I am a sinner."

Prayer that pleases God brings a smile to His face and cleansing to our lives.

After the Pharisee's prayer, this religious man probably walked away feeling pretty good about himself, while God grieved for him.

After the tax collector prayed, he left the temple also. Maybe there was joy. Maybe he didn't feel differently at all. But God was smiling. God heard his prayer.

God was pleased with the tax collector's prayer. God cleansed his heart and lifted him up. That's what Jesus said!

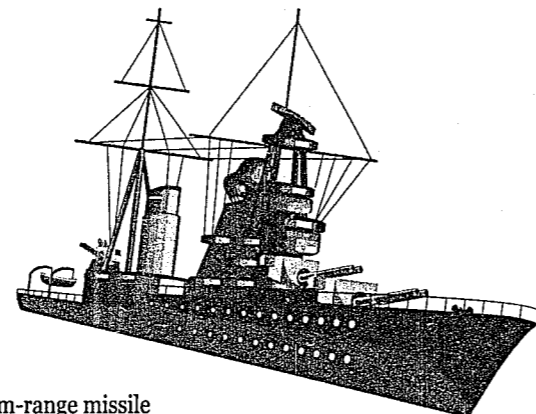
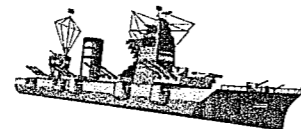
How will God respond the next time you pray? "Not interested." Click. Or, "That's great, child; I love to hear from someone who knows and loves Me and speaks from a heart that longs for Me even more." **SR**

Rev. Roger Haber pastors the Bridgeway Community Church in Carol Stream, Ill.



Brinkmanship

by Keith Wooden



It is October 14th, and the sun is reflecting mirages of water on an Air Force base runway in southern Florida.

The silence of the scene is interrupted as a long-winged plane touches down on the runway and taxis to the hanger. A thousand planes a day go through this same routine, but this one plane's payload is different from all the others.

Its payload is just a few rolls of film, but the information on that film would shape the events of the world. It could shift the balance of power in the world.

The film is transported to a top-secret laboratory and developed. It is

had placed medium-range missile silos in Cuba. These missiles were capable of reaching strategic targets throughout the United States.

The risk of world conflict hadn't reached this level since World War II, and it involved the two greatest superpowers in the world. The presi-

We braced our hearts for what was to come. President Kennedy ordered an immediate naval and air blockade of Cuba.

Premier Khrushchev decided he would test this young president's fabric. He would challenge this nation's resolve. He would confront the standard of our convictions. The Soviet ships sailed on toward Cuba.

The world held its breath in nervous anticipation as hours crept by and ships grew closer to one another.

A game of "chicken"

As kids we played a little game. We called it "chicken." The object was to see who would "flinch" when challenged.

In national politics, you call it "brinkmanship." Brinkmanship is the willingness to expose oneself to risk, to press the limits of safety for a cause. It is walking the tightrope of disaster.

The Soviets were going to press the boundary, walk the line, and see just how much they could get away with.

The Soviet ships were 100 yards

then sent to the Pentagon and on to the Oval Office in the White House. dent moved decisively, ordering Premier Khrushchev to halt all further deliveries of weapons and to immediately dismantle the missile sites.

The public gets the news

A broadcast to the American people let us know the gravity of the situation. The president said, "This secret, swift, extraordinary buildup of communist weapons is a deliberate and unjustifiable challenge to our national security, and it will not be accepted."

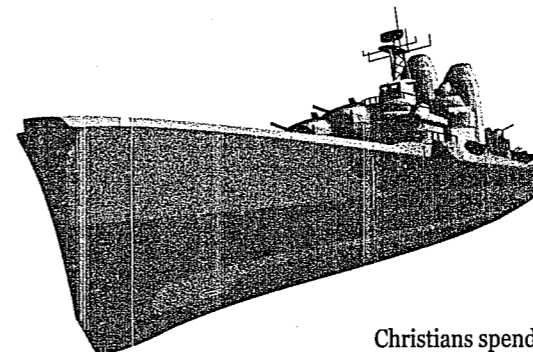
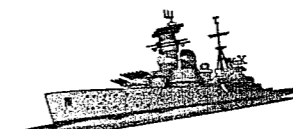
then sent to the Pentagon and on to the Oval Office in the White House.

Immense decision

The year is 1962, and a young president, John F. Kennedy, just 44 years old, sits at the desk. The decision he makes moves the armies of the most powerful nation in the world. The crisis he faces is one of immense proportions.

The photos taken were from a U2 reconnaissance aircraft. One picture in particular revealed that the Soviets

Brinkmanship is the willingness to expose oneself to risk, to press the limits of safety for a cause. It is walking the tightrope of disaster.



rifies us from all sin." It is this fact that makes us holy before God.

True freedom

It's exciting to be able to have a vitality that exists when we feel the freedom of souls that are free of sin—free of encumbrance, free of guilt, free of condemnation—all because we believe in the power of the blood that was shed at Calvary.

In the words of Robert Lowry's hymn (written in the 1800s) we can feel the real sense of joy and elation:

*What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
Oh precious is the flow,
That makes me white as snow.
No other fount I know,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.*

Have you been playing the game of spiritual brinkmanship, walking

Christians spend the first six days of each week sowing their wild oats, then they go to church and pray for a crop failure."

Faithful or flirting?

There is a myth that exists that says we can live comfortably in our world of faith and then flirt with the world. God calls us to another standard.

away from our American ships. Our Navy was on full battle alert with orders to stop the Russians at all costs.

Some of us recall those moments as people were glued to radios and TVs to see who would flinch, who would fire, or what the world would look like in this latest age of nuclear war.

With just feet to spare—at the brink of disaster and destruction—the Soviets turned.

Spiritual brinkmanship

This incident in world history has a living parallel in our daily lives. Many are involved in a dangerous game of *spiritual* brinkmanship.

We walk the very boundary of sin in our lifestyle. Balancing precariously, we move toward the cliff's edge. Dangling our toes over the abyss, we tempt the fall. We struggle with bad habits that become self-destructive patterns. At the same time, we are saying, "Oh, don't worry about me; it's okay, I'm a Christian."

We tempt the fate of disobedience to God's call to righteousness. It is as Fred Allen once quipped, "Some

This incident in world history has a living parallel in our daily lives. Many are involved in a dangerous game of spiritual brinkmanship.

Throughout Scripture, and in various ways, God says, "Be holy as I am holy."

First John has something to say to those of us who want to practice spiritual brinkmanship. 1 John 1:5-7 helps us to reverse a self-destructive pattern.

The final result of walking in the light is most precious. Verse 7b says, "And the blood of Jesus, his Son, pu-

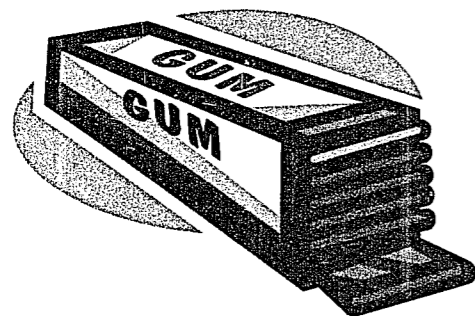
on the edge of the light? There is no peace there.

God desires you to walk in the light as He is in the light. He is there to help. Will you step into the light today? **SR**

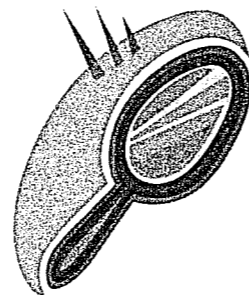
Rev. Keith Wooden pastors the Ovid Community Church in Anderson, Ind.



Chewing gum



OK



mirror?

by Bill Richardson

Do you enjoy a stick of chewing gum from time to time? I do, particularly when I'm traveling. Chewing gum offers a quick, refreshing break for people on the go.

The sweet taste lasts but a few minutes, and then it's gone. It refreshes the mouth, but it doesn't sustain us for the long haul. It is flavorful but not filling.

We don't eat chewing gum but enjoy it while the flavor lasts and then discard it.

Unfortunately, as Christians, we often handle God's Word like we do chewing gum. We come to the Word for something new, something sweet we can enjoy for a while. Then when the newness wears off, we discard it and look for something else.

Rather than allowing the Word to change us, we simply want

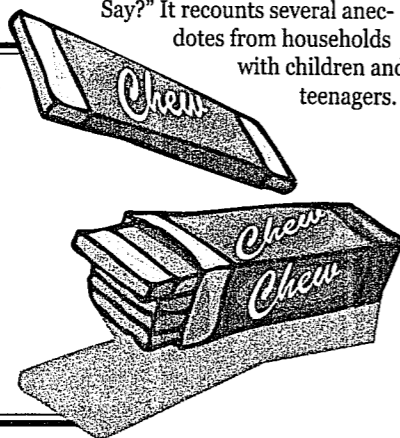
something that will leave a "nice taste" in our mouths.

The Book of James tells us that the Word of God is not something to be tasted and discarded, but is like a mirror to our souls. When we act on what we see and hear, we allow the Word to do its transforming work.

When we approach the Word not simply as a book—but as a personal conversation with the unseen Christ—our lives are changed and blessed beyond measure. James helps us to understand the difference between *listening that deceives* and *listening that makes a difference*.

Listening that deceives (James 1:22-24)

Recently the *Chicago Tribune* ran an article entitled "What Did I Just Say?" It recounts several anecdotes from households with children and teenagers.



We come to the Word for something new, something sweet we can enjoy for a while. Then when the newness wears off, we discard it and look for something else.

Your 3-year-old child pokes his sibling. "That's not nice. We don't do that." The child pokes his sister again. You shout, "Didn't I just tell you not to poke your sister?" Your child gives you a blank look as he continues irritating his sister.

The second scenario involves a teenage girl on-line with four instant message conversations going on at once. You ask her to clean her room, and she mumbles she will do it in a minute.

An hour later, the room hasn't been touched. She is sure you never told her to clean her room. Parents complain that children and teenagers seem to hear their parents' orders as "kind of a suggestion."

The author's point is that parents need to state their directions clearly, not equivocating or giving suggestions or options. She feels that children and teenagers will be more likely to follow these clear commands.

The author has a point, but from my experience as a parent, I think frequently children simply do not want to hear and obey the direction.

I remember a time when our son, Dan, was about 18 months old, and he was throwing vegetables off his high chair onto the floor. His mother said, "Don't throw your peas on the floor." He continued the game. She

repeated, "Stop throwing your peas on the floor." He looked up and suddenly clapped his hands over his ears.

He was saying, "I don't want to hear what you have to say because I want to continue throwing food on the floor." His mother followed up by taking his little hands and gently pulling them from his ears and giving the direction again.

God's Word is quite clear. He does not give suggestions but only commands, as Corrie ten Boom was fond of saying. We deceive ourselves if we insist that His commands are unclear or stubbornly put our hands over our ears, refusing to hear and obey the truth He offers.

Listening that makes a difference (v. 25)

Listening that makes a difference is listening based on looking closely at the mirror of God's Word and doing what it says. This passage says that when we do this, freedom and blessing will be ours.

The author of *The Cloud of Unknowing*, a Christian classic, says it this way:

In this context, God's Word whether written or spoken may be compared to a mirror. Spiritually, the eyes of your soul are your reason, and your consciousness is your spiritual face. And just as it is so that if you have a dirty spot on your physical face your eyes cannot see that spot nor know where it is without a mirror or someone else to tell you so; so it is spiritually in the same way that without reading or hearing God's word it is not possible for a soul blinded by habitual sin to see the foul spot upon his consciousness.

Are you working on reversing a self-destructive pattern? I hope so. Is there something in your life that God has spoken to you about before? Is He speaking to you just now about some pattern that brings bondage

cont. next page

Tennis, anyone?



Think sports for a moment.... Pick a sport you enjoy playing. Any sport will do, but let's suppose that you are an enthusiastic tennis player. Imagine this scenario: It's Monday. At 4:30 p.m. you dash out your office door to the car, rev it up and move it out to join the thundering herd heading homeward.

You, however, are going to make a lifestyle difference from the herd. You are going to stop for exercise on the way home.

As you navigate traffic, you're taking off your tie. At one stoplight, you slip off your black leather shoes. At the next one, on go the white tennis shoes.

By the time you swoop down into the tennis court parking lot (going about 45 mph), a metamorphosis has taken place. You're dressed like a lean, mean tennis pro!

But your mind is still back at the office. You jog over to the court, greet your partner, skip the warm-up, break out a new can of balls, elect to serve first, and begin the match immediately.

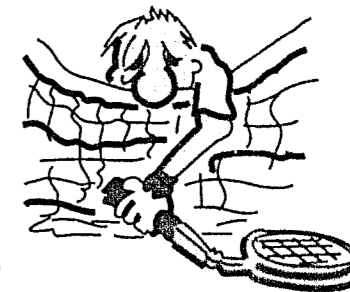
What happens to your game when you approach it this way? Disaster! Your feet are sluggish, your eyes are unfocused, and your mind is still wandering just like your tennis balls, which are spraying everywhere but between those little white lines.

Has your approach to corporate worship been at all similar to that? Determined to make a lifestyle difference you dash to church for a hour or two of worship. Beforehand, you and your spouse have a mild lack of agreement. The kids, up late the night before, are slow and cranky.

Late and agitated, you swoop into the church parking lot, run to church, try to resolve your spousal dispute in subdued voices underneath the organ prelude—and then you wonder why your mind wanders throughout the service.

As in sports, worship is a discipline in which there are not substitutes for time and practice. To be any good at it, we need to take time to prepare with our whole being—body, mind, soul.

—John Garmo, *Lifestyle Worship*
Thomas Nelson, 1993,
pp. 158-159





into your life?

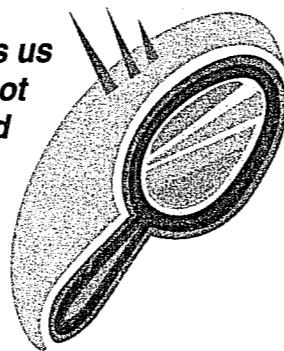
Ask God to show you some Scripture that applies to this area of bondage and then memorize it. In that process of memorization—of immersing yourself in God's Word—believe that He will reverse this self-destructive pattern.

When we come to the Word of God, we come before the very living, loving, divine person of Christ himself, who is invisible to our eyes but very present to our souls.

