

The

S

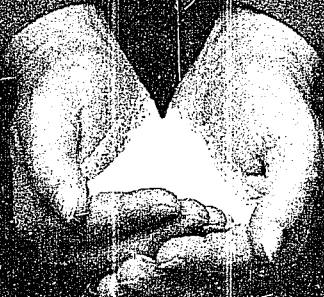
abbath

*News for and about  
Seventh Day Baptists*

January 2002

R

ecorder



Before  
time  
runs  
out...

2002 Missions Issue



### 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

### Robe of Achievement nominations

The SDB Women's Society is accepting nominations for the Robe of Achievement for 2002. Please consider 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 Ave.  
Daytona Beach FL 32114

**Deadline:**  
March 31, 2002

### Missionary Society Annual Meeting

\*\*\*

The annual meeting of the members of the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society will be held at the Pawcatuck SDB Meeting House, 120 Main St., Westerly, R.I., on Sunday, March 17, 2002, at 2:00 p.m. for the following purposes:

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

To hear and act upon the reports of the Board of Managers and officers for the fiscal year January 1, 2001, to December 31, 2001.

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

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

The Board of Managers has fixed the close of business on February 28, 2002, as the time at which members entitled to notice thereof and to vote at the meeting and any adjournment thereof shall be determined.

—Cindy L. Nadeau  
secretary

## The Sabbath Recorder

Establ. 1844



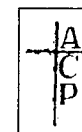
January 2002  
Volume 224, No. 1  
Whole No. 6,869

#### 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

Gabriel E. Bejjani, Andrew J. Camenga, Eowyn Driscoll, Gordon Lawton, G. Kirk Looper, Pete May, 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 on Missions

**Muslims gaining ground in Nigeria** ..... 4  
by Kirk Looper

*The Muslim population is on the increase as they move south from Egypt. How can we help our SDB brethren in Nigeria?*

**Starting over in Mexico** ..... 6  
by Kirk Looper

*Efforts are underway to rebuild the "mother church" of the Mexican Conference in Madero. Plus, a new logo contest!*

**New Church Growth Consulting Program** ..... 8  
by Ron Elston

*A consultant is named to help our churches grow.*

**New SDB church in Birch Hollow, NY** ..... 10  
by Ron Elston

*A fair booth bears fruit in upstate New York.*

**Emmanuel Church dedication** ..... 11  
by Ron Elston

*The Louisville, Ky., fellowship launches their public worship with a December 1 celebration.*

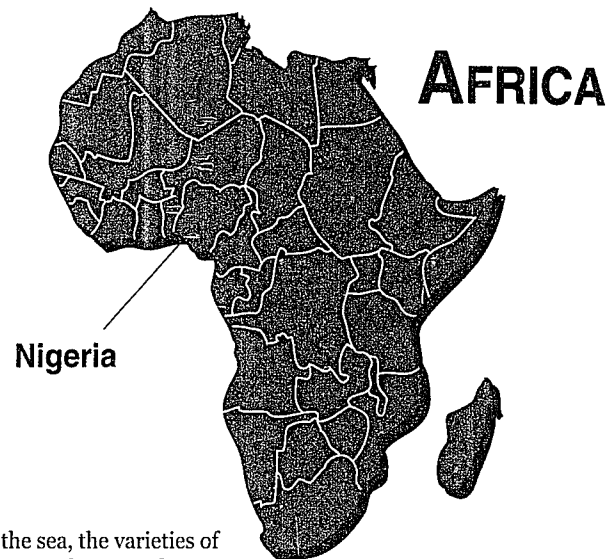
### Departments

<b>Women's Society</b> 12	<b>President's Page</b> 20
<i>Visiting the Heifer Projects in China</i>	<i>The second stone: Baptism</i>
<b>Pearls from the Past</b> 14	<b>Pete's Prescriptions</b> 21
<i>Our responsibility in missions</i>	<i>Our cycle of Life in Christ</i>
<b>SR Almanac</b> 15	<b>Local news</b> 22-23
<i>Looking back 5, 10, 25... years</i>	<i>Nortonville, KS</i> 22
<b>Christian Education</b> 16	<i>Milton, WI</i> 22
<i>Resolution of Appreciation</i>	<i>Australia Association</i> 23
<b>Focus</b> 17	<i>Alfred Station, NY</i> 23
<i>Good progress in Rwanda</i>	<b>Family Flux</b> 24-25
<b>The Beacon</b> 18	<i>New members,</i>
<i>"Generation Excellent"</i>	<i>marriages, births</i> 24
<b>Reflections</b> 19	<i>Obituaries</i> 25
<i>"O use me, Lord..."</i>	<b>Kevin's Korner</b> 27
	<i>Finding an open channel</i>



# Muslims gaining ground in Nigeria

by Kirk Looper



Nigeria's history dates back to 4000 B.C. This land has long been plagued by misery and warfare between its inhabitants and nature.

The original people struggled to locate food when they were primarily hunters, and even when they became a more agricultural society. Migrating animals, pestilence, plagues, and uncooperative weather kept them wondering about their future, and the jungles presented a daily obstacle. It's a wonder that the early inhabitants continued to live in this rugged yet beautiful country.

### The lay of the land

Today, when you leave the short grass steppe region in Niger, you enter a grass-and-shrub savanna. This

the north to the sea, the varieties of animals change as the ground cover changes.

### Christianity introduced

Years ago, Roman Catholic priests traveling with Portuguese traders introduced Christianity to Nigeria. (This country was at one time the most prolific exporter of slaves, their major commodity of trade.)

grew to 10,000. This was a ripe area for the Church, and their work was very beneficial.

### Muslims spread south

Present-day Nigeria stands as one of several countries along this portion of the African coast where Christians work among Muslims. The Muslims, mainly Sunnis of the Malikite rite, were strongest in the northern part of the country. However, within the past few years, they have spread south through the conversion of tribal religionists.

The major conversion period to the Muslim faith was from 1890 to 1920, and again during the past 10 to 15 years. Sometimes whole villages would convert. We need to continue our missionary efforts since a large number of Egyptian missionaries for Islam have been financed through Muslim colleges.

### Religious clashes abound

For a period of time, confrontations between Christians and Mus-

lims were not very prominent, particularly in the South. Recently, however, we've seen a larger number of clashes as the Muslim religion moves southward.

While Nigeria was about 50 percent Christian and 50 percent Muslim in the 1980s, Muslims now make up nearly 60 percent of the population. Most of these converts came from tribal religionists. Violence against Christians has also increased.

### Fighting hits home

The Seventh Day Baptist Coordinator in the region, Rev. Lawrence Ucheguonu, has had several confrontations with Muslim leaders. One placed him in the hospital for several months with first degree burns over much of his body, requiring many skin grafts.

Pastor Ucheguonu continues to travel into Muslim-controlled areas to share the Gospel. At times, he's able to convert some of the people to Christianity and nurture them in their faith. However, some of those same converts have lost their lives because of their decision.

The SDB leader still believes that his work is successful, and he looks forward to each trip north to spread God's Word. We need to continue to pray for him and his ministry.

### Need for study and building materials

SDB churches in Nigeria continue to request aid in their plight against the Muslims. They need Seventh Day Baptist study materials that will help them understand our denomination. They also want additional copies of



**The Seventh Day Baptist Coordinator in the region, Rev. Lawrence Ucheguonu, has had several confrontations with Muslim leaders. One placed him in the hospital for several months.**

*The Helping Hand* for their Sabbath Schools, and Bibles for their members. And they would like to receive copies of *The Sabbath Recorder*.

One of the larger SDB groups is located in the Rivers State in the southeast part of Nigeria. This past year their building was blown down during a violent storm. They were able to rebuild most of it, but lack the funds to continue. They are

grateful for the money we sent, and they still need roofing materials.

### Gifts coming in

Over the past year, donors have contributed items and money to cover some of the work there. The Nigerians received a video recorder for taping their outreach programs and an introduction to the denomination. They would also like to tape some of the other meetings and preaching services.

The Missionary Society has been able to help one of the churches rebuild their facility. However, we send no funds to assist Rev. Ucheguonu in his personal work for the church. Apparently, the members of his Conference believe that he is receiving some financial support from the U.S. and Canada, but he's very much on his own. In fact, he spends a lot of his gardening and livestock income on the needy. We pray for his safety and health.

### Desire is there; prayer needed

Our SDB brothers and sisters in Nigeria have a tremendous desire to evangelize. They reach out into the community whenever they can, but open

evangelism is resisted.

Because they feel a need to reach out in their own languages, they want to be able to translate the tracts and books that we send them. We pray that God will provide a translator. We also pray that they will receive the funds to buy a much-needed computer, printer, and photocopier.

May we hear of their success stories in the near future. **SR**



# Starting over in Mexico

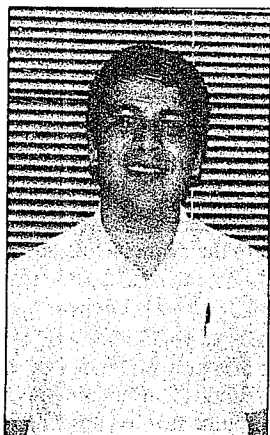
by Kirk Looper

In the late 1970s, the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society received a request to send a representative from our office to Mexico.

