

The

S

abbath

News for and about  
Seventh Day Baptists

February 2002

R

ecorder



*Where is  
God leading you?*



### 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

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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

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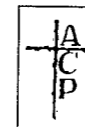


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## Amazing awareness

by Mayola Warner

*Africa. This country has stalked and captivated my wondering heart.*

*It wasn't just the sheer beauty of this country; it was a combination of everything—the amazing animals, the relationships we built while there, the aliveness I felt in my soul just waking up in Africa.*

Because our Seventh Day Baptist Conferences are hosted in many different areas of our own United States, we have traveled to practically all of the “50.” Even to Hawaii and Israel on other occasions.

Now in our retirement years, Garth and I were anticipating some other major overseas trip; maybe to the “Sound of Music” country? Maybe the British Isles, then go through the “Chunnel” to France? Maybe?? But never Africa!

### Why Africa?

Then God used our friendship with a wonderful couple who were



*Gathering for prayer, singing, and tea at the Sarota residence. From l. to r.: Grace Sarota, Garth Warner, Pastor Moshe Sarota and son, Linda Barany, Bernard Sarota, Mayola Warner, Victor Moshe.*

Linda, served as nurse at that same facility (known as the Pwani Bible Institute).

Just a few days before they were to leave our country for another five years, we were discussing with the Baranys their specific work there. At the same time, a flyer came from the SDB Missionary Society titled, “Why Not Visit Kenya?” From then on it was like we were plugged into a new

### Tourists and ministers

As we traveled halfway around the world, we eagerly anticipated the plans already laid out for our two-week visit. The Baranys had arranged to accompany us on some “touristy” things, like an evening cruise on a *dhow* along the African coast on the beautiful Indian Ocean, snorkeling off Wasni Island, four days of safaris, etc.

We were able to visit the Pwani Bible Institute for several days and helped in the library and nurse’s office, and participated in their chapel services. Just to be introduced to those students, to see their shining faces and sense our unity in Christ, was our first real taste of falling in love with Africa.

While Swahili is their native language, they all spoke English as well. We brought greetings from Christians in America, enjoyed singing with them and were asked to share our personal testimonies.

Even now we continue to communicate with some of the students and

appreciate so much their fervent prayers for us here at home.

### Time to head west

It was time to leave the east coast and start exploring west. Linda had hired a native driver and his Land Rover to take us some 150 miles to a very posh tented game-drive park.

Did you ever see the movie, “Out of Africa”? We were hardly “roughing it,” as our tent was equipped with deluxe beds and all the amenities of a room in a five-star hotel, supplied with electricity (solar power) and hot shower! Out in front of our veranda was a stream where we could watch at least eight hippos and even hear their occasional trumpeting!

### Safari and more

In the darkness of early morning or evening, a native guide—complete with torch, bow, and arrow—came to escort us to the lodge for a five-course meal served on china and crystal.

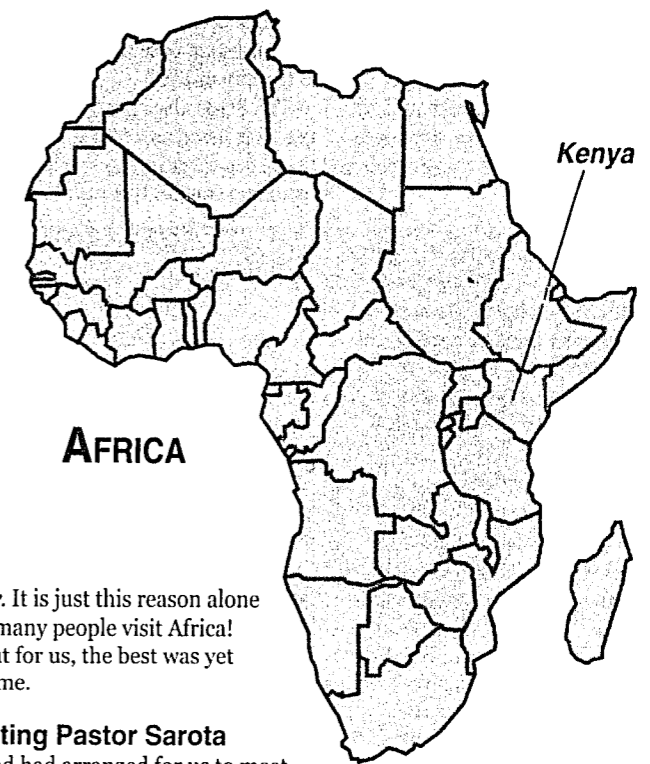
The safari began at 6:30 a.m. We saw elephants, zebras, impalas, giraffes, lions, and lots of beautiful birds. Later on we visited another game park in Masi Mara, and by now we had seen all the usual game with the exception of leopard and rhino. These safari experiences were *awe-*

*some.* It is just this reason alone that many people visit Africa! But for us, the best was yet to come.

### Meeting Pastor Sarota

God had arranged for us to meet with the Seventh Day Baptist pastor and his family, to learn of the mission work being done there in Kenya. This is being done by a recent graduate of the Bible Institute in Mombassa who now lives in Kisii, some 500 miles west.

The Kisii area is comprised of roll-



ing hills covered with tea plantations, an assortment of smaller crops, orchards and gardens, and is located near Lake Victoria. Dick had rented a car and drove us over the worst roads we have *ever* been on for our rendezvous.

When we met our contact student, he directed us to the mission home. As we walked down the lane to Pastor Sarota’s home, it was like the prelude to a wonderful three-act play. Let me try to describe “act one.”

### Their home situation

First, we saw their home, which was comprised of five mud huts. Just mud—walls and floors, with only one window—and no electricity or running water. There were beautiful trees all around and other gorgeous foliage, and swept clean walkways. We were heartily welcomed by his wife, Grace, and several of their seven children.

“First things first” meant gathering around their table for prayer,



*Conferring inside the SDB Church of Kisii, Kenya.*

**Just to be introduced to those students, to see their shining faces and sense our unity in Christ, was our first real taste of falling in love with Africa.**

at home on furlough from Kenya.

Rev. Dick Barany was a professor at the Africa Inland Mission College where young men and women prepare to be pastors. This is located in Mombassa, Kenya, which is on the coast of the Indian Ocean. His wife,

and exciting power source. That was in March. On July 14, 2001, we were on our way!

We’d had all the necessary shots and vaccinations, passports and visas, you name it. (Wow. Thank you Lord! Is this real? YES!)



singing, and tea. Grace then invited Linda and I to her kitchen hut for some "women talk" while she prepared a meal for us all. Garth and Dick stayed with the pastor for some serious question and answering time.

### Their ministry

"Act two" consists of the current work and ministries. We learned that Pastor Sarota had resigned his commission as a teacher in the local elementary school so that he could run the business of the Seventh Day Baptist Conference in Kenya. He prepares lessons and sermons and also works in his garden.

He works with three branch churches. We visited their nearby church, which also serves as a school building along with one other small building close by. They have plans to increase the size of these buildings so that more students can be accommodated. However, this requires more money for building, equipment, and supplies.

Since the church is small and composed of poor farmers, the pastor receives no salary at all. His only income is from raising and selling crops from his small farm while he still supports his family. He also

does evangelistic work, sometimes at their home base and sometimes in the city of Kisii.

The SDBs also sponsor an orphanage. It is listed as a non-denominational organization and welcomes aid from any source. In several instances

of need, which include (in his own words):

1. I have a problem traveling to far places to preach (car?).
2. Because of funds, the work of God will not move to other areas.

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***I would hope that everyone reading this would commit to "pray for the work in Kenya" at least once a week.***

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in the past few years, boxes of clothing and other materials have been shared with the orphanage.

Along with the orphanage, a school is located at the same place. This ensures that the orphans receive adequate education, giving them an important advantage if they choose to take it. School is mandatory and is an added expense for the orphanage.

### Their vision and dreams

And now, for the closing act of this extravaganza, I would like to share some of our vision and dreams for the future. Foremost, it is to be able to help men and women, boys and girls, to come to a saving faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. In my thinking, this requires both prayer and action.

I would hope that everyone reading this would commit to "pray for the work in Kenya" at least once a week.

Some years ago, I started praying specifically for people and situations on certain days of the week. Like, "Tuesday, Kenya..."

And secondly to support the good work there financially.

Pastor Sarota gave us a list of seven areas

3. No funds for buying plots and building on them (construction).
4. A dispensary (health clinic) for the mission.
5. I am not supported from anywhere. I need support.
6. During camp meetings, I have many visitors who don't have a good place to stay.
7. I have many children to support for school fees.

### Won't you help?

Our Verona, N.Y., church is graciously coming alongside with special offerings, Sabbath School giving, etc. I'm wondering if each of our North American churches might adopt one of our international missions as their family responsibility? Pray about it, contact our Missionary Society in Rhode Island (info on p. 17), and let's all "get out of our comfortable boat and start walking on water"!

Lastly and from our hearts, Garth and I would strongly urge you to personally visit one of our Seventh Day Baptist outreaches. It could very well change your lives.

It has ours! **SR**

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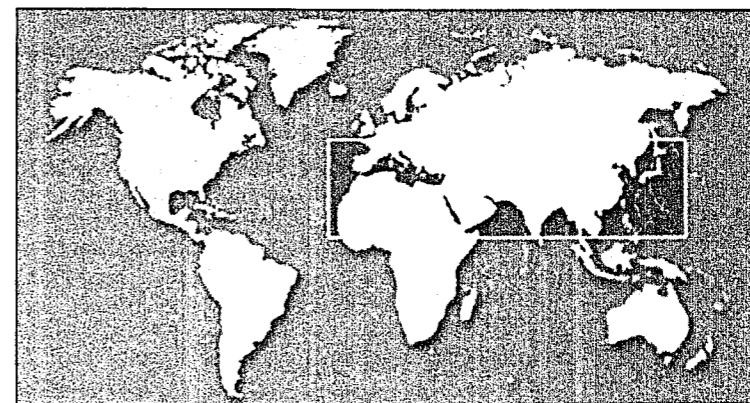
*Mayola and Garth Warner are longtime leaders and members of the diaconate at the Verona, N.Y., SDB Church.*



*One more photo with the Sarotas before we go!*

## Reaching out— to the world

by Jayme Osborn



***The 10/40 Window is a "window" of nations that fall between the 10 degree and 40 degree latitude lines north of the equator. It includes all of northern Africa, the Middle Eastern countries, and Asia.***

*"And this Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a witness to all the nations, and then the end shall come" (Matthew 24:14).*

I would like to talk about something that God has been laying on my heart—the preaching of the Gospel in the whole world for a witness to *all* the nations. I believe this will precipitate the end, and the return of Jesus Christ.

There are many who have endeavored to do whatever they could to see this come to pass. There are many who are laboring now, and strategizing and focusing and praying, for this to happen. God has been

challenging me to respond to the enormous need for the Gospel in the world today.

Our family recently attended a missions conference in Colorado. While there, we heard many things that really stirred up our hearts. We learned that of the estimated six billion people living on the face of this planet, an estimated one billion follow the religion of Islam. An estimated one billion follow Hinduism, and another estimated one billion are either Buddhist or Animist in their beliefs.