James reminds us that listening isn't really listening unless we are listening to obey. It's not good enough simply to hear the Word of God that we might "consider" what it says, but we must hear the Word of God with the unadulterated resolve to "do" it.

A chewing-gum approach to the

The Book of James tells us that the Word of God is not something to be tasted and discarded, but is like a mirror to our souls. When we act on what we see and hear, we allow the Word to do its transforming work.



Word is falsely satisfying. James tells us that it is only when we see the Word of God as a mirror to our souls that real change occurs.

True listening involves more than hearing—it requires *doing* what we hear. The defining question is, "What

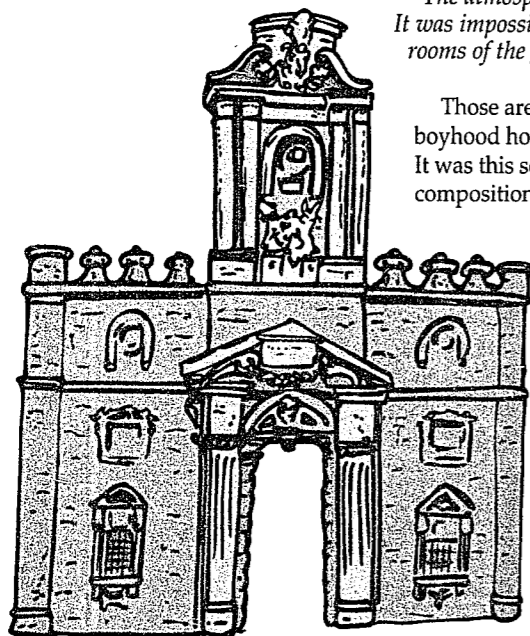
are you going to do about what the unseen Christ has told you?" **SR**

Rev. Bill Richardson is Director of Anchor Pastor Development for Mainstay Church Resources.

Invited to be with Royalty

From the composer of the worship song, "Majesty"—

"The atmosphere was impregnated with an ennobling air of royalty! It was impossible to be there and not to feel a sense of destiny in the rooms of the giant castle."



Those are my own words, describing my visit to Churchill's boyhood home at Blenheim Palace, in Oxfordshire, England. It was this setting which ignited thoughts resulting in the composition of the song "Majesty."

What began as a look at history and the way one man was raised to influence it so dramatically, grew into this thought: Environment ennobles, creating a sense of personal significance.

I was thinking of how Churchill's early home life in such a regal setting would have contributed to his own perspective on himself. Then my thought leaped to the fact that we are daily invited to walk and talk with royalty.

Suddenly I was stirred. Majesty! HIS majesty, whom I worship, not only welcomes my fellowship, but wants to infuse my life with purpose and power as I bow in His presence!

—Jack Hayford, Moments With Majesty Multnomah, 1990, p. 19



Women's Society page by Laura Price

A call for contributions

Dear Women (young and/or mature),

No, I'm not seeking any lucre from you, but something far more valuable—your thoughts and insights!

As the new "editaire" of the *Sabbath Recorder's* Women's Society page, I am delighted to have the opportunity to write for you (as well as for any of the men who peruse our page). However, I do welcome and encourage you ladies out there to send in any interesting articles you run across. I am interested in any copyright-free or permission-from-author material that you find worthwhile and would like to see printed in the *SR*.

Perhaps you are inspired to pen some of your own thoughts about things—from the trivial (i.e., a paper clip), to the profound (i.e., a paper clip), to everything in between (i.e., a paper clip).

Now let's not dismiss the paper clip idea! I'm *certain* that there are those of you out there who are creative or insightful enough to come up with some story involving a paper clip; a tale that could relate some simple or thought-provoking message.

I am interested in your personal thoughts in the form of letters, essays, anecdotes, questions, opinions, poetry, or songs—whether comprised of a few words or a few pages of words.

For us to get better acquainted, I urge you to share locally, nationally, and internationally. This will help bring us closer together as we learn of our similarities and differences. And by keeping "connected," we can support each other through loving communication and edify one another—God willing. I am interested

I am interested in your personal thoughts in the form of letters, essays, anecdotes, questions, opinions, poetry, or songs—whether comprised of a few words or a few pages of words.

in hearing from you *all*.

"For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many" (1 Cor. 12:13-14).

"That there should be no schism [division] in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it. Now ye are the body of Christ, and members individually" (1 Cor. 12:25-27).

So, for all you wonderfully diverse individuals out there, here is a call to send in some of your thoughts and insights. I know you have some worthwhile ideas. Why not share them with the rest of us? Besides, I would like to have the opportunity to actually "edit" and not exclusively author!

I will happily consider anything submitted and, when the occasion allows, print it. I would appreciate



any participation.

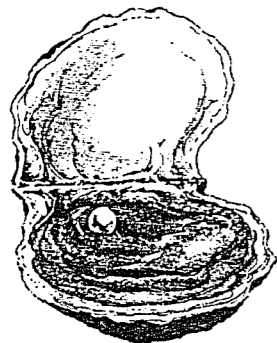
In His Love,
Laura

You can send materials to:
SDB Women's Page
c/o Laura Price
539 SR 100
Palatka, FL 32177

Or e-mail: theeliza94@mac.com
I do not check my e-mail everyday!
For any submitted materials you wish to have returned, please send a SASE with the appropriate postage.

*"Just one life 'twill soon be past
Only what's done for
Christ will last."*

—Quoted from Old Paths Tract Society, contributed by Alfreda Hull, Daytona Beach, Fla.



Pearls from the Past by Don A. Sanford, historian

Change in the weather

Such housing gave practical shelter for the winter months until more permanent homes could be erected in the spring and summer. But hope was delayed in the spring of 1873. Elder Oscar Babcock's son, Edwin, later wrote about this harrowing experience. And nearly 100 years later, information from his writings appeared in *The Ord Quiz*, a local newspaper:

"It being April 12, it was warm, pleasant and sunny and 'fair as May.' Farmers in the North Loup Valley were busy that day planting their early potatoes and gardens. This being the first year for those immigrants from Wisconsin, they spent the day thinking 'what an even climate' and marveling at how different it was from their former home state of Wisconsin. There were no storms. There was no need for sleds as there had been no snow nor awful drifts. It did indeed appear as a land of perpetual sunshine.

"Each morning the sounds of saws and hammers could be heard as workers began construction of the first permanent house of the town. It was under the direction of the Rev. Oscar Babcock, and was to serve as his home, the post

office, church, court room and county judge's office.

"Toward evening a gentle mist from the north began to come down. The people however were happy about this for it was just what the gardens and grass were needing."

The newspaper then printed this account of the Babcocks' experience with the storm:

"Morning seemed to come and wakefulness, but still the darkness brooded over all. He [Elder Oscar Babcock] struck a match and, finding out it was 7 a.m., he sprang from his bed and looked out the window and found nothing but a pane of white.

"He opened the door but beyond was nothing more than a wall of snow. Edwin remembers his father 'thrusting out his good right arm but the snow wall stopped it like a wall of stone.' He then took a poker and a butcher knife and slowly burrowed a hole through to the blinding, raging storm.

"The wet, gale-driven snow filled ears and eyes, clung to their lashes, beards and hair. His father

cont. on page 26



SR Almanac

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

One hundred and thirty years ago a group of Seventh Day Baptists in Central Wisconsin formed a Colonization Association. Its purpose was to find suitable land for resettlement "to give such of our people as observe the Seventh Day of the week as the Sabbath the opportunity to settle together for the purpose of convenience, as well as to avoid molesting others who differ in religious faith."

A Locating Committee was formed to explore government or railroad land in the West that might offer more favorable soil for farming than the sandy earth of Waushara County.

Most of the members of that Association had already experienced family migrations. Traveling from New England into Central New York, they had settled in Persia, in the snowbelt area near Buffalo. Several families later settled on the rich Rock Prairie near Milton, Wis. But that land was too expensive, so they purchased cheaper land in Central Wisconsin.

After the Civil War, talk turned toward moving to greener pastures to the south and west. Elder Oscar Babcock was the chairman of that Colonization Association which chose the Loup River in Nebraska as their "promised land."

In April 1872, the first migration took place. Since there were few trees on the prairie, many of the families lived in "dugouts" carved from the banks. Oscar Babcock's home was 14 feet square, with the opening shielded by a sod wall that had one window and a wooden door. A length of pipe that extended up through the dirt roof served as a chimney.



This sketch of Elder Oscar Babcock's "dug out" was used on a 1921 cover of "The Bulletin," quarterly newsletter of the North Loup, Neb., SDB Church.

One year ago—February 2000

The 50-Day Adventure theme invites readers to "Celebrate Jesus" and to turn their homes into "Lighthouses of Prayer."

Pastor John Conrod writes about "a royal priesthood and church polity."

Johnmark Camenga shares his SCSC memories from Daytona Beach, Fla.; Aubrey Appel covers the first-ever National Youth Retreat in Milton, Wis.

"Focus" page announces next SDB World Federation gathering to meet in Brazil in 2003.

Editor Kevin Butler shares photos and stories from the Baptist World Congress in Melbourne, Australia, and his visit with SDBs in Sydney.

Five years ago—February 1996

50-Day Spiritual Adventure is "What to Do When You Don't Know What to Do." Features come from Rick Crouch and Pastor Edgar Wheeler.

Page of Valentine tributes carries special love, and helps support the SR.

Daytona Beach hosts South Atlantic Coast Churches Day in November.

Kirk Looper reports on his trip to Haiti, accompanied by Pastors Andy Samuels and Romulus Honoré.

Lost Creek, W.Va., church adds Dennis Bond and Laurence Nida to the diaconate.

Ten years ago—February 1991

Writers open up their hearts as they share about "Death in the Family."

"Pastor Jus Start," on the Board of Christian Education page, explains his concept of the Sabbath as the third sacrament.

Leon Lawton recaps first Missionary Society journey to SDB ministries in Finland and Estonia.

Report of reconciliation in the Philippines shared by Gabriel Bejjani and Rodney Henry following their trip there.

South Atlantic churches gather for first general meeting.

25 years ago—February 1976

For her speech, "My Responsibility to Freedom," Elaine Rymer of the Riverside, Calif., SDB Church wins the George Washington Medal from the Freedoms Foundation of Valley Forge, Pa.

Eight SDB ministerial students gather in Nortonville, Kan., for a New Year's retreat.

Charles Swing, pastor at DeRuyter, N.Y., writes on the fourth Beatitude.

Historian Thomas Merchant presents the "Who, what, why of Conference Standing Committees."

Tract Society converts to "cold-type" typesetting equipment. The February SR is the first one run on the new "Compuwriter IV."

50 years ago—February 1951

Conference President Alton Wheeler asks, "Are you a contributor to the church or a steward of God?"

Rev. Melvin Nida named as new editor of *The Helping Hand*.

Alfred Station, N.Y., church agrees to provide assistance to the Alfred church in hosting General Conference in August.

New missionary workers to New Zealand—Rev. and Mrs. Emmett Bottoms—are commissioned at the West-erly, R.I., church.

Historical marker placed at the site of the old West Hallock SDB Church (near Edelstein, Ill.) on the 100th anniversary of its founding.

...where are we headed?

Pray for—

- World Federation Conferences and churches
- the work of our regional Associations
- Executive Secretary Dr. Pete May
- your diaconate members
- those who have recently lost loved ones
- our publishing ministries
- Conference meetings in Lindsborg, Kan.



Questions help in education process

Questions are an important part of education. Teachers use them to discern what students have already learned. Good teachers use questions to help students think things through and discover new ways of thinking. Yet, asking is not the only way to use questions in Christian Education.

After God took Moses from Israel, Joshua led the people. They crossed into the Promised Land. As they crossed the river, Joshua told 12 men to pick up stones from the middle of the dry path. These stones were set up as a monument to the action of God for the people of Israel. The purpose: to make children ask questions.

"Let this be a sign among you, so that when your children ask later, saying, 'What do these stones mean to you?' then you shall say to them, 'Because the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord; when it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off.' So these stones shall become a memorial to the sons of Israel forever" (Joshua

4:6-7, NASB update).

God told the Children of Israel to create a situation that caused their children to ask questions. Jesus used a cursed fig tree to help the disciples

Teacher of the Year. Each member church of the General Conference may nominate one teacher. The following criteria will be used for the 16th annual *Crystal Apple* award:

As questions are asked, may we be ready to provide guidance toward a better understanding of and relationship with God.

ask him important questions (Mark 11:20ff).

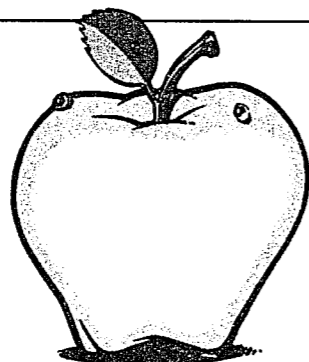
We can use what Jesus and the Children of Israel used. Let us create situations that will intrigue our children and adults. As questions are asked, may we be ready to provide guidance toward a better understanding of and relationship with God.

The Sabbath School Committee of the Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education is seeking nominations for the next Sabbath School

- Is a member in good standing of the nominating church
- Exhibits the qualities of faith and teaching found in the life and teaching of Christ
- Currently serves as a Sabbath School teacher

The local church pastor and superintendent are asked to complete, sign, and return the form certifying the nominee's church membership, present teaching position, previous teaching experience, unique teaching skills or practices, and other Christian Education service. The post-marked deadline is June 30, 2001.

The Board is seeking nominees whose teaching skills have contributed to the Christian conversion and nurture of our people. The Board understands that it is not possible to recognize and honor every worthy teacher. Nevertheless, we wish to honor one such teacher on behalf of all our Sabbath School teachers. We urge the local church to annually recognize all of their teachers. **SR**



**2000
Crystal Apple
Recipient**

**Esther Burdick
Waterford, CT**



Burundi

Burundi, a small African country just south of Rwanda, has been the scene of wars similar to those in Rwanda and Uganda. The movement of the Hutus and Tutsis has caused a lot of unrest, and several area individuals have contacted us requesting help.

However, only recently have we found someone who is willing to go the "extra mile"—to organize individuals into a group that will help register and develop our denomination in Burundi. That contact, Pastor Nduwayo Gilbert, is willing to meet with anyone interested in forming a church based on Seventh Day Baptist beliefs.

Last July, I told Pastor Gilbert about the trials that a couple of our African Conferences and churches went through because they were not registered. They decided to get the church registered in Burundi. To do this they needed to get papers in order and tie up several other loose ends. This was an expensive procedure, but they willingly sold many of their possessions in order to comply with Burundian government regulations.

We appreciate the willingness of these Burundi SDBs to sacrifice for their organization and look forward to seeing them work with the government. Let us hope that this money was not spent in vain.

We recently received a letter from Pastor Gilbert telling us that "God has performed miracles and the papers are registered at the notary." However, as in all African countries, they are expected to fulfill other requirements to gain full registration, which will cost almost \$2,000. This is the first big financial requirement to confront them.

The Ministry for Home Affairs and Public Security asked the fledging SDB group to show a "program booklet" as well as house rules. This literature—a Manual of Procedures and a statement of belief—can readily be sent to them, but the financial requirement is not as easy to gather. We hope that several churches will help raise these funds. If you are interested in contributing, please let us know. They need the funds before the end of February.

In December 2000, we received a message alleging that Adventists bribed the local government to deny organization status to the SDB church in Burundi. This was disappointing to the members, but they still are determined to get the status they need to begin reaching out. Let us pray that the work of Satan being done through these dissidents will soon be vanquished, and that the work of the Lord will continue forward.

Ghana

It was so wonderful to receive good news from Pastor S.O. Tetteh, Executive Secretary of the Seventh Day Baptist Churches in Ghana.

In a fax, he expressed joy at receiving secondhand clothing and other items over the past few months. He also expressed thanks for the funds sent from those in the U.S.A. and Canada.

Pastor Tetteh assured me that \$100 went to the Women's Society, as directed by the donor. Bibles and supplies were purchased to help in the crusades that they hold throughout the year. They are so grateful to those who are willing to share their blessings, enabling workers in Ghana

to reach out into their neighboring communities and villages.

The church in Ghana has made many improvements in spreading the Gospel, and will soon open their second branch at Russia Town in Accra. They continue to invite churches that share SDB beliefs to come and join them in an associational relationship. By God's grace, they have made headway in this area.

The Ghana group looks forward to the time when they have enough churches to meet as a Conference and can establish their own Manual of Procedures and beliefs. Let us pray that this time is close at hand. Presently, they are using the Manual of Procedures supplied by the United States and Canada Conference.

The leaders there would like to attend the SDB General Conference meetings in the United States to get an idea about how to conduct their Conference meetings. **SR**

Only recently have we found someone who is willing to go the "extra mile"—to organize individuals into a group that will help register and develop our denomination in Burundi.



the BEACON

Produced by the Youth Committee of the Board of Christian Education
For and by members of the SDB Youth Fellowship February 2001

A peaceful accident

by Aubrey Appel, Milton, Wis.

"And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:7).

I laughed nervously to ease my tension and looked at Peter to make sure he was okay. I sat there for what seemed like forever, taking in my new surroundings and trying to realize what had just happened.

After looking through the snow and frost-covered windshield again, I slowly pushed open the car door and peered down into two feet of snow. I must have said "Oh my goodness" 200 times as the details filtered through my senses.

Wisconsin had received a foot of snow the day before, and the roads were dangerous. I had been driving Peter home when my car hit an icy spot and spun out of control. We

landed in a soft, snowy ditch, stuck and cold.

I couldn't believe my carelessness. I hadn't been cautious driving in the snow, and now I was paying for it. As soon as my car stopped moving, people began to slow down and ask if we needed help. God certainly was watching out for us!

While we waited in the cold, dark night for a wonderful couple to pull us out of the ditch with their truck, I began to feel this overwhelming peace—a peace that was so thick that it covered me all over.

At first, I wasn't sure why I felt peace at all. I was so frightened that the car was really stuck, and that we would have to call a tow truck, and the police would come, and my dad would kill me...

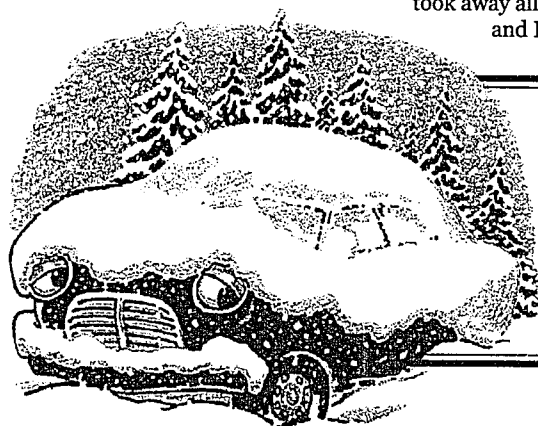
All of those things had me scared, but this blanket of peace suddenly took away all my fear, and I began to

smile. I realized that no matter what happens, God takes care of me. No matter what happened with the car, He would still love me, and life would go on.

As the peace of God took a firm hold on my heart, I began to thank God that no one had been hurt, that the car still ran, and that people were helping us. I stood there in knee-deep snow, amazed at the countless blessings God had given me in only ten minutes. I could not quite believe it.

Now, I am much more careful when I drive in snow. And I still thank God for keeping us safe that night. But the thing that I will always remember—besides being utterly embarrassed—is the peace I felt that evening. I knew, without a doubt, that God was taking extremely good care of me. He stopped my worries and let me see all that I had to be thankful for. *SR*

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The President's Page

Getting to know God

by Clayton Pinder

In my Conference theme, "TRY God," one of the areas that I would like to look at is *to know God*.

Before I could trust and follow someone in my life, I needed to know them. To know them required me to spend time with them and effort on them. I had to learn all I could about them—who they were, what they did, what they believed, how they acted. Then I could follow their teaching.

To have a friend is something very hard to come by. We have many people we know and associate with on a day-to-day basis. But, to me, a friend is someone who knows and loves you, and you know and love him. Usually, there is nothing each of you would not do for the other. There is mutual trust and integrity.

If you try God, you will find a similar relationship. Scripture tells over and over how God loves us and wants us to love Him. Psalm 25:8-10 says, "Good and upright is the Lord: Therefore, He instructs sinners in the way. He leads the humble in justice, and He teaches the humble His way."

All the paths of the Lord are loving-kindness and truth to those who keep His covenant and His testimonies."

To me, God has been dependable. He never changes; He's always there when I need Him. There isn't any problem He can't help me with. He comforts me and gives me peace. As a result, God has given me joy and the assurance that, through Him, I can do all that He wants me to do.

To me, a friend is someone who knows and loves you. Usually, there is nothing each of you would not do for the other.

I can see what the Senior Saints have done recently to help others by doing God's work. A number of "saints" traveled to Janesville,



Clayton Pinder

Wis., to help Calvin and Meleta Babcock side their house. Everyone who participated said the time was rewarding. Workers renewed friendships and made new ones as they fellowshiped, and fun was had by all. Also, a lot of work was accomplished. Isn't it great how God meets the needs of everyone?!

The Senior Saints also went to Camp Joy in Berea, W.Va. They sided the church building, which had been a landmark in the community, and put it back into shape. Many residents were pleased and impressed with the improvements. But, more importantly, they could see God's people working together to glorify Him.

To know God better, we need to allow ourselves to have more time with Him. Let's all take that time to "Try God," and get to know Him as our loving friend. *SR*

What We Must Do

1. Trust (Faith)
Ps. 25:1-2a
2. Know Him and His Covenant
Ps. 25:14-15
3. Integrity (Commitment)
Ps. 25:21, 10

What God Will Do

1. Salvation
Ps. 25: 5b-7
2. Teaching (Follow)
Ps. 25:4-5, 8-9
3. Blessings
Rom. 15:13, John 14:27, and Ps. 25:13

...and from our newsletters

New Ministry at the Goldfinch House

Some time ago, when our congregation at Marlboro began to investigate and explore new ministries in which to become involved, there was much interest in reaching out and becoming involved with the elderly.

An opportunity opened up in September at the Goldfinch House, an assisted living residence in Bridgeton. The staff and residents have graciously welcomed us one evening a month to visit and to present a

program or activity. So far, we have led hymnsings, which all seem to enjoy, with some of our congregation contributing special music selections to add to the program. We encourage all who are interested in this new ministry to contribute their ideas, gifts, and talents toward making this an interesting and enjoyable time for everyone.

—from "Marlboro Matters,"
Marlboro (Bridgeton), N.J.

Christian Education goals developed

At a teacher planning meeting held in September, the Battle Creek SDB Church developed the following Christian Education Mission Statement and Goals:

Mission Statement

To provide all ages with organized, systematic learning opportunities to bring people to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. To help them gain a better understanding of God's Word and apply it to their everyday living for the purpose of making them disciples for Christ.

Goals

(To ensure) each student has an understanding of our basic beliefs and the concept of what it means to be a covenant people. Equip them to be able to share their Christian Testimony. Help them to feel comfortable in the use of the Bible. Teach each student about the need for salvation. Help them to know and understand God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

Everyone is urged to attend Sabbath School and to get involved in a cell group as we all strive to grow in the understanding of and relationship with God and each other.

—from "The Friendly Guest," Battle Creek, Mich.

Experiencing God in Riverside

Perhaps you've heard the buzz going around at church lately about the course, *Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing the Will of God* by Henry Blackaby. Since October, 11 members of our congregation have been experiencing God in a real and fresh way.

The course requires participants to do five lessons per week. Each lesson takes about 30 to 45 minutes to complete. Then group members meet once a week for discussion, prayer, and fellowship.

Pastor Eric [Davis] will be leading another *Experiencing God* group on Sunday evenings starting in February. A second group will be held on a weekday morning for those who do not like to go out at night.

The *Experiencing God* course will lead you in a 12-unit study of the Bible to learn how to know God better, how to know when God is speaking, and how to adjust your life and ministry to God's revelation of His will.

—from "The Church Chimes,"
Riverside, Calif.

Salem to Teikyo to International

Salem-Teikyo University (Salem College from 1888 to 1989), has changed its name again, this time to Salem International University.

"The new name and new look reflect our changing student population. We now draw international students from all over the world and not just from Japan. About one-

third of our students are international and the remainder are American. Our mission and our commitment remain the same—to educate a world citizen who acquires wide knowledge without prejudice and makes decisions with an international point of view." (President Ronald Ohl)

—from "Salem Sentinel," Salem, W.Va.

Daytona holds Appreciation Day for pastor

On October 14, 2000, retired pastor Charles Graffius was chairman of this special day. Rev. John Camenga and wife Linda were invited to the front of the sanctuary. The call to worship was 1 Timothy 5:17:

"Let the leaders, who rule, be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine."

Each separate unit of the church shared their appreciation of Pastor John as their pastor, in their own individual way.

Among the musical offerings was the Camenga children trio of Faith, Grace, and JohnMark, who sang a medley of choruses they learned as a family when traveling. It was well received—in tears, love, and joy.

Some Sabbath School classes presented the pastor with gift certificates, others with a gift of their help. One couple offered their Prayer of Appreciation. The high school

Sabbath School class entertained us with a humorous skit and reminded us of the many roles that Pastor John fills in our church.

The McCall family (great grandmother to great granddaughters, seven members) sang songs, expressing their love and appreciation. Alice Wheeler offered her gift of flowers to Pastor and Linda. Appreciation of all staff was expressed with a standing ovation.

Everyone received blank certificates to be filled in with their choice of a service or gift they would extend to Pastor and Linda on October 21st. On that day, a "Thanksgiving" dinner was served in honor of the Camengas. This was well attended and several shared their appreciation and love in "after-dinner" speeches.

Pastor John expressed his family's gratefulness for the Appreciation Celebration.

—from the "Sentinel," Daytona Beach, Fla.

Denominational Dateline



- 3 TCC Core Meeting, SDB Center, Janesville, Wis.—Kevin Butler
- 3 Paint Rock, Ala.—Pete May
- 3-4 COM Meetings, Miami, Fla.—Gabe Bejjani
- 7-10 CLT and General Council meets in Daytona Beach, Fla.
- 10 Red Boiling Springs, Tenn.—Ron Elston
- 10 Decatur, Ga.—May
- 11 COSAR, Daytona—Calvin Babcock, Bejjani, Kirk Looper
- 11 Faith Fellowship, Nashville, Tenn.—Elston
- 12 SDB World Federation, Daytona—Babcock, Bejjani, Looper



- 5-6 BJCPA Executive Committee, Washington, D.C.—Butler
- 18 SDB Missionary Society Annual Meeting, Westerly, R.I.—Looper
- 18-22 Committee on Uniform Series, San Antonio, Texas—Andrew Camenga



- 17-21 SDB Pastors' Conference, Alfred Station, N.Y.
- 22 Missionary Society Quarterly Meeting, Westerly—Looper

28-29 Seventh Day Baptist Historical Society Annual Meeting, SDB Center, Janesville—Don Sanford

Key

- | | |
|---|---|
| BCE—Board of Christian Education | COSAR—Committee on Support and Retirement |
| BJCPA—Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs | SCSC—Summer Christian Service Corps |
| CLT—Coordinating Leadership Team | TCC—Tract and Communication Council |
| COM—Council on Ministry | |

New Members

Ashaway, RI

Scott Smith, pastor
 Joined after baptism
 Gabby Gergel
 Ray Scahill
 Joined after testimony
 Debbie Scahill
 Joined by letter
 David Ray
 Laura Ray
 Mildred Saunders
 Ruth Szklany
 Pam Vader
 Dwight Wilson
 Wilna Wilson

Shiloh, NJ

Donald Chroniger, pastor
 Joined after baptism
 Ariel DuBois
 Lauren DuBois
 Melissa Hitchner
 Kelci McPherson
 Kyle Uhland

Joined after testimony
 Barbara Nieu Kirk
 Cecil McPherson
 Joined by letter
 Pat Cruzan
 George Cruzan

North Loup, NE

Christian Mattison, pastor
 Joined after baptism
 Kaitlin Mattison
 Julie Soper
 Tammy Soper

Salem, WV

Dale D. Thorngate, pastor
 Joined after testimony
 Wilbur Ash
 Barbara Ward

Verona, NY

Steven James, pastor
 Joined after testimony
 Carl Pearson
 Pat Pearson

Births

Rodd.—A son, Nicodemus Rodd, was born to Dennis and Debbie Rodd of Yuba City, CA, on August 12, 2000.

Williams.—A son, Austin James Williams, was born to Bob and Becky Williams of Rome, NY, on September 2, 2000.

Smalley.—A son, Aaron Joseph Smalley, was born to Pastor Daron and Paula Smalley of Portage, WI, on September 15, 2000.

Marriages

Camenga - Rogers.—Johnmark Camenga and Mary Catherine Rogers were married on August 5, 2000, in the Salem (WV) Seventh Day Baptist Church. Rev. Dale D. Thorngate officiated, assisted by Rev. John Camenga.

LaGrange - Hunt.—April Maria LaGrange and Mark Anthony Hunt were united in marriage on August 12, 2000, at their home in Taberg, NY, by Justice of Peace Fremont Plopper.

Loofboro - Johnson.—Walter Loofboro and Marcia Johnson were united in marriage on October 20, 2000, in Tilden, WI. Pastor Dale Smalley and Fr. William Felix officiated.

Wyse - Rogers.—Ryan Dean Wyse and Sarah Whitney Rogers were married on October 21, 2000, in the Assemblies of God Church in Lancaster, OH. Rev. Dale D. Thorngate officiated.

Obituaries

Key.—Edna May Key, 69, of Colorado Springs, Colo., died on August 16, 2000.

She was born on August 20, 1931, in Colorado Springs, the daughter of Hugh and Lillian Key. After graduating from high school in Colorado Springs, she studied at the University of Kansas School of Nursing. Her lifetime nursing career was spent in hospitals and nursing homes in Colorado Springs.

Edna's father was a large Scottish man, and her mother was a Blackfoot Indian. She also had family roots in Daniel Boone. Her great-great-grandfather was Francis Scott Key, who formed the first Sunday School and wrote the "Star Spangled Banner." Edna donated some of his original works to the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C., and remained proud of her family heritage throughout her life.

Edna's great-grandfather pastored a Sabbatarian Scottish church, and she was taught about Jesus in her home. Nothing was more important to her than having people accept Jesus Christ.

Edna was a charter member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Colorado Springs. From 1950-1953, she attended the Denver, Colo., SDB Church.

Edna, preceded in death by two siblings, had no surviving family. A memorial service was led by Pastor L.B. Bee at the Colorado Springs SDB Church. Her ashes were placed with her parents in the Forest Green Cemetery in Colorado Springs.

Bond.—Evaleen Kennedy Bond, 91, of Lost Creek, W.Va., died on October 31, 2000, at her home following an extended illness. She was born on June 6, 1909, in Lost Creek, the daughter of Stephen G. and Jessie (Stout) Kennedy. Her husband, Paul V. Bond, preceded her in death in 1966.

Mrs. Bond was a graduate of Salem (W.Va.) College with a Standard Normal Degree. For most of her life, she was a homemaker. After her husband's death, she worked as a cook at the South Harrison High School. Later, she was a foster grandmother at the Salem Industrial Home, and at the Lost Creek and West Milford Elementary Schools. In a final act of giving, she donated her body to the Human Gift Registry.

Mrs. Bond was a lifelong member of the Lost Creek Seventh Day Baptist Church (79 years), where she held many offices. She taught Sabbath School, Vacation Bible School, and in summer camps, and was active in the Ladies Aid.

Survivors include one son, Dr. S. Thomas Bond of Jane Lew, W.Va.; two daughters, Lotta Ann Bailey of Lost Creek, and Helen Lou Maxson of Charleston, W.Va.; one brother, Frank Kennedy of Chenva, Ill.; two sisters, Helen Bond of Galena, Ohio, and Kathryn James of Columbus, Ohio; nine grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was held on November 11, 2000, in the Lost Creek SDB Church, with Rev. Dale D. Thorngate officiating.

Saunders.—Herbert William ("Bill") Saunders, 84, of Boulder, Colo., died on November 13, 2000. He was born on June 13, 1916, in Boulder, the son of Herbert W. and Mary M. (Davis) Saunders. In 1937, he graduated from Boulder High School and held several jobs afterward.

On August 9, 1941, Bill married Dorothy Moore in Berlin, N.Y. She preceded him in death. He worked at Western Cutlery of Boulder and was a security guard for 15 years at the University of Colorado in Boulder. He retired in 1981.

Bill was very active in the Boulder Seventh Day Baptist Church, serving as a deacon for many years. He loved singing in the choir and in a men's quartet. He was also great at helping with the upkeep of the church building.

Survivors include two sons, Carl of Lafayette, Colo., and William of Superior, Colo.; one daughter, Harriet Newnham of Lafayette; four grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. In addition to his wife, he was predeceased by one brother, Francis; and two sisters, Margaret Pratti and Geneva Hanson.

Memorial services were held on November 16, 2000, at the Boulder SDB Church, with Pastor David Thorngate officiating.

Pearcy.—Evert Roy Pearcy, 90, of Salem, W.Va., died on November 25, 2000, at his home following a brief illness.

He was born on January 30, 1910, in Guysville, Ohio, the son of George and Mary Pearcy. On June 6, 1935, he married Elizabeth Elsie Bond. She died in 1994.

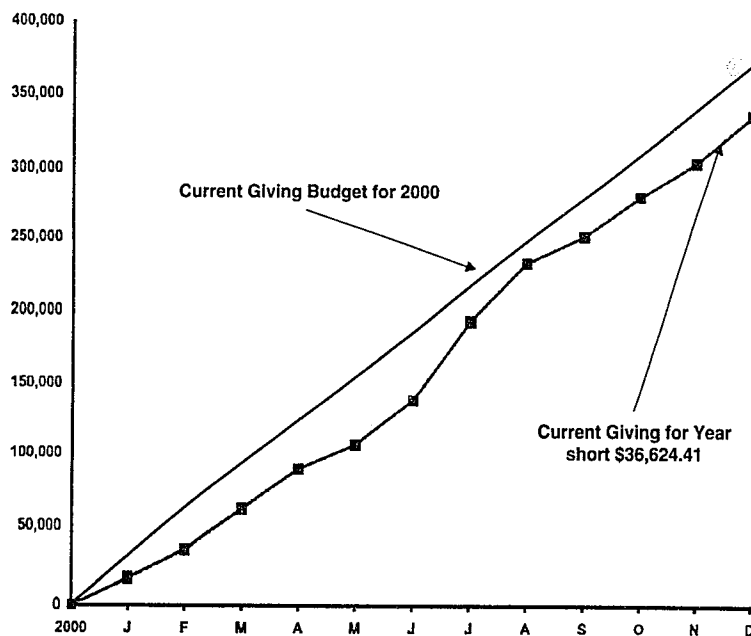
Mr. Pearcy grew up in Berea, W.Va., and received a Bachelor of Science degree from Salem College, where he captained the football team. He received a Master's degree from West Virginia University.

His academic career included coaching at Plainfield (N.J.) High School; teaching at Bristol (W.Va.) High School; serving as Dean of Men at Alfred (N.Y.) State Technical College and line coach at Alfred University; Dean of Students at Salem College; and, for many years, working as a guidance counselor at South Harrison High School in West Milford, W.Va.

Mr. Pearcy was a member of the Salem Seventh Day Baptist Church, where he served as an ordained deacon and trustee. Until his illness, he

cont. next page

Current Giving 2000



KEVIN'S CORNER

Warren Wiersbe tells the story of newspaper magnate William Randolph Hearst, who invested a fortune in collecting art pieces from all over the world. One day, Hearst read a description of some valuable items he just "had" to have, so he sent his agent abroad to locate them.

After months of searching, the agent reported that the works had finally been found. The millionaire eagerly awaited to hear of the location.

They were in Hearst's own warehouse! The rich old codger had searched frantically for treasures he already possessed. If he had only read the catalog of his own valuables, he would have saved himself

a great deal of money and trouble. Maybe we shouldn't be too hard on Mr. Hearst. Haven't you ever rushed to the store, searching for something you just "had" to have? You know, like a spare part (for me, an electronic cable or adapter), or a special tool, or an ingredient for that new recipe, or even an old book or video? Then you bring home that new treasure, only to discover that you already had one of those!

The apostle Paul wanted the church in Ephesus to experience life at its best by recognizing what they already had.

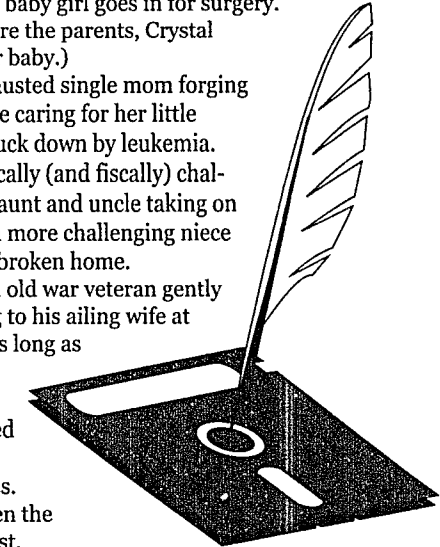
"I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called

you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints..." (Ephes. 1:17-18).

That familiar chorus, "Open Our Eyes, Lord," carries the plea, "We want to see Jesus!" I often think, *Oh, if only I could see Jesus; if only he were here*—and how much that would confirm and boost my faith.

- But then I realize that I *have* seen Jesus. I have seen Jesus in:
- a loving, faithful wife spoon-feeding her husband of over half-a-century, who is gazing back at her with hollow eyes, his mind robbed by Alzheimer's.
 - fellow seminary students sitting with friends as their baby girl goes in for surgery. (We were the parents, Crystal was our baby.)
 - an exhausted single mom forging on while caring for her little one struck down by leukemia.
 - a physically (and fiscally) challenged aunt and uncle taking on an even more challenging niece from a broken home.
 - a rough old war veteran gently tending to his ailing wife at home as long as he can.

I've seen faith-inspired love, Jesus-inspired lives. I have seen the unseen Christ.



served as president of the Board of Managers of Randolph Terrace Apartments, the housing complex owned and operated by the church.

A memorial service was held on December 9, 2000, at the Salem SDB Church, with Rev. Dr. Dale D. Thorngate presiding.

Hiller.—Laura B. Hiller, 95, of Upper Deerfield Township, N.J., died on December 11, 2000, at the Cumberland Manor in Hopewell Township, where she had been a resident for the last two months. She was born in Roadstown, N.J., the daughter of Daniel and Julia

(Davis) Johnson. A graduate of the former Hopewell (N.J.) High School, she was a lifelong resident of the Bridgeton area.

She was married to Alfred Hiller, who died in 1979. The couple owned and operated the Giant Sub Shop on North Pearl Street for several years until retiring. They also owned an awning business in Bridgetown for several years.

Laura was a member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Shiloh, N.J., and the former Cumberland Chapter #145, Order of the Eastern Star.

Survivors include several nieces

and nephews, including W. Frank Johnson of Cherry Hill, N.J., Donna Haden and Kay Cogdill, and several great-nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by four sisters, Harriet Trout, Ruth Goss, Evelyn Johnson, and Julia Myers; two brothers, Ezra and Willis Johnson; and her niece and caregiver, Susan Johnson.

Funeral services were held on December 14, 2000, at the Freitag Funeral Home, Bridgeton. Pastor Donald Chroniger of the Shiloh SDB Church officiated. Interment was in the Cohansey Baptist Cemetery in Roadstown.

Change in the weather, cont. from page 16

had to keep digging because he had left his ax and shovel at the new house that was being worked on the day before, and that 'eighty long rods away.'

"And so he started, no danger fearing. He 'knew not so many that fearsome day would perish while going only a few rods away.' When he did get to the house he found

ceeded to chop wood from a deadened tree limb and start back to the house.

"But 'hampered by the ax and arm full of wood,' his father missed his course and was lost on the plain. Stopping, he questioned his quickened wits, turned his other cheek to the cold north wind, retracing his steps to the known

bar wouldn't pierce it.' "Many and sad are tales that are told of this fearful blizzard of 1873: L.C. Jabobs saved his teams and cows by driving them into his new log house. Thousands of cattle, like panicked troops, found watery graves in the Platte and Loup Rivers. And many brave men of stalwart form lost life and limb in this demon storm."¹

Somehow, as this "Pearl from the Past" is entered into the computer in near zero December weather, it does not seem as much of a hardship to venture to the garage and start an 8-horsepower snowblower to clear the driveway and sidewalk. Or wait for the city's snowplow and sander to prepare the way to go to the store or work.

A white Christmas, even in the northern state from which the "North Loupers" emigrated, does not seem quite so harsh. About a half century later, Rev. Oscar Babcock's namesake grandson, O.T. (Oscar True) Babcock, came back to Milton to attend college. He stayed and worked from 1925 to 1952 as Milton College registrar—in frigid Wisconsin. **SR**

¹Edwin J. Babcock, "Blizzard of 1873 Retold by Survivor," *The Ord Quiz*, August 24, 1972.

Edwin remembers his father 'thrusting out his good right arm but the snow wall stopped it like a wall of stone.'

the new house 'blown flat,' but he was able to find the ax and shovel among the debris.

"He managed to return to his home, but after breakfast attempted to get to his livestock in a dug-out barn.

"When he got to where he thought the barn was, he had to burrow down through the snow and roof. There was so much tramped snow in the little barn that the animals' backs were rubbing the roof. He put hay into the racks and with more hay he caulked the cracks. He then sealed the barn with heavy snow and pro-

creek bank. Two times he repeated before he found upon the third dugout mound.

"The storm continued for three long days—April 13, 14, and 15—without letup. Edwin Babcock remembered two families huddled together in their home during the storm and sitting in total darkness in order to save lamp oil.

"Each day his father had to make the trip to try and find more firewood and to care for the animals. On Wednesday the storm stopped and children crawled out to the sunshine. Snow was said to be twenty feet deep and 'a crow

Conference Workshops

Is God calling you to share an interest or ability with other SDBs? Have you got a topic you think would be great for a Conference Workshop? Send your ideas to:

Susie Fox
1722 Taylor Station Rd.
Blacklick, OH 43004

Or phone (614) 501-1918
E-mail: i-m-dfox@prodigy.net

Periodicals postage paid
at Janesville, WI
and additional offices

Share the Journey



If you enjoyed reading December's special issue, "Journey of a Lifetime," how about sharing the story with neighbors and friends?

You may receive more copies of this special issue by contacting us at the Seventh Day Baptist Center, PO Box 1678, Janesville WI 53547. Our phone number is (608) 752-5055, and the e-mail address is sdbmedia@inwave.com.

Individual copies are free. We will need to add shipping charges for larger quantities. Please contact us for those costs.

We pray that the Lord will bless this outreach effort, and many others will join us on our "Journey of a Lifetime."