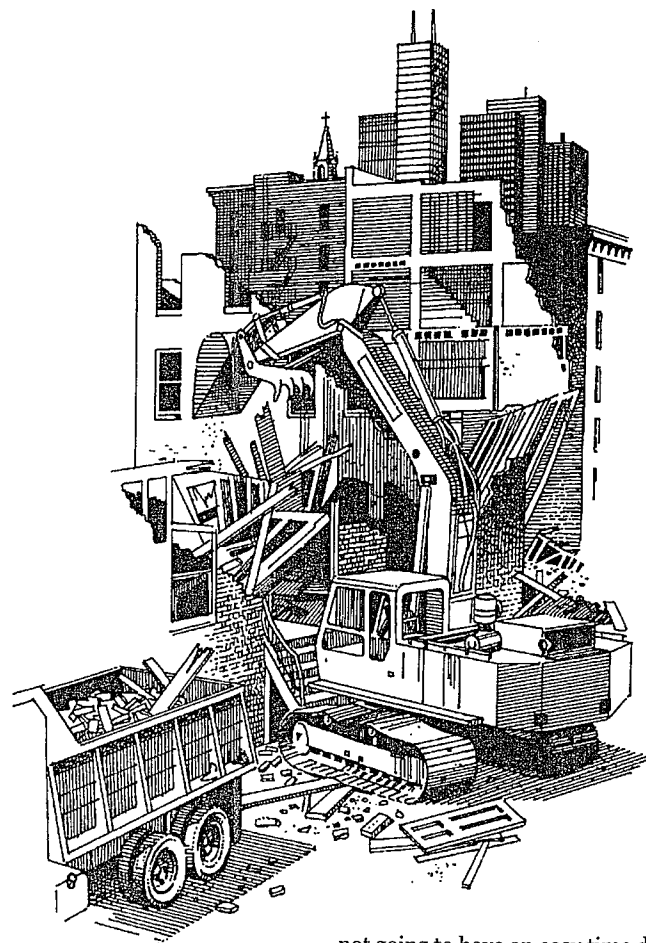
Elias Camacho, our initial contact there, started organizing and developing churches under the Conference name, "Churches of Christ (Seventh Day)." Daryl and Barbara White of Denver, Colo., worked with Pastor Camacho, assisted by Pastor Aldave.

Space restraints won't allow me to tell the entire history of the Mexico Conference, but it's important to point out that the relationship between their early church pioneers and our churches in the USA and Canada has been extremely important. Without their initial groundwork, our churches in Mexico would not be where there are today.

We continue to thank our Society's Mexico Committee for its contact



Pastor Rosalio Camacho



with the Mexican churches and for acting as advisors to the work that is being done there through the Missionary Society. We may be based in Rhode Island, but we're thankful for

not going to have an easy time directing this work.

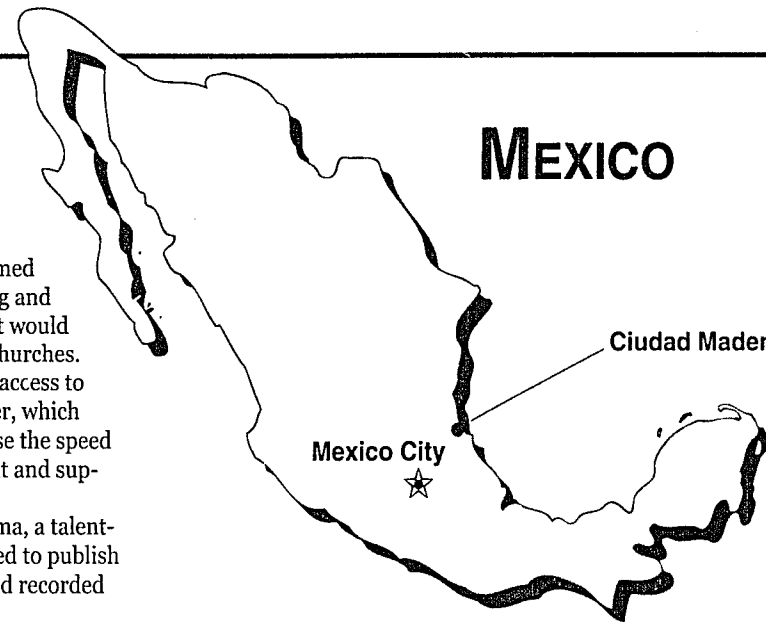
Soon after his father's death, the church was set upon by opposition forces—namely, a leader who felt that he could manage and direct the work in Mexico better than Rosalio. Al-

**Since land is difficult to buy, and so many people had a special feeling for that location, the congregation decided to erect a new building on the old site.**

people worldwide who provide consultation and advice.

When Pastor Elias died in the early 1990s, he left the church leadership to his son, Rosalio. It quickly became apparent that Rosalio was

though the Conference eventually lost over half of its churches, it wasn't long before Rosalio confronted the leadership of the opposing group and reestablished his rightful position as director of the Conference.



With this battle behind him, Rosalio resumed printing some teaching and worship literature that would be distributed to the churches. Eventually, he gained access to a computer and printer, which allowed him to increase the speed at which he could print and supply church materials.

Rosalio's wife, Norma, a talented musician, has helped to publish music in both print and recorded forms.

Rosalio established a school for Conference pastors and for those wishing to become pastors. Most recently, he has encouraged many to return to school so they can be trained in vocations that will help them earn a living while ministering to the churches.

The first SDB church permanently established in Mexico was in Madero, on the Gulf coast about 200 miles northeast of Mexico City. This continues to be known as the "Mother Church" and holds a special place in the hearts of most Conference

members. It is this building that has come under scrutiny the past year.

The original building was erected quickly. Shortly afterwards, cracks and movement rendered the building unsafe. They would have to move or rebuild it.

Since land is difficult to buy, and so many people had a special feeling for that location, the congregation decided to erect a new building on the old site.

Presently, construction has progressed to the point that they can meet in the building. They still need to install windows and doors for protection and security, and are seeking financial help for these additions.

They have built the structure in a way that will enable them to extend it to another floor, where there will be rooms for classes and a dining area. This second floor will eventually need walls and a roof. (The walls will consist of cement blocks, and the roof will be a single poured cement cover.) The roof will be strong enough to support another floor and will be built to withstand hurricanes and storms.

Let us keep this building project and the Mexican Conference in our prayers. May the Lord multiply His blessings upon them. **SR**



## New logo contest

To help foster relations with the United States and Canada, and to increase interest in the work in Mexico, the Mexican Conference is promoting a logo contest for their advertising and outreach. Entries can be sent directly to Pastor Camacho by mail or e-mail:

Pastor Rosalio Camacho Rodriguez  
APDO Postal 57  
Cd. Madero, Tamps  
Mexico C.P. 89410  
PCcenter@prodigy.net.mx

The submissions will be published on the official web site of the National Mexican Seventh Day Church of Christ at <http://www.prodigyweb.net.mx/pccenter>. Visitors to the page will be able to vote for their favorite logo. (When e-mailing, please indicate in the subject line the number that corresponds to the logo you've selected.)

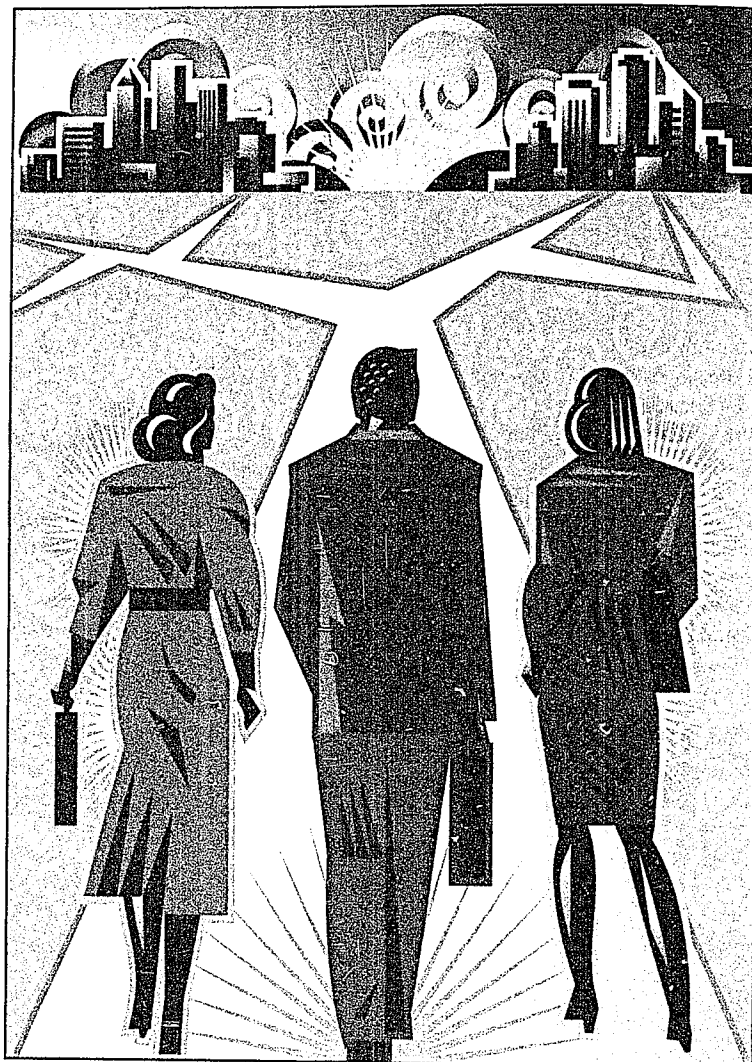
Get your contributions in as quickly as possible to let our neighbors in Mexico know that we support them!





# New Church Growth Consulting Program

by Ron Elston



**Creating a church strategy that the entire church establishes and supports will lend itself to long-term growth and congregational cooperation.**

The Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society is developing a new Church Growth Consulting Program, scheduled to be operational in 2002. This program is sponsored by the Missionary Society and the Pacific Coast Association's Pastors Evangelism Committee.

Dannette Montague, a member of the National Field Development Team and an instructor for the Church Planters School, will serve

as the Church Growth consultant. Dannette plans to receive training at the Cambridge Centre for Ministry Leadership Studies in Cambridge, Ontario, Canada in mid-January.

The new service will provide SDB churches with a trained consultant who can assess each church based on their unique characteristics and situation, to help pinpoint areas of strength and opportunities for ministry. Each church, being autonomous, will differ from the others, so a one-size-fits-all approach will not be effective.

Seventh Day Baptist churches have been in existence for over 350 years. But with all of our history, the denomination's growth has been slow. Currently, the Missionary Society assists churches with single projects at their request. However, to address the problem of church growth, *strategies* must be developed and not programs alone.

Programs and projects that are not linked to an articulated overall purpose and strategy have little

chance for long-term effectiveness. If, for example, the leader of the project moves away, the program will die. Creating a church strategy that the entire church establishes and supports will lend itself to long-term

assured of receiving personal assistance in creating effective ministries for their communities.

This consulting effort is designed to help pastors and churches implement realistic plans tailored specifi-

**By utilizing this service, SDB churches will be assured of receiving personal assistance in creating effective ministries for their communities.**

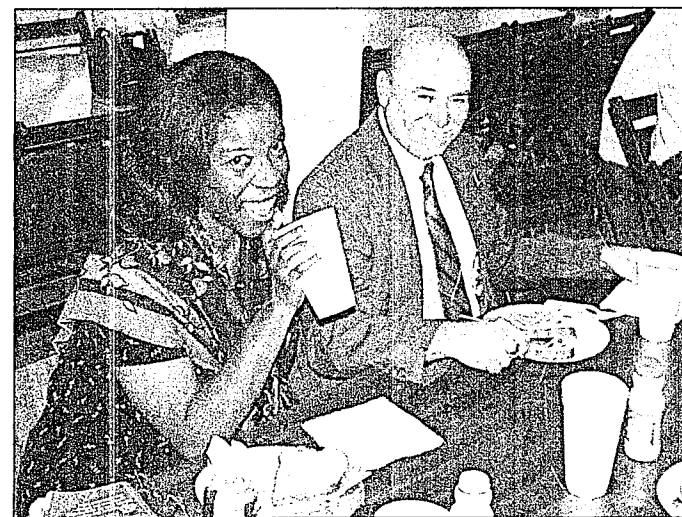
growth and congregational cooperation.

Part of the Missionary Society Mission Statement is to "teach and consult with pastors and churches in the area of church growth." To accomplish this goal, we will be available to advise and assist churches in creating effective ministries that in turn will foster growth. By utilizing this service, SDB churches will be

cally to their congregation's strengths and their community's needs. By facilitating the strategic planning process, each church will be equipped to develop a more effective and efficient ministry, thereby impacting their community for Christ while initiating long-term growth for Seventh Day Baptists.

Various benefits should arise from the Church Growth Consultant Program:

- 1) Churches will receive consistent and committed support as they minister to their membership and community throughout the implementation process.
- 2) The consultant will serve as a resource guide by suggesting innovative ministry techniques and denominational resources and programs, thereby removing the need to "reinvent the wheel."
- 3) The consultant will also coach the pastor and congregation through the implementation phase to ensure that the church's objectives are met. **SR**



Dannette Montague and Ron Elston enjoying lunch at the Church Planters School last spring.



# New SDB church in Birch Hollow, NY

by Ron Elston

A fair booth. Seventh Day Baptist literature. A Baptist pastor seeking the truth.

All of these came together in 2001, resulting in a new SDB church in Easton, N.Y., just north of Albany.

Pastor Matt Olson and the SDB church at Berlin, N.Y., sponsored a fair booth that was instrumental in challenging the Birch Hollow Baptist Church to make a decision to honor the seventh-day Sabbath.

Excerpts from the testimony of Birch Hollow's Pastor Raymond Felt provide the details:

Dear Bro. Ronald Elston,

Perhaps you have heard about the thinking of Birch Hollow Baptist in changing to Seventh Day Baptist. We are now Seventh Day Baptist.

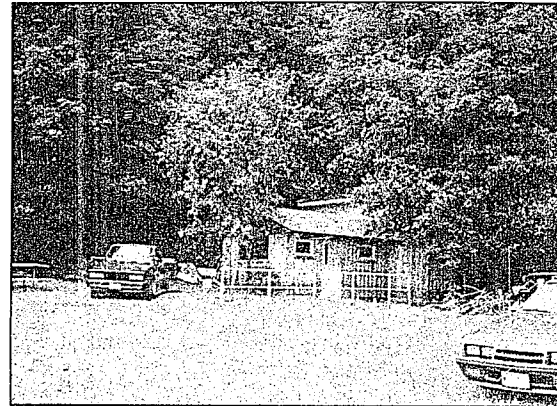
I have been a pastor for 37 years in a number of Sunday churches. In the last 25 years, I have wondered and studied about Sabbath numerous times. In the last year or so, I became more and more convicted of the importance of Sabbath Day. I had spoken a few times to our congregation of Saturday actually being the real Sabbath.

A few weeks back, I mentioned that we might be better blessed if we were to change. Soon after that, we took the vote, which was unanimous. We were going to wait

**"We are praying for guidance in our new-found truth concerning the Lord's Sabbath. My wife and I have complete peace in our hearts and minds that we did the right thing."**

until October 14 for the changeover. However, one man said, "Why wait?" I replied that when a person gets saved, we do *not* say "Wait a month" to start being a good Christian.

September 22, 2001, will be our first Sabbath worship in our church. I realize that I will need much prayer and hard work. I also realize that I will be chided and receive "flak" from first-day Baptist pastors that I have known for years.



*Surrounded by God's beauty: The Birch Hollow SDBs meet in this recently-built structure. They plan to build an addition on the left side (behind the small truck).*

The people at Berlin helped me a great deal. We would now like to join the fold of the Seventh Day Baptist Conference. We have ten acres of land and a small building. There is great potential here also to have a Christian camp.

We are praying for guidance in our new-found truth concerning the Lord's Sabbath. My wife and I have complete peace in our hearts and minds that we did the right thing. I thank our Lord that I no longer need to try defending Sunday worship as if it were the Sabbath of God.

We will be thankful to God for anything that you can do to help. May the Lord have His Way!!

Because of Christ,  
Pastor Raymond A Felt Sr.

P.S. John 8:32—*"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."*

Gordon and Beverly Kilts, members of the National Field Development Team, are presently working with the Birch Hollow church, while Pastor Olson and his congregation are formulating plans to sponsor the new church.

We never know what our outreach efforts will produce. We need to be ready to do our part for the Kingdom, just as these servants have. **SR**

# Emmanuel Church dedication

by Ron Elston



*Emmanuel's Pastor John Brewer*

Pastor John Brewer and the congregation of the Emmanuel Seventh Day Baptist Church of Louisville, Ky., launched their public services and dedicated their church on December 1, 2001.

Over 70 people attended the special services, including Rev. Dr. Dale Thorngate and several of his parishioners from the Salem, W.Va., SDB Church. Savannah Goodson of the First SDB Church of Columbus, Ohio (Emmanuel's sponsor church), pro-

vided special music, along with several area residents.

On behalf of the Columbus church, Rev. Robert Van Horn presented Pastor Brewer with a license to preach and a special certificate indicating that Louisville is a branch church of Columbus. The SDB Missionary Society, sponsor of the Louisville Project, was represented by Executive Director G. Kirk Loooper and his wife, Vivian; Rev. Ron Elston, National Extension Minister; and Rev. Bill Burks of Little Rock, Ark.

Pastor Brewer, a recent graduate of the National Missions Training School, presented the dedication message. A fellowship time and birthday party in his honor followed the service.

The Emmanuel church is located in a storefront building lighted by professional signs, making it highly visible. The Brewers, assisted by the Columbus church, have done a great job launching this new ministry.

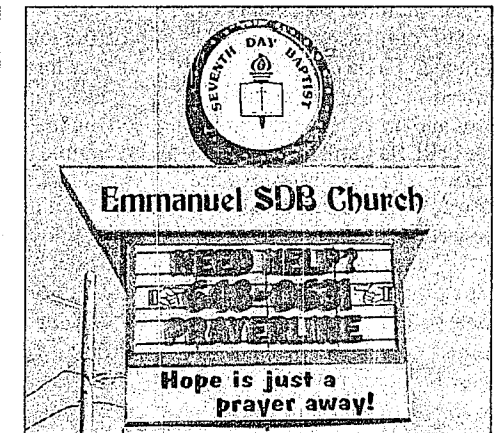
We look for exciting things in 2002 from the Emmanuel church. **SR**



*Part of the crowd that gathered on December 1.*



*Pastor Brewer awaits as Columbus' pastor, Robert Van Horn, and president, Latifah Wilson, present special certificates.*



*Spreading the word about their new church. Other attractive signage has been placed on the storefront building, inviting others to pray and worship.*



Women's Society page by Laura Price

## Visiting the Heifer Projects in China

My friend, Dale Perkins, informed me that he would be leading the "Heifer International China Discovery Travel Tour" for 2001.

I received the notice one year in advance and thought it would be a good opportunity to see China and check out how the Heifer Project International (HPI, or simply HI) was doing in that country.

I was not disappointed. The trip, taken from August 29 to September 15, was a combination of tourism and meeting project partners from both the giving and receiving ends.

We covered an expansive area—from Beijing, Xi'an, Chengdu, Tibet, and Guilin to Shanghai. Shanghai and Beijing are among the largest cit-

grasslands didn't remain empty for long as people, ponies, yurts (circular domed tents), and yaks once again speckled the area.

Some of our "touristy" activities included visiting the Great Wall near Beijing and the Terra Cotta Soldiers near Xi'an. We also hiked around Nine Village Valley National Park, which is similar to some of our parks in Colorado. Plus we saw many other sites throughout the countryside and cityscapes.

As part of the HI tour, we visited five meat rabbit projects (four new ones of Pixian and one successfully finished of Dayi County). Each family is given 21 rabbits and agrees to "pass on the gift" of 21 of their rab-



tain genetically fresh stock. That would promote hybrid vigor in his own rabbits, avoiding the problem of inbreeding which can cause weaker, less disease-resistant animals.

Other project families mentioned some of the benefits of the program. These included making home improvements, such as erecting a hanging bridge across a river gorge; improved diet; and increased income so that many of the families can send their children to school. (All rural Chinese families are required to provide some financial support for their children's schooling.)

According to the book, *Let's Go, China* (2001), "Although recent economic expansion has led to the rapid growth of urban areas, about 70% of China's people still live in rural areas."

When they receive applications for assistance, HPI carefully reviews each family's request, project plan, and need for help. **SR**

*See the next page for more information on Heifer International. And check their website: [www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org) Phone: (800) 422-0474.*

---

### *The trip was a combination of tourism and meeting Heifer Project partners from both the giving and receiving ends.*

---

ies, boasting populations of 14 million each. (Some of the smaller cities consist of "only" seven million!)

Although China contains 20% of the world's population (around 1.4 billion) and only 7% of the planet's arable land, they still manage to feed themselves. Practically every piece of plowable land is cultivated, even some sections of the on/off ramps near the "interstates." Land that is *not* as cultivable supports livestock of some sort.

Almost one billion (80%) of the Chinese people make their living from small-scale farming. There were people virtually everywhere we went, though the more rugged western part (the grasslands of Tibet) was more sparsely populated. Still, the hills and

bits' offspring to another needy family. They also are obligated to provide instructions and counseling on how to care for the rabbits.

Each family has five years to pass on the rabbits. This gives them plenty of time to build up a good healthy stock that they can use for additional food and income without depleting their principle stock too quickly.

Other projects included: Songpan Yak Project and Ruoergai County Yak Project in Tibet; Wolong Dairy Goat Project/Wolong Giant Panda Reserve Area; and Lezhi Meat Goat and Silkworm Project.

Our group was allowed to inspect the project sites and interview the families. The former rabbit project owner of Dayi County wants to ob-

Excerpts from

## Heifer International China Study Tour

by Dale Perkins

### About Heifer International (HI)

Headquartered in Little Rock, Ark., HI has implemented its aid-the-poor projects in 110 countries worldwide and 35 underdeveloped states in the United States. The organization provides farmers with breeding stock, technical training, and community development through "12 Cornerstones" which address social, physical, and ecological concerns.

The organization got its start in 1944 from a church worker named



Dan West who recognized the value of providing food-producing animals as a self-help program, rather than only giving temporary nutrition relief.

### Heifer International China Program

Heifer International sent the first shipment of cows to China in 1947, but ties were interrupted between the U.S. and China after the founding of the People's Republic. Eventually, in 1984, HI could once again begin three projects in Sichuan Province.

The HI China office was set up in 1989. In addition, the HPI China office started a meat rabbit project and a dairy goat project in Nepal in 1996 and 1997.

HI now has 44 projects in 9 provinces (more than 20,000 households) including the minorities of Han, Zang, Miao, Yi, Qiang, Hui, Wa, Hani, Uygur, and Korea.

Livestock used by HI in China include milk and meat goats, rabbits, cows, yaks, sheep, pigs, chickens, ducks, geese, pigeons (and silkworms).

Improved imported genetics have also greatly increased the quality and production of the local animal structure. Dairy goats imported from

Europe give 60% more milk than the native goats.

HI has now given more than \$5 million of assistance to China peasant farmers, and they have passed on more than 2 million animals to other families in China. Most project households have doubled or quadrupled their income. **SR**

### Heifer International Cornerstones

(summarized)

**Passing on the Gift:** The first female animal offspring, or other "pay-back," is passed back to assist another family in need.

**Accountability:** The groups define needs, set goals, monitor progress, conduct self-evaluations, and are responsible for submitting semi-annual monitoring reports to HI.

**Sharing and Caring:** The commitment to share, care, and treat others justly in the community.

**Sustainability and Self-Reliance:** Groups have a variety of developmental activities and are working towards eventually supporting themselves.

**Improved Animal Management:** Having the appropriate animal, shelter, feed, water, and other care to best utilize the animal.

**Nutrition and Income:** Livestock contributions assisting in providing long-term economic security as well as improved diets with high quality protein and fiber.

**Gender and Family focus:** The sharing between men and women in decision making, ownership of the HPI animals, labor, and the benefits of the projects.

**Genuine Need and Justice:** Opportunities are provided for the most needy to benefit from Heifer's assistance.

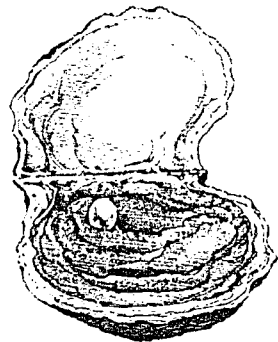
**Improving the Environment:** Enhancing soil fertility, bio-diversity, and other factors while not causing pollution or any other environmental harm.

**Full Participation:** Members of the group own the project, and the groups have control over all key decisions.

**Training and Education:** The incorporation of formal and informal workshops and sessions to assist in animal husbandry, care of the environment, or other topics.

**Spirituality:** The bond of common values and beliefs of a community that help them see the shared vision of the future.





Pearls from the Past by Don A. Sanford, historian

## Our responsibility in missions

The shock waves of September 11 have reverberated around the world, affecting the lives and afterlives of millions of people.

The initial reaction was dramatically demonstrated on the campus of one Bible college, where several students expressed the desire to enlist but with different motivations. Some wanted to volunteer for service to eradicate Osama bin Laden and the Taliban. Others felt the urge to volunteer to "Christianize" his followers.

Both sides can point to passages in the Bible to support their sense of responsibility. In the Old Testament, Saul was condemned because he did not obey the Lord's command to "Go and completely destroy those wicked people, the Amalekites; make war on them until you have wiped them out" (1 Samuel 15:18).

The Christian Church of the Middle Ages felt that it was following God's directive when it initiated Crusades to wrest the Holy Lands from the Mohammedan rule. In doing so, they increased the wedge between Christians and Muslims.

Other students believed they should follow Jesus' command to "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you" (Luke 6:27-28). They felt duty-bound to follow the Great Commission and "Go and make disciples of all nations... teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you" (Matt. 28:17-20).

Nearly 40 years ago, in 1964, the World Consultation of Delegates of Seventh Day Baptist Conferences (CoWoCo) met in Salem, W.Va., to

initiate the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation. During the sessions, Dr. George Thorngate, a long-time medical missionary in China, was asked some challenging questions:

"Why try to convert the Buddhist, the Confucianist, the Taoist to Christianity? For centuries they have gotten along all right with their own reli-

***"Two thousand years ago, One came to earth whose primary mission was not to set forth a new philosophy, not to start a new religion, not to establish a new way of life. It was to reveal to man the nature of the Creator of the Universe."***

***—Dr. George Thorngate, 1964***

gion. They are happy and satisfied. They don't want to change. Why foist a new religion upon them?"

Dr. Thorngate replied with some questions of his own:

"Some of you live in areas where many of your countrymen never heard of the Jesus doctrine. Why work hard to tell them, especially when they are not interested? Many of us live among people who are acquainted with Christianity but who couldn't care less about it. Why try to pressure *them* to be active Christians?"

"There are big fallacies in these questions, as any careful observer knows. Many Asians are *not* happy and satisfied with their religions. Africans and Europeans could care less. They could even care a great deal more.

"Fundamentally and deep down, history and literature have shown that man has always been concerned about two things: the nature of the Creator of the universe, and the nature of his own life or spirit or soul.

"The Chinese countryman watches his rice grow and wonders. The British scientists look at the stars and wonder. Whenever a man has a deep craving, whether for food or water or love or power or revenge or money, he will never have peace until that craving is satisfied or eliminated. Man's fundamental longing, often unrecognized, to know the

nature of the Creator and the nature of his own soul must be satisfied in order that he may have peace.

"Two thousand years ago, One came to earth whose primary mission was not to set forth a new philosophy, not to start a new religion, not to establish a new way of life. It was to reveal to man the nature of the Creator of the Universe.

"God, knowing the craving of mankind, sent his Son to satisfy it. Jesus revealed the nature of the Creator when He said, 'God is love.' It is as simple as that; God is love. Wherever there is God, there is love. And wherever there is Love, there is God—immortal, eternal, everlasting. This is the reason why we must spread the Christian doctrine. Every man who knows must be a missionary."

After recounting some of his own experiences in medical missions in China, Dr. Thorngate told of the example of love in action which he witnessed at the SDB mission hospital at

*cont. on page 26*



# SR Almanac

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

### One year ago—January 2001

The annual missions emphasis looks at the overall need for material and equipment overseas, the keen desire for SDB schools in The Gambia, and a call for short-term missionaries.

On the national scene, revival comes to our church in Lake Elsinore, Calif.; and new groups spring up in Decatur, Ga., and Mattoon and Marion, Ill.

Jeff Hazen teaches about the "language of love" in his last letter from his short-term mission to Zambia, Africa.

Dr. Pete and Nancy May attend Northwest Days in November, hosted by the Seattle, Wash., church.

The Colorado Springs, Colo., church lists their membership after being recognized as a full-Conference church in August.

### Five years ago—January 1997

Missionary Society Executive Kirk Looper updates readers on situations in Indonesia (new leaders), and African countries of Malawi (new wells), Zambia (Conference meetings), and Rwanda (registering SDBs with government).

Women's Society page shows urgent need for uniforms for SDB women in Zambia.

Jeffrey Hazen reports on his summer missions trip to Jamaica.

"Pearls" marks its 100th installment.

"Pastor Jus Start" promotes a Tither's Covenant on the Board of Christian Education page.

Russell Johnson reviews steps in planting a new work in Rome, N.Y.

### 10 years ago—January 1992

Features look at SDB outreach into Africa. Special focus is placed on Ian and Trudy Ingoe, New Zealand's missionaries to Malawi.

Director of Extension Russ Johnson urges readers to consider the "spiritual harvest" on the local and national scene.

The Beacon lets youth know what General Conference sessions are all about.

Background is given on new Missionary Society executive Kirk Looper.

Pastor Henry Davis, Michigan, killed in November plane crash.

### 25 years ago—January 1977

Writer Thelma Tarbox asks, "Do You Know the Way to Blessed Happiness?" Her 27 points lead the reader to the Sabbath and to Seventh Day Baptists.

SDB United Relief Fund sends gift to help the 150 families and 38 churches in South India who lost everything in a devastating cyclone. Miraculously, no SDBs were injured.

U.S. Senator and SDB Jennings Randolph recognized as "Churchman of the Year" by Religious Heritage of America.

The second "Commitment to Growth" training session, with consultant John Wimber, is held at Shiloh, N.J., in November.

Women's Society lists their 11 goals for the new Conference year.

### 50 years ago—January 1952

The full text is presented of the Conference recognition given to Dr. Corliss F. Randolph for his many contributions and years of service to the denomination.

A Rural Church Seminar is held at the Alfred (N.Y.) School of Theology, sponsored by the New York State Council of Churches.

Pastoral changes: Rev. Leslie O. Greene resigns from Indianapolis, Ind., pastorate; Rev. Victor Skaggs installed in Verona, N.Y.

The SDB Commission drafts a new job analysis for the Executive Secretary at their late-December meeting in Plainfield, N.J.

Missionaries Dr. and Mrs. George Thorngate send an update from Saigon, Indo-China (now Vietnam).

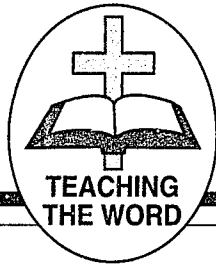
Churches from all over the country send news of their Christmas celebrations.

### ...where are we headed?

#### Pray for—

- our churches in need, at home and abroad
- the success of newer Conference churches
- young folks to understand our Conference
- many to consider short-term missions
- all to realize our "blessed happiness"
- new goals to be set and met
- a blessed new year for all





## Christian Education

by Andrew J. Camenga

### Resolution of Appreciation

- Whereas** The Reverend David S. Clarke was present at the meeting of consolidation for the Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education that joined the work of the Seventh Day Baptist Young People's Board, the Seventh Day Baptist Education Society, and the Sabbath School Board, and
- Whereas** He has served as a director of the Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education for thirty-eight of the ensuing years, and
- Whereas** He provided leadership as the Executive Secretary of the Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education from November 1970 through June 1977, and
- Whereas** Among the other things accomplished, he recognized the importance of Christian camping and worked with Seventh Day Baptist camps and camp leaders to survey properties, evaluate programs, and share ideas in the form of Creative Camping manuals, and
- Whereas** The Reverend David S. Clarke edited *The Helping Hand* for the quarters dated from December 1980 through November 1983, and
- Whereas** He has consistently demonstrated Christ-like characteristics in his daily walk, and has taught by his compassionate deeds the significance of putting the love of God into action,
- Therefore** Be it resolved this twenty-eight day of October in the year of our Lord two thousand one, that we—the Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education—express our appreciation and gratitude on behalf of all Seventh Day Baptists for the work, service, love, and example of The Reverend David S. Clarke.



## FOCUS on Missions

## Good progress in Rwanda

by Kirk Looper

In August of 2000, National Extension Minister Ron Elston and I traveled to Rwanda, Africa, to meet with many of the Seventh Day Baptist congregations in and around Ruhengeri.

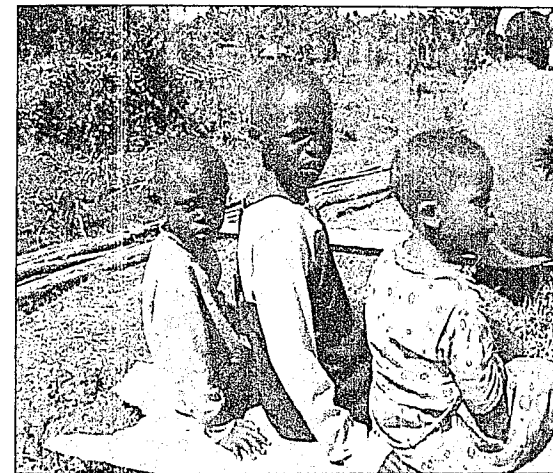
We saw progress that wasn't evident during previous visits. Several years ago, many of these congregations were without buildings, so meetings and services were often

canceled because of inclement weather. The most often-heard phrase back then was, "Please send money to purchase land and construct a meetinghouse."

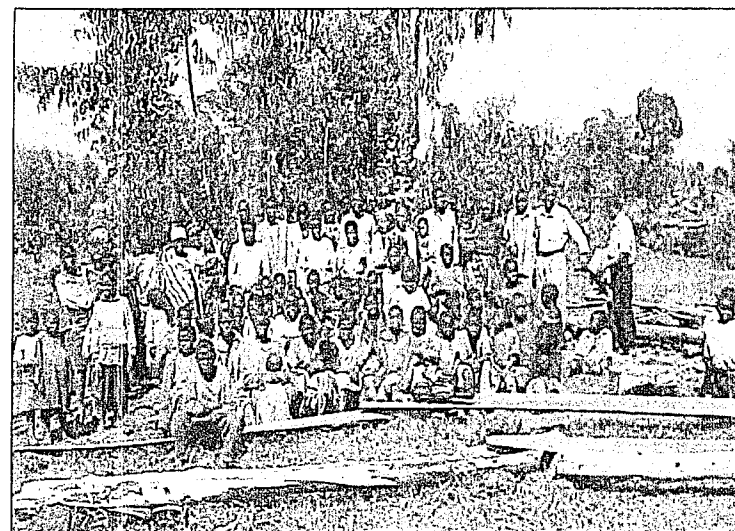
These earlier requests were justified. When we returned to the States, the Missionary Society launched a program to promote construction projects for these SDBs who had worked so hard to organize and

develop their churches. We simply shared their needs with every church we visited, plus with other denominational executives. I also wrote pro-

**The Missionary Society  
launched a program  
to promote construction  
projects for these  
SDBs who had worked  
so hard to organize  
and develop their  
churches.**



Young worshippers sit on a crude bench.



One of the SDB congregations in Rwanda. Many services are canceled due to inclement weather.

motional articles that were printed in *The Sabbath Recorder* and *Missions Notes*.

People were very receptive, and we soon sent our first collection to Pastor Elie Nduwayesu, the General Secretary and Coordinator of Missions in Rwanda. Money came from churches, organizations, and individuals, both here and overseas. The Rwandans were blessed to receive these funds, and we were blessed to see the hand of God move on this project.

When the project started, there were 11 churches in Rwanda. By the middle of last summer, that number had grown to over 20, including churches in neighboring Congo.

Pastor Elie indicates that more churches are being organized. We are praying for additional funds to take care of these new churches. The amount needed to complete construction varies from church to church, depending on where they will build, the size of the structure, if they already have land, and how much the members in their congregations are willing to contribute.

cont. on page 26



# the BEACON

Produced by the Youth Committee of the Board of Christian Education  
For and by members of the SDB Youth Fellowship January 2002

## “Generation Excellent”

by Eowyn Driscoll

New Year's resolutions. We all make them: “I'm going to lose weight.” “I'm going to get all A's in my classes at school.”

Every year, we promise ourselves to do something different than the year before, but we rarely keep those promises. Sure, we might keep them for a few weeks, but then that piece of chocolate cake catches our eye, or sleep is more appealing than studying for the next day's Spanish test.

---

**As believers, we are making a pact to make this year better than the last. And the next year better than this one.**

---

Our promises are merely dreams made of smoke and whim. Normally, we aren't changed by them. It's just something we do as part of society; a widespread tradition.

But in the wake of the September 11th disaster, many of us are looking at the world through new eyes. We see people, not race, creed, or religion.

Individuals around the world are learning how to better identify with each other. All around us, we see people seeking God, especially our

youth. There is an infusion of people searching for Truth.

The voices of youth are speaking loud and clear through all of this mass chaos. In the last decade or so, young people have been seeking answers. Now they are bringing about a religious revival. A breath of fresh air has been infused into “Generation X,” which is now becoming “Generation Excellent.”

The “three R's”—Retreats, Rallies, and Repentance—are bringing about revival. Locally, churches have seen their youth groups get larger and

such as our National Year-End Youth and Young Adult Retreats.

Other organizations are setting up massive rallies, such as “The Call” and “See You at the Pole.”

“The Call” is a 12-hour day of prayer. This summer, it will be held in New York City. “See You at the Pole” is an organized, youth-led rally where young people and adults alike gather around their school's flag pole to pray at 7:30 a.m. on the third Wednesday of September.

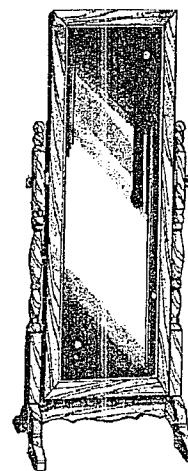
Even the music industry is getting in on the movement.

“Creation Fest,” a three-day music retreat, has been dubbed “A Christian Woodstock.” And a new music genre has been created: Contemporary Christian. It's like “regular” music, but has meaningful lyrics, no profanity, and a godly message.

Youth *do* have a voice, and we will make a difference. With God's help, nothing will stop us. We, too, are believers. And as believers, we are making a pact to make this year better than the last. And the next year better than this one. **SR**

For more information on any of the above organizations, you can visit:

[www.livethecall.com](http://www.livethecall.com)  
[www.creationfest.com](http://www.creationfest.com)  
[www.30hourfamine.org](http://www.30hourfamine.org)



## 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*

### “O use me, Lord...”

by going door-to-door. As irritating as these visits might be, I often feel a tad of admiration and a smidgen of envy. *At least those people are out and about. I'd never have the nerve to do that—knock on the doors of complete strangers and talk about my faith.*

I used to feel guilty that I rarely step out of my circle of comfort to carry out God's specific directive to share the salvation message. Then one day, it dawned on me: Although some of us aren't gifted in the areas of outreach and missions, we can

as powerful as what we *say* to people.

Occasionally, I get up enough nerve to invite a neighbor or casual acquaintance to a church concert or Christmas program. And, afterwards, I always have the same thought: *What was so difficult about that?*

As I've aged, I've learned to accept my limitations. But God has no limits. He can use timid souls as well as towering spiritual giants to spread His message of peace, love, and redemption.

The bottom line is that God can use *all* of us to spread His Truth. Using the varied talents that He

When I was young, one image sprung to mind whenever I heard the word “missionary”: a burly white guy dressed in khakis, hacking his way through dense jungle undergrowth in search of childlike heathen he could convert to his interpretation of Christianity. (Sort of like Jungle Jim beating people over the head with his ten-pound, leather-bound, gold-leafed, King James Bible.)

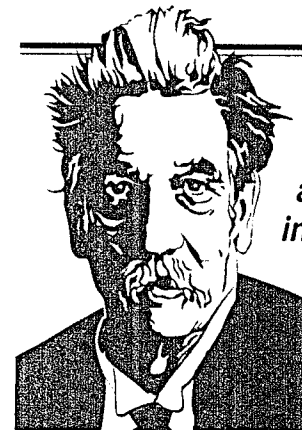
When my son was about 8 or 9, he solemnly announced, “I want to be a mercenary, just like Rod Henry.”

I smile at the memory of Jay's “misspeak,” but there's some truth in it. (Not in connection with you, Rod!) Sometimes, consciously or unconsciously, Christians can be more mercenary than merciful as they seek to fulfill the mission of spreading the Good News to hurting people. All of us need to guard against that.

There were, and are, some wonderful missionaries doing wonderful work. Those who are well known, like Albert Schweitzer and David Livingstone; and the not-so-well known, like our own Vic and Beth Burdick, and Dave and Bettie Pearson.

Missionaries come in all sizes and shapes, colors and religions, ages and gender. Jungles and deserts are still fertile areas for soul-winning, but today's missionary turf can just as easily be suburban neighborhoods and glass-strewn city lots.

Some people (Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons) spread their beliefs



---

**Although some of us aren't gifted in the areas of outreach and missions, we can witness in other ways. We don't have to be Albert Schweitzers to have an impact on the world.**

---

witness in other ways. We don't have to be Albert Schweitzers to impact the world.

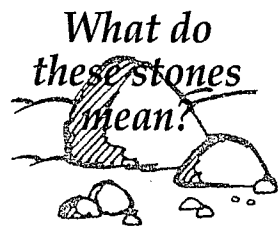
People may argue that I'm making excuses; that I could, and should, be out there on the front lines, waving the banner for Jesus. But in my own quiet way, I am. Many of us are.

Every time I send a card of encouragement, or write an uplifting article, or deliver a loaf of homemade bread (okay, so I use a bread machine), I'm sharing God's love. What we *do* for people can often be

has bestowed on us, we can all be evangelizing missionaries. And it doesn't matter whether we travel around the world or simply around the block.

The final verse of the hymn, “Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak,” sums up what God expects from each and every one of us:

*“O use me, Lord, use even me, just as Thou wilt and when and where;  
Until Thy blessed face I see,  
Thy rest, Thy joy, Thy glory share.” SR*



The President's Page

The second stone:  
Baptism

by Gordon Lawton

Dear Friends,  
You may have seen a "List of Wisdom" from children. One of the entries is: "Never let Mom brush your hair when she's mad at Dad." Another is: "No matter how hard you try, you can't baptize a cat."

The vision of a child attempting to immerse a recoiling cat in a tub or a kiddie pool is humorous. But what picture do you get if you have an understanding of "baptism" that is not true to the original meaning of the word? A child with a squirt bottle shooting at a cat? A handful of water poured over the cat's head? A wet finger touching the cat's forehead? Each of these would take the cat by surprise and could be accomplished. Immersing the cat, while saying the proper words, is a lot harder and is what the child intended.

Baptism is a practice which is commanded by our Lord (Matthew 28:18-20); is symbolic of our new life in Him (Romans 6:1-7); and, although the water does not save us, is connected to our salvation (1 Peter 3:18-22), which is through an individual's faith (Ephesians 2:8-10).

In the second meetinghouse of the Boulder, Colo., SDB Church, the baptistry was always visible to the right as you looked at the platform. A beautiful mural represented a riverside scene, and the members took great pride and care of the plants that surrounded the rectangular pool. First-time visitors would often comment on the baptistry.

Since we are Baptists, it is appropriate for a baptistry to be visible as a statement of our Bible-based belief regarding immersion. It is also a reminder of our personal public declaration of belief in, and obedience to, our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ.

Visits to Battle Creek, Mich., and Camp Holston are special. For me, the swim area in Cotton Lake elicits many fond memories. With a group of others, I was baptized there by Pastor Gene Fatato. Other memories of "Uncle" Gene (as he asked the youth to call him) and camp are dear, but that Sabbath afternoon when the folks from White Cloud came south for the baptism is the dearest.

Here in Little Genesee, N.Y., the baptistry in the meetinghouse was under the platform and in poor repair. In recent years, the baptistries of other churches, pools, and the Little Genesee Creek have been the locations for baptisms. We are still talking about what form the new meetinghouse will take, but all are agreed that it will have a baptistry.

What does this "stone of Baptism" mean?  
For me, it was—and is—a boundary marker which declares my choice to follow Jesus. It is an undeniable sign to which I can point if I doubt my salvation. It is an act of obedience and public testimony.

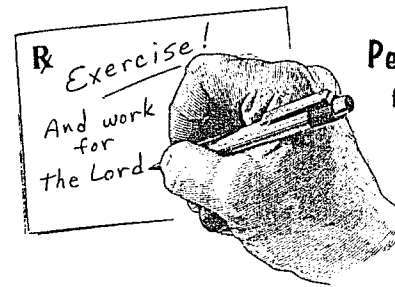
Each time I officiate or attend a time when believers are immersed in obedience to our Lord, it is a great occasion of rejoicing as new brothers and sisters are willing to humble themselves publicly and declare their allegiance to Jesus the Christ.

Is it the second year of the new millennium already? This year in Houghton? Hope so!!  
Keep your "eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith" (Hebrews 12:2-3).

Your friend, Gordon



President Gordon Lawton and his "stone" prop at Conference.



Pete's Prescriptions

from Dr. Pete May,  
Executive Secretary

Our cycle of  
Life in Christ

A November weekend was spent reminiscing as we were privileged to attend the ordination of L.B. Lee, pastor of the Seventh Day Baptist Church in Colorado Springs, Colo.

As loved ones and church family members gathered on November 3, 2001, to celebrate this joyous occasion, L.B.'s wife, Angie, was also honored for her contributions to her husband's work.

Partway through the program, a little voice got somebody's attention: "I've written a poem about my wonderful Daddy." Kristin Lee was immediately added to the program, as were tears to the eyes of her parents.

You could see the happiness and real Christian joy of L.B.'s mother as she watched the celebration of her son accepting the mantle of "Reverend Pastor."

Do you think that the service was missed by his father, Rev. L.B. Sr., who died a few years ago? He didn't miss a minute of that service! He was there in spirit, as he has been all along, watching his son develop in Christian service.

L.B. becoming an ordained pastor was just "the icing on the cake"—something really special, something a father and mother dream about with nightly prayers and heavenly hopes.

What a thrill for those of us who are part of the church family! We had a part in this also—as kindergarten and primary Sabbath School teachers, YF counselors, and Pacific Pines Camp counselors.

And what a surprise when an adult stranger walked up to us and said, "I was in Pacific Pines Camp with you." That man, initially unrecognized by me, was "little" Rick Fowler, the first person to help L.B. establish the

Colorado Springs church. He's no longer little in size, ability, or responsibility as he gave the charge to the candidate. (Our concepts had to come forward some 35 years, happily embarrassed.)

The older but elegant Dr. Victor Burdick gave the charge to the church, stressing the service and support the congregation needs to give as they move together to enlarge the witness of Jesus Christ and SDBs.

After the laying on of hands, Rev. Gabriel Bejjani spoke as Director of the Council on Ministry, expressing the joy that the Lord has in finding a new shepherd for this flock. He challenged the whole church to keep their spiritual fire rekindled with an open welcome and witness to the world.

As the prophets of old were both human and yet divinely guided, they kept the spirit alive and the flame burning to follow their God. Now these faithful ones in Colorado must witness for Jesus to their neighbors. So must we. *SR*



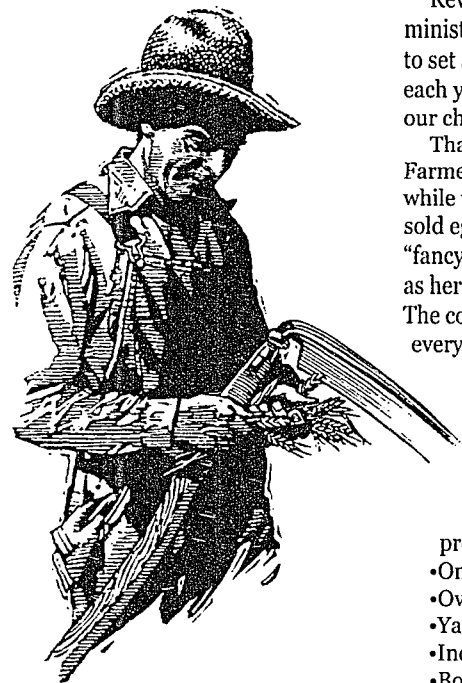
Ordained SDB clergy lay hands on L.B. Lee during the ordination prayer.



The Rev. L.B. Lee pronounces the benediction.

## Lord's Acre history in Nortonville

In 1954, the members of the Nortonville, Kan., Seventh Day Baptist Church held their first



Lord's Acre Sabbath. The most recent one was held on November 17, 2001.

Rev. Duane Davis became our minister in 1952. He encouraged us to set aside income from one acre each year to help finance repairs to our church and parsonage.

That first year, \$152 was raised. Farmers gave an acre's income, while the women of the church sold eggs or made and marketed "fancywork." One lady made bread as her project and sold it in town. The collection has continued every year since.

Over the years, as families transitioned from farming to more corporate jobs, "an acre" of income from

Lord's Acres projects has changed. Some of the current projects include:

- One day's pay
- Overtime pay for a week
- Yard sale income
- Income from sale of a vehicle
- Bonus from employer

- Unexpected income, such as a refund
- Allowance for a certain time

The Lord's Acre is to be a gift above normal tithing. God has always given special blessings to those who give to His ministry.

The Lord called Pastor Duane home in 1989. But his dream of repairing our church property is still being carried on, and we appreciate his vision for our church.

Our 2001 Lord's Acre projects were dedicated to the Rev. Davis' memory. The majority of the repair requests were for painting the exterior of the parsonage, and the church's eaves and window frames.

Lord's Acre funds for 2001 amounted to \$2,455. May God bless each one who supported the work of His Kingdom.

—Kent E. Wheeler  
Lord's Acre Chairman

*History background provided by Reba Wheeler. SR*

## 75 years of ecumenical Thanksgiving

by Don Sanford

On November 21, 2001, the churches of Milton, Wis., celebrated 75 years of cooperative Thanksgiving services. Over those years, 11 different churches have participated in these ecumenical gatherings.

The first service was held in 1927 in the Milton SDB Church, with Rev. James L. Skaggs hosting. Rev. John F. Randolph of the Milton Junction SDB Church brought the message. Incidentally, both of these pastors had a son at the 75th service. Eight of their grandchildren and eight

great-grandchildren are currently associated with the Milton church.

This latest service focused on the themes: "Remembering the Past," "Involving the Present," and "Visioning the Future." It included Powerpoint projections of past and present church buildings, and pictures of children and youth, who are the Church of the future.

A mass choir—accompanied by organ, piano, and trumpet trio—helped round out the service. The congregation of approximately 200

joined in by singing the last verse of "Now Thank We All Our God."

Not all of Milton's churches have been affiliated with this cooperative effort since its inception. But over the years, it has included two SDB churches, two Methodist, two Presbyterian, and one each of the Congregational, Lutheran, Catholic, Baptist, and Seventh-day Adventist churches. Thanksgiving messages have been brought by 65 members of the clergy, 16 of whom were Seventh Day Baptists. SR

## New Association in Australia

by Dorothy d'Alpuget, Secretary

Almost ten years ago, the Australian Association of Seventh Day Baptists was formed as a vehicle for fellowship and friendship among the folk in the Australian churches. Bi-annual camps were held on several occasions between the Australasian Conferences, and meetings were briefly held in conjunction with these Conferences in Australia and New Zealand.

In the year 2000, we adopted a new Constitution, Covenant, and Mission Statement with the help of the World Federation Mission Society. New member churches requested inclusion, and new office bearers were elected by ballot within the Association members.

The first fully-independent weekend meeting of the Association—now named The Association of Seventh Day Baptists (Australia)—was held

on October 5-8, 2001. It was hosted by the Brisbane church in Beenleigh, Queensland.

The new Constitution allows for individuals, small groups, and churches that are Sabbathkeeping

***The first fully-independent weekend meeting of the Association—now named The Association of Seventh Day Baptists (Australia)—was held on October 5-8, 2001.***

A time of fellowship between the Brisbane, Samoan Gospel, and Sydney churches was enjoyed by all. The presence of Pastor Timothy Chia from the Auckland church was greatly appreciated. The Youth Group, very strong in these churches, elected a leader and decided to hold a summer camp in January 2002.

and subscribe to the SDB World Federation Statement of Belief, to belong to the Association and take part in any activities. SR

—From the December 2001 "Link," newsletter of SDBs in Australasia.

## Baptist Heritage Sabbath

from the "Quest" newsletter



*Mark Kandel (left), chair of the Alfred Station diaconate, presents Dr. Kenneth Morgan with historical gifts for the Canadian Baptist Archives.*

Seventh Day Baptists celebrate two parts of their heritage. There is the Sabbath of the Bible that their name suggests. The name also identifies the second part of the heritage—that of being Baptist.

We are Baptists, and that is why the Alfred Station, N.Y., church

celebrated "Baptist Heritage Day" on November 3, 2001.

During the Sabbath worship hour, Dr. Kenneth Morgan brought the morning message, "Heritage, Holiness, Happiness." Dr. Morgan is the Acting Director of the Advance Degree Program, and Lecturer in Baptist Life and History at McMaster Divinity College in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

Dr. Morgan was given a copy of Don Sanford's book on the history of SDBs, *A Choosing People*, along with an 1844 edition of *The Sabbath Recorder* to be placed in the Canadian Baptist Archives.

McMaster Divinity College is the original part of McMaster University. It was founded for the training of Baptist ministers. (This is where Alfred Station's pastor Kenneth

Chroniger is enrolled in his doctoral program.)

The college still gives witness to the underlying principle on which it was founded, as its motto reads, "In Christ All Things Consist." SR

### New Directory

The Seventh Day Baptist Directory covering the year 2001 is now available at the SDB Center in Janesville, Wis.

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



## Marriages

**Sutton - Walter.**—Rev. Edward Sutton and Patricia A. Walter were united in marriage on May 13, 2001, in St. John's Lutheran Church, Potter Creek, PA. Rev. Paul Manuel of the German SDB Church, Salemville, PA, officiated.

**Payne - James.**—Brian Payne and Kristina James were united in marriage on May 28, 2001, in the Verona, NY, Seventh Day Baptist Church. The bride's father, Pastor Steven James, officiated.

**Kagarise - Clark.**—Owen Dwight Kagarise and Marilyn Jean Clark were united in marriage on June 3, 2001, in the Bell Seventh Day Baptist Church, Salemville,

PA, with Rev. Edward Sutton officiating.

**Tien - Sholtz.**—Cam Tien and Gayle Sholtz were united in marriage on July 14, 2001, in Central Valley, NY. Pastor Steven James officiated.

**Dolge - Sholtz.**—Brian Dolge and Karen Sholtz were united in marriage on September 22, 2001, in Hector, NY, with Pastor Steven James officiating.

**Crandall - Miller.**—Paul Crandall and Bess Miller were united in marriage on October 6, 2001, in the Pusch Ridge Chapel in Tucson, AZ. The groom's father, Dr. Jeffery S. Crandall, officiated.

## New members

### Montrose, CA (Foothill)

*Scott Hausrath, pastor*

Joined after baptism  
Tiffany Ochoa  
Nicole Owen  
Phillip Owen  
Joined after testimony  
Susan Henry  
Rocky Peterson  
Shawna Wilcox

### Salemville (Bell), PA

*Edward Sutton, pastor*

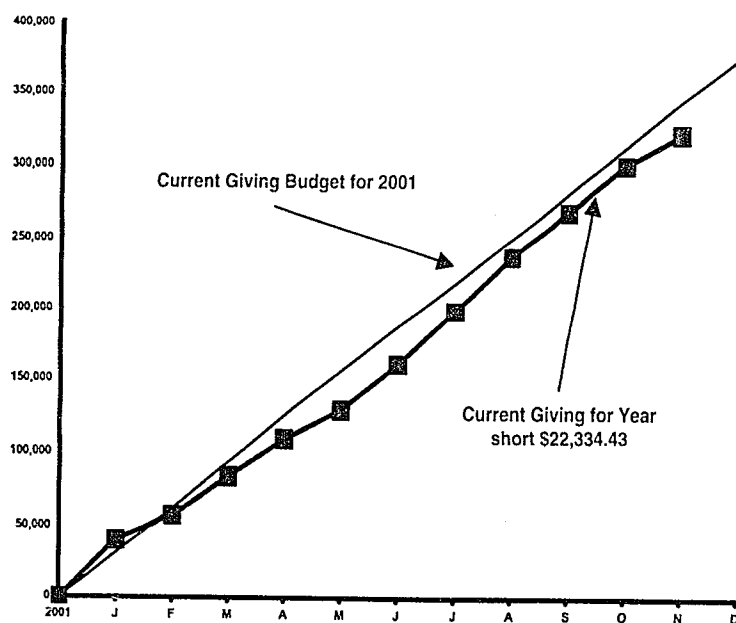
Joined after baptism  
Bryan Baker  
Joined by letter  
Lawrence Bledsoe  
Terry L. Durst  
Marilyn Jean Kagarise  
Rev. Raymond A.P. Mialki  
Patricia A. (Walter) Sutton

### Verona, NY

*Steven James, pastor*

Joined after testimony  
Jennifer James  
Pete Lombardi  
Sandy Lombardi  
Bonnie Staple

## Current Giving 2001



## Births

**Stover.**—A son, Jacob Glenn Williams Stover, was born to Ken and Rebecca Stover of Taberg, NY, on May 28, 2001.

**Schmidt.**—A son, Chance William Schmidt, was born to Billy and Julie (Vanderslice) Schmidt of Bridgeton, NJ, on July 25, 2001.

**Lippincott.**—A son, Keegan Dennis Darwin Lippincott, was born to Jay and Angelia (Herndon) Lippincott of Jacksonville, FL, on November 19, 2001.

## Obituaries

**Crawford.**—Jean "Mayme" (Ray) Crawford, 83, of New Enterprise, Pa., died on October 5, 2001, at the Pennknoll Village in Everett, Pa.

She was born on February 12, 1918, in Madisonville, Ky., the daughter of Marvin and Jonnie (Colerfield) Masoncup. On December 5, 1944, she married Maynard E. Crawford in Baltimore, Md.

Mrs. Crawford was a homemaker and a member of the Bell Seventh Day Baptist Church in Salemville, Pa.

In addition to her husband, survivors include two sons, Michael of New Enterprise and Patrick of Everett; three grandchildren, and one great-grandson. She was preceded in death by one brother and three sisters.

Funeral services were held on October 9, 2001, at the Weaver Funeral Home in Woodbury, Pa.,

with Pastor Ed Sutton officiating. Interment was in the Salemville Cemetery.

**North.**—Duane C. North, 86, passed away on October 28, 2001, at Bloomer (Wis.) Medical Center.

He was born on October 8, 1915, in Dodge Center, Minn., the son of Arthur and Kitty (Cole) North. He married Agnes Mair in August of 1936. Following her death, he married Jessie (Ling) Truman on May 11, 1980, in Chetek, Wis.

Duane, who worked as a farmer and carpenter, lived in numerous locations, including Bullhead City, Ariz.; Lakewood, Calif.; and Chetek, Wis. He was a member of the Carpenter's Union and the New Auburn, Wis., Seventh Day Baptist Church. He was involved in SDB Senior Saints projects at Camp Joy in Berea, W.Va.; at Battle Creek,

Mich.; and at Camp Wakonda in Milton, Wis. Along with his wife, he thoroughly enjoyed those experiences and remembered them fondly.

Duane was a rock hound and also enjoyed fishing, traveling, and collecting purple glass and cans.

Survivors include his wife, Jessie, of Chetek; one son, Ronald of Jerome, Idaho; one daughter, Jeanne Bottinger of Ketchum, Idaho; four brothers, Rodney, Douglas, Norris, and Warren, all of New Auburn; nine grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren. In addition to his first wife, Agnes, he was predeceased by one son, Allan.

A memorial service was held on November 1, 2001, at the SDB Church in New Auburn, with Rev. Jerry Johnson officiating. Interment of cremains will be in the New Auburn Cemetery.

## Denominational Dateline

### Jan

9-13 Paint Rock, Ala.; Nashville, Tenn.—Gabe Bejjani  
19-20 COM, Riverside, Calif.—Bejjani, Pete May

21 World Federation, Arcadia, Calif.—Bejjani, May, Dale Thorngate

26 TCC Core Committee, Janesville, Wis.—Kevin Butler

26-27 SDB Memorial Fund Quarterly Meeting, Daytona Beach, Fla.—Calvin Babcock

27 BCE Executive Committee, Alfred Station, N.Y.—Andrew Camenga

27 SDB Missionary Society Quarterly Business Meeting, Westerly, R.I.—Kirk Looper

### Feb

1 CLT meets in Daytona Beach, Fla.

2 Preach in Orlando, Fla.—Bejjani

2-5 General Council, Daytona Beach

5 Meet with Andrew Samuels and Miami, Fla., church—Bejjani  
16 Sabbath School Workshop, Portland, Ore.—Camenga

### Mar

4 BJCPA Executive Committee, Washington, D.C.—Butler

17 Annual Business Meeting of the SDB Missionary Society, Westerly—Looper

17-21 Committee on the Uniform Series, Orlando, Fla.—Camenga

### ◆◆◆ Key ◆◆◆

BCE— Board of Christian Education  
BJCPA— Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs  
CLT— Coordinating Leadership Team  
COM— Council on Ministry  
TCC— Tract and Communication Council

**Our responsibility, cont. from page 14**

Liuho, China, where Miriam Shaw was a nurse.

He heard some patients talking about YaSu (Jesus). "I wonder what YaSu looks like?" said one. "I think..." said an old man in the corner bed, "I think he looks like Hsian Siau tsaia" (the name for Miss Shaw).

There are times when evil and terror have to be confronted, just as the Amalekites of Saul's time had to be confronted. But unless this is accompanied by a demonstration of God's healing love among individuals and nations, the mistakes of the past will be repeated in future generations.

Then Dr. Thorngate raised a pointed question to those delegates

gathered from SDB Conferences around the world: "What is the future of Seventh Day Baptists in the world?"

Dr. Thorngate recommended that all read the first eight chapters of

to show God's love in our missions.

Do you think the world needs what we, as Seventh Day Baptists, can demonstrate? If yes, then God says we have a green light. There are tongues of fire to rest upon us, just

**Dr. Thorngate recommended that all read the first eight chapters of Acts to see how God ignited a small group of disciples with the fire of the Gospel.**

Acts to see how God ignited a small group of disciples with the fire of the Gospel. By implication, he asked whether we have that burning desire

as there were tongues of fire, and the Spirit, resting upon that small group of disciples who had experienced the very presence of the Incarnate God. SR

**Good progress, cont. from page 17**

gation can help. Costs range from \$500 to \$900.

We are thankful that most of the funds we receive are not designated for a specific church and can be used where the need is greatest. However, if someone wants to know which church in Rwanda their money will help, Pastor Elie will try to match their donation to the anticipated costs of a particular building.

Presently, the original 11 churches—including the "mother" church—are holding services, as well as some of the newer ones. It staggers the imagination when we realize what God can do in His Kingdom. Sometimes funds are sent to our office to finance a project or settle a problem even before we receive a request for help. This was the case when money was needed to buy land for the first



*This choir in Rwanda leads worship under a simple cloth awning.*

Rwandan church building.

God is so good, even though we don't understand why so many projects go unnoticed. They still need

a lot of help in Rwanda, as they do in most of the other countries where God has permitted us to organize.

Meanwhile, some of the older Conferences around the globe are having trouble meeting their obligations and fulfilling their outreach plans. We praise God for those willing to sacrifice for their sister Conferences and churches, and pray that He will richly bless them. Let us continue to uphold our brothers and sisters in other countries. SR

**The amount needed to complete construction varies from church to church, depending on many factors. Costs range from \$500 to \$900.**

**KEVIN'S**

**ORNER**

**Finding an open channel**

I've done my fair share of traveling for the Tract Council over the last 13 years. Just ask my family.

When I'm "on the road" near some of our more rural churches, I never know what kind of radio stations—or clear reception of those stations—I'll find. So, it's nice to take along some of my own music.

That used to be an easy task. In the early days, I'd throw in a few cassette tapes. And if the rental car didn't have a tape deck (believe me, in trying to save the Conference money, some of those cheaper rentals didn't have *any* extras), I'd have my portable tape player and headphones.

Then I got into compact discs. Great sound quality and convenience, but how could I listen to them in a no-frills rental? Once again, I would use a separate player and headphones.

**Problem:** Driving with headphones can be dangerous and/or illegal.

**Solution:** An adaptor that plays my CDs through the car's cassette deck (if it has one).

Nowadays, most of the rental cars come already equipped with a CD player, and no cassette deck. All problems solved, right?

Right, except I splurged on a new "toy" this fall—a mini-disc (MD) recorder and player. It's less than half the size of a portable CD player, and can record up to five hours of MP3s (digital downloads from the Internet) and conventional music. Quite the powerhouse in a tiny package!

**New problem:** MDs don't work in CD players. And I can't use the cassette adaptor in the new rental cars. Do I take my chances and resort to using headphones again while I drive?

**Solution:** I carry my own radio station.

*Yeah, sure.* No, for real. And I don't mean the \$300 XM satellite radio system. Although, it *would* make the perfect gift...

For \$20, I found a little FM transmitter that plugs into the listening device (tape or disc player) and broadcasts that sound to a blank spot on your car radio.

**Yet another problem:** Driving into an area that has a radio station on the frequency that *was* blank a few miles back.

**Solution:** Hum your own tunes, dummy...

Looking at all of my electronic goodies, I was struck by how much trouble I had gone through to get a clear signal of music.

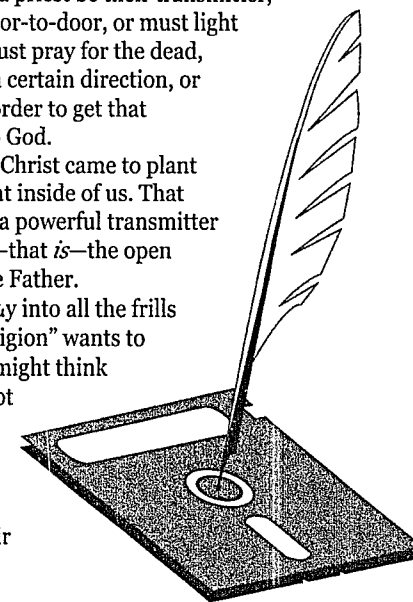
What if we had to do that with God?

We don't have to. You can get an "open channel" to the Lord no matter where you are. No need for extra accessories or extra costs.

**Problem:** Too many people feel that they must have the "add-ons." They must hold or wear the special jewelry, or must eat certain foods, or must have a priest be their transmitter, or must go door-to-door, or must light candles, or must pray for the dead, or must face a certain direction, or *whatever* in order to get that clear signal to God.

**Solution:** Christ came to plant His Spirit right inside of us. That Holy Spirit is a powerful transmitter that will find—that *is*—the open channel to the Father.

Let's not buy into all the frills that mere "religion" wants to offer. People might think that they've got the greatest connection, when they're really just humming their own tunes.





**Important Memo:**

To: Friends of  
*The Sabbath Recorder*  
From: Editor Kevin Butler

**DID YOU KNOW THAT THE SABBATH RECORDER IS FUNDED BY YOUR GIFTS? YOUR DONATION TO THE SABBATH RECORDER IS PART OF THE TOTAL SDB DENOMINATIONAL BUDGET.**

I HOPE THAT YOU HAVE BEEN ENJOYING THE MAGAZINE DURING THIS PAST YEAR AND WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE A TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION TO THIS PART OF OUR SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST CONNECTION AND OUTREACH. MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND THANK YOU.

GRACE AND PEACE,

*Kevin*

**YES!** *I want to help the ministry of The Sabbath Recorder!*

- Enclosed is my GIFT for *The SR*  
 \$100    \$50    \$25    \_\_\_\_\_

- Please CHANGE my address to:  
 Please REMOVE my name from the mailing list

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send form to: The Sabbath Recorder, PO Box 1678, Janesville WI 53547-1678**