

The

S

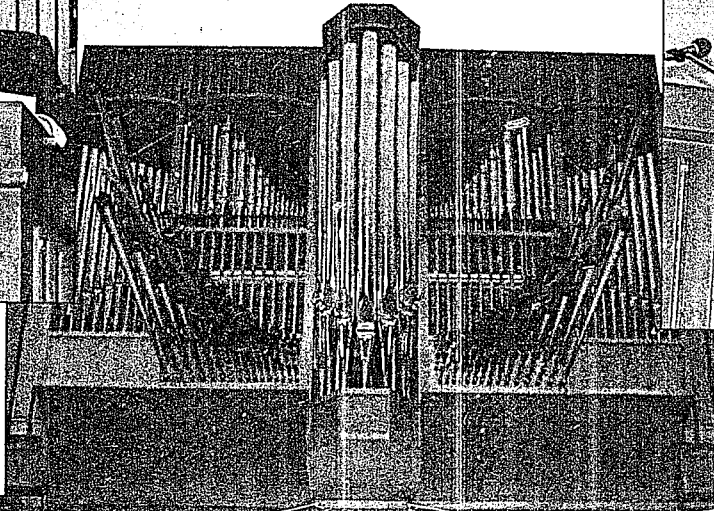
abbath

News for and about  
Seventh Day Baptists

September 2001

R

ecorder



Seventh Day Baptist General Conference  
USA and Canada '01

**Try God** "Have Thine Own Way, Lord"

159th Session • Bethany College  
August 5-11, 2001 • Lindburg, Kansas





### 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

### Denominational Detail

#### September

- 2-? Wichita Falls and Keene, Texas; Albuquerque, N.M.; Cottonwood and Phoenix, Ariz.—Ron Elston
- 8 New Auburn, Wis.—Kevin Butler
- 21-23 Evangelistic Meetings, Doniphan, Mo.—Elston
- 22 Annual Stewardship Banquet, Alfred Station, N.Y.—Butler
- 29 Central Maryland Church—Butler

#### October

- 1-2 Baptist Joint Committee, Washington, D.C.—Butler
- 5-6 Portage, Wis.—Elston
- 18-21 Southern California—Elston
- 19-20 Pacific Coast Association, Riverside, Calif.—Elston, Gabe Bejjani, Kirk Looper
- 19 Bessener Trust, New York City—Cal Babcock
- 20 New York City SDB Church—Babcock
- 20-21 SDB Memorial Fund Annual & Quarterly Meetings, Raritan Valley, N.J.—Babcock
- 26-28 Churches in Rhode Island—Pete May
- 27 Centralia, Wash.—Butler
- 27 Sabbath Recorder Committee, Auburn, Wash.—Butler
- 28-29 Missionary Society Quarterly Board Meeting, Westerly, R.I.—Elston, Looper, May
- 28 Board of Christian Education Annual Meeting, Alfred Station, N.Y.—Andrew Camenga
- 30-11/5 Meet with Rod Henry and Matt Berg, Denver, Colo.; L.B. Lee Ordination, Colorado Springs, Colo.—Bejjani

### 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 28, 2001, at 10:00 a.m.

The purpose of this meeting shall be to hear and act upon the 2000 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 2001 General Conference sessions in Lindsborg, Kan., are entitled to vote at this annual meeting.

#### On the cover—

Cover photos surround the Presser Hall pipe organ and Conference sign (clockwise from upper right): President Clayton Pinder with wife Leora; Dr. Pete May prescribes plenty of salt and water for the 100-plus degree weather; exiting Presser Hall after worship; Pastor Rex Burdick shares the Sabbath morning message.

# The Sabbath Recorder

Establ. 1844

September 2001  
Volume 223, No. 9  
Whole No. 6,865

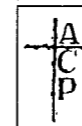


#### A Seventh Day Baptist publication

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

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

This is the 157th year of publication for *The Sabbath Recorder*. First issue published, June 13, 1844. Member of the Associated Church Press. The *Sabbath Recorder* does not necessarily endorse signed articles.



**Kevin Butler**  
Editor

**Leanne Lippincott**  
Assistant Editor

#### Contributing Editors

Aubrey Appel, Calvin P. Babcock, Gabriel E. Bejjani, Andrew J. Camenga, G. Kirk Looper, Clayton Pinder, Laura Price, 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

**General Conference 2001—"Try God" .....** 4-10  
*Photographs and memories from our annual gathering, this time in Lindsborg, Kansas*

**The week in review .....** 4-7  
*Highlights of Conference statistics, elections, recognitions, and recommendations*

#### From the *Conference Crier* (edited by Scott Smith)—

**Cast your burdens upon the Lord .....** 6  
by Patrick London

**Bullish on ministry in a bear market .....** 8  
(Memorial Fund program)

**Workshops offer variety .....** 9  
by Linda Harris

**New churches, training efforts .....** 10  
(Missionary Society program)

**Little Genesee meetinghouse destroyed .....** 11  
*Fire claims rural New York church building.*

**Church visits in Brazil .....** 12  
by Janet Thorngate  
*Dale and Janet Thorngate encourage believers in several states in Brazil. Third of a three-part series.*

## Departments

<b>Women's Society</b> 13 <i>NABWU decides on projects</i>	<b>Pete's Prescriptions</b> 20 <i>"www.sabbathrest.wow"</i>
<b>Christian Education</b> 14 <i>Scripture Memory Verses</i>	<b>Local news</b> 21-22 <i>Adams Center, NY 21</i> <i>Alfred Station, NY 22</i> <i>Ashaway, RI 22</i>
<b>Pearls from the Past</b> 16 <i>The Little White Church in the Vale</i>	<b>SR Reaction</b> 22
<b>Focus</b> 17 <i>Schools mean ministry, expense</i>	<b>Family flux</b> 24-25 <i>New members, births, marriages 24</i> <i>Obituaries 25</i>
<b>The Beacon</b> 18 <i>Trying to stay out of trouble</i>	<b>Kevin's Korner</b> 27 <i>More noise on noise</i>
<b>Reflections</b> 19 <i>Costly fight for the unborn</i>	

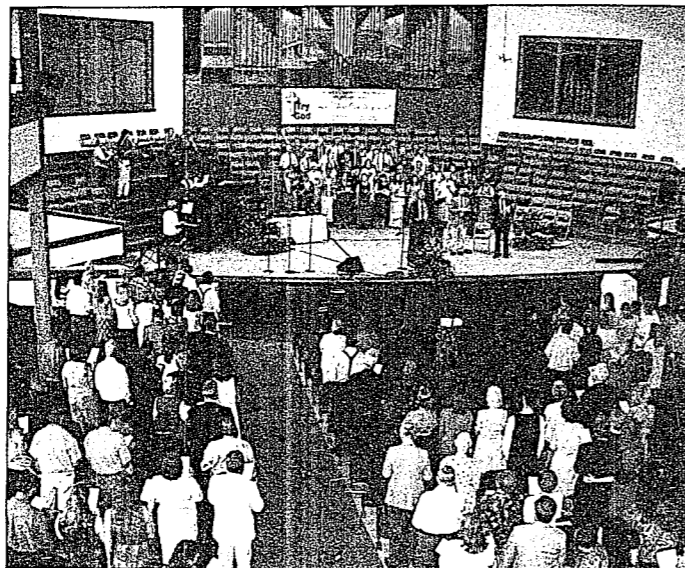
# Try God

In Lindsborg  
Aug. 5-11, 2001

## General Conference 2001

Close to 600 Seventh Day Baptists traveled to Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kansas, to put into practice President Clayton Pinder's theme, "Try God." Even with temperatures around the century mark, faithful delegates piled into committee and business meetings, attended workshops, sang praises to the Lord, and still had energy to play a little softball.

We hope you enjoy these snapshots of Conference 2001, and may you join us next year, August 4-10, at Houghton College in Houghton, N.Y. **SR**



*This was the first time (in five visits) that we could use the newly air-conditioned Presser Hall at Bethany College.*

### The Week in Review

#### Statistics

- 558 registered guests
- 700 at worship on Sabbath
- 316 delegates representing 54 churches
- 1 official delegate from Australasian Conference: Karl Rudd; 2 official visitors: Dorothea Shettel (Australia), and Trudy-Ann Sinclair (Jamaica)
- 87 enrolled in Junior Conference
- 47 at Youth Pre-Con, directed by Chris Mattison with five staff
- 58 at Young Adult, directed by George Calhoun with five staff
- Women's Love Gift: \$4,550
- Conference offering: \$14,100

#### Elections

- President 2001-2002: Gordon Lawton
- President-elect: George Cruzan
- General Council: John Camenga
- Council on Ministry: Norman Burdick, Dale Thorngate
- Faith and Order: Alan Crouch, Dale Rood
- Committee on Support and Retirement: Eric Rudert
- Tract and Communication Council: James Skaggs, Gretchen Zwiebel
- Memorial Fund Trustees: Don Graffius, Reid Mattison, Owen Probasco
- Christian Social Action Committee: Paul Andries, Laura Lee Barnes, John Rasmussen, Fred Sias



*A member from the New York City church accepts the Scripture Memory Bowl from Sabbath School Committee Chairman Gordon Lawton.*



*Deb Williams accepts the Gold-headed Cane on behalf of her father, Pastor Elmo FitzRandolph. Historian Don Sanford made the presentation.*



*Chris Mattison (l.) is welcomed as a newly accredited SDB minister by Gabriel Bejjani.*



*Steve Osborn (r.) also received accreditation by the Council on Ministry and General Conference.*

#### Awards/Business

- Pastors Chris Mattison and Steve Osborn accredited
- Women's Board Robe of Achievement: Floy Owen, Montrose, Calif.
- Sabbath School Teacher of the Year: Judy Parrish, Battle Creek, Mich.
- Historical Society's Gold-headed Cane: Rev. Elmo FitzRandolph, Boulder, Colo.
- Mary G. Clare Scripture Memorization Bowl: New York City church
- 2002 budget of \$911,686 calls for \$347,254 from current giving, a 7.5% decrease from 2001

#### From the Reference and Counsel Committee:

• Because voting at General Conference is by delegates of the churches, and because the number of church members determines the number of its delegates (see By-laws, Article IV), we **recommend** that the chairman of each church delegation be required to indicate to the Credentials Coordinator the number of its church's members (as of June 30) at registration or before the first business session. We further **recommend** that each church that fails to provide such a report receive three delegates.

• In response to the General Council report concerning expected conduct at General Con-

ference, the committee **recommends** that the following changes be made to the Expected Conduct Code at General Conference statement:

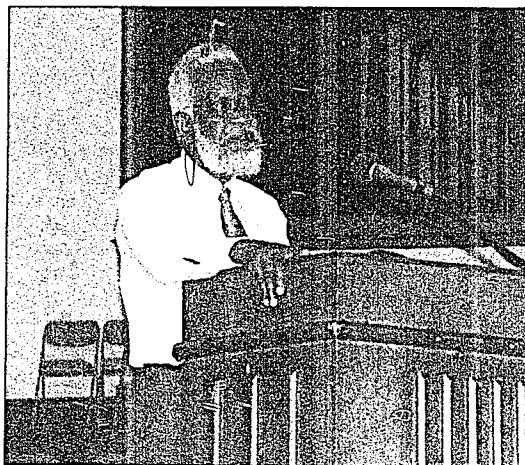
- a) That the second and third sections of that statement be changed to read:
  2. All socializing between males and females (except husband and wife) shall be limited to public areas, or personal rooms (except during quiet hours) in which the doors are completely open.
  3. Quiet hours will be established from 12 a.m. to 6 a.m. each night of conference.

*cont. on page 7*



# Cast your burdens upon the Lord... and leave them there!

by Patrick London in the *Conference Crier*



Pastor Herlitz Condison

time each day so that we can spend time with Him and establish—or strengthen—our relationship with Him.

In spending time with God, do we just make our requests known to Him and then get up and leave? Or do we voice our requests and then sit and listen to what the Lord has to say?

We must listen to God. Our first priority is to know Him and seek Him in every way possible.

### Secondly: We must trust Him.

If we do not know the Lord, we cannot trust Him. God is an infinite being; we cannot understand who He is. We might think we should, but we cannot because we are finite beings. God is all-knowing and He knows what is best for us. He is sovereign and perfect in His love.

In the world, we may have troubles, but we should trust in Him (Romans 8:28), and God will work it out for our good and His glory.

### Thirdly: We must give up our control over our lives and give it to God.

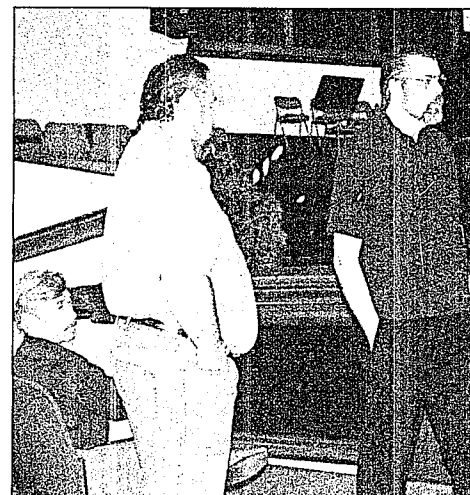
Many people do not like it when others tell them what to do, even when God tells them. We must give up control over our lives and let God fulfill His plan for us. Our entire lives are in His hands (Phil 4:13). No matter the environment we find ourselves in, God is always there (Isaiah 35:4).

### Finally: We must cry out to God.

When crying out and asking for help, we do not have to impress God through our words. He already knows what we need. Look at the apostle Peter when he walked on the water. When he began to sink, he did not use fancy words. He simply cried out, "Lord, save me!"

A cry is a plea for mercy. Do we cry out to God when a problem comes, or is God our last resort? He should be first; we must go to Him first in everything. It is important to cry out to God because He hears and looks at our hearts. When God is for us, who can be against us?

We must glorify God and praise Him wholeheartedly because He loves us. He is faithful and unchanging. We must read God's Word, feed on it, and "Try God." *SR*



Far left: Mike Spearl, Dale Smalley, and Ralph Mackintosh speak to the stem cell issue. Left: Nancy May reads a long list of thank-yous as the Courtesies Coordinator. Above: Recording secretary Raakeli Watt reads the minutes of the previous session.

The question, "Why Try God?" helps us to better understand how we must live our lives for Christ.

Tuesday morning's Bible study dealt with this issue as Herlitz Condison, one of our senior pastors, explored this topic. He explained that *trying* God means to put God to the test by asking Him to take charge of our lives. Pastor Herlitz then explained how this can be done.

The first step is: **We must know God.**

Individuals may *claim* that they know God by telling others about Him, but do they *really* know our Lord and Savior? We must plan our

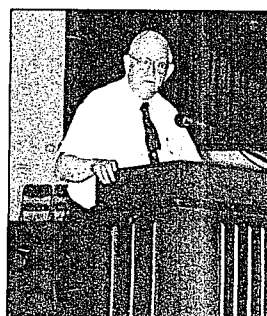


All work and no play... Plenty of folks stayed up late Thursday night to watch the youth play the pastors in softball. Sandy Noel (left) waits for her pitch.

## Our other Bible Study leaders



Robert Van Horn



Leon Lawton



Chris Mattison



Paul Manuel

### Awards/Business, cont. from page 5

During quiet hours no excessive noise will be permitted. In addition, no talking will be allowed in hallways, and no music (such as instrumental, vocal, or from a stereo) will be permitted except where used with personal headphones. Quiet talking will be permitted in lounges, or in personal rooms with the doors closed (same gender or spouses only).

b) That the following disciplinary procedure be included in the statement, and that the Disciplinary Council be empowered to enforce the procedure, with the ability to skip steps in the case of more

serious offenses:

1. That a first offense of the rules result in a formal written notice of warning. In the case of a youth being in violation, copies of the warning shall be delivered to both the youth and his/her sponsor.

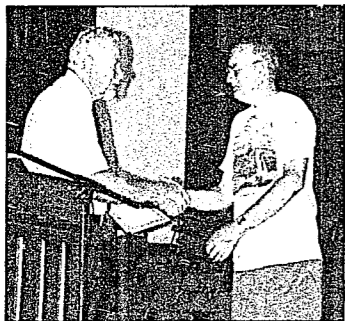
2. That a second offense of the rules will require that a violator (and sponsor, if appropriate) meet with the Disciplinary Council to work out an agreement of what type of service or restitution would be an appropriate consequence for the violation. In the case of youth offenders, the sponsor will also monitor the service of the youth.

3. That a third offense be

punishable by a fine of \$50. In the case of the offender being a youth who is not able to pay, the youth's sponsor will be responsible for the payment of the fine.

4. If the offense warrants, the violator will be sent home at their own expense (or the sponsor's expense in the case of a youth).

•The committee also recommends that future registration forms include a place to request placement in a higher tolerance dorm. In this dorm, the same rules will apply, but acceptable noise levels may be higher than in other dorms.



Owen Probasco thanked Dale Green and Steven Pierce for their service as Memorial Fund trustees.



Ron Pierson (left), a new T.I.M.E. student from Doniphan, Mo., is introduced by COM Director Gabe Bejjani. Another T.I.M.E. student, Kory Geske (far right), receives help from the Ministry Staff Assistant Program as he serves as associate pastor in Battle Creek, Mich.



Seminary student Joanne Kandel.



John Pethel begins seminary this fall.

## Bullish on ministry in a bear market

From the *Conference Crier*

The Seventh Day Baptist Memorial Fund Trustees reported that although the nation is going through a "bear market," they continue to be "bullish" on the various ministries of Seventh Day Baptists.

The board voiced excitement over four programs that they have been working on the past year.

The first was the Million Dollar Project, in which memorial funds are used to match local church investments in outreach ministries. Highlighting projects in Milton, Wis., and Berlin, N.Y., the board reminded other churches to report on their progress so that their successes can be passed on to others.

The second project was the Ministry Staff Assistant Program. It aids local churches in their efforts to employ associate, assistant, or youth pastors.

Third, the board pointed to the Spiritual Leadership Training Program, which this year focused on the training modules used in the Summer Christian Service Corps' year-round education. Those lessons included a study of *The Pursuit of God* (A.W. Tozer), and modules on Experiencing God, SDB History and Polity, and Christian Education. A new module for SCSC training on the Sabbath is also being produced.

Finally, the board expressed appreciation for those who have recently ended their service: Steve Pierce, Dale Green, Stanley Allen, and Richard Shepard.

## Workshops offer a variety of experiences

by Linda Harris in the *Conference Crier*

The "Try Defending Your Faith" workshop, led by Marissa Van Horn, explored apologetics, which comes from a Greek word meaning to defend or justify.

Since unbelievers ask so many questions, we covered just two of them.

The first question dealt with Jesus' resurrection. Two common questions are, "Did Jesus really die?" and "Was the tomb really empty?" Using Scripture (John 19:31-37) along with medical and historical evidence, these questions can be answered affirmatively.

We also discussed, "If God does exist, why is there evil in the world?"

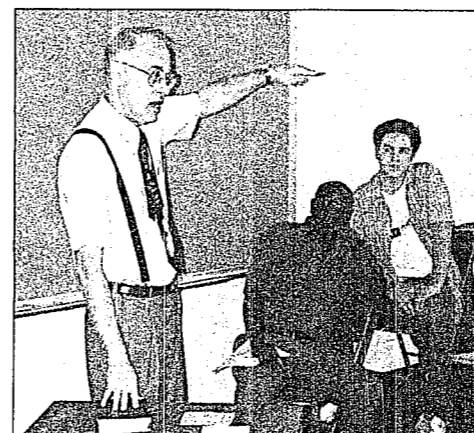


Marissa Van Horn

Scriptural evidence comes from the book of Job, where Job asked "why,"

and God asked Job over 60 questions, none of which Job could answer. God allowed the possibility of evil because He allowed humans to possess free will. If we could not choose evil, then we could not choose the good; we would be forced into it.

The session ended with a list of the many resources available, including *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis; *The Case for Faith and The Case for Christ* by Lee Strobel; *Evidence that Demands a Verdict* by Josh McDowell; and websites such as [www.answersingenesis.org](http://www.answersingenesis.org) and [www.rzim.org](http://www.rzim.org). (More on the workshops next month.) SR



Dr. Paul Ackerman from the Institute for Creation Research pointed to scientific evidence for creation.



Venita Zinn helped workshopers use their voices more effectively.



David and Gavin Fox helped their mother, Susie, show how to make Advent a meaningful family time.



Steve James showed up wearing his clothes inside-out to inspire churches to reshape their ministries.



## New churches, training efforts



Stained Glass 2001 (l. to r.): Ben Calhoun, Donna Packard, Sarah Calhoun, Crystal Butler, Peter Osborn, Josh Calhoun, and Jonathan Mackintosh.

### From the Conference Crier

The Stained Glass singing group led off the 2001 Missionary Society report with a rendition of "Amazing Grace." Why? Because the group had

been sponsored for a concert in Portland, Ore., by both the Portland and the Vancouver, Wash., SDB Churches. The Missionary Society supplemented local dol-

lars so that a concentrated effort could be put into radio, TV and print media advertising.

The result? Two small SDB churches were able to host a concert that drew 200 people from the surrounding communities. Hopefully, this will be the beginning of an on-going urban outreach effort.

Missionary Society Executive Kirk Looper and Outreach Pastor Ron Elston reported that 10 new branch churches have been established since last year's Conference sessions. Twelve new groups are in the process of forming.

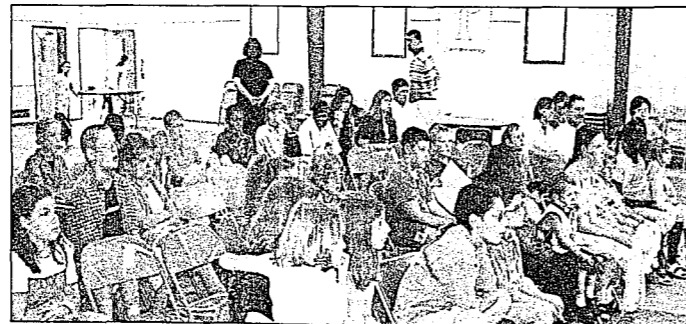
They also reported on a new program—the Church Planters Training School—which this year held its first session in Old Stonefort, Ill., graduating six students. More of these sessions are planned, perhaps one in the spring and one in the fall. **SR**



The omnipresent timer, Butch Hibbard, tried to keep the program on schedule.



Pastors gathered for a luncheon meeting on Thursday.



The kids had Sabbath School at the Messiah Lutheran Church.

## Little Genesee meetinghouse destroyed

Dear Members and Friends of the First SDB Church of Genesee, N.Y.:

By now, most of you have heard that the historic meetinghouse in which our church has worshipped for over a century and a half was destroyed by fire early on the morning of June 20.

At this writing, all that remains is the church sign, the basement walls, and piles of metal—remnants of roof sheeting, heating ducts, the furnace, a water tank, and file cabinets. The bell fell to the basement, where it shattered when water touched the very hot steel.

I received a phone call on that Wednesday about 4:00 a.m., simply stating, "Gordon, the church is on fire. We heard it on the scanner." The glow in the sky affirmed the truth of the message.

What can you do but grieve with others as you stand together in silent shock, thinking of the many holy hours spent in that building for worship, Sabbath School, baptisms, weddings, funerals, and more.

I also thought of the love and devotion that furnished and improved this place: the pews, custom-built by a member; the stained glass installed in the 1930s to aid worship and honor those who have gone before; Leta's piano; the marble-topped communion table; the hand-crafted candelabra fashioned and donated by Mark Sanford; the communion service dis-



Little Genesee church members grieved as they saw their meetinghouse succumb to flames on June 20.

play case; and the banners recently sewn by Brenda Kinnicutt. I could continue the list, but you can add to it as you remember.

The love and concern from the Christian community—and the community at large—has been tremendous. Offers of places to meet, pew Bibles, organs, and many more things.

And don't forget the hymn books. I would guess that almost every church has at least one set of hymnals that have been replaced but not given away. The hymn books we are currently using belong to the Hebron SDB Church [in Coudersport, Pa.] and were a gift

from the Richburg [N.Y.] SDB Church when it ceased holding services. Faith Bible Church here in Little Genesee has been especially helpful and giving.

Very little is left of the meetinghouse. However, as I have said, "The building may be gone,

but the church is still here."

The word "church" comes from the Greek word *ekklesia*, which means "the called-out ones." So, the church is not the *building* that it owns and uses, although we often call such structures "the church." The people who come together to worship and serve the community in Jesus' name are The Church.

In Matthew 16, Jesus promised to build His church. So let's claim His promise, not for another building (although that probably will come in time), but for a built-up group of persons; people who are dedicated to the Lord Jesus Christ and who seek to serve and obey Him.

If you want to be a part of our church as we are obedient to the Voice of God, then come on in. Come be committed to the covenant. Come regularly and worship as we meet in the Community Center. Come learn of God and about yourself in Sabbath School. (It's not just for children anymore.)

And if you are simply curious, come check us out. We are a family of believers, worshipping and serving together, practicing and proclaiming the truth of God's Word.

In Christian Love,  
Rev. Gordon P. Lawton



A charred cross still witnessed for Christ after the tragic loss.

## Church visits in Brazil

by Janet Thorngate

*(Editor's Note: Rev. Dale D. Thorngate and his wife, Janet, visited Seventh Day Baptists in Brazil in January and February of this year—he as Executive Secretary of the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation, she representing the SDB Historical Society. In addition to reviewing plans for the World Federation sessions to be held there in January 2003, they taught courses in Seventh Day Baptist beliefs, polity, and history during the national convention sessions and visited churches in three different states. Third of a three-part report.)*

Nearly every day on the last part of our trip, we visited at least one church. The people coming for the evening worship service often hosted us for a meal or invited us to stay overnight in their homes.

Though we enjoyed the week at the national Conference and learned much from the Conference sessions and meetings at the national offices in Curitiba [see the past two *Recorders*], the church visits brought us closer to the people.

Pastor Dirceu Cruz was our driver as we traveled by car, and Pastor John Correia, our hard-working translator, accompanied us wherever we went. His daughter, Fabiani, tried hard to teach us Portuguese (her father teaches English only), but we were slow learners.

It was frustrating not to be able to talk to John's wife, Marelene, directly. We wanted to express our appreciation for the wonderful meals she prepared and thank her for her good-natured help during our travels.

### Worship: Same, yet different

In each church Pastor Dale brought a message from Scripture, and I brought greetings. And there was always wonderful music! Youth choirs, children's choirs, mixed choirs, solos, duets, and quartets. Hymns and choruses were usually accompanied by guitars or electronic keyboards, but sometimes there were violins or drums as well.

The basic patterns were the same in every church, whether urban or

rural, small or large. Yet, as always, each had its special style or unique customs. As anywhere, the members' different cultural or racial backgrounds enriched the worship experience.

### German origins

In the Santa Catarina churches—Guaruva, Joinville, Porto União, and Mafra—we were well aware of the German background of many members. Older members were anxious to speak German with us, if we could.

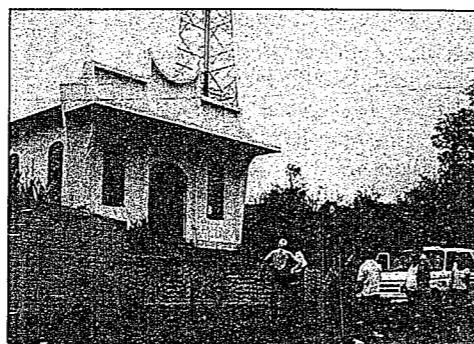
We learned that most of the founders of the Conference—six leaders who left the Adventist Conference in 1913—had German origins. Their churches formed an independent Conference in 1916 (Seventh-day Evangelical Adventists).

The churches grew largely in Brazil's four southern states, all south of Rio de Janeiro. In 1950, after correspondence with Seventh Day Baptists in Germany, they reorganized and changed their name to Seventh Day Baptist.

### Checking the archives

Back at the headquarters in Curitiba, Pastor Cruz gave us a "guided tour" of the historical archives carefully collected into closed shelves in his office.

Among the special papers was a 1950 letter from Pastor Johannes Bahlke of Hamburg, Germany, de-



Visitors don't wait until worship time to check out the new church building in Mafra, Santa Catarina. The new walls were built outside the old ones, then the old ones removed.



Conference Coordinator, Pastor José Dirceu de Andrade Cruz (right), and local pastor, Liberti Mainardes, envision how the new church building in Pará do sul, Paraná, will look when completed.

scribing the basic beliefs and polity of Seventh Day Baptists. Along with copies of the original 1913 and 1916 documents, there were copies of the reorganization papers and government acknowledgment of the name change to Seventh Day Baptist Church of Brazil—Igreja Batista Do Sétimo Dia No Brasil. (That occurred later in 1950.)

cont. on page 23



Women's Society page by Laura Price

## NABWU decides on projects

by Linda Camenga  
Vice President, SDB Women's Board

The North American Baptist Women's Union (NABWU) met in Greensboro, S.C., the first week in April. This group of leaders represents 18 unions, including Seventh Day Baptists, in the United States and Canada.

There are also members in Jamaica, Guyana, and the Caribbean. In October 2002, the Caribbean groups will become a separate union and will include Jamaica.

The women met for prayer and worship each day, then dug into business. Every November, this group oversees the promotion of the Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer, emphasizing awareness of Christ's work throughout the world. Many women do not have the opportunity to worship our Lord, let alone facilitate His work as we can in the United States.

Offerings are divided 50/50 between the Baptist World Alliance Women's organization and NABWU, which in turn helps fund grants that aid women and children. Their mission statement reads, "North American Baptist Women's Union, a continental union of Baptist World Alliance Women's Department, exists to promote unity in Christ and to

strengthen the ministries of member organizations." (See list of grants in box below.)

NABWU promotes leadership training courses for its members. It also establishes prayer partners

**Here in the U.S., we do not face the persecution that many face around the world. Because of this, we often become lax in our well-doing.**

between women's groups here and in Africa, where there is much persecution.

Our Seventh Day Baptist women are partnered with Baptist Women in Kenya, Seventh Day Baptist Women of the Union in Zambia, and Seventh Day Baptist Ladies Aid of Malawi. We need to promote this program.

Twice a year, NABWU publishes *The Tie that Binds*. This keeps everyone informed about the projects, dates of meetings, and articles from the different union members.

The next Assembly—similar to our General Conference—will meet in Montego Bay, Jamaica, on October 1-6, 2002. The theme will be, "Women of God—Becoming One in Spirit and Purpose." This gathering is open to all women in the various unions.

Plenty of time was devoted to sharing the joys and concerns of each union. We met in small groups to discuss key questions, then reassembled to give a synopsis of our findings.

I found this experience challenging as it expanded my vision of Christ's work among women across our North American continent. Size does not change the societal pressures on doing His work; large or small, we face the same joys and concerns.

Here in the U.S., we do not face the persecution that many face around the world. Because of this, we often become lax in our well-doing. What can—and should—we do to be more diligent in spreading the good news of Christ? Send your responses and thoughts to:

SR's Women's Page  
c/o Laura Price  
539 SR 100, Palatka FL 32177  
E-mail: Theeliza94@mac.com

### NABWU Grant Projects

- The 2001 Grant Projects from NABWU are:
- 1) Furnishing of Day Care Center at Central Baptist Church in Georgetown, Guyana
  - 2) Half-way House in Jamaica
  - 3) Winnipeg Teen Mom's Program Phase III
  - 4) Project Reconciliation in Kingston, Ontario, Canada

- 5) Circle of Community in Toronto, Ontario, Canada
  - 6) "The Bridge" Outreach Ministry in Delaware, ministers to female inmates, ex-offenders, and abused women and children
- The rest of NABWU's money is used to coordinate its meetings and ministry.

# Scripture Memory

Theme: *What Do*

# Verses—2001-2002

*These Stones Mean?*

The Scripture Memorization Program for 2001-2002 Conference Year will focus on Conference President Gordon Lawton's theme: *What Do These Stones Mean?* 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, 2002. These people will be honored at General Conference.

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

## Month

## Youth/Adult

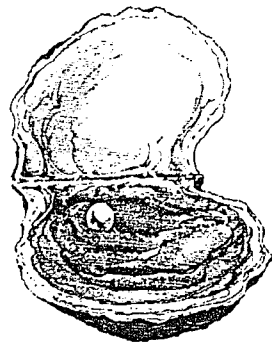
<b>October</b> <i>What do these Stones Mean?</i>	Each of you is to take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, to serve as a sign among you.... These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever. (Joshua 4:5b-7)
<b>November</b> <i>Christ: Stone of Salvation</i>	For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (Ephesians 2:8-10)
<b>December</b> <i>Celebration: Stone of Worship</i>	It is good to praise the LORD and make music to your name, O Most High, to proclaim your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night. (Psalm 92:1-2)
<b>January</b> <i>Priesthood of All Believers</i>	As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him—you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 2:4-5)
<b>February</b> <i>Baptism: Stone of Inclusion</i>	We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. (Romans 6:4)
<b>March</b> <i>Sabbath: Stone of Rest</i>	I am the LORD your God; follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. Keep my Sabbaths holy, that they may be a sign between us. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God. (Ezekiel 20:19-20)
<b>April</b> <i>Stone of Obedience</i>	This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. (1 John 5:3-4)
<b>May</b> <i>Stone of Faithfulness</i>	Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him. If we disown him, he will also disown us; if we are faithless, he will remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself. (2 Timothy 2:11-13)
<b>June</b> <i>Stone of Service</i>	He has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. (2 Corinthians 5:19b-20)

## Junior

## Primary

Each of you is to take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, to serve as a sign among you. (Joshua 4:5b-6a)	Each of you is to take up a stone on his shoulder... to serve as a sign among you. (Joshua 4:5b-6a)
For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)	For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith. (Ephesians 2:8a)
It is good to praise the LORD and make music to your name, O Most High. (Psalm 92:1)	It is good to praise the LORD and make music to your name, O Most High. (Psalm 92:1)
As you come to him,... you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood. (1 Peter 2:4-5a)	You... are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood. (1 Peter 2:5)
We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that... we too may live a new life. (Romans 6:4)	We were therefore buried with him through baptism... (Romans 6:4a)
Keep my Sabbaths holy, that they may be a sign between us. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God. (Ezekiel 20:20)	Keep my Sabbaths holy, that they may be a sign between us. (Ezekiel 20:20a)
This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome. (1 John 5:3)	This is love for God: to obey his commands... (1 John 5:3)
Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him. (2 Timothy 2:11-12a)	If we endure, we will also reign with him.... (2 Timothy 2:12a)
We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. (2 Corinthians 5:20a)	We are therefore Christ's ambassadors. (2 Corinthians 5:20a)





Pearls from the Past by Don A. Sanford, historian

## The Little White Church in the Vale

"O, come, come, come..." as the melody invites one to "Come to the church in the dale," and all join in the words: "No place is so dear to my childhood as the little brown church in the vale."

When an e-mail brought news that the church building of my childhood and youth had succumbed to fire, floods of memories came through in the words of an old hymn that used to echo from that building in Little Genesee, N.Y. Change the word "brown" to "white," and it would be a perfect fit for my thoughts and emotions:

There's a church in the valley by  
the wildwood,  
No lovelier spot in the dale  
No place is so dear to my child-  
hood  
As the little *white* church in the  
vale.

Oh, come to the church in the  
wildwood,  
To the trees where the wild flowers  
bloom;  
Where the parting hymn will be  
chanted  
We will weep by the side of the  
tomb.

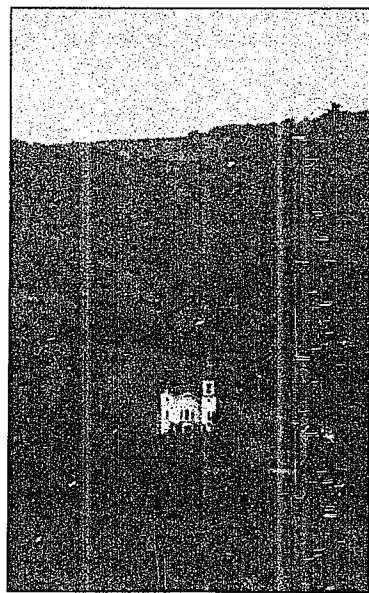
How sweet on a clear Sabbath  
morning,  
To list to the clear ringing bell;  
Its tones so sweetly are calling,  
Oh come to the church in the vale.

From the church in the valley by  
the wildwood,  
When day fades away in the night,  
I would fain from this spot of my  
childhood  
Wing my way to the mansions of  
light.

After each verse, I can still hear  
the lower voices chanting the words

### Church of childhood, church of ancestry

This was not only the church of my childhood, but the church of my ancestry. Joel Crandall and his wife, Hulda Maxson Crandall, were among



the first settlers in the vale. Joel's name is affixed to the list of charter members who covenanted in 1827 to form the First Genesee Church, originally called Cuba.

Their daughter, Julia, connected with another prominent family in the church's history when she married Benjamin Franklin Burdick. In his carpenter shop opposite the Little Rhode Island Cemetery on Salt Rising Road, the pews for the remodelled church were made in 1880. For over 120 years, hundreds of bodies

had found comfort in the well-proportioned pews.

One of Benjamin's sons, Alberne H. Burdick, took his carpentry skills to Alfred, N.Y., and then to Piscataway, N.J. But his daughter, Edna Burdick, moved back to the Genesee Valley when she married Mark Sanford. Seventy-five years ago, I was born to this couple just two days after Alberne's death. Thus my middle name, "Alberne," is a reminder of a precious ancestry.

### Faithful ministers

But it was not just those ancestors to which the sweet ringing bell echoed on a clear Sabbath morning. The bell called the faithful of many families, as they heard the Word of God spoken through the hearts and mouths of close to three dozen ministers.

A marble plaque which survived the fire gives tribute to Rev. Thomas B. Brown, who served that church for 23 years. Beneath that name is the scripture from Hebrews 11:4: "He being dead, yet speaketh." How well he spoke!

Reared in a Baptist parsonage and trained in the Baptist ministry, Brown's study of the Bible led him to a conviction of the Sabbath. He was instrumental in organizing the New York City church, the Sabbath Tract Society, and the SDB Missionary Society. He was the principal writer of the 1843 letter to the Baptists which convinced some of William Miller's followers to accept the Sabbath.

When the urban environment of New York City endangered his health, Brown moved to the rural setting of Little Genesee. Here he became a trustee of the newly formed Education Society, and a member of the Board of Trustees of Alfred

cont. on page 26



**FOCUS**  
on Missions

## Schools mean ministry, expense

by Kirk Looper

It was a blessing to again visit our friends in The Gambia.

At our first meeting, we discussed the Conference's need for a computer and photocopier. Computers cost more there, so we decided to go ahead and purchase the computer and printer, but will wait for more donations before buying the photocopier.

Remember, our SDB Conference in The Gambia is not registered with their government's religious department. Instead, it is registered as a Non-Government Organization (NGO). Therefore, it needs a social project to maintain its registration. Since the Conference's membership includes many teachers, they decided to open an elementary school.

Their initial goal was to build a school which would house the first three primary grades. They opened it to the community, and almost immediately 50 students—ranging from 4 to 7 years of age—enrolled. This fall, they plan to increase enrollment to 100 and add rooms to include the next three grades.

Meanwhile, they have located two other school sites, so they currently support three primary-grade schools—in Daranka, Talinding, and Wiligare. And they are looking into a possible school at Brufut by this fall. They plan to increase the size of each of these schools so that they will eventually include grades through the junior high level. They also want to develop schools that will provide vocational education, especially for young women.

Every elementary school student has a physical exam each month. Two doctors do this. One volunteers his time and medical supplies, while the other is paid. This usually runs around \$200 per month, serving 200 students.

Three epileptic students were enrolled in the school at Daranka at the beginning of the year. Since then, two of the pupils have died, but the remaining one continues to receive his medication at school.

Similar situations exist at all of the schools, involving a variety of illnesses. Funds for medicine often come out of the teachers' pockets.

"Church school" is held on Sabbath. During the classes, the students learn Bible lessons, listen to ser-

mons, and study memory verses. On Sabbath, they usually go home around noon. On weekdays, school usually lasts until 2:00 p.m., but some of the students stay until their parents pick them up after work.

The cost of running the schools is a burden on the Conference. Even though much of the work is done by volunteers, many people are employed. Each school charges tuition, but it is not enough to meet expenses, primarily because the schools are located in the poorer areas of the country. Individual teacher salaries run \$100 every month, rent and utilities for each school costs \$240 per month, \$100 covers school supplies per term (three

months) for each school, and uniforms cost \$10 per child per year.

It is often difficult for students in The Gambia to raise enough money to pay for their education. Most often, only one child per family will be allowed to attend school. Some scholarships are available to

families with several children, but funds are low. Consequently, many children are not allowed into the schools.

Most of the school teachers are not highly educated in their fields. Many wish they could attend college to gain the expertise needed to deal effectively with classroom problems. Also, they want to learn better ways to develop and present their lessons. A three-year training program would cost about \$200 annually per teacher. The cost of transporting each teacher to and from college would cost an additional \$5 per week.

Developing elementary schools in African communities has proven to be one of the best methods of developing churches. At present, Seventh Day Baptists have very active congregations in Banjul and Daranka. SDB churches in other communities where the schools are located await adequate advertisement and education. We pray for the ongoing work in those communities.

The General Secretary of the SDB Conference in The Gambia, Kwabena Opoku, reports that he is working with groups in Dakar, Senegal, and Free Town, Sierra Leone. They hope that they can have these churches up and running, along with their local schools, by July 2002. We will be praying for this to happen. **SR**

***It is often difficult for students in  
The Gambia to raise enough money  
to pay for their education.  
Most often, only one child per  
family will be allowed  
to attend school.***



# the BEACON

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

## Trying to stay out of trouble

by Aubrey Appel in the *Conference Crier*

During Young Adult Pre-Con, Pastor George Calhoun challenged us to take a closer look at the temptations in each of our lives. His theme was "Lead Me Not into Temptation—I Can Find it Myself."

You may be reading this with a smirk on your face, thinking, "Ha! Temptation is for weak Christians, and I don't have problems like that."

Well, think again, buddy. It says in the Bible that everyone is tempted. Even Jesus was tempted in the desert.

Let me just clarify this super important point: Temptation is not sin. It sounds crazy, but it's for real. Temptation only becomes sin when we act upon it.

As Christians, it is important to realize that our goal in life is not salvation. Salvation comes as a free gift once we accept Christ into our lives. Like it says in 1 John 1:9, He purifies us and cleanses us from all unrighteousness.

Romans 6:16-17 says, "Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teach-

ing to which you were entrusted. You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness."

In Christ, we are no longer slaves to sin and death, but we have been set free and are called to live in righteousness. Our goal is to live like Jesus! Can I get an "Amen"?

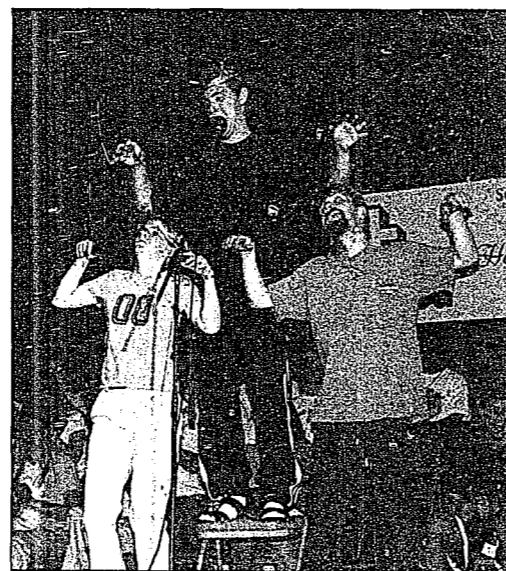
Pastor George also talked about recognizing temptation. He taught us that once we discover temptation, we need to take responsibility for our sins instead of making lame excuses: "It's because of where I grew up." "It's the way my family is." "It's my genetic makeup."

Once we have discovered temptation in our lives and have taken responsibility for it, we must get rid of it. Using a weed analogy, Pastor George said that we cannot just chop off the head of a dandelion and expect it to die. The weed will grow back stronger until we remove the entire plant, roots and all.

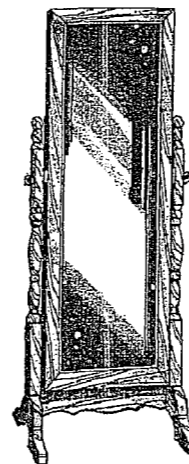
Temptation is tough stuff to deal with, but we must remember that we are not alone. God is totally on our side, fighting with us.

1 Corinthians 10:12-13 says, "So if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. *And God is faithful*; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it."

With God's strength and love, we can fight temptation and live as God calls us. Once, we were in darkness, but now we are children of the light. *SR*



"Demon" Jeff Rood (center) tempts his puppets Stephanie Ritchie (left) and Aaron Smith.



## Reflections by Leanne Lippincott

"Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face."—1 Cor. 13:12

## Costly fight for the unborn

the \$20,000 bill accumulated in Tampa. The company claims that the 10-year-old endoscopic procedure remains experimental and "has yet to be proven to be a safe and effective treatment of TTTS." (Try telling that to the parents of all of those surviving babies!)

### God has remained the steadfast Captain of our foundering ships.

In spite of the waves of tension and heartache cascading from this first-time pregnancy, God has remained the steadfast Captain of our foundering ships. To quote Scottish preacher James Stewart, "It is when you have sunk right down to rock bottom that you suddenly find you have struck the Rock of Ages."

Jennifer and Jamie are members of the Milton, Wis., SDB Church. Through all the turmoil, their growing faith is evident to everyone. By openly talking about their trust in God in a newspaper interview, they've been able to witness to literally thousands of people, confirming "that in all things God works for the good of those who love him..." (Romans 8:28).

While taking a separate flight to Florida to be with Jen for the surgery, I was reminded time and again of God's

comforting presence. I struck up conversations with total strangers, who in turn said they would pray for us. Two people even gave me their home and e-mail addresses, wanting to obtain future updates on the twins.

Each time prayer was mentioned, it was like God had wrapped another blanket of love around my shoulders.

At one point during my flight, I looked out the window and stared at the earth from 35,000 feet. I marveled at what tiny, ant-like creatures we humans are in the grand scheme of things. *And how marvelous that God is in the midst of all of our mountains and molehills, concerned with our frantic busyness and protective of our welfare.*

We're so tiny and inherently weak, while God is so large and awesomely powerful. Yet He takes the time to love us, guide us, and watch over us.

Please pray for Jen and Jamie, and little Jordan Joelle. If you'd like to help with their medical bills, you can mail your donation to M&I Bank, 100 N. Main St., Janesville, WI 53545. Checks should be made out to the Dutcher Family Medical Expense Account. Any amount, no matter how small, would be greatly appreciated. *SR*



Jenny gets one more kiss before surgery.

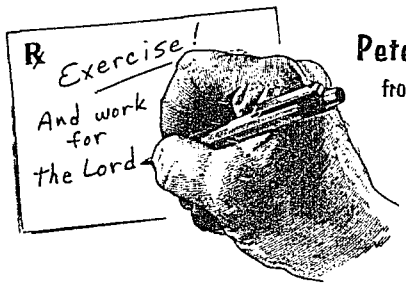
In June, my daughter and her husband flew from Janesville, Wis., to Tampa, Fla., to try to save the lives of their unborn identical twin girls. The babies had been diagnosed with Twin to Twin Transfusion Syndrome (connecting vessels cause one baby to get too many nutrients, the other too few), which put both at high risk for heart failure.

Jen and Jamie met with Dr. Ruben Quintero, one of only two surgeons in the U.S. who specialize in an endoscopic laser procedure to treat TTTS babies.

The surgery to disconnect the vessels was successful, but the smaller twin, Joelle Ann, later died in the womb. Apparently, her share of the placenta was too small to sustain her. As I write this (in mid-July), the larger twin—Jordan Lee, now renamed Jordan Joelle—is "hanging in there" in spite of continual setbacks. Jennifer remains on total bed rest.

These past few months have been stressful for our entire family. Daily living has been like an out-of-control roller coaster ride, with emotional highs and lows at every turn. Each doctor visit has taken on an aura of good news/bad news.

Added to the mix are financial stresses. Jennifer is no longer able to work, and Jamie is unable to take on a second job because of the demands of his current work (plus helping at home). After two reviews, their insurance company is still refusing to pay



**Pete's Prescriptions**  
from Dr. Pete May,  
Executive Secretary

**"www.sabbathrest.wow"**

At Pastors' Conference last April, Baptist historian Dr. William Brackney told us that SDBs need to introduce their Baptist brethren to Sabbath benefits. The benefit we need to share most is Sabbath rest.

In today's society, we're victims of "over-rush" and "over-work" weariness. We think we'll die if we ever stop working, or we fear that our children will become too bored if they cut back on their activities.

It's true that we need to keep our bodies in shape with exercise and a good diet. We can also "exercise" our brains by reading a challenging book, working crossword puzzles, etc. But God intended more for us than just work and exercise; He created the Sabbath and Sabbath rest.

In the Fourth Commandment, God directs us to follow His rhythm of life. He commands us to stop and rest. Sharing *that* should be our mission. To quote William Muller, "Sabbathkeeping is the part of ourselves that when we go forth to heal the wounds of the world, our effort will have the wisdom of Sabbath rest in it."

How do we let others taste the Holy Spirit's gift of rest?

When I became SDB Executive Secretary, I began handing out "Prayer Remembrance Rocks." Now I would like to change that name to "Sabbath Remembrance Rocks."

I also took on other projects. When the SDB Memorial Board indicated that they were willing to match funds for churches that were financing both physical and spiritual building programs, I searched for groups

that had a vision for their community's needs. I saw some churches without "wonders," but I also saw many others that were doing wondrous things.

In another project, General Council gave me funds that I could use with "no strings attached." In some churches, I gave away hundred dollar bills. The people accepting the money promised that they would use it to help someone. Some individuals wouldn't take the \$100, but they did say that they would see to it that they would help someone in another way. This "giveaway" was intended to help individual church members give another person a "gift"—help, or hope, or peace, or a repose of Sabbath rest. In many instances, this actually happened.

Of all of these gifts, Sabbath rest is the best. As you pass people, give them a smile and wish them Sabbath rest. When you feel your "Remembrance Rock" in your pocket, think that you're grasping a moment of Sabbath rest.

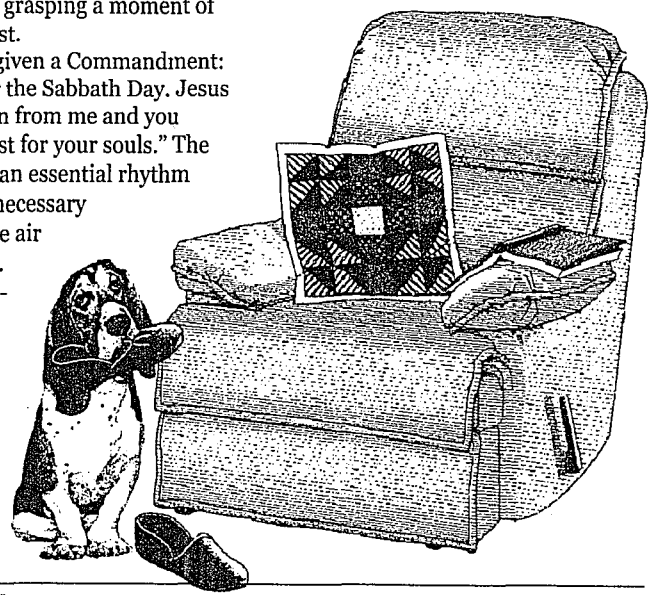
We are given a Commandment: Remember the Sabbath Day. Jesus said, "Learn from me and you will find rest for your souls." The Sabbath is an essential rhythm of life—as necessary to life as the air we breathe. That is Sabbath rest.

Conference President Clayton Pinder has said simply, "Try God." While at prayer, Jesus Himself was simply in the presence of God. Some Hebrew writings translate "prayer" as "rest in the presence of God."

So now your Executive Secretary is beginning again. My highest hope is that you, as SDBs, will bless others as Jesus did. Life is a great blessing; don't worry about tomorrow. Jesus came that we might have life, abundant life. And he wants us to be lights in a dark world.

The gospel of Matthew tells us that we are blessed—not tomorrow, not next week, but *now*. And we must share the abundant life inherent in Sabbath rest. You can be poor, in mourning, quiet and meek, and even think that you are being persecuted (a "tough find" in America). But Jesus says, "Be not afraid." And God said, "Remember the Sabbath Day."

Get some Sabbath blessings and share them! **SR**



# Let there be revival in the land!

by Randy Hatch

God is so good! He has blessed the Adams Center, N.Y., Seventh Day Baptist Church mightily. On May 10-12, 2001, Pastor Barry Baugh led a revival service at the church.

Pastor Barry is with Teen Challenge on Long Island, N.Y. He shared his testimony of how God saved his life after he lost a promising basketball career to drugs. He told how his mother and grandmother never stopped praying for him when he was a child, and he urged the women in the audience to never give up on their children and grandchildren.

On Thursday, Brother Paul Thompson led us into worship with praise choruses, after which he and his daughter, Jennifer, sang a duet.

Pastor Barry then preached from Ezekiel 37. He spoke of "dry bones," and how so many churches have become devoid of the Spirit of God, where worship has been replaced by duty.

Just over 30 people attended that first meeting, with 17 people coming forward for prayer during the altar call.

On Friday night, attendance jumped to 50-plus. Matt Sherlock, who is training with Teen Challenge, gave his testimony. He grew up in a good home but still rebelled, turning to drugs as a way to cope with life. While serving a long sentence in jail, his despair caused him to turn in humility to Jesus.

Pastor Barry spoke on Gideon and commitment. During his message, he reminded the fathers in the congregation that they have a sacred trust to be the head of their households and the "priests" to their families. During the altar call, almost the entire church came forward.

The Voices of Praise from Toronto, Canada, took center stage on Saturday night. God has gifted this ministry with a talent second to none. They, in turn, give all of the credit and glory to the Lord.

On this final night of the revival, Pastor Barry preached from the book of Isaiah. He described how different types of Christians relate to different types of birds. Without seeing him mimic the walks of different birds and their "voices," it's



Pastor Barry Baugh

hard to describe the service. Suffice it to say that when the altar call was given, almost all of the 77 people present went forward, including members of the choir and some of the ministry team.

When the service ended, no one wanted to go home. Many lingered until after 10:00 p.m., when choir members finally found the host families they were to go home with.

As people talked into the night, many close bonds were formed. Even though we're from different associations, we consider ourselves "sister churches."

Sunday morning saw everyone gather for a hardy breakfast at the church sessions room. When it was time to leave, families reluctantly loaded up their stuff, took pictures, shared hugs, and traded addresses. There were even a few tears as we parted company.

The Holy Spirit moved in Adams Center and made His presence known. Until you experience that for yourself, you can't know the Joy of the Lord to its fullest extent. The time for revival is now. Are you ready? **SR**



Part of the Adams Center congregation with visitors from the Toronto SDB Church.



## Doctoral Robe presented



Janette Rogers (second from left) prepares to present her late husband's robe to the church.

Pastor Albert Rogers went to be with the Lord almost a year ago. On Sabbath, June 23, 2001, the Alfred Station, N.Y., SDB Church honored Pastor Al and his family.

During the worship service, the family gave the church Pastor Al's honorary Doctoral Robe. Remembrances were shared by Jean Pierce, one of Al's former parishioners; a representative of Alfred University; Ken Chroniger, the church's current pastor; and Al's widow, Janette.

Members of the Rogers' family were introduced and, following the service, a reception was held to greet the family and share more memories of Pastor Al.

The robe is currently displayed in a glass case in the church's vestibule. It has prompted many questions from the congregation's youth: "What was the robe used for? "Whose robe was it? "Why is it important? "When did Pastor Al pastor our church?" **SR**



Susie Butts and Kevin Palmiter kneel to join diaconate.

On Sabbath, April 28, 2001, the Alfred Station, N.Y., SDB Church held an ordination service for Susie Butts and Kevin Palmiter and welcomed them as new members of the diaconate. Both Susie and Kevin gave brief but inspiring testimonies of their calling to serve others. **SR**

## SR Reaction

Dear Editor,

Pastor Orville Babcock, who died last year, was my pastor when I was in high school, and I greatly admired him.

In his obituary on the back page of the November 2000 *SR*, there is one statement I wish I could verify: that one of Orville's ancestors, James Babcock, "had emigrated in the 1640s from England, where he was a member of a Sabbathkeeping church." That he was a member of such a church in England appears to be a family tradition.

My research in English Seventh Day Baptist history has not found proof of such a church before the 1650s. (John Traske, not a Baptist, kept the Sabbath briefly before he recanted; his wife kept it until her death in prison. There is no known evidence of a surviving church. Theophilus Brabourne remained a priest in the Church of England though he

pressed for the Seventh Day Sabbath in many books.)

The standard Babcock Genealogy (by Steven Babcock, 1903) says that James Babcock was baptized "in his fifty-ninth year, 1678... and united with the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Newport and Westerly," which is the year before he died. That statement suggests but does

not prove that he had not been a Seventh Day Baptist before 1678.

If anyone can give me better information about his Sabbathkeeping church membership in England, please write to me.

Oscar Burdick  
7641 Terrace Dr.  
El Cerrito, CA 94530

Members of the First Seventh Day Baptist Church in Ashaway, R.I., gathered on June 4, 2001, to install a new church sign. You might think that a church that has been worshipping in the community since 1672 (organized in 1708) would be well known in the community. Recently, however, the congregation has been noticing that com-



munity members were not sure "what kind of a church that big white one is"! This new sign should now make the church easily identifiable. **SR**

## Church visits in Brazil, cont. from page 12

In 1965, Brazil was one of the original eleven Conferences forming the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation.

### Conference expanding

It is quite a different Conference today. Most of the churches existing in 1950 are still a part of the Conference, but many new ones have grown up far from their southern origins. Our three weeks and four Sabbaths could not possibly include visits to churches in the North and Northeast, where the Conference is working hard to expand its work.

During the Conference, we met pastors involved in the new work in the Amazon basin, State of Amazonas. We also met Pastor Eli Rangel, who is responsible for the Missions Department and works out of Fortaleza in the north coast state of Ceará. (From the churches in Rio Grande do Sul, near the Uruguay border, to a new church in Roraima State near the Guyana border, it is farther than from Miami, Fla., to Seattle, Wash.)

### New buildings

Our visits included stops at several of the dozen or so churches that have new buildings or building programs in process.

In rural Xaxim, a new building stands gleaming beside the older,

smaller one, and is now available for Christian education. In Pirai do Sul we met in a rented building but stood within the steel framework of the new structure being erected on the edge of the city.

In the lumbering region of Mafra, new walls were built outside the old

es, are alert to the challenge in this changing context. They also gear their church planting work to the patterns of shifting population—into the developing interior, and from rural areas into the coastal cities.

Historically, the mission activity of Brazilian SDBs has moved them

**The basic patterns were the same in every church, whether urban or rural, small or large. Yet, as always, each had its special style or unique customs.**

ones, with hardly a service missed before the old walls came down. The new parquet floor had just been laid, and the sign wasn't up yet when we were there.

In Guarulhos, a new muddy suburb of São Paulo, the block and brick walls of their new church are going up. When it is completed, it will be one of four SDB churches in South America's largest city.

### Responding to revival

Brazil remains predominantly Roman Catholic but seems to be experiencing a religious revival. Many Pentecostal or charismatic groups are growing, as are many spiritualist and animistic cults.

Seventh Day Baptists, like other more established Protestant church-

into new areas. In Guaruva, Pastor Lemos told how his father had been one of the first to travel regularly to a remote logging region. There the Pavãozinho church is now the only Protestant church in the community.

When we visited, Pastor Ari was preparing to baptize a group of 12 young people whose parents had grown up in the church. And how they can sing! Everywhere the music drew us closer to each other and to our Heavenly Father as the language barrier dissolved into joyful praise.

### North to São Paulo

Traveling north into São Paulo State, our church visits included Itararé, one of the original three churches formed 85 years ago. It is

cont. on page 26



(Far left) In the local churches, the Thorngates especially enjoyed the many youth and children's choirs, this one in the remote logging village of Pavãozinho.

(Left) The congregation of the Seventh Day Baptist Church in Guaruva, Paraná.

## New Members

**Adams Center, NY**  
*Dale Smalley, pastor*  
 Joined after testimony  
 David Murphy  
 Jane Murphy  
 David Murphy Jr.  
 Megan Murphy  
 Pastor Dale Smalley  
 Lin Smalley

**Alfred Station, NY**  
*Kenneth Chroniger, pastor*  
 Joined after baptism  
 Katie Neu

**Central, MD**  
*Ernest K. Bee Jr.,  
 transition pastor*  
 Joined by letter  
 John James Pethtel

**Denver, CO**  
*Rodney Henry, pastor*  
 Joined by letter  
 Barbara White

**Milton, WI**  
*George Calhoun, pastor*  
 Joined after testimony  
 Mary Adams

Joshua Calhoun  
 Maryah Fletcher  
 Amanda Gada  
 Pam Heisz  
 Joe Michel  
 Terri Michel  
 Bill Millis  
 Vicki Millis  
 Ellen Polglaze  
 Joined after baptism  
 Stephanie Fortin  
 Tracy Porter

**Riverside, CA**  
*Eric Davis, pastor*  
 Joined after testimony  
 Renee Flores  
 Jonathan Somers  
 Ralond Troncin  
 Joined by letter  
 Melinda Barnes Riley

**Salem, WV**  
*Dale D. Thorngate, pastor*  
 Joined after baptism  
 Shawn Blackwell  
 Chad Modesitt  
 Joined by testimony  
 Diana Housel

## Marriages

**McPherson - Henry.**—Bryan McPherson and Tanya Henry were united in marriage on May 5, 2001, at the Greenbriar Inn in Boulder, CO. Tanya's brother, Eric, and the parents of the bride and groom conducted the service.

**Nida - Calise.**—Rev. Dr. Melvin G. Nida and Cynthia Brissey were united in marriage on May 30, 2001, at the Salem, WV, Seventh Day Baptist Church. Rev. Dale D. Thorngate officiated.

**Severance - Wagner.**—Christopher Severance and Stacy Wagner were united in marriage on June 9, 2001, at the Christ Congregational Church in Longmont, CO. Pastors Chris Mattison and David Thorngate presided at the ceremony.

**Ryschon - Shoemaker.**—Jordan Thomas Ryschon and Kristen Ann Shoemaker were united in marriage on June 23, 2001, at the North Loup, NE, Seventh Day Baptist Church. Rev. Christian Mattison officiated, assisted by Rev. Mynor Soper.

## Births

**Trudell.**—A daughter, Amber Christine Trudell, was born to Lance and Rachel Trudell of Hornell, NY, on April 6, 2001.

**Jacob.**—A son, Timothy James Jacob, was born to Matthew W. and Carolyn (Price) Jacob of Jacksonville, FL, on April 22, 2001.

**Probasco.**—A daughter, Hollyn Ayars Probasco, was born to William and Valerie (Blair) Probasco of Shiloh, NJ, on May 29, 2001.

**Crouch.**—A daughter, Julia Natalie Crouch, was born on May 20, 1990, in Castro Valley, CA. She came to live with Pastor Steven and Rebecca Crouch of Pinole, CA, on June 16, 1998,

and was adopted on May 31, 2001.

**Bennett.**—A daughter, Serena Elise Bennett, was born to Rob and Darlene Bennett of Patrick Air Force Base, FL, on June 18, 2001.

**Fallon.**—A son, Luke Andrew Fallon, was born to Eric and Deanna Fallon of Westerly, RI, on July 8, 2001.

## Obituaries

**vanDalen.**—Codie Evan vanDalen, 6, of Milton, Wis., died on May 9, 2001, at home after a valiant and inspiring battle against leukemia. He was born on October 16, 1994, in Janesville, Wis., the son of Caroll vanDalen.

Survivors include his mother, Caroll, of Milton; his grandmother, Elisabeth vanDalen of Janesville; his grandfather, Dirk vanDalen of Florida; one aunt, four uncles, and three cousins.

A memorial service was held on May 14, 2001, at the Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church.

**Ryan.**—Martha (Faller) Ryan, 92, died on June 14, 2001, in San Antonio, Texas, where she had lived for four years. She had previously resided in Lakewood and East Orange, N.J.

She was born on March 4, 1909, in Jersey City, N.J., the daughter of William and Martha (Stoll) Faller. She graduated from St. Barnabas Hospital School of Nursing with an RN degree, and received a scholarship for additional training at Bellevue Hospital in New York City.

She was employed by Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. for 12 years in its Visiting Nurse Program. She subsequently became supervising nurse at the ILGWU (International Ladies Garment Workers Union) Health Clinic in Newark, N.J., retiring in 1974.

Martha was a longtime member of the SDB Church of Christ in Plainfield, N.J. Her grandfather, Frederick Ferdinand Stoll, was the first pastor of the Irvington, N.J., German SDB Church.

She is survived by one brother, William H. Wray, of San Antonio.

A graveside service was held on June 19, 2001, at the Ocean County

Memorial Park in Toms River, N.J. Her longtime friend, Pastor Jeanne Yurke, officiated.

**Hulin.**—Paul Hulin, 62, of Jacksonville, Fla., died on June 22, 2001.

He was born on August 9, 1938, in Clarksburg, W.Va., the son of Kenneth V. and Mary (Randolph) Hulin. He was educated at Salem (W.Va.) High School and Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass. While serving in the U.S. Navy, he pioneered the installation of comprehensive defense systems on nuclear submarines. At the time of his death he was employed by America Online.

A memorial service was held on June 26, 2001, in Jacksonville. The remains will be returned to Salem for private burial at the Brick Church Cemetery in Lost Creek, W.Va.

**Ochs.**—Alberta (Griffey) Hume Ochs, 77, of Milton, Wis., died on June 30, 2001, at Deerview Meadows Home, Janesville, Wis., following a long illness.

She was born on May 5, 1924, in Janesville, the daughter of Myron and Louise (Muller) Griffey. On July 13, 1946, she married Ray Hume. He died on February 7, 1983. On April 4, 1990, she married Kenneth Ochs.

Alberta graduated from Milton College and was listed in *Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities*. She was a music teacher in the Milton School district for 30 years, and also taught in the Edgerton School district and at Milton College.

For 35 years, she was the choir director at Central Lutheran Church in Edgerton, Wis. She was president of the Milton Junior Women's Club and directed the women's chorus.

Alberta was also a member of Delta Kappa Gamma and the American Association of University Women. In 1988, she was named Milton Kiwanis Citizen of the Year.

Survivors include her husband, Ken, of Milton; two daughters, Marcia Green and Phyllis Wilson; two sons, Richard and Ronald Hume; one stepdaughter, Donna Van Horn; one stepson, Ronald Ochs; six grandchildren, five stepgrandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and five stepgreat-grandchildren. In addition to her first husband, Ray, she was preceded in death by one sister and a brother.

Funeral services were held on July 3, 2001, at the Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church. Burial was in the Milton Cemetery.

**Leete.**—Raymond I. Leete Sr., 90, died on July 10, 2001, at Middlesex Hospital in Middletown, Conn.

He was born on January 3, 1911, in Madison, Conn., the son of Erwin and Edith (Munson) Leete. His wife, Irene Katona Leete, preceded him in death.

Raymond had been a member of the Waterford, Conn., Seventh Day Baptist Church since 1985.

Survivors include five daughters, Annette Fogg of Groton, Conn., Dorothea Gippert of Monroe, Ga., Marjorie Haggarty of Guilford, Conn., Frances Colvard of Pikesville, Tenn., and Judith Csutor of Westbrook, Conn.; one son, Raymond Jr., of Tampa, Fla.; 18 grandchildren, and 30 great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held on July 13, 2001, at the Swan Funeral Home in Madison. A July 14 funeral service was followed by burial in Evergreen Cemetery, Killingworth, Conn.

## Church visits in Brazil, *cont. from page 23*

still vigorous and active. There we were happy to see Brother Wilson Wolfe, who had twice represented Brazil at World Federation sessions.

Later that Friday, winding through clogged traffic in São Paulo's sprawling megalopolis, we finally arrived to meet with a new group in the Jaguara section of the city. Now renting a building in a very poor neighborhood, they showed us the newly furnished rooms where they would soon open a neighborhood day-care center.

And then we enjoyed our final "high Sabbath." People from the several "metro" congregations arrived, mostly by bus, at the São Paulo Patriarca church for joyous Sabbath fellowship.

After the Sabbath School lesson (adults used *The Helping Hand*, translated from English into Portuguese), the children joined us for the worship service. They added exuberance to the music, clapping to the beat of guitars through many choruses. As in most of the SDB churches in Brazil, we always stood for the

reading of Scripture and often knelt for prayer.

Following the pattern set in all of our church visits, the congregation was attentive and responsive to Dale's sermon and my greetings. They patiently waited for the translation into Portuguese, but we were aware that many understood English.

### Q&A after lunch

The most fun came after lunch, when we responded to informal questions from the congregation. As in so many places, people were eager to know about us personally and about Seventh Day Baptists elsewhere. They were also eager to know what we thought of *their* country—so vast, so colorful, so exciting.

The majority of their questions, however, dealt with Seventh Day Baptist history. Many of the young people—and many of the visitors from other Sabbathkeeping or Baptist groups—wanted to understand how their history and heritage connects with that of other Sabbathkeeping Baptists worldwide.

### Come to Brazil in 2003

Our friends in Brazil look forward to meeting some of these far-flung "brothers and sisters in Christ" when their country hosts the sessions of the SDB World Federation in 2003. They especially hope young people can come from other countries for fellowship with their active Youth Congress.

Sessions will be held in Curitiba, Paraná. Guests will be invited to the Brazil Conference, scheduled for January 13-18. World Federation sessions will immediately follow, from January 19 through the 25th. The special Youth and Women's Congresses will fall on the weekend between, January 17-18.

Plan now to attend! Or help representatives from each of the 18 Conferences to attend by giving to the SDB World Federation. Contributions may be sent to:

Treasurer Luan Ellis  
614 Pleasant Valley Rd.  
Alfred Station NY 14803 USA

## The Little White Church, *cont. from page 16*

University with a strong voice in establishing the School of Theology. The location of that School, about 30 miles from Little Genesee, gave students from the seminary a chance to "practice what they preached" on the Genesee congregation.

### Sutton's travels

Rev. Erlo Sutton, whose editorship of *The Helping Hand* spanned a quarter of a century, was one of those who served as pastor of the First Genesee church during his student years at Alfred.

In an unpublished autobiographical sketch, Sutton wrote of his move from Andover, N.Y., to Little Genesee in 1912 while still a student at the seminary. He moved his family from Andover by train, but his household


goods were moved to Little Genesee in the dead of winter by a horse and sled driven by Mr. Sanford (my grandfather).

***This was not only the church of my childhood, but the church of my ancestry.***

Pastor Sutton was fortunate in one way, for the trolley ran right in front of the parsonage and took him to Bolivar, five miles away. There he could take the Shawmut Railroad to Friendship (eight miles), where he could catch the Erie Railroad to Al-

fred Station (20 miles), and his feet covered the remaining two miles to Alfred. His return trip could be by Erie to Hornell, Shawmut to Olean, and the trolley to Little Genesee.

Later pastors could make the trip in an hour's time or less, thus many seminary students had opportunities to serve as either guest speakers or interim pastors. Some continued as pastors and were ordained in that church where they could hear "How sweet on a clear Sabbath morning the tones so sweetly calling, Oh come to the church in the vale."

Though that old meeting house is now gone, the church is still there. And the people are still calling new generations to come to that "church in the vale." 

# KEVIN'S

## ORNER

Like Dorothy in the "Wizard of Oz," it seems like we all clicked our heels and found ourselves back in Kansas again.

Lindsborg greeted us with another warm (HOT!) welcome on our fifth Conference visit to "Little Sweden" since 1987.

If you've already read the "Week in Review" section in the front, you may wonder if we worked on any other business. Several more items ate into our Friday afternoon free time. But let me comment on the curfew and noise issue.

General Council realized that it would have been better to ask delegates to indicate that they had "read and understood" the Expected Conduct Statement on the

registration form, instead of forcing all to comply.

We asked that the Reference and Counsel Committee consider the topics of curfew and noise, so they drafted the wording found on pages 5 and 7. Their subcommittee, composed of older and younger adults, sure put some "teeth" into any violations.

And for all of you non-Conference-attendees: we certainly aren't advocating guard dogs and tear gas in the dorms. We've never had serious problems at our gatherings. But the curfew and noise issues have been loosely interpreted in recent years. It's our desire for SDBs to

be good witnesses to each other, and to our host colleges.

Other business items included—

•Adopting the following resolution: "We affirm that human life begins at conception. Therefore, we're morally opposed to human embryonic stem cell research." This statement is to be sent to national government leaders.

•Tabling the proposed changes to the Manual of Procedures for accepting new churches into the Conference. Delegates needed more time to read and digest the multi-page document.

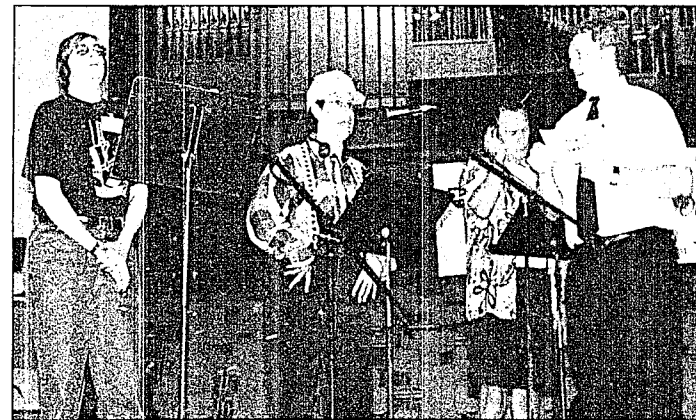
•Clarifying the job descriptions—and the appointment and evaluation process—for the Executive Secretary and General Services Administrator.

Speaking of our "Exec" and GSA... As Pete May and Calvin Babcock look ahead to retirement, they both accepted their final three-year terms beginning next year. They agreed that the 2004-2005 Conference year would be a time of training their successors. They also agreed that they would throw one whale of a party when they step down!

I guess I could say this about every Conference: the fellowship was fantastic, the music was marvelous, the worship was wonderful, the preaching was powerful, and the food was fattening.

Oh, and one more thing. Don't put me down for a "higher tolerance dorm" next year. I need my beauty sleep.

## Who's got "Tract Smarts"?



"Miss Verbosity" (Jeanne Yurke), "Nell of the North" (Cheri Appel), and "Malibu Pipes" (Rob Appel) get quizzed by Kevin Butler at the "Tract Smarts" program.



"I've already made my choice," growls Jim Skaggs (right) as Steve Osborn ponders his next move.





*Pastor David Thorngate (left) helps deacons Dale Green and Phil Bond with the communion trays.*



*Jeff Rood (left) to Dave Stall: "Now, be honest. Does this shirt make me look fat?"*



*A quartet serenaded the women at their banquet on Wednesday night (l. to r.): Steve Saunders, Paul Green, Dale Thorngate, and Phil Rood.*



*Carlie Smith gets ready to play a starfish in the children's program. (Nice costume, Jeanie!)*