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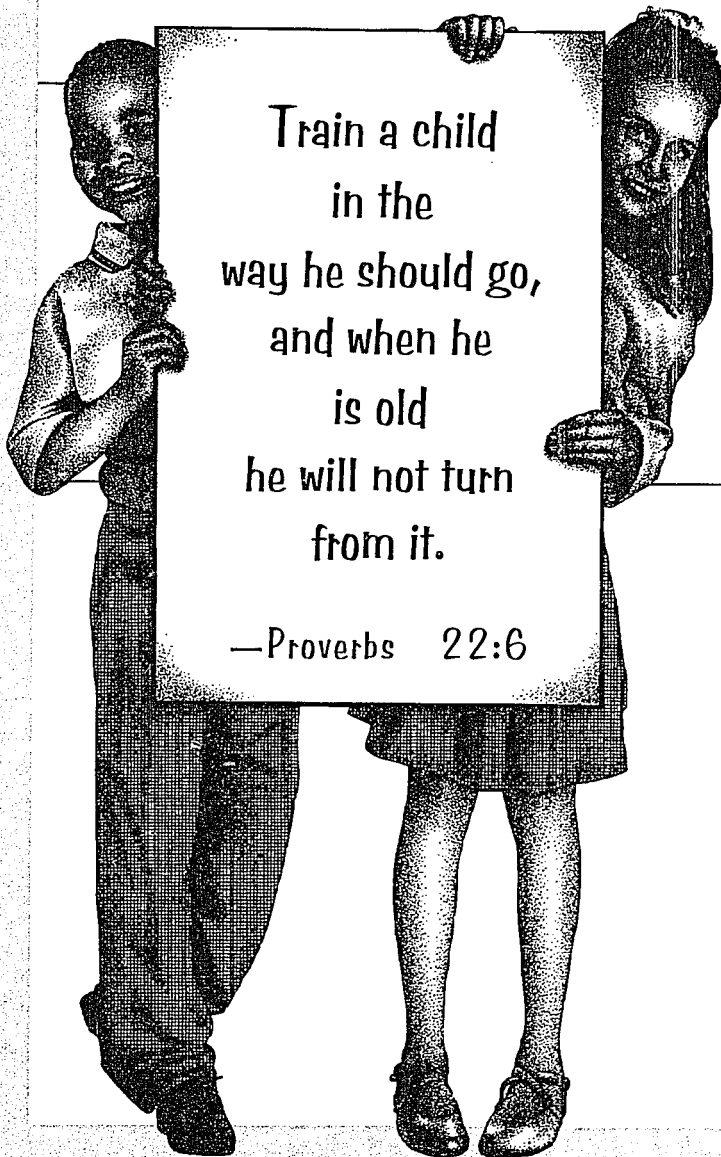
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*News for and about  
Seventh Day Baptists*

November 2002

R

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Train a child  
in the  
way he should go,  
and when he  
is old  
he will not turn  
from it.

—Proverbs 22:6

**SDB  
Board of  
Christian  
Education**



## 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 2003. 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:  
Robe Nominations  
209 First Ave.  
Daytona Beach FL 32114

or apply on-line at  
www.sdbwboard.org

Deadline:  
March 31, 2003

## Come to Brazil

Sessions of the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation (SDBWF) will be held February 10-16, 2003, in Curitiba, Paraná, Brazil. SDBWF delegates and observers will be welcome also at the Brazil convention sessions the previous week, February 4-9.

Contact Rev. Dale Thorngate, SDBWF Executive Secretary, for additional info:  
171 E. Main St.  
Salem WV 26426 USA

Phone: (304) 782-1727  
FAX: (304) 782-4792  
E-mail: sdbwf@aol.com

## Year-End Retreats!!

### Youth:

Dec. 29 – Jan. 1  
Camp Wakonda  
Milton, Wis.

Nate Crandall, Director  
sdbbce@educating-  
christians.org

### Young Adults:

Dec. 29 – Jan. 2  
Rancho Ybarra Camp  
Tujunga, Calif.

Anna Mackintosh, coor.  
blueeyes1212@  
netscape.net

# The Sabbath Recorder

Establ. 1844



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## Features—Christian Education

Teaching on purpose ..... 4  
by Andrew Camenga

*God expects us to teach "on purpose." He wants us to help our brothers and sisters grow in Christ. That is also the purpose of the SDB Board of Christian Education.*

Building our covenant community ..... 6  
by Andrew Camenga

*In many ways, the Board of Christian Education supports activities that help bring our church members together.*

A Helping Hand in Bible Study ..... 8  
by Andrew Camenga

*A quick overview of the history of "The Helping Hand," plus a preview of upcoming revisions in the format.*

What's a deacon to do? ..... 10

*This Board-sponsored workshop will help you better understand the Biblical basis for the diaconate.*

Get the MOST out of Sabbath School ..... 11  
with this seminar which honors the late Muriel Osborn.

Christian Ed publications for sale ..... 26

## Departments

Women's Society <i>Look, listen, and learn</i>	13	President's Page <i>I am in Christ</i>	20
Pearls from the Past <i>A sourcebook of our history</i>	14	Pete's Prescriptions <i>Read and rise above the mud</i>	21
SR Almanac <i>Looking back 5, 10, 25... years</i>	15	SR Reaction	22
Christian Education <i>2002 Sabbath School Teacher of the Year</i>	16	Local news <i>Milton, WI</i>	22-23
Focus <i>The Rez Connection</i>	17	<i>Camp Joy, WV</i>	23
The Beacon <i>Stand up for Jesus</i>	18	Family flux <i>New members,</i>	24-25
Reflections <i>Cold air, warm heart</i>	19	<i>marriages, births</i>	24
		<i>Obituaries</i>	25
		Kevin's Korner <i>Oom-pah for Jesus</i>	27



# Teaching on purpose

## The purpose of the Board of Christian Education

by Andrew Camenga, Executive Director

Somewhere between Bethany and Jerusalem dwelt a fig tree that was about to become famous. It wasn't doing anything all that spectacular—simply sinking roots into the soil, growing leaves, and preparing for a fruitful harvest season.

The tree could not converse with people passing by, or pull up its roots and move around. Instead, it just stood there—photosynthesizing. Fortune was not in the tree's future; however, fame was.

A small group accompanied Jesus on His way to Jerusalem. He became hungry and saw the fig tree. He approached it and discovered nothing but leaves. So Jesus said, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again!"

The disciples heard Jesus curse the tree, and they all continued on their way. Later in the week, as the disciples traveled with Jesus back into the city, Peter noticed the fig tree. It was no longer nice and green. Instead, its roots had withered and the tree was dead. As Peter pointed out the tree's demise, Jesus called the disciples to faith (Mark 11:12-14, 20-26).

The fig tree had not done anything wrong. As far as we know, it was growing and producing in the seasonal cycle that God created. The frustrating part of this Gospel account is that Jesus saw fit to curse the tree. It makes us ask, "Why would He do such a thing?"

While any answer to that question is speculative, one answer does make sense: Jesus used the cursing of the fig tree to teach the disciples about faith. He created a situation that caused them to ask questions, and



### Jesus used the cursing of the fig tree to teach the disciples about faith.

then used those questions to teach. Jesus was teaching on purpose.

This was not the first time that this technique shows up in the Bible. The General Conference theme for 2002, "What do these stones mean?" reminds us of when God instructed the Israelites to erect a pile of stones taken from the bottom of the Jordan River. God wanted to cause the children to ask, "What do these stones mean?"

As soon as that question was asked, the parents were to tell of the mighty acts of God. God created a situation that caused people to ask questions, and then used those questions to teach. God was teaching on purpose.

We can and should follow God's example. God expects us to teach

on purpose. He wants us to come up with ways to help our brothers and sisters in Christ grow.

God commanded the children of Israel to make teaching and talking about Him a part of their everyday lives (Deuteronomy 6:4-9). He commands us to think carefully about how we can encourage others to act in ways that demonstrate His love and good deeds (Hebrews 10:23-25). God challenges us to create situations that will cause others to grow. He asks us to teach on purpose.

By asking us to teach, God asks us to encourage others to change. The very words of the Great Commission—"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:18b-20)—make this clear.

We are, with God's ever-present help, to convince people to follow Jesus and to constantly teach obedience. Like it or not, we are called to teach God's way and will. But this teaching will not be forever.

Teaching can stop when we have all attained "to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:13). The Lord describes a day when our faith will be completely portable, a day when His word will be heart-written, and we will all be able to read and do what is the will of God (Hebrews 8:11).

Until every Believer can stand and say, "I have achieved the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ," that time has not come. So for now, reach out to others, strive to do God's will, and work to teach what Christ has commanded.

While the Board of Christian Education seeks to establish the importance of being intentional in education, we also encourage individuals to become complete and consistent in their walk with God. In essence,

we carry into everyday life. This faith is portable. It is mandatory.

As you walk, carry your faith. Demonstrate to each and every person you meet that the love of God

Here is where the work of the Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education becomes a reality. We are here to assist the local church in this effort to carry out God's Great Commission. We do this by encouraging individuals in churches to be intentional about reaching out to people who have not accepted Christ, and to be intentional about nurturing those who have accepted Him.

Designing programs that promote and support the assembly—people gathered in the name of Jesus Christ—is another way we assist the local church. Our seminars and workshops help churches examine and re-examine important ministries and develop important skills. We strive to help by preparing and producing publications that teach what Seventh Day Baptists consider important—things like evangelism, covenant community, and the Sabbath.

we are doing what we can to help faith become both tangible and portable. Even as God has called us to teach on purpose, He has called us to learn and obey.

Faith is not *impressed* on others; faith is personally lived. In the presence of the withered fig tree, Jesus said to Peter, "Have faith in God." He used a curse to teach the disciples an important lesson about faith, God's power, and God's expectations. He used the tree to call them to faith. He used the tree to call *us* to faith.

The words we express about faith in worship are to describe the faith

### God challenges us to create situations that will cause others to grow. He asks us to teach on purpose.

lives in you. Learn names. See faces. Don't treat others as a means to an end (*I must go through this line to get groceries*) or as an obstacle to overcome (*If I turn left here, I'll beat him to the parking space*). Instead, treat all as loved ones worthy of God's grace.

God is alive and active in the lives of Seventh Day Baptists. He works miracles of healing. He provides grace that allows forgiveness in difficult situations. He grants the Spirit and guides our interpretation of His book. God calls us together as a people and says, "Make disciples!" **SR**



SDB Board of Christian Education. Front (l. to r.): George Bottoms, Mae Bottoms, Carl Greene, Evelyn Hauber, Amanda Snyder. Back row: Andrew Camenga, Matt Olson, Olin Davis, Kenneth Chroniger, Gordon Lawton, David Clarke.

The official purpose of the Board of Christian Education begins with the call to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. It ends with the call to develop materials and programs to fulfill Christ's Great Commission. Some of the programs, publications, and other functions of the Board are described in this *Sabbath Recorder*.

If there are ways that we can assist your church, please do not hesitate to call. We want to help. If you would like to support the ongoing work of the Board, let us know. (See page 10 for contact information.)

Program, publication, and encouragement are what we offer. The hard part of the Christian walk—reaching out to new people, learning God's will, strengthening others—will always fall squarely on the shoulders of the local church. It will always depend on you. **SR**



# Building our covenant community

by Andrew Camenga

Every local church is a tangible example of God's people for that area or neighborhood. Fellowship, worship, service, and love are obvious markers of His people. Gather-

As I was growing up, my parents moved a lot—and, believe it or not, I moved with them. In 11 years, I lived in five states and seven different houses. While I wasn't old enough

Day Baptists, loved me wherever I lived. In addition to the constant love my parents shared with me, frequent attendance at Association meetings and General Conference sessions made it clear that a large group of people who loved God cared for me.

The General Conference sessions were a significant part of my experience of "community." From the many talks that I've had over recent years, I know that camps, retreats, Association meetings, and General Conference sessions have helped many understand that they belong to a people who love God and are called according to His purpose. The generally large distance between Seventh Day Baptist churches and the relatively small size of our congregations means that these joint activities are important in our walk as God's people.

One of the goals of the Board of Christian Education is to encourage and support activities that help bring the people of our churches together. We do this in many ways.

The most obvious ways surround the week of General Conference. The annual Youth and Young Adult **Pre-Conference retreats** are wonderful opportunities to get to know new people and to strengthen ties with

**One of the goals of the Board of Christian Education is to encourage and support activities that help bring the people of our churches together.**

ed, the covenant community can explore the Bible, pray for each other, and seek God's will.

The local church helps us remember the commitment that God has made to us and the commitment He expects us to make to Him and to His people. The local church should present God to the city, village, town, or countryside where it is located.

At the same time, the work of God is not limited to any single congregation. He was working in the whole world before we were born, is working with people we will never meet while on the earth, and will continue working with people until the return of Jesus. God works everywhere.

We strive to remember that the work of God is bigger than the work we see at any single place. Seventh Day Baptists endeavor to maintain association with other churches. As we work with others to do more than we can accomplish separately, we often choose to associate more closely with churches that believe and function like we do.

to make careful, objective observation of the people who lived around me, it was clear that those who lived in one place were different from the people who lived in the other places. Dress, talk, dialect, and mindset varied from one place to another.

These differences, combined with my tendency to be somewhat quiet and reserved, made it difficult to make good, long-lasting friends. Yet, I remember thinking that Paul's words—"I have learned, in whatsoever *state* [my emphasis] I am, there-with to be content" (Philippians 4:11)—were relatively easy to apply to life.

I was able to be content, not because I'd lived in several states, but because I had learned through those years that a people of God, known as Seventh



As part of their morning Associated Conference, children practice their lines for the Sabbath afternoon program.

old friends. These retreats offer fun, fellowship, and Bible study, and frequently challenge those who attend to recommit their lives to follow in the path that God has laid before them.

As parents and other adults attend Conference Bible studies, board and agency presentations, and business sessions during the day, **Associated sessions** for children and younger youth are organized by the Board and run by volunteers. This year, these sessions included stories of Seventh Day Baptists who have demonstrated a commitment to God in their lives and work. At the end of the week, the children presented a program based on these stories and showed how God has been working among us as a people. Crafts, music, recreation, and other activities are incorporated into these sessions as well.

The Board usually arranges a **High School Bible Study** and tries to set up one for young adults as well. This year, more than 70 youth attended the Bible study and seemed glad to have the scheduled activity. During the evening worship service, a **Kids' Kampfire** is offered for those who cannot sit through the service. After the evening worship service, there are organized activities for the youth.

The Board supports the annual **Young Adult Coffee House**—an opportunity to share in an enjoyable atmosphere the variety of talents and gifts that God has given. On Sabbath day, with the approval of the General Conference president, the Board arranges for **Sabbath School** classes for all ages.

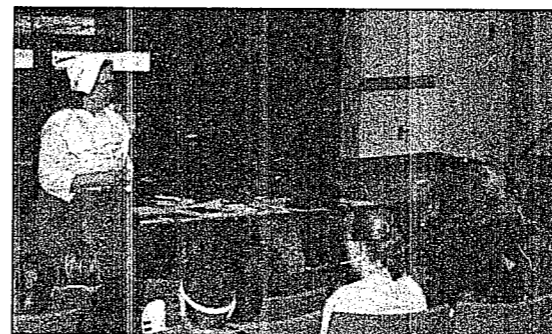
While the most obvious community-building work occurs around the

week of General Conference, other work is done throughout the year. The Board has supported **Year-End retreats** for youth and young adults. These retreats provide another opportunity to gather from all over the country to create, restore, and renew relationships. The **Scripture Memory Program** helps to highlight the Conference president's theme and unites many nationwide in their pursuit of "hiding God's Word."

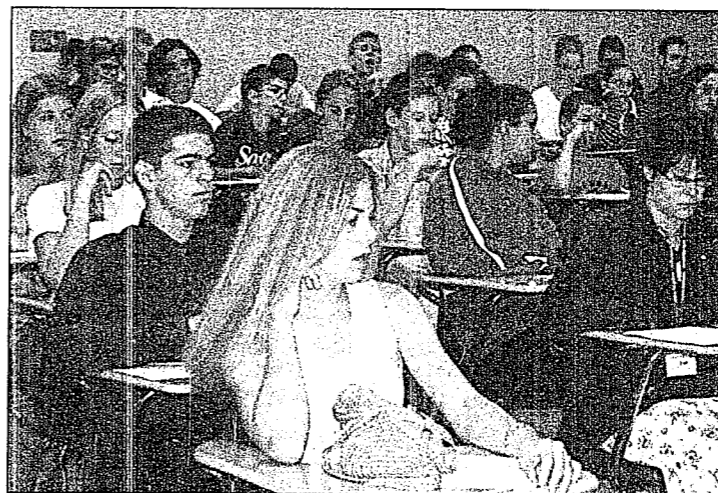
Your participation in these activities is crucial, but they alone do not make relationships happen. Good relationships require people dedicated to the work of God who seek to build up everyone they meet. In almost every event listed above, volunteers make the programs work. General Conference, Associations, camps, and retreats help us remember that God's work is greater than the work in any given locale; however, these wider activities should strengthen us and encourage us to do His work at home.

Much of the backbreaking, heart-rending work of the Great Commission is done at the local level. The General Conference community does not change that reality. I cannot talk to my next-door neighbor in Bath, N.Y., while meeting in Newberg, Ore. It is difficult to meet a neighbor while discussing evangelism at a Conference workshop. For that reason, the Board wants to help the local church in its setting.

You can read about some of the ways we do this in other articles in this *Sabbath Recorder*. At the same time, General Conference is an important part of the connectedness that God has given Seventh Day Baptists. We will work to support it. **SR**



Yvonne Stephan portrayed an SDB from history for the Associated Conference.



Part of this year's youth Sabbath School class, organized by the Board of Christian Education.



# A Helping Hand in Bible Study

by Andrew Camenga



Bible study is at the heart of the Christian walk. Bible study takes the many words that God has written to us and allows them to become guardians of our heart and lanterns for our feet.

Christians study the Bible when alone, and when they come together for worship and fellowship. It is something Christians do with purpose and reason. God has revealed Himself and promised that the words of the Bible are profitable for Christian living.

We know that valuable Bible study can happen in the Sabbath School. *The Helping Hand in Bible Study* is one useful tool for students in a Sabbath School class.

Seventh Day Baptists have had organized Sabbath Schools since the 1820s. These classes recognized the

importance of teaching children and offered an opportunity for adults to discuss the Scripture in a way that

**We want to encourage individuals to be involved in daily personal study even as they engage in weekly corporate study.**

was different from the worship service.

Once our churches established Sabbath Schools, the desire to have lesson material that all our churches could use began to grow. In the 1860s, several individuals attempted to produce Conference-wide Sabbath School helps. By the mid-1870s, Seventh Day Baptists were preparing and distributing lesson outlines based on the new *International Lesson* outline. (The Committee on the

Uniform Series, an ecumenical committee that includes a representative from the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference, now produces the *International Lessons*.)

The *International Lessons* proved popular with Sabbath Schools, and in 1885 the Tract Society introduced *Helping Hand in Bible School Work*.

The magazine was popular enough to support itself financially. Seventh Day Baptists considered the Sabbath School important and the *Helping Hand* valuable.

Through the last 117 years, the quarterly has changed several times. The name changed to *The Helping Hand in Bible Study*. The Tract Society allowed the Sabbath School Board control of the publication, and the Board of Christian Education is now responsible for the content. The size, shape, style, and binding have

varied. Circulation became international.

The Conference subsidizes the cost of the magazine, yet it remains a publication of Seventh Day Baptists for Seventh Day Baptists and is a tool for Sabbath School students.

This last year has seen continued

changes to the *Helping Hand*. Last December we changed the binding to provide a quarterly that is more "book like" with writing on the spine to help with organizing back issues.

We also began the process of reformatting the inside of the *Helping Hand*. The Board of Christian Edu-

cation wants this publication to help students prepare for their weekly Sabbath School class. We want to encourage individuals to be involved in daily personal study even as they engage in weekly corporate study. Here is a description of the sections of the reformatted *Helping Hand*:

**Peter: Restored Leader**

**Heart of the Lesson**  
Jesus provided Peter with the reality of restoration following Peter's bitter and repeated denial of Jesus. The restoration of Peter is one example of God's grace in action, a grace that will set us free to walk in God's good works.

**Key Verse**  
Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Tend My lambs" (John 21:15).

**Questions for Studying the Text**

1. In verse 31, what does Jesus tell Peter? Do you think this would be an encouraging or discouraging thing to hear? What additional information does Jesus give to Peter in the next verse?

2. How does Peter react to the information? What is Jesus' response to that reaction? What is the main idea of this short passage?

3. How would you summarize this passage? How do you explain Peter's denial? (Did Satan overwhelm Peter and make him deny knowing Jesus? [v. 31]) What conclusions can you draw about Peter's relationship to Jesus?

4. Is Peter's denial of Jesus related to any contemporary situations? (Is it a denial of Jesus to avoid mentioning your relationship in work settings? Is it a denial of Jesus to conduct worship services in secret when the state has outlawed such meetings?) What conclusions did you draw?

5. What is the message of these verses? Is it truly tied to this week's other study passages? Can you think of other ways to explain the message of these verses to help others understand what you see?

6. How would you (could you) use these passages to share with others the good news of the gospel?

<b>Study</b> Luke 22:31-34, 54-62; John 21:17	<b>Background</b> Luke 22:31-34, 54-62; John 21:1-22	<b>Devotional</b> Acts 4:1-13
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**Barnabas: Encourager and Enabler** Lesson 10

**Daily Bible Meditations** Angie Osborn

**Sunday** Acts 4:32-37  
Barnabas gave us a good example of "talking the talk and walking the walk." Not only did he support the apostles in their work for the Lord, he put his conviction into deed by selling his land and giving the money to them. This is a good challenge to us today. Are we supporting those around us who are involved in ministry? Not everyone is able to give financially, but we all can pray and put our talents to use. If you are able to give financially, maybe you could help your church by increasing your giving, or giving to denominational ministries. Are you daily lifting your pastor(s), lay leaders, Sabbath School teachers, and other ministers within your church body up in prayer? Can you help with maintenance, or in the nursery? Your talk talks and your walk talks, but your walk talks louder than your talk talks.

**Monday** Acts 9:23-30  
Saul had two reputations. The first was his "pre-conversion" reputation. He hated the Christians and persecuted them. He was well known for his intolerance of Christians. Later, he was converted and with just as much vigor, proclaimed the gospel. In today's passage, the apostles were leery of Saul. They did not want to give him a chance. Barnabas, however, had heard of Saul's preaching and teaching and stood up for him. Together, they accomplished great things for the Lord. We need to look beyond the "rained past" of others and be willing to accept them into our Christian circles. We need to demonstrate Christ's love and allow them to build upon their new life.

**Tuesday** Acts 11:19-24  
Following Stephen's persecution, the apostles had renewed reason to fear raising a stand for the Lord. Obviously, they would not hope to repeat what Stephen had been through. Yet, with renewed strength, they went on preaching to the Jews and then the Greeks. They did not give up on their call from the Lord. They relied on their belief that God would prevail.

Sometimes, God does not call us to do the "easy thing." He is challenging us, moving us forward, and bringing us to a greater understanding of Him. He wants us to follow his leading, trusting, He is in control. When we take a stand for God, He is able to work through us.

**Wednesday** Acts 11:25-30  
God used Barnabas to teach, train, and encourage Saul. Saul went on to have an amazing ministry of his own. Barnabas was a mentor and teacher. Later, he went "behind the scenes" as Saul took the "spotlight." Yet, where would Saul have been without the training and encouragement

Lesson 6 Sabbath, January 4, 2003 39

**Understanding and Living** Ken Burdick

**The Blind Alley of Legalism**  
What legalists of all times have failed to understand is that a place in the kingdom of God can't be earned or merited; it can only be received (as a gift; Romans 6:23). Jesus has just taught, "whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it at all" (Mark 10:15). We might think of a small child taking the hand of an adult, when crossing the street or pressed upon by a crowd. Just as that child entrusts himself to the care of that adult, simply and utterly, so also must those who enter God's kingdom entrust themselves to Jesus by an act of simple faith. In this way, the kingdom is received. But a man now comes to ask what he should "do" to "inherit eternal life" (Mark 10:17, another way of referring to the right to "enter the kingdom," v. 23, or be "saved," v. 26). By asking what he should do, this young man (Matthew 19:20) means what good deed he should perform, as becomes clear from the parallel account in Matthew. According to Matthew the question was, "Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may obtain eternal life?" (Matthew 19:16). While Mark and Luke (Luke 18:18) probably report the actual words of this man (that he said "Good teacher," rather than "good thing"), Matthew's report clarifies the intention of his question. Like many Jews, this young man believed eternal life could be won by performing a specific kind of good deed (perhaps something that went "above and beyond" the requirements of the law). He wanted Jesus to "weigh in" on the debate about what that good deed might be. By replying, "why do you call Me good?" (Mark 10:18), Jesus is not denying his own goodness. He's gently rebuking the man for opening a serious discussion of the concept of goodness by using the word good as nothing more than polite flattery. If the discussion is going to be about what deed is worthy (i.e. good enough) to gain a person entrance into the kingdom, then the man must first come to a better understanding about what is good: "No one is good except God alone" (v. 18). Actually, that truth in itself denies the very premise of the young man's question. If eternal life could truly be inherited by performance of some good deed, but no one is good (except God), then no one can perform such a deed. Jesus then turns the discussion to the commandments (v. 19), as if to say: "Talk to me about how you really have fulfilled the requirements of the law, before you talk to me about going beyond it." Jesus brings up the commandments dealing with man's relationship to his neighbor.

**Heart of the Lesson**—This section attempts to capture the essence of the lesson. While your class may choose to draw another lesson, this should provide at least one important way to connect with the text.

**Key Verse**—Chosen by the Committee on Uniform Series to represent the lesson focus. Some people choose to memorize these verses.

**Questions for Studying the Text**—The questions try to cover a wide range of learning.

Some questions will have straightforward, one- and two-word answers. Other questions will require bringing significant knowledge of the whole of the Bible to the answer. Still other questions will look to applying the text to our daily walk.

**Daily Bible Meditations**—While many people recognize that daily interaction with the Bible is an important part of remaining in contact with God's will, selecting what to read can be an obstacle. The "Daily Bible Meditations" remove this obstacle by selecting passages of Scripture that are short enough to read relatively quickly and still cover the primary and background Scriptures for each week's lesson.

In addition to the reading selection, a paragraph or two encourages the reader to meditate on and apply the meaning of the biblical text.

**Understanding and Living**—Explaining the context, historical background, and focus of the text is one purpose of this section. Another purpose is to encourage readers to apply the Scripture to their lives today.

This article takes five columns in the new format and replaces "Comment on Scripture," "Life Application," and "Insights for Youth." For this new section, we encourage authors to include personal examples that seemed to appear frequently in the "Insights for Youth."

cont. on page 12



## What's a deacon to do?

### Diaconate Workshop

From the time of the Apostles, local churches have recognized at least two offices—overseer and deacon. The Bible clearly describes qualifications for these offices in 1 Timothy 3.

Seventh Day Baptists have confirmed these offices by ordaining pastors (presumably as overseers) and by ordaining deacons. In each

involved at the workshop come up with this description. It depicts the status of the diaconate in that church. This picture is examined more closely at the end of the training.

The history of the diaconate begins in Biblical times and continues to today. Focusing on the stream of

ing at baptisms, this learning time explores the many areas of legitimate work for the diaconate. It explores both the personal work of individual members and the congregational work of the whole diaconate. This section is intentionally overwhelming and yet offers many suggestions about how to begin working in each area of life.

At the end of the workshop, the local church begins to answer the question, "Where do we go from here?" After reviewing the initial picture "painted" by those involved at the workshop, we talk about what the church would like to see happen with the diaconate, and try to plan some initial steps to start moving in that direction.

Over the last two years, several churches have hosted the diaconate workshop in various settings. One church chose to incorporate the workshop as part of a diaconate retreat. Another used the workshop to help members and potential members of the diaconate think about the role of that group. Another church chose to include everyone in the congregation who wanted to attend. In each case, participants felt that the time spent in the workshop was worthwhile.

Let us help you "improve your serve" in your church's diaconal ministry. **SR**

### The Board of CE has designed a workshop to help your church better understand the Biblical basis for the diaconate.

case, the local church is seeking to recognize God's will and the gifts that He has placed in certain individuals.

Some things in life seem to just "happen." However, God frequently expects us to count the cost. The fact that God offered, through Paul, a list of qualifications for members of the diaconate indicates that this area of church life is one that God expects us to think about.

It is good for a congregation of believers to review, from time to time, the various roles to which God has called His people and how those roles are best accomplished in the current work of the church. This is especially true of the work of the diaconate. For that reason, the Board of Christian Education has designed a workshop to help your church better understand the Biblical basis for the diaconate, better define the role of the diaconate, and to strengthen the diaconate's working relationship with the congregation and ministry staff.

The first part of the workshop creates a description of the diaconate, based on the expectation and understanding of the local church. Those

history that leads to Seventh Day Baptists in the United States and Canada, the workshop explores the variety of shapes and structures that the diaconate has had through the years.

Since our final authority in matters of faith and practice is the Bible, we end the walk through history by returning to the Biblical text. Beginning with general expectations for all Christians and moving to the specific for diaconate members, the workshop then explores both the purpose of and qualifications for the office of deacon.

Acknowledging that, at times, the work of the diaconate has been limited to serving communion and help-

For more information on this workshop or any other Christian Education question, please contact us at:

**SDB Board of Christian Education**  
PO Box 115  
Alfred Station NY 14803

Phone/Fax: (607) 587-8527  
sdbbce@EducatingChristians.org

## Get the MOST out of Sabbath School

### Muriel Osborn Seminar for Teachers

One source for improving your teaching skills, recruiting new teachers, and encouraging others to think about Christian Education is the Muriel Osborn Seminar for Teachers (MOST). This seminar from the Board of Christian Education seeks to help people gain confidence in teaching skills that can be applied to most age groups.

Whether you teach children, youth, young adults, or adults, this seminar can help you learn new ideas and review already established skills. A few Seventh Day Baptist churches have already taken advantage of this seminar, and we at the Board would like to help your church, too.

Facts are fun. We can memorize them. We can learn them. We can master and manipulate them. Facts are a significant portion of any educational process. This is even true in Christian Education. A thorough knowledge of the Bible is important.

God has chosen to reveal Himself in many ways, and He has promised that His word is "profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17). It is possible to master the facts depicted in the Bible and to use that memorized knowledge to describe in detail what God has revealed.

The Bible is crucial and is our final authority in matters of faith and practice (see our SDB Statement of Belief). Believers must remember this reality. Yet, at its heart, Christian Education is not about teaching facts; it is helping others to walk and live with Jesus.

The primary content of Christian Education is the person of Jesus Christ. We will never learn to "mas-



The MOST seminar is funded by gifts given in memory of Muriel S. Osborn, long-time pastor's wife and teacher.

ter" or "manipulate" God. Because of this, Christian Education must be aware of both the factual and relational elements of teaching. It must choose methods of teaching that do

planning, and leading in Christian Education settings, this seminar can help you and others in your church to be more effective as teachers, mentors, and discussion leaders.

Enough material has been prepared for the seminar to fill a weekend retreat; however, we recognize that many churches would like to provide teacher training but cannot schedule a full weekend.

The current topic titles are *Asking Good Questions, Using Small Groups (Breakouts), Teaching for Values, Story Telling, Increasing Learner Participation, Developing a Sentence Outline, Controlling Classroom Behavior, and How to Teach a Perfect Lesson Every Time*. If a local congregation requests additional topics, we will develop and include them in their seminar.

To schedule a seminar, get approval from the appropriate person

**At its heart, Christian Education is not about teaching facts; it is helping others to walk and live with Jesus.**

not undermine the reality of God's presence in this world.

Teaching is the focus of the Muriel Osborn Seminar for Teachers. While it begins by sharing a theology of Christian Education and a description of learning and teaching, it does not try to answer the larger questions of "How should our Sabbath School be organized?" or "What curriculum should we be using?"

Instead, MOST looks to specific practical skills. By providing guidance and suggestions for preparing,

or group in your church and then contact the Board of Christian Education. We will work with you to schedule the seminar at a time and in a way that fits your needs.

Your church will provide the place to meet, and room and board for the instructor. Through generous gifts given in Muriel's memory, the Board covers the cost of transportation and training materials for the seminar. We look forward to helping you get the "most" out of your Sabbath School program. **SR**



## Look, listen, and learn

*"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Rom 10:17).*

I have a friend who, because of that verse, started reading the Bible aloud to herself. Her diligent study and methods appear to work for her. It has helped impress the Scriptures on her memory to the extent that she is fairly good at recalling, quoting, and locating appropriate scriptural wisdom.

Churchill once said, "It is a good thing for an uneducated man to read books of quotations.... The quotations, when engraved upon the memory, give you good thoughts. They also make you anxious to read the authors and look for more" (From *My Early Life* by Winston Churchill.)

Here are a few quotes related to Christian Education, "how to," and behavior:

"And the servant of the Lord must not strive [quarrel]; but be gentle unto all men, apt [able] to teach, patient, In meekness instructing [correcting] those that oppose [are in opposition to] themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of [so they may know] the truth; And that they may recover themselves [come to their senses] out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at [to do] his will" (2 Tim. 2:24-26).

"...Knowledge puffeth up, but charity [love] edifieth [builds up]. And if any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know, But if any man love God, the same is known of him" (1 Cor. 8:1-3).

"Go ye therefore, and teach [make disciples of] all nations,

baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world" (Matt 28:19-20).

"...Thus it is written, and thus it behooved [was necessary for] Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things" (Luke 24:46-48).

"He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy [lovingkindness], and to walk humbly with thy God?" (Micah 6:8).

"Who among you will give ear to this? Who will hearken and hear for the time to come?" (Isaiah 42:23).

Churchill did not have a formal university education. Instead, he opted for a stint in the military. "It was not until this winter of 1896, when I had almost completed my 22nd year, that the desire for learning came upon me. I began to feel myself wanting in even the vaguest knowledge about many large spheres of thought."

Though he had little formal schooling, Churchill became well-educated and well-rounded by following each path his life took—through his primary school years, and then through military training and other experience. When he lacked knowledge in certain areas, he remedied these deficiencies by

diligent self-study and observation of handpicked subjects, such as history, philosophy, economics, and religion.

Churchill's experiences, astuteness, and keen observations culminated in a fine and useful education. May we likewise be educated in Christ. I'm sure that all of us can be found wanting in the areas of His knowledge, wisdom, and understanding.

"Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your way my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:6-9).

"To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive [understand or discern] the words of understanding; To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity; To give subtilty [prudence] to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion. A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain [acquire] unto wise counsels: To understand a proverb, and the interpretation [enigma]; the words of the wise, and their dark sayings [riddles]. The fear [reverential awe] of the Lord is the principal beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction" (Prov. 1:2-7).

cont. on page 23

## Editors lend Helping Hand

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Since its inception in 1885, hundreds of Seventh Day Baptists have contributed to the writing of the *Helping Hand*. At times it has been written by a committee, or with individuals contributing portions or whole lessons. At other times, individuals have written a complete quarter or two. The following have served as editor:

1885-1886	A.E. Main
1886-1893	Lewis A. Platts
1893-1894	L.A. Livermore
1895-1899	Committee with 39 different contributors
1900-1926	William Calvin Whitford (26 years)
1927-1952	Erlø Sutton (25 years)
1952-1954	Melvin Nida
1955-1970	Don A. Sanford
1970-1975	Duane L. Davis
1975-1977	Jinx Kuehn Stonestrom
1977-1980	Albert N. Rogers
1981-1983	David Clarke
1984-1991	Linda Harris
1992	C. Rex Burdick
1993-1995	John Camenga
1996	Matthew Olson
1997-1999	Linda Harris
2000-	Andrew Camenga

Issue 11      Sabbath, February 9, 2003      71

better than most church members will do in their lives.

**Hints for Teaching the Class**  
Paul was convinced that God had given him a mission—to bring the message of faith in Jesus Christ to the world. He wanted everyone who heard the message to accept it as true. He had conviction that came from a direct visual and aural encounter with the risen Jesus.

Most of your class will already accept that God wants us to reach out to others and that he expects obedience. Your challenge as the teacher is to help the class move from knowledge to conviction to action. Words are not sufficient to do this. Also, a lesson plan is necessary but not sufficient.

As you think about Paul's call and re-read every account of God's Great Commission in preparation for teaching this class, pray for yourself, your class, and the people God has prepared for your class to reach. Organize the class to reintroduce the idea of obedience, the specific call God gave to Paul, his example, and then focus on how God expects us to respond to his commission. Pray for the conviction that God is real and his command is right.

**Looking Forward/Looking Back**  
God used Paul to choose Timothy as helper on one of Paul's missionary trips. After serving with Paul, Timothy served as an ambassador for Christ—proclaiming and protecting the truth of the Gospel.

God used Paul to choose Timothy as helper on one of Paul's missionary trips. After serving with Paul, Timothy served as an ambassador for Christ—proclaiming and protecting the truth of the Gospel.

**Hints for Teaching the Class—**Provides teachers with interesting, quirky, and helpful methods for approaching the lesson material.

This is three-quarters of a column and will be of varying use to teachers. We do not expect this to become a normative description of how to teach the class; rather, we hope that it will provide thought-starters for teachers.

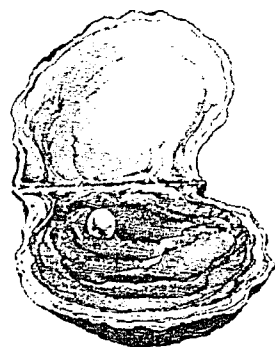
**Looking Forward/Looking Back—**This section is to help provide some continuity through a unit of lessons. Each lesson will end with a one- or two-sentence summary of what is coming in the next week. At the end of a unit, a summary of what was covered will be provided instead.

We want the Sabbath School to be a time when our people can come together to discuss God's Word, encourage one another in God's work, discern God's will, and support God's plan. We plan to continue to offer *The Helping Hand in Bible Study* as one tool to help in that effort. **SR**

### Large Print Edition

An experiment with the *Helping Hand* is now underway. For churches in the United States and Canada that subscribe to the *Helping Hand*, a large print edition of the magazine is available as an Adobe Acrobat file. We distribute the file on a CD, then your church prints the pages and chooses an appropriate method for binding.

Formatted for an 8-1/2 x 11-inch sheet, layout and page numbering remain the same. Contact the Board of Christian Education office for more information about this product.



Pearls from the Past by Don A. Sanford, historian

## A sourcebook of our history

When General Conference met in Plainfield, N.J., 150 years ago (September of 1852), the Conference Business Committee reported: "We find ourselves embarrassed for the want of a clear knowledge of the powers, objects, and purposes of this organization. Our report must therefore be imperfect. We have,

**These three volumes of 12 quarterly issues are among the most-used resources by later historians and genealogists.**

however, thought that we might safely present the following items for your consideration.

"We recommend that the General Conference appoint a committee, whose duty it shall be to collect all of the documents of the Conference, and submit them to the Seventh Day Baptist Publishing Society, to aid them in their important and interesting labors; and especially that through this channel we may secure a reliable history of the rise, progress, and objects of the Conference."<sup>1</sup>

The Publishing Society responded with the publication of the *Seventh Day Baptist Memorial*, "the design of which is to put in a permanent form such biographical, historical,

and statistical matters suited to illustrate the rise, progress and present condition of the Seventh Day Baptist Denomination."<sup>2</sup>

The first issue of the *Memorial* was dated January 1852, and included the three areas of biography, history of churches and missions, and statistics which resembles in tabular form what is now included in the *Seventh Day Baptist Yearbook*. This contained the listing of ministers and their locations, plus each church by Association, along with its pastor, clerk, mailing address, number of communicants, and the date the church was constituted.

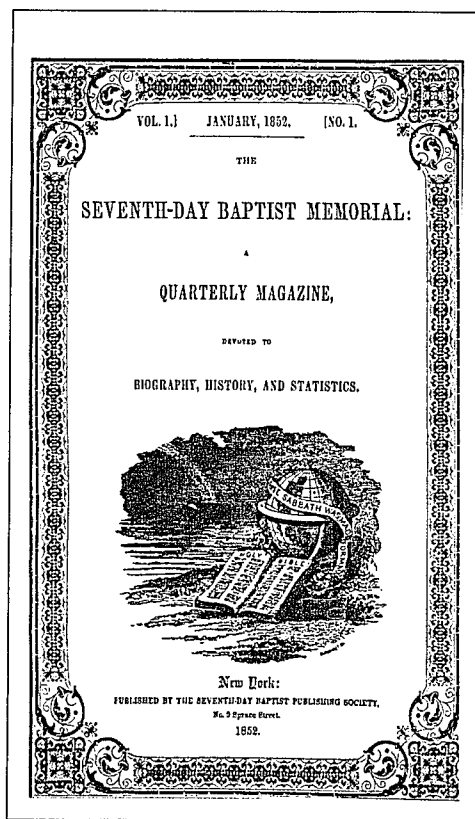
Unfortunately for later generations, the Publishing Society reported the suspension of the *Memorial* at the close of its third volume (1854). Their reasons were twofold: a lack of time for editorial work by those already committed to other publications and ministry; but, more importantly, the deficit incurred by the lack of financial support from readers.

In spite of its short life, these three volumes of 12 quarterly issues are among the most-used resources by later historians and genealogists. Within the 48 pages per issue (192 pages per volume, 576 total pages) readers can find biographical sketches of 40 of our denominational leaders; the history of the Newport church and oth-

ers in Rhode Island, plus the Piscataway, N.J., church, along with a list of their members; a summary of SDB missions from earliest colonial days to the home missionaries of the 1830s; and the listing of ministers and some church statistics. **SR**

*'Minutes of the Forty-fourth Session of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference, meeting the Fifth-day before the second Sabbath in September, 1852, pp. 7-8.*

*'Third Annual Report of the Seventh Day Baptist Publishing Society, 1852, p. 7.*



# SR Almanac

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

### One year ago—November 2001

Features respond to the September 11 terrorist attacks: Cleo LaTouche's nagging stomach ailment kept her away from her World Trade Center job that day; attorney David Massengill is left temporarily homeless as his home is one block east of the Trade Center.

Background shared about Floy Owen (Foothill SDB Church in Montrose, Calif.), the 2001 Robe of Achievement recipient.

Eowyn Driscoll introduces herself as the new *Beacon* editor.

The Cornerstone SDB Church in Pontotoc, Miss., is dedicated in June.

Paint Rock, Ala., church celebrates its 75th anniversary in August.

### Five years ago—November 1997

Conference sermons by Stephen Osborn and Kevin Butler look at the Trinity and the Holy Spirit.

Obituary lists accomplishments of former Executive Secretary Doris Fetherston.

Jan Bond, Shiloh, N.J., honored as Sabbath School Teacher of the Year.

Australasian delegate to Conference, Dorothy Goulding, urges attendees to get on with the task of evangelism.

SDB World Federation meets in Passley Gardens in Jamaica, July 14-20.

Central SDB Church hosts a booth at the Prince George's County Fair in Upper Marlboro, Md.

### 10 years ago—November 1992

Conference sermons presented by Pastor John Bevis and Jim Ayars.

Baptist women gather in Phoenix, Ariz., for the North American Baptist Women's Union.

"Pearls" column looks at the history of the Newport, R.I., SDB Meeting House.

Memphis, Tenn., church enters new phase of public ministry.

Robe of Achievement recipient, Myrna Cox, profiled. Allegheny Association sponsors county fair booth.

Hope Church in Philadelphia, Pa., celebrates 10th anniversary.

### 25 years ago—November 1977

Frankie Davis—the 79-year-old conscientious secretary at the Battle Creek, Mich., SDB Church—is featured in the "Personality Profile."

Pastor Melvin Stephan writes on the spiritual fruit of faithfulness.

"The Case for Quiet Saturdays"—a call for a national weekly day of rest, originated in a *Christianity Today* editorial by Harold Lindsell—continues to build momentum. A panel discussion at Conference is led by Alton Wheeler, Herbert Saunders, Ted Horsley, and Duane Davis.

The SDB Memorial Board thanks Rev. Albert Rogers for his nine years of service to the Board.

New York City church acquires a former bank branch building to use as their worship facility.

### 50 years ago—November 1952

Middle Island, W.Va., and Los Angeles, Calif., churches highlighted in series called "Our Churches and What They Are Doing."

"You Must Be Born Again" is the closing sermon from Conference, by Rev. Alton Wheeler.

SDBs Joan Clement and Beth Severe study at the Bible Institute in Los Angeles to prepare for service in Nyasaland (now Malawi), Africa.

Pastor Earl Cruzan earns "award of merit" in Spiritual Mobilization's national sermon competition. The contest recognized the annual "Freedom Under God" observance of Independence Week.

### ...where are we headed?

#### Pray—

- for God's hand of peace and protection
- for our SDB World Federation
- for true Sabbath convictions and practices
- for the SDB Board of Christian Education
- that more would consider overseas missions
- for the work of our Memorial Board
- with thanks for our American heritage





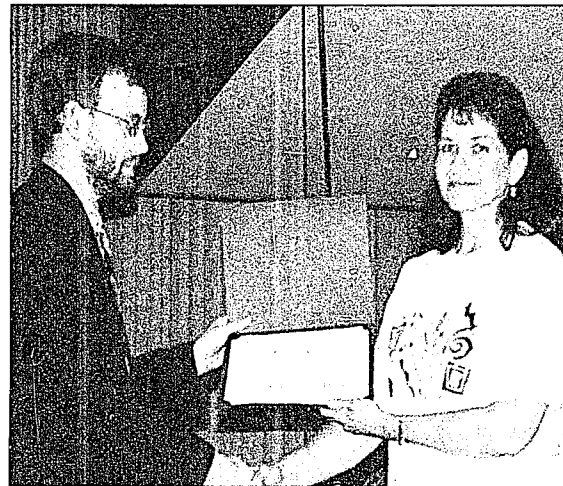
## Christian Education

by Andrew J. Camenga

# 2002 Sabbath School Teacher of the Year

Larry Bird of the Washington, D.C., Seventh Day Baptist Church, is the recipient of the *Crystal Apple Award* as the 2002 Sabbath School

**Although Larry agreed to teach for only a few months, it soon became clear that he had "a thirst for the Lord and His Word."**



Lorrie Bird accepts the Sabbath School Teacher of the Year award on behalf of her husband, Larry. Andrew Camenga made the presentation at Conference.

Teacher of the Year. His wife, Lorrie, accepted the award in his stead during the General Conference award ceremonies at Houghton (N.Y.) College this past summer.

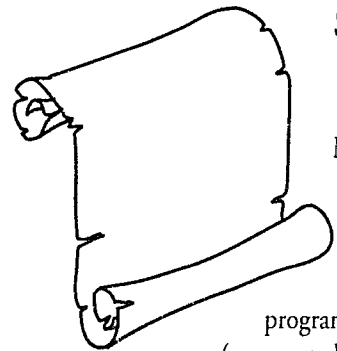
Larry began teaching the adult Sabbath School class "just to help out." Although he agreed to teach for

only a few months, it soon became clear that he had "a thirst for the Lord and His Word."

An ability to teach well accompanied this thirst. In fact, visitors to the church have said, "You have a special teacher in that fella!"

In nominating Larry, the church wrote, "The Washington SDB Church is biblically grounded for having such a one as Larry Bird. He may not be the famous Boston Celtic basketball player; nevertheless, he is famous and well-regarded in our midst." **SR**

## Scripture Memory Honor Roll



You don't think your church can win the Mary G. Clare Scripture Memorization Award? You simply don't have enough people? Get your church on the Scripture Memory Honor Roll instead.

This church-level program recognizes SDB churches that successfully encourage a large portion of their worship attendees to complete the memorization program. When the number of people finishing the program is greater than 50 percent of the church's average worship attendance (as reported in the *Yearbook*), the church will be on the honor roll.

Each congregation on the Honor Roll will receive a framed certificate and will be listed in the *Sabbath Recorder* as a recipient of the award.



## FOCUS on Missions

# The Rez Connection

by Ron Elston

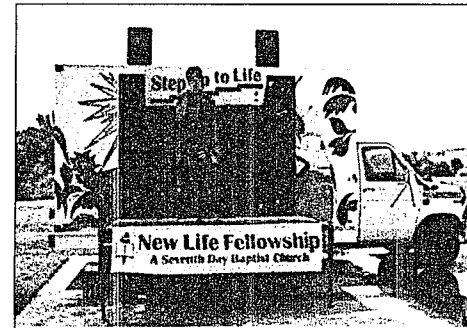
Following General Conference, Kirk and Vivian Looper joined me in visiting the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. There we met and worked with "Rez Connection" founder, Pastor Chet Marks and his wife, Barbara.

The Rez Connection refers to the reservation's connection with the resurrected Jesus Christ. While at Pine Ridge, we toured the sites where Pastor Chet and the Rez Connection take the Gospel to hundreds

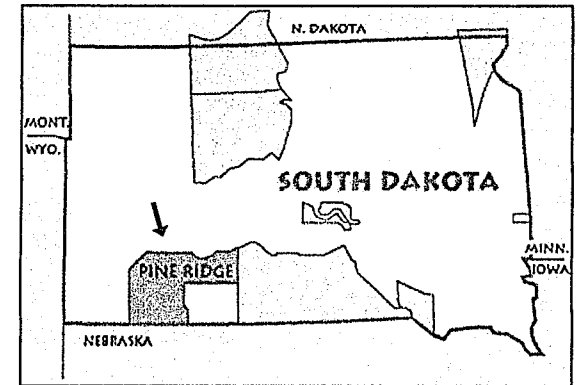
of young people each week via the mobile "sanctuary buses."

This ministry has many forms of outreach to the reservation, including the Mobile Ministry, Bible studies, and the New Life Fellowship Seventh Day Baptist Church.

For more information about this exciting ministry, check out the Rez Connection at their web site: [www.street.ns.ca/native.html](http://www.street.ns.ca/native.html) **SR**



Pastor Marks' Mobile Ministry lifts up Jesus and promotes the Seventh Day Baptist church.



The Pine Ridge Reservation is in the southwest corner of South Dakota.



The Rez Connection reaches hundreds of Native Americans each week.



Pastor Chet Marks with his wife, Barbara, and their four children.



Teaching inside a "sanctuary bus."



# the BEACON

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

November 2002

## Stand up for Jesus

by Eowyn Driscoll

As I write this, it's about one month following Conference, and I'm wondering what is going on in everyone's lives. My guess is that some people are having problems, and others' lives are going just dandy. But what are we doing about those things that we pledged to do after Conference?

At the Youth Banquet, Justin Hibbard asked us to "stand up for Jesus," and all of us found that easy to do. Why? Because we believe in the same thing. No one was going to go, "Ew, you believe in God? You're a loser!" But at home, there's often a risk in standing for the Lord.

The question is, "Why don't we take that risk?" Why are we not willing to say, "Yes, I believe that Christ is my Lord and Savior" when we are not around our Christian fellows? Why are we cowards?

It is not a question of faith; it is a question of pride. As people, are we willing to subject ourselves to the slander which will inevitably follow if we say or do something in the name of God?

1 Corinthians 1:23 says, "We preach Christ crucified: to the Jews a stumbling block, to the Greeks foolishness." Our world is full of "Greeks," and we're afraid to appear foolish in the eyes of our friends.

What if I told you that foolishness is in the eye of the beholder? Truly, it

is. What appears foolish—like saying a prayer or thanking God for something, or simply not submitting to peer pressure because that's not what God would have us do—looks silly to

**Are we willing to subject ourselves to the slander which will inevitably follow if we say or do something in the name of God?**

the "Greeks" in our lives. But not to our friends at Conference.

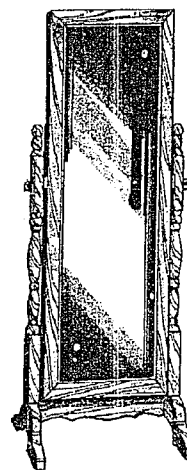
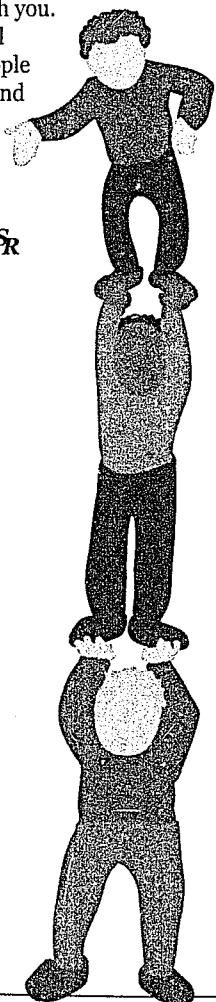
I can almost hear you saying, "But my Conference friends don't live anywhere near me, so I don't get any Christian fellowship."

I can tell you this: Because of God, the SDB Youth Fellowship is always there with you, mentally beside you even when you aren't physically with them. God brings the SDBYF together at retreats and Conference to learn about Him and to praise His name, so that even when we are apart, we will know that we do not stand alone.

Like Justin, I will ask you to stand up for Jesus. Stand up for your faith and for your God, who is "the Way, the Truth, and the Life" (John 14:6).

Do not be afraid. God will always be with you.

And there will always be people who understand that, even when they are on the other side of a continent. *SR*



## 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*

## Cold air, warm heart

miles.) All things considered, summer was never my favorite season.

In spite of mud and snow, spring and winter have their good points. But, as a youngster, I always enjoyed autumn the most. And I still do.

Who but God would think of creating majestic trees topped with green leaves that fall to earth in vivid swirls of red and yellow and gold? Who but God would fill orchards with both tart and sweet apples and then complement their crispiness with even crispier air?

I feel fortunate to have grown up in a state where I can "taste" the delectable delights of four very different seasons. (Admittedly, my appetite for freezing weather and snow decreases as my age increases.)

When I was young, my least favorite season was summer. That may seem strange, since summer meant no school and countless evenings playing outside until dusk. But it was the 1950s, and our family lacked the things that made summer months in Wisconsin—especially July and August—bearable.

We "air-conditioned" our house and car by opening windows, which often meant that we simply gave all of that hot, humid air a new place to visit.

My siblings and I slept upstairs during the winter, but summer always meant a move downstairs. (My brother had the front porch cot all to himself, while my sister and I shared the bed on the back porch.)

When I wasn't listening to Milwaukee Braves baseball games on my tiny transistor radio, I reclined in the darkness and studied the patterns of leaves silhouetted against the moonlit sky. Our backyard elm formed the East Coast of the United States, and the neighbor's oak created a perfect profile of Donald Duck.

I also worried about wolves clawing at the screens or breaking through the back door and pouncing on me. (Never mind that there wasn't a wolf within hundreds of

calls for temperatures in the 60s and low 70s all week."

Jay has never hidden his dislike of Midwestern winters, but I often sense that there's still a smidgen of Wisconsin in his heart.

"Don't tell me that, Mom," Jay pleaded. "It must be in the high 90s right now. I'm sitting here sweating all over the place!"

If there is a "downside" to fall, it's the vague melancholy I feel whenever I spot flocks of migrating geese. I know that the beautiful red and yellow leaves will soon be trampled underfoot or pushed into



**Every fall, God blesses us with a bountiful harvest so that we can face winter with confidence.**

the gutter, and all of those roadside apples will disappear into pies and cider.

As the days get shorter, the sunlight that warmed me in the evening will disappear by late afternoon. The world will inevitably turn brown and gray before it's finally cloaked in white.

But every year the sadness and drabness of late autumn leads into Thanksgiving and Christmas—blessed times to renew relationships with friends and loved ones. And spring, with its promise of new life, is always waiting just around the next snowbank.

I pray that God will grant all of us the privilege of enjoying His changing seasons for years to come. *SR*

# I am in Christ

The President's Page - November 2002

George Cruzan

Our theme this year is, "I am in Christ." We usually prefer to think about "Christ in me." So what do I mean by being in Christ? How does that differ from Christ being in me?

We (at least I) prefer to be passive Christians. We emphasize that Jesus died for our sins, and that our salvation is God's free gift. We pray for those who are sick or struggling; we ask God to heal them, lighten their load, and solve their problems.

The Sabbath School teacher-help that I use suggested that, for one month, we don't ask God to do anything; our prayers should be only to praise Him for what He has done. This made me think of my own prayers.

Jesus said, "Ask and you will receive, seek and you will find, knock and it will be opened to you" (Matt. 7:7-8). We are very good at the first part of that verse, but we stop there. That characterizes the "Christ in me" thinking. Christ is in me, therefore I will ask him to solve all of the problems that I and others encounter.

So how are we to be in Christ? Jesus said, "I do the works I do because I am in the Father and the Father is in me." So if we are to be in Christ, as He is in the Father, we must first start with Christ as our example. Instead of trying to find time for God in our lives, we must center our lives in God.

When we work, are we working "in Christ" or for ourselves? (Ephesians 6:5-9). Would anyone at your workplace suspect that you are a Christian? We must be in Christ at work.

In your family life, does your family think of you as a Christian? (Ephesians 5:22-6:4). When you are out with



George Cruzan

"the boys" (or girls), or on vacation, are your actions and words pleasing to God?

What do you think about? Psalm 19:14 says, "May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my redeemer." We often say this verse as a closing. Do we really mean it?

Asking is easy. We just tell God what He needs to do (of course, if it is in His will). Seeking and knocking is work; it calls for us to do something—not to earn our salvation, but to be His servants.

So, for the next month, when you have a concern for an individual, ask God to show you how you can be His servant to that person. **SR**



Do you want to leave a permanent remembrance to a friend or relative, or continue to support an SDB work after you are gone? You can create an endowment by making a gift now or leaving something in your will.

Want an annuity that pays you while you live, but leaves the remainder to support SDBs?

For more information, contact Calvin Babcock at The SDB Center PO Box 1678 Janesville WI 53547



## Pete's Prescriptions

from Dr. Pete May,  
Executive Secretary

### Read and rise above the mud



*Abraham Lincoln.*

"The things I want to know are in books; my best friend is the man who'll git me a book I ain't read."—Abraham Lincoln (From *Abraham Lincoln: The Prairie Years* by Carl Sandburg.)

Whenever "Abe" had a chance—in the field, at work, or in the house—he explained to others what he got from books. Plus he wrote poetry and letters for others. What he learned in school didn't satisfy him.

The style of the Bible and Aesop's Fables, and the hearts and minds behind those books, were always in his thoughts. The stories and sayings of people, plus the wisdom and mercies of God, continually ran through his head. His eyes "caught the learning" that radiated from the written page. Books comforted Abe, and helped him to understand the rights and wrongs of man's relationship to God.

Most of us are in awe of Lincoln, the self-educated man. Knowing that

SDBs, in general, are a well-educated group is both a source of pride and disappointment.

When I was younger, I thought that all Seventh Day Baptists were school teachers like my parents, either college level or high school. But we've gradually allowed our SDB-related colleges and universities to slip away.

Thanks to the efforts of Historian Don Sanford and others, we have a great deal of SDB history to read and appreciate. Don's excellent scholarship—along with the *Helping Hand, Nurture Series*, and the *Sabbath Recorder*—gives us a large sup-

ply of historical data to read, enjoy, absorb, and use in our lives. This information is offered to us right in our own churches and homes.

Carl Sandburg once said of Lincoln, "Days came when he sank deep in the stream of human life and felt himself kin of all that swam in it, whether the waters were crystal clear or mud."

This also happens to us. Through sermons, Bible Study groups, and our own initiative, let's all read and rise out of the mud that life throws at us almost daily.

Read the Bible and eat sparingly... **SR**

**Books comforted Abe, and helped him to understand the rights and wrongs of man's relationship to God.**

## SR Reaction

Dear Mr. Butler,

An interesting metaphor appeared in a recent *SR* article titled *Excellency in God's timing and works*: "We must protect our SDB heritage and beliefs, as an eagle would guard its young."

While I am sure that Dr. Pete May has the best of intentions at heart, I am somewhat uncomfortable with the message that this figure of speech presents.

Seventh Day Baptist heritage shines as a beacon in this country and has for many years. Our distinctive beliefs matter greatly to us all. Both deserve protection. However, in our zeal for preserving our identity, let's think about the guiding principles handed down from the early days of our American

founders, principles originating in Newport, R.I., which live on today in our hearts around the world.

Long ago, in that waterfront community of Newport, Baptists met together for worship. The group eventually came to a parting of the ways. It seems that some of those Baptists determined to leave their established church to form a new congregation. The new assembly would be based upon the principle of Sabbathkeeping.

The founders of the first SDB group in America realized that they could no longer take communion with other members of that Baptist congregation who had made a commitment to the Sabbath principle, but who later step-

ped back from that commitment. Those Newport SDBs who founded the first Seventh Day Baptist Church in America stood on their doctrinal principles as Baptists who kept the Sabbath.

This resolve to hold to their beliefs is the hallmark and heritage of Seventh Day Baptists. Protecting this heritage and our beliefs as SDBs is necessary if we are to maintain our Sabbathkeeping Baptist distinctives.

Churches which no longer respect those beliefs do not, in our opinion, represent SDB heritage properly nor deserve the protection of their association with SDBs. When such a church deviates significantly from SDB distinctives, corrective action must follow. Scriptural correction will bear fruit in God's time.

We are Baptists; yes, Sabbathkeeping Baptists. Observing the Sabbath is a life-changing practice. This honors our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ, just as obeying Him honors Him (when we let the Holy Spirit guide us). Our beliefs and heritage are wrapped up in our commitment to Bible truths. We hold the Bible as our *only* rule of faith and practice. We cannot rest on our laurels, our history, or anything other than the foundation stone of Jesus Christ, the *logos* of the Bible.

That foundation stone, Jesus Christ, was the focal point of our Conference theme, "What do these stones mean?" Knowing one has a relationship with Jesus Christ—the Son of God who came to reconcile mankind with the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—is a message we must protect. There is *no other way* to salvation than through faith in Jesus Christ *alone*—apart from works, lineage, or our pet beliefs.

Scripture describes the heritage of the Lord in Psalm 61:5b, "Thou hast given me the heritage of those that fear thy name." Our heritage *does* matter.

As SDBs seek to serve God, as those before us did, let us all keep "looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith" (Hebrews 12:2) as we seek ways to properly preserve our distinctive beliefs and heritage.

Respectfully,  
Cindy and Pastor Bill Burks  
Little Rock, AR

## Finding Joy

### September women's retreat at Camp Joy

by Susan Bond

*Finding Joy* is a little different from the TV show *Judging Amy*. For one thing, there was no courtroom drama at Camp Joy in Berea, W.Va., where 25 women gathered over the weekend of September 27-29. Instead, we had picnic tables, bunk beds, and stars in the night sky.

Seventh Day Baptist women from Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia leaned on red-checkered tablecloths and compiled a list of "joy busters" by sharing personal experiences which had challenged their joy.

Throughout the weekend, these "retreaters" cried, prayed, laughed, and sang together, rediscovering the many "joy boosters" that God provides daily. (The blend of female voices singing in the Berea church sanctuary conjured up images of angel choirs.)

During the last of the retreat's six sessions, Susie Fox of Columbus, Ohio, using the *Women of Faith Bible Series* by Zondervan, gave the campers a booster bag. Each bag contained 10 items: chewing gum to remind them that God sticks with them, an adhesive bandage with a heart sticker on it, a rubber band to represent God's binding strength, a napkin to remind them that He cleans up their messes, etc.

On Sabbath day, Dusty Davis of Salem, W.Va., preached her first sermon. She verbally led the ladies through three dance steps which she learned from the book, *Turn My*

*Mourning into Dancing*, by Henri Nouwen.

The first step required the dancers to "move out from themselves." The second took them from "holding tight to letting go," and the third moved them "from fatalism to hope." Memorable sermon lessons included, "When you can't trace God's hand,

Saturday night campfire games fueled enough laughter to carry the women through the night and into next week. The game "Gossip" (which is only funny when it's a game) produced a new catch-phrase: "One-two-three, Scivvy-eye-oh." This wasn't even close to the original whispered question, "What does H-A-R-O-T

### Saturday night campfire games fueled enough laughter to carry the women through the night and into next week.

trust His heart," and "Those who believe in tomorrow can live better today."

Women from each church took turns in the camp kitchen, concocting a variety of scrumptious fare. Food ranged from festive tacos and homemade vegetable soup, to cinnamon French toast and egg goldenrod. Yum-yum! (And, of course, chocolate in as many forms as possible.)

Included in the retreat was time for hiking through the falling leaves—their crunch and musty fragrance competing for the attention of the women's senses. Several attendees chose to play colorful dominoes or cards, while others matched the oranges, greens, and blues of a patchwork quilt and flower pot jigsaw puzzle.

spell? The clue is Deuteronomy, Numbers, Leviticus, Exodus, Genesis."

One of the "Pennsylvania girls," still singing the catch-phrase the next morning, celebrated the whole retreat experience by climbing aboard a wheeled, antique mop bucket and threatening to ride it like a sled down the ramp in the girls' dorm.

Area women who would like to create their own booster bags are invited to call Pat Shackelford at (304) 745-4481, or Janet Thorngate at (304) 782-1727 for details.

Great and joyful thanks go to Diana Housel and Dusty Davis of Salem for initiating these semi-annual retreats. The Columbus ladies volunteered to plan the next one, scheduled for April 25-27, 2003. **SR**

### Look, listen, and learn, *cont. from page 13*

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct [make smooth or straight] thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes; fear the Lord, and depart from evil" (Prov. 3:5-7).

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105).

"...If ye continue [abide] in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth,

and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:31-32).

"Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts; and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom" (Psalm 51:6). **SR**



### New logo for Mexico Conference

Ralph Hays, a deacon at the Milton, Wis., SDB Church, submitted the winning entry in a contest to design a new logo for the SDB Conference in Mexico.

The director of the Mexico Conference, Pastor Rosalio Camacho, announced the contest early this year (see the *January 2002 SR*).

Ralph, a talented sign painter and graphic artist, received a "diploma" of appreciation from the Mexico Conference at a recent Milton church service.

For a colorful rendition of the winning logo, check Ralph's web site at: [www.geocities.com/lavelle55/promote-u.html](http://www.geocities.com/lavelle55/promote-u.html)

## Marriages

**Penfold - Martin.**—Adam Michael Penfold and Marie Nicole Martin were united in marriage on May 27, 2002, at the Salem, WV, Seventh Day Baptist Church, with Rev. Dale D. Thorngate officiating.

**Sias - Goodson.**—Walter Joshua Sias and Jessica Paige Goodson were united in marriage on May 31, 2002, at the Salem, WV, Seventh Day Baptist Church, with Dr. Paul D. Davis presiding.

**Modesitt - Barnes.**—Chad Modesitt and Laura Lee Barnes

were united in marriage on July 20, 2002, at SDB Camp Joy in Berea, WV. Rev. Dale D. Thorngate presided.

**Davis - Butler.**—Brian Davis and Wendy Butler were united in marriage on August 24, 2002, at the Shiloh, NJ, Seventh Day Baptist Church, with Pastor Don Chroniger officiating.

**Pethtel - Will.**—John James Pethtel and Tabatha Marie Will were united in marriage on August 31, 2002 in Buxton, NC, with Rev. Dale D. Thorngate officiating.

## New Members

**Dodge Center, MN**  
*Dale E. Rood, pastor*  
Joined after baptism  
Lindsey Cowden  
Danny Knudson

**Hebron, PA**  
*T. Lee Bennet, interim pastor*  
Joined after testimony  
Allen D. Hauber

**Raritan Valley, NJ**  
*Jeanne Yurke, pastor*  
Joined after testimony  
Cleopatra LaTouche

**Salem, WV**  
*Dale D. Thorngate, pastor*  
Joined after testimony  
Archie D. Edgell  
Frances K. Edgell  
Roy E. Key  
Sonia S. Key  
Joined by letter  
John James Pethtel

## Obituaries

**Niemann & Niemann.**—Laurence and Kathryn Niemann, who were a few weeks away from marking their 67th wedding anniversary, remained companions in death as well as life. Laurence died on August 18, 2002, at the age of 87, while his beloved Kathryn, 85, passed away five days later, on August 23.

Laurence was born on February 4, 1915, on a farm west of Cummings, Kan., the son of William Christian and Lena (Nolting) Niemann. He was brought up in a Christian home and accepted Christ as his Savior at an early age.

Laurence, who was 9 when his father died, attended Lane School for six years and then the Lutheran Parochial School for two years. He also attended Nortonville, Kan., High School.

He and Kathryn married on September 10, 1935, at the Seventh Day Baptist parsonage in Nortonville. They farmed west of Cummings until purchasing a farm southwest of Nortonville in 1957.

With the help of his wife, he ran a foster boarding home at their farm from 1960 to 1967. He was a patient and gentle man, and over the years was a loving substitute father to 17 children, ranging from eight days to 16 years of age.

Beside farming, Laurence had his own machinery repair business. After retiring and moving to Nortonville in 1979, he ran a shop where he repaired small engines. He also plowed gardens in the fall to keep active, and made many small-scale replicas, including ones of the Nortonville business district and the Santa Fe Railroad Station.

Laurence served on the Lane School Board for a number of years, and faithfully cared for his wheelchair-bound wife since 1989.

Kathryn Louise Kenyon was born on December 8, 1916, near Norton-

ville, the second daughter of Orla H. and Essie (Van Horn) Kenyon. She was baptized and joined the Nortonville SDB Church in October of 1926. In 1934, she graduated from Nortonville High School.

She was an active lifetime church member, singing in the choir for more than 25 years. She served as president of the church's Ladies Missionary Society several times and also served as its treasurer. In her younger years, she taught Sabbath School.

Kathryn took great interest in the past, serving as church historian for over 30 years. She wrote a book about the church's history, which was published in 1986.

Kathryn made wedding, birthday, and anniversary cakes, and worked for several people by making and dressing dolls.

Survivors of the couple include one son, Danny L. Niemann, of Pueblo, Colo.; Kathryn's sister, Reba Wheeler; three grandchildren, three great-grandsons, three great-great-granddaughters, and six nieces and nephews.

They were preceded in death by an infant daughter, Beverly Anita Niemann, and by a foster daughter, Rita Joan Berry Niemann.

Funeral services for Laurence and Kathryn were held on August 22 and August 25, respectively. Both services were held at the Nortonville SDB Church, with Rev. Stephan F. Saun-

ders and Dr. Kenneth Smith officiating. Interment was in the Nortonville Cemetery.

**Hemphill.**—Marjorie L. Hemphill, 86, of Genesee, Pa., died on August 31, 2002, in the Charles Cole Memorial Hospital, Coudersport, Pa.

She was born on October 15, 1915, in Allegany Township, Pa., the daughter of Erville and Anna (Reynolds) Green. She graduated from the Lewisville Vocational School in Ulysses, Pa., in 1935.

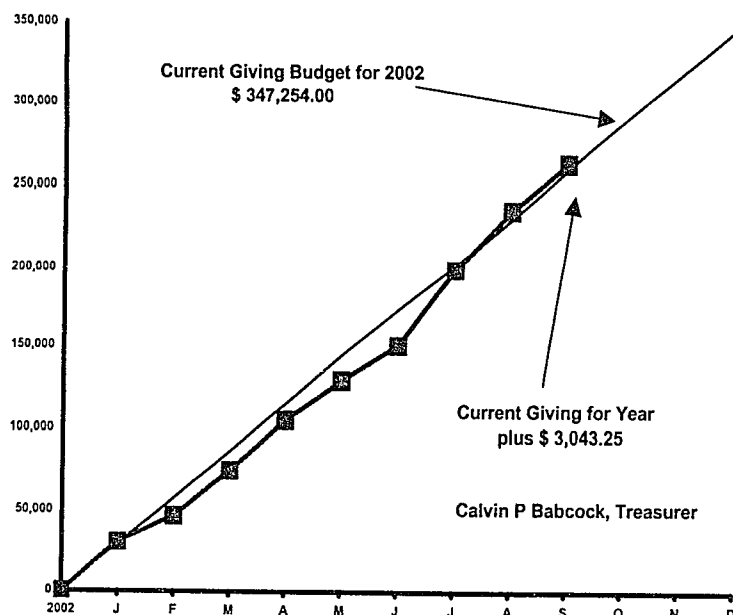
On November 28, 1940, she married S. Burton Hemphill in Coudersport. He predeceased her on November 15, 1995. The couple owned and operated a dairy farm in Genesee for many years.

Marjorie was a faithful member of the First SDB Church of Hebron for 39 years, transferring her 21-year-membership from the Hebron Center SDB Church after its closing.

Survivors include one son, Charles Hemphill of Genesee; one brother, Fordyce Green of Genesee; two grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Services were held on September 3, 2002, in the First SDB Church of Hebron. Pastor T. Lee Bennet officiated, assisted by Pastors Michael L. Burns and Robert W. Terricciano Jr. Burial was in the Raymond Cemetery, Allegany Township, Potter County, Pa.

## Current Giving 2002



## Births

**Weekley.**—A son, Jordan Lynn Weekley, was born to Amy Jo and Randall Weekley of Salem, WV, on June 8, 2002.

**Van Horn.**—A son, Sage Alexander, was born to K.B. and Erik Van Horn of Shepherdstown, WV, on August 29, 2002.

**Spencer.**—A daughter, Patience Josette, was born to Dixie and Frederick Spencer III of Salem, WV, on September 11, 2002.

# SDB Board of Christian Education

## Publications for sale

Item	Qty.	Price each	Total
<i>The Helping Hand in Bible Study</i> (quarterly, per year)	_____	9.00	_____
<i>The Sabbath Visitor</i> (children's weekly bulletin, per year)	_____	3.00	_____
<i>Baptism: Ordination to Christian Vocation</i> (35 pages)	_____	1.00	_____
<i>The Teaching Leader</i> (book) by Ernest K. Bee Jr.	_____	5.00	_____
<i>SDB Beliefs</i> (special <i>Helping Hand</i> , 13 lessons)	_____	2.50	_____
<i>Pioneering in Christian Life</i> ( <i>H. Hand</i> : Historical Focus)	_____	2.50	_____
<b>Sabbath Nurture Series</b>			
(13 lessons for the Sabbath School <i>each</i> )			
Pre-School Teacher (includes posters)	_____	\$ 5.00	_____
Pre-School Student— <i>To be reprinted</i>	_____	2.00	_____
Pre-School Songbook	_____	3.00	_____
Primary Teacher (includes posters)	_____	5.00	_____
Primary Student	_____	2.00	_____
Junior Teacher (includes posters)	_____	5.00	_____
Junior Student (includes take-home papers)	_____	3.00	_____
Junior High Teacher	_____	4.00	_____
Junior High Student	_____	2.00	_____
Senior High Teacher	_____	1.50	_____
Senior High Student	_____	1.50	_____
<b>Missions and Ministry Nurture Series</b>			
(13 lessons for the Sabbath School <i>each</i> )			
Primary Teacher (with posters & audio tape)	_____	\$ 7.00	_____
Primary Student	_____	2.00	_____
Junior Teacher (with posters & audio tape)	_____	7.00	_____
Junior Student (includes take-home papers)	_____	3.00	_____
Junior High Teacher (includes handouts)	_____	4.00	_____
Junior High Student (Missions magazine)	_____	2.00	_____
Senior High Teacher	_____	3.00	_____
Senior High Student	_____	3.00	_____
			<b>Order total</b> _____

Please send this form (photocopies acceptable) to:

SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST CENTER  
PO BOX 1678  
JANESVILLE WI 54547-1678

or phone: (608) 752-5055  
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(Since we need to add shipping charges, **please do not prepay orders. You will be billed.**)

# KEVIN'S

## ORNER

Boy, am I sore.  
My back is sore. My shoulder is sore.  
Even my *lips* are sore—and I'm out of breath.

We're hosting the North Central Association this weekend, so I've been practicing the sousaphone to play in the Milton church's brass choir.

You've probably seen one of these monsters. It's the big brass instrument that wraps around the player like a jungle python, and has a huge, foghorn-like bell that's big enough to display a school's insignia in its marching band.

Fortunately, the one I play is made of fiberglass. Unfortunately, it isn't really mine. Paul Green, our "conductor," has to borrow the horn from the Milton middle school just prior to our performance. This means that I have little time to regain my "playing lips" and breathing capacity that I had in the old days. (Oh no; now I'm sounding like Leanne's "Reflections" page.)

This is only the third time in the last two years that I've picked up the old band instrument. Over a quarter century ago I would wiggle into the beast several times a week all through my high school years. (Funny how I don't have as much wiggle room these days...)

Now, the young whipper-snappers in Milton smirk

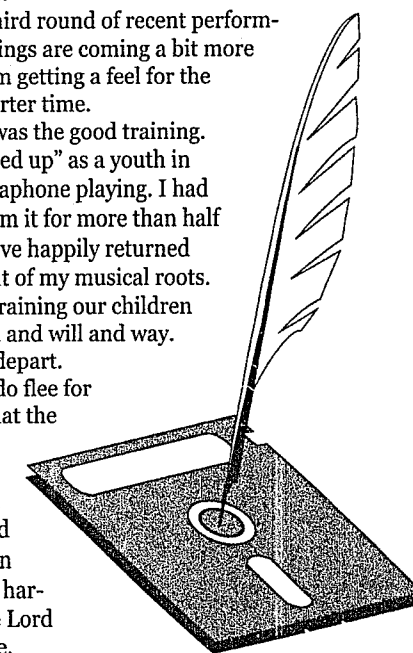
at me as I write down all the fingerings for the notes. "Hey," I tell them. "Some things escape one's memory after 25—or more—years!" What do *they* know? Some of them are barely past halfway toward their *first* 25 years of life.

With this third round of recent performing, the fingerings are coming a bit more quickly and I'm getting a feel for the music in a shorter time.

Perhaps it was the good training. I was "trained up" as a youth in the art of sousaphone playing. I had "departed" from it for more than half my life, but have happily returned to this segment of my musical roots.

Let's keep training our children in God's Word and will and way. May they not depart.

But if they do flee for a time, pray that the foundational lessons and principles pull them back, and they once again enjoy being in harmony with the Lord and His people.



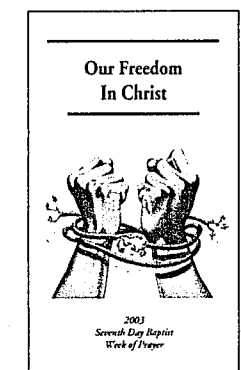
### Seventh Day Baptist Week of Prayer

January 5-11, 2003

This prayer booklet will be sent to each Conference. It is written by Pastor Al B. Paypa, president of the SDB Philippine Convention.

**World Federation Sabbath  
January 11, 2003**

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



Periodicals postage paid  
at Janesville, WI  
and additional offices

**“Class, how do you spell relief?”**



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

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

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

\* \* \*

**Please remember  
the United Relief Fund  
on November 30**



**Are you wondering what to do next summer?  
Are you wanting to serve God?**

In the **Summer Christian Service Corps** you can serve God and get acquainted with some of our fantastic youth. See what it's like to commit yourself to a challenging experience.

**For applications, contact:**

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scsc@sdbwboard.org

**Application Deadlines:**

Team members—Jan. 15  
Churches—Feb. 1

*Check the Women's Society  
Web site for more info:*

**[www.sdbwboard.org](http://www.sdbwboard.org)**