That makes up an estimated three billion people—who mostly live in the "10/40 Window"—who have yet to hear the Gospel. These people belong

to what are called unreached people groups.

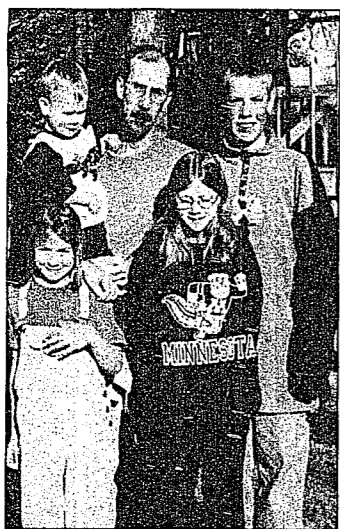
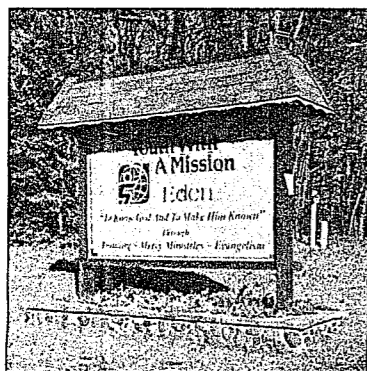
Unreached people groups are groups or tribes of people who would be largely unaffected if revival broke out among Christians because there are literally no Christians who live near them.

If you have never heard of the 10/40 Window, let me explain what this is. The 10/40 Window is a "window" of nations that fall between the 10 degree and 40 degree latitude lines north of the equator. It includes all of northern Africa, the Middle Eastern countries, and Asia.

Some of the countries in the 10/40 Window are Morocco, Sudan, Sahara, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Libya,

Lebanon, Yemen, Djibouti, Nepal, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, North Korea, Mongolia, Vietnam, Thailand, Azerbaijan, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, and the Maldives Islands. I've listed these countries so that you might pray for them and look them up on a map or a globe.

Of these three billion people who are largely unevangelized, many are dying every day. Most of them are



Top photo: Welcome to Eden! The entrance sign to Youth With A Mission's northern Wisconsin training center.

Bottom: Tim Osborn with children (clockwise) Quentin, Baylea, Talia, and Demetrius. Jayme was busy working on the YWAM campus.

poor. Eighty percent of them live in the 10/40 Window. One and a half billion have no access to health care. An estimated 55,000 people die each day from such causes as lack of clean

I don't know what you think, but I think that it's time for the Church to wake up. I don't write this to see how many people I can offend. God's stirring my heart. I cannot live my

**God's heart and plan is that every people group and tribe and tongue would be represented in heaven. What are you and I going to do about it?**

water, malnutrition, and hunger-related diseases, tuberculosis, malaria, and other communicable diseases.

That is many more times the people who died in the World Trade Center attack and 36 times the people who died when the Titanic sank. Both of these events were tragedies that stunned the world, so why are we so unaffected by what is happening in the world every day?

Most of these 55,000 people who die every day have never even heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ. That means that 55,000 people every day walk from life on earth into a hellish eternity without God.

In 1998, according to Jack Winter, Americans spent \$110 billion on fast food, \$60 billion on soft drinks, \$23 billion on pet food, \$7.7 billion on movies, \$7.1 billion on greeting cards, and \$6.1 billion on computer games.

We are by far the wealthiest nation on the face of the planet, and yet statistics show that less than one percent of American Christians even tithe 10 percent of their income. We are responsible before God for how we use what He has given us. Are we using what He's given to us to further His kingdom, to help the poor, to feed the needy? Only you can answer this question.

life the same knowing that 55,000 people perish every day and most, if not all of them, go to hell.

The number of people who have yet to hear the Gospel is staggering, yet it is plain that God's heart and plan is that every people group and tribe and tongue would be represented in heaven. What are you and I going to do about it?

This generation of believers is responsible for this generation hearing the Gospel. Are you called to go? Currently only four percent of foreign missionaries are going to unreached people groups. Are you called to send? Statistics show that less than one percent of the money we spend on foreign missions is going towards evangelizing unreached people groups. Are you called to pray? Prayer is the foundation for all evangelism.

I challenge you to ask God what He's calling you to do! **SR**

*From the December 2001 "Joyful Newsletter" of the Dodge Center, Minn., SDB Church where the Osborns are members.*

*The Tim and Jayme Osborn family ministered in Trinidad during the month of January. We pray that their worship, teaching, and presenting the Gospel with dramatic skits changed many lives.*

## Angel Tree opens doors of ministry

Over a year ago, Roger Payne saw a poster about "Angel Tree" on the bulletin board of the Dodge Center, Minn., Seventh Day Baptist Church. With Pastor Dale Rood's assistance, Roger obtained more information about the organization, which provides Christmas gifts for the children of prison inmates.

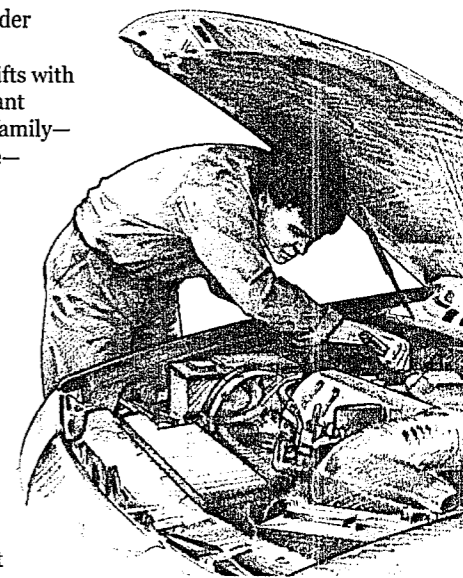
A packet from Angel Tree included the names of inmates who request this service through their prison chaplain. Roger discovered that there were two families in Waseca, Minn., that could use his help.

After volunteering to bring a gift to each child on his list, he was told to make it clear that the presents were from their father, to show them that their dad really cared about them. One of Roger's biggest challenges

children, and tapes for the older ones.

One family accepted the gifts with thanks, but didn't seem to want further contact. The second family—the mom with the car trouble—reacted differently. They had gotten to know Roger, and one of the daughters even insisted on a hug.

While Roger and Pastor Dale were there, the woman's husband called from prison and asked to speak to Roger. The first words out of his mouth were ones of gratitude, thanking Roger for all he had done. As an inmate, the husband was frustrated at not being able to help his wife



"I'll definitely do this again," Roger said. "After all, who else would have helped?" **SR**

**The woman's husband called from prison and asked to speak to Roger. The first words out of his mouth were ones of gratitude.**

was finding gifts that "fit" children he had never met.

Roger phoned the mothers, explaining the Angel Tree program. One mom was especially open to the idea of having extra help, so Roger helped repair her car's alternator and starter. Later, while Roger was on a mission trip to Mexico, Pastor Dale and Tim Osborn helped with her car.

When he and Pastor Dale took the gifts to the families, they brought along small presents from Angel Tree: coloring books for the younger

when she had problems. He was so glad that Roger could be there to lend a hand.

The following June, Roger helped the family move and worked on their car again. This time, it had serious engine problems, and he ended up buying a used Mercedes Benz! This was the car the woman used to pick up her husband when he got out of prison around Labor Day.

The husband was delighted to finally meet Roger in person, and he thanked him once again for helping his wife and children.

*Reprinted from the December 2001 "Joyful Newsletter" of the Dodge Center SDB Church, edited by Beth Wallstrom.*

*Angel Tree is a wonderful way to express Christ's love. It may help open hearts to receive the most important Gift, the one God gave to provide us with salvation and forgiveness of sins. It may introduce these families to your church, allowing you to provide year-round ministry. Call 1 (800)-55-ANGEL to learn more.*

## ALL these things?

by Shirley Morgan

*"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:34).*

What are "all these things" that Jesus was talking about? The previous verses tell us. Jesus was saying that if He feeds the birds of the air and tends the lilies, He certainly will take care of us, His special creation.

We read Scripture and recite it from memory. But do we really trust God to do what He says? Often times we don't even give Him a chance to prove His faithfulness. We worry about the things we can't fix, and do things we shouldn't do, instead of trusting the Lord.

Last year, this Scripture passage was played out in my life.

Almost two years ago, my Employment Authorization expired. Getting it renewed was an almost impossible task. At first, this didn't bother me much. I was able to do some private duty as a home health aid and didn't

need to show eligibility for employment. However, at the beginning of last year, the Lord spoke to me.

He reminded me that there are laws that we need to obey, especially those of us who are called by His name. Accepting employment without proper authorization from the government (in this case, the Immigration and Naturalization Service) was unlawful.

My first reaction was, "Lord, you know that we have children to support, bills to pay..." The list went on and on. We were already behind on some payments, and I wondered how we were ever going to make it.

I don't make New Year's resolutions, but at the beginning of the year, I changed my mind. "Lord, my desire is to be obedient to you in everything," I said.

I saw the Lord work many miracles during that trying time.

It wasn't easy to "let go and let God." Sometimes, when the pressure became almost unbearable, I was tempted to give up. Other times, when I was too weak to

resist, the Lord took care of the temptation for me.

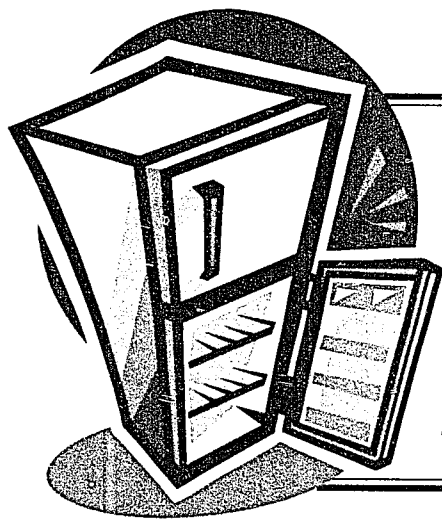
There were times when I jokingly told my children, "If there's a prize for the emptiest 'fridge' in town, we should get it!" Still, we never went hungry, even for one day.

God provided for us in so many ways. Many times, He did it through Christian brethren (you know who you are). He also provided my husband with extra income to lighten the burden. I really want to thank the Lord for my spouse. Even though it was hard, he stood beside me and worked endless hours to help make ends meet.

I'm reminded daily that when I seek God first, He will take care of my needs because He is faithful.

Don't be discouraged when things don't seem to go right. Just remember that God stands behind every one of His promises. He didn't promise us a bed of roses, but He *did* promise to be with us among the thorns. **SR**

*Shirley Morgan is a member of the Miami, Fla., Seventh Day Baptist Church.*



**There were times when I jokingly told my children, "If there's a prize for the emptiest 'fridge' in town, we should get it!" Still, we never went hungry, even for one day.**

## Where do we get confidence?

by Wayne Hastings

*"The Lord is my light and my salvation—so why should I be afraid? The Lord protects me from danger—so why should I tremble? When evil people come to destroy me, when my enemies and foes attack me, they will stumble and fall. Though a mighty army surrounds me, my heart will know not fear. Even if they attack me, I remain confident" (Psalm 27:1-3 NLT).*

When I was a little boy, I was afraid of the dark. I do not know why, but it really bothered me.

My room was at the end of a hall and as a boy, that hall seemed so very long to me. Therefore, when I needed to go into my room at night, I would first turn on the hall light, then, once I reached my room, I would turn on my room light. Now, the problem was going back to turn off the hall light! Usually my Mom would come in and tell me good night and that solved my problem.

Fortunately, I outgrew the fear, but I can relate to David's problem.

David was not fearful because he had God's light and His gift of salvation. David praises God—in spite of the enemies who surrounded him—because he knew with certainty that he had an eternal home.

David didn't just trust what God could do, he trusted God Himself. That kind of trust comes from an intimate relationship—a relationship that can only be developed based upon trust and confidence. God was not some far away being. He was right there with David.

For some reason, I always picture David writing this psalm in a dark cave. His enemies are all around him; he is hiding out. He cannot light a torch because in the still, clear desert

night his enemies could see this light from any distance. Therefore, David talks about God's light and the Lord's presence.

David cannot fear because God is his light. David has no real enemies, because God is right there with him.

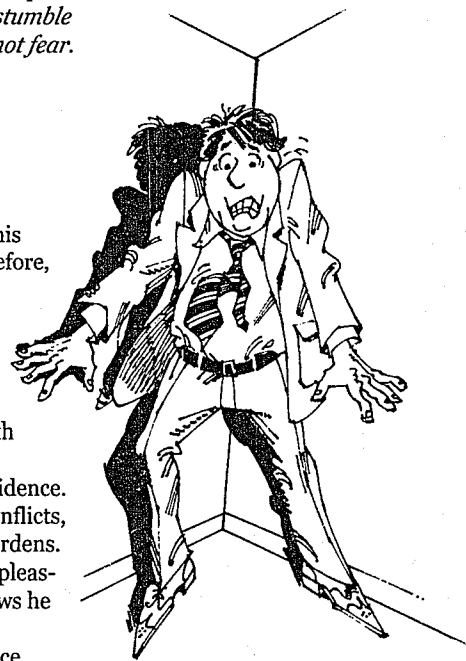
David is showing true confidence. He knows that life is full of conflicts, criticism, hard knocks and burdens. He knows that they are an unpleasant fact. David, however, knows he need not fear.

David knows true confidence. Look at the word "confidence" in the psalm. The Hebrew term used

**Confidence comes from knowing God and His gift of Salvation.**

by David and translated "confident" does not mean self-reliant. It does not mean bravado.

In the Hebrew language, the word means "to trust, to be secure, to have assurance." Chuck Swindoll writes,



"The point I want to get across is that the source of David's confidence and stability was not his own strength—but God. His Lord was his only foundation for rocklike stability."

Confidence comes from knowing God and His gift of Salvation. **SR**

*Excerpts from If You Take My Hand, My Son, by Wayne Hastings, vice president of retail development for the Parable Group. Used by permission of Cook Communications Ministries.*

## Diversity works

by Don Sanford, SDB historian

A recent letter to members and friends of the Newport (R.I.) Historical Society begins with the paragraph, "Almost every day now, we watch the students stream through the Seventh Day Baptist Meeting House, curious and eager to see the next historic site on their tour.

"They are participating in one of the most successful education programs ever presented by the Newport Historical Society, *Diversity Works: The History of Liberty of Conscience and Religion in Newport*. This program is about the special status of Newport as a haven that attracted a remarkable diversity of people and religious groups."

The letter goes on to say:

Now in its second year, *Diversity Works* was developed by the Society's staff with the cooperation and assistance of Touro Synagogue and Trinity Church. Students learn about religious and racial diversity in 18th century Newport on a walking tour of four of Rhode Island's oldest and most significant religious landmarks: the Great Friend's Meeting House, Trinity Church, the Seventh Day Baptist Meeting House, and Touro Synagogue.

These sites provide undeniable evidence that Newport was one of colonial America's leading centers in the fight for the freedoms upon which this great country was

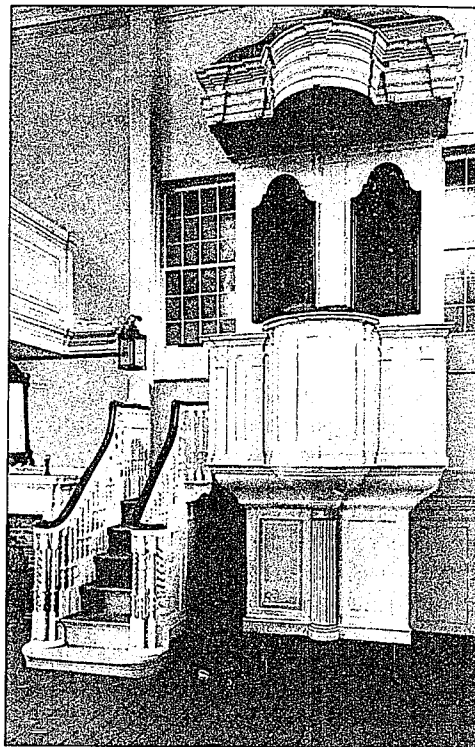
founded. Newport showed to the world that diversity works.

The 1640s—when Newport embraced the doctrine of liberty of conscience and religion—was a period of intolerance and persecution. In Boston, Antinomians were being banished, Baptists lashed within an inch of their lives, and Quakers burned, while Jews perished throughout the world at the hands of the Inquisition.

It took great courage, then, in 1641 for the founders of Newport—including John Clarke—to write in the town statutes that "none [shall] be accounted a delinquent for doctrine, provided it be not directly repugnant to the government or laws established"—the earliest expression of Newport's commitment to these principles.

Statistics for the school year 2000-2001 lists 31 tours from 29 different school districts. A total of 2,203 students from grades 5-8 participated in the walking tour, which begins at the Seventh Day Baptist Meeting House built in 1730.

**Students learn about religious and racial diversity on a walking tour of four of Rhode Island's oldest and most significant religious landmarks: the Great Friend's Meeting House, Trinity Church, the Seventh Day Baptist Meeting House, and Touro Synagogue.**



Pulpit in the Newport SDB Meeting House.

Seventh Day Baptists trace their beginnings in America to the 1671 separation from the First Baptist Church in Newport founded by Dr. John Clarke. He labored diligently in England to secure a charter for Rhode Island which granted freedom of worship.

The founding of our SDB General Conference in 1802 is attributed to Henry Clarke, whose great-grandfather, Joseph Clarke, was the nephew of Dr. John Clarke. Joseph had married Samuel and Tacy Hubbard's daughter, Bethia. (The Hubbards were charter members of the Newport SDB Church.) In Samuel Hubbard's listing of those in his family who had accepted the Sabbath in 1665 and 1666, he includes "our son Joseph Clarke." SR



Women's Society page by Laura Price

## Day of Prayer observed in Shiloh

by Donna S. Bond, guest writer

Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer, observed by Baptist women around the world since 1948, was observed in the Bridgeton, N.J., area for the tenth time in 11 years.

The November 5, 2001 service was hosted by the Shiloh Seventh Day Baptist women, and attended by 32 ladies from seven SDB and American Baptist churches.

The theme of "God Lifts My Family to Greater Heights" included special music—"Let There Be Peace on Earth and Let It Begin with Me"—along with family-related hymns and choruses. A Bible study on "Family Relationships" was led by Shiloh's centenarian Lora Harris, matriarch of five generations of SDBs.

Other items included a Bible study on "Women Who Lifted God's Families to Greater Heights," and directed prayer for the needs of women on each continent. Information about Africa featured a testimony from an African mother whose infant son is infected with AIDS. An offering was taken to promote Christ on the African continent through a women's training camp and a Bible correspondence course for inmates.

When the SDB Women's Society Board of Directors relocated to New Jersey in 1990, some of us became aware of this annual prayer time promoted by the Baptist World Alliance Women's Department. Recognizing the benefits of Christian fellowship among women, we learned that one local church had been holding this prayer service for some time.

A planning committee formed with representatives from several churches, and the "first almost-

annual" Day of Prayer was held in the Shiloh SDB Church with approximately 20 women attending.

ideas and other information from both the BWA Women's Department and the North American Baptist

**A Bible study on "Family Relationships" was led by Shiloh's centenarian Lora Harris, matriarch of five generations of SDBs.**

Since that time, attendance has increased nearly every year, peaking at 60 in the year 2000. Hosting of the service has rotated among four Baptist churches.

A keyworker elected by each local SDB Ladies Aid is on the mailing list to receive Day of Prayer program

Women's Union (NABWU).

Watch for your copy next summer or request information from:

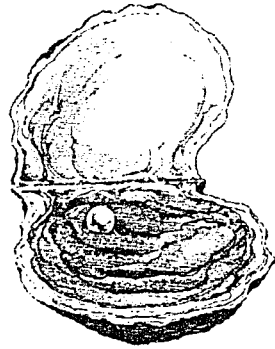
BWA Women's Department  
405 N. Washington St.

Falls Church, VA 22046

Please join us in prayer on Monday, November 4, 2002! SR







Pearls from the Past by Don A. Sanford, historian

## A "leisurely" trip to Conference

Our SDB General Conference grew out of the Yearly Meeting and Communion of the First Hopkinton, R.I., church, considered by many as the mother church from which the western migration flowed. In an 1881 *Sabbath Recorder* article, Jonathan Allen likened these meetings to "a swarm of bees from a parent hive, and the home gathering that took place was the great religious event of the year."

But unlike the winged honey bees, the trip back could not be made that easily, particularly for the swarm of Sabbathkeepers who had crossed the Appalachian chain into western New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia during the first few decades of the 19th century.

Maxson Green of the First Alfred, N.Y., SDB Church was one of those who recorded his "flight" back to the mother church. The Alfred church was a direct result of migrations from Rhode Island.

His father, Edward Green, was one of the first settlers in Alfred, coming in 1807 by foot from Berlin, N.Y. (in Rensselaer county), where a church had been founded in 1780. As more settlers came, including Edward's four sons and four daughters, they worshiped on the Sabbath and formed a church in 1816. Maxson and his wife, Lydia (Maxson) Green, were charter members of that church.

In 1829, Maxson Green and Daniel Babcock were appointed official messengers to the session of General Conference, held the first week in October in Hopkinton. Green kept a diary of his trip through New York to

Rhode Island, which began on September 2. (He never mentioned whether Daniel Babcock accompanied him, but he often used "we, us, and our" in his account.)

The first day Green traveled 43 miles through Almond, Hornellsville, Canisteo, and Cameron, then to Attica where he spent the night. He noted that the weather was very warm. On September 3, he proceeded on through Erwin, Painted Post, Big Flats, Elmira, and Newfield, a distance of 47 miles.

His next entry stated, "Broke the wagon; stayed the night at a private house. Proceeded on 6 miles and had the wagon mended by a blacksmith; from thence to Ithaca, and through Dryden and Virgil to Homer."

On Sabbath, September 5, Green "proceeded on to Uncle Luke Crandall's, on Truxton Hill. The mare being lame, the meeting was out before we arrived. Found our friends well. Sept. 6th—Traded horses with James Burdick; visited Elias Irish's; stayed the night with Eld. A. Campbell and had a good visit; the weather rainy."

Green's entries for September 7-11 record visits with other friends and relatives he had known in such places as DeRuyter, Georgetown, Columbia, Edmeston, Burlington, and Columbus, where he stayed two nights with

Uncle Thomas Wilcox. "The weather was rainy. Stayed two nights. By the 9th, the weather was 'tolerable good.' Traveled 36 miles and found friends well; the weather rainy, stayed two nights."

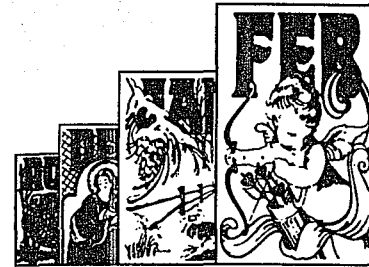
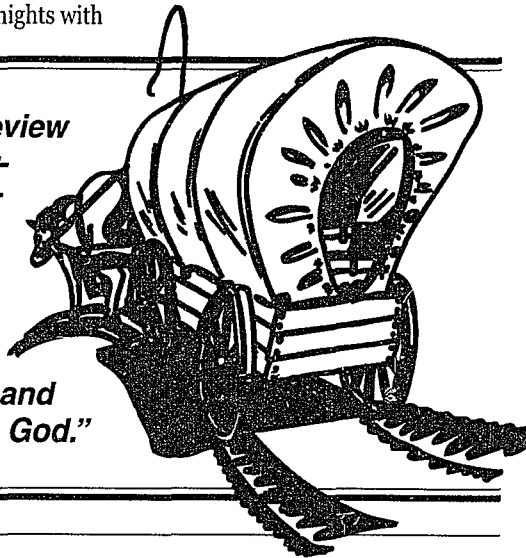
Still in New York state, on September 9-10, he traveled 41 miles each day through Cooperstown, Princetown, and Guilderland. On September 11, he went through Albany, Troy, and Grafton, then finally to Luke Maxson's house in Petersburg, which added another 32 miles. (Luke was his father-in-law.)

From Sabbath, September 12 to Sabbath, the 19th, Green stayed in the Berlin area visiting and attending church. While there, eight people were baptized and joined the church the first Sabbath, and four came forward the following week and testified to their faith. During much of the week, he accompanied some of the elders on their pastoral visits to area families.

On September 20, Green started for Rhode Island and got as far as Stepentown before bad weather forced him to spend the night with Joshua Maxson. The next three days, he traveled 128 miles before reaching a place called Yaw Goo in Hopkinton

*cont. on page 26*

**"When I take a review of this long journey and consider how many accidents might have befallen us, it should fill me with praise and thanksgiving to God."**



# S R Almanac

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

### One year ago—February 2001

"Seeing the Unseen Christ: How His Presence Transforms Life" is this year's 50-Day Spiritual Adventure. Material from Mainstay Resources is shared in the feature section.

New SDB churches organizing in African countries of Burundi and Ghana.

Pearls page describes the massive 1873 springtime snowstorm in North Loup, Neb.

*Beacon* editor Aubrey Appel shares how the Lord gave her peace after her car slipped off the road in snowy Wisconsin.

Excerpts from church newsletters come from Marlboro, N.J.; Battle Creek, Mich.; Riverside, Calif.; Salem, W.Va.; and Daytona Beach, Fla.

### Five years ago—February 1997

50-Day Spiritual Adventure theme is "The Church You've Always Longed For." Testimony of a "welcoming church" is shared by Desiree Taylor of Westerly, R.I.

*Beacon* page shares the Riverside, Calif., YF missions trip to Mexico.

Randolph Terrace, a low-rent housing complex founded by the Salem, W.Va., SDB Church, celebrates its 25th anniversary.

Berlin, N.Y., church celebrates "Looking Back, Looking Ahead" with a fashion show of vintage clothing.

Hope SDB Church in Philadelphia ordains Pastor Kenroy Cruickshank in October.

### 10 years ago—February 1992

Feature articles lift up the belief in the Trinity. Writers include Pastor Kenneth Burdick and James Ayars.

Sabbath series by Rodney Henry concludes with, "The good news about the Sabbath."

National church projects in Jefferson City, Mo., and Memphis, Tenn., mentioned.

Retiring Missionary Society Executive Leon Lawton honored for his 41 years of ministry.

New Sabbath hymn contest rules listed.

Encouraging update received from European Free Street Mission in Helsinki, Finland.

### 25 years ago—February 1977

Prompted by an editorial about "Quiet Saturdays" in *Christianity Today*, SDB Executive Secretary K.D. Hurley sends a letter to many American denominational leaders. Excerpts from their responses are shared.

Missionary Society "prayerfully seeking the right person to replace the Pearsons in Blantyre, Malawi." (*See page 17 for "déjà vu all over again."*)

Historian Tom Merchant gives background on why we should agree with recent Conference proposal: "It is our hope that Seventh Day Baptists will become increasingly involved in the growing work of the North American Baptist Fellowship and the Baptist World Alliance."

The new "Good News Bible" is reviewed.

Light Bearers for Christ musical team in El Paso, Texas, in December.

### 50 years ago—February 1952

Helen Ogden of Alfred, N.Y., succeeds Mrs. Ronald Hargis as editor of the *Sabbath Visitor*.

An exploding oil burner damages the basement of the Ashaway, R.I., church, but quick action by members of the girls' choir prevents a fire.

Ministers' Conference announced to take place in May at the Brookfield and Leonardsville, N.Y., churches.

Fred Palmer and Ben Crandall elected as SDB delegates to the "North American Lay Conference on the Christian and His Daily Work," held in Buffalo, N.Y.

Materials advertised to participate in Church World Service's "One Great Hour of Sharing."

*...where are we headed?*

**Pray—**

- for our sister Conferences in Africa
- for protection during winter months
- God's blessing on former Conference workers
- that the Sabbath remains a special delight
- for students/churches involved in SCSC
- for the evangelistic outreach of SDBs
- for an increase in Biblical literacy





## Christian Education

by Andrew J. Camenga

### Workshops to build up Christ's body

*"He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain 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 4:11-13, NASB).*

This is the God-given measure of maturity. The local church is to help each individual strive for that goal. He gives the gifts and abilities needed for service—for building up Christ's body.

God promises that your church can and should promote the growth of individual members. In the process, your church will be strengthened; it will grow.

The Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education wants to provide help toward this God-given goal. We offer workshops for the local church to promote spiritual growth. Designed to involve participants in the learning process, the workshops are enjoyable, informative, and challenging. Since the goal is to help the local church, we recognize that needs vary from congregation to congregation, and strive to tailor these workshops to meet your needs.

Workshops require at least one month's advance notice but you can

schedule them up to a year in advance. The Board of Christian Education covers transportation costs or the workshop leader. The local church provides housing and meals.

You are invited to schedule a workshop for your church, and can contact the Board office by phone, fax, e-mail, or post.

- Phone/Fax: (607) 587-8527
- E-mail: [sdbbce@educatingchristians.org](mailto:sdbbce@educatingchristians.org)
- Post: P.O. Box 115  
Alfred Station, NY 14803

#### Sabbath School Workshop

As you might guess, we firmly believe that Sabbath School is a vital part of the educational program of the church. We recognize that the methods, goals, and purpose of the Sabbath School program are not always clear.

Do you know why your church has a Sabbath School program? Do you know what you want your Sabbath School to accomplish? How does the Sabbath School help the overall work of your church? This workshop should help your church answer these questions.

We will briefly explore the history of Sabbath Schools and then examine the current practice of your congregation. The goal of the workshop is to explore ways to strengthen your Sabbath School program as a tool for strengthening mature Christians, nurturing new Christians, and reaching out to those who have yet to meet Christ.

#### MOST—Muriel Osborn Seminar for Teachers

Sabbath School teaching is an opportunity to help others grow in grace and knowledge. It is an opportunity to show and help others live in relationship with the Almighty God revealed in Jesus Christ. Whether you are teaching adults, children, young adults, or youth, this seminar is for you!

The seminar will help you better understand the task of teaching in a Christian setting and will provide practical suggestions to prepare, plan, and lead a Sabbath School class. Some of the topics covered are: How to teach a perfect lesson every time, increasing learner participation, using small groups, asking good questions, story-telling, developing a sentence outline, and a theology of Christian Education.

#### Diaconate Workshop

This workshop will allow the diaconate, church leaders, or the whole church to participate. After a guided tour of the Biblical qualifications and work of the diaconate, your group will be introduced to the wide range of models and approaches that have been used for the diaconate.

Participants will describe the current function and organization of their diaconate. They will then explore additional ways to organize for ministry and look for ways to strengthen the diaconate's relationship with the pastor. **SR**



## FOCUS on Missions

## Perspectives on Malawi

by Pastor David Pearson

"Far away places, strange sounding names, calling..." On Sabbath, May 19, 2001, Bettie and I visited our Mitumbila Seventh Day Baptist Church in Malawi, Africa. Three Bible College students and the five members of the Chisomo (grace) Choir traveled with us.

Bena, the oldest choir member, is a Form III student. Chimwemwe (joy) is the only male member of the group, possibly a year or two younger than Bena. Veronica is next, possibly 10. Then comes Esther, about 8, followed by Pililani, aged 5. The two youngest support the soprano, with Veronica doing alto, Bena the tenor, and Chimwemwe laying the foundation.

They do well together and are something of a sensation, especially with Pililani so small. All the girls wore white blouses, red ties, and blue skirts.

Bena's father was the late Justin Nachengwa, grandfather of the younger girls. He served Seventh Day Baptists as a carpenter some years ago. I worked with him and enjoyed our relationship. Had he still been alive, how pleased he would have been to have seen and heard his "children"!

The church was packed with around 200 people, with several children sitting on the floor. Our people had gathered from the surrounding area, where we have other branches and churches. It was surprising and pleasing to see the elderly retired leader, Pastor Hezekiah H. Mwango, who had come from Thembe on a bicycle. He was active in Conference work some years ago and did not want to retire. It seems it took him a long time to get beyond his 64th year.

I spoke from 1 John 1:5-2:2. In my introduction, I referred to a service held the prior Sabbath at our Bali Hill church, when about 20 came forward during the close of the meeting. Strangely enough, it seems that some had come distressed over sins already confessed.

The Apostle John urged his spiritual children not to sin, but should it happen—and it is inevitable—they had "an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous."

At Mitumbilia, I pointed out that there were various reasons why one might go forward in a service, but not for sins already confessed. Sins should be confessed and made right with man and God. After that, they should be

forgotten. God forgives and forgets, and we should forget also.

Five or six people came forward at this meeting, not for sins confessed but for fresh conviction. It was a blessed privilege to lead them in a prayer of confession, repeating after me in their language.

I told the church that day that we would be leaving Malawi in November. In the afternoon session, I was asked who my successor would be. Should I have given them your name? Is there a replacement out there?

Is there someone willing to spend a few months or a year to live and work among these people?

Although great ability is not required, love and patience are prerequisites. It would greatly help to have a desire to share. The Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society no longer supports

missionaries as in the past, but would be willing to assist a local church that might rally around a God-called candidate to foreign missionary service. A full salary could not be guaranteed, but donations given for the individual could be passed on.

Is there an individual and a local church body that might be interested in entering into such a relationship? If so, please write the Executive Director of the Missionary Society, Kirk Looper. Better still, why not get on the phone? What about today?

We were blessed that day with about six dozen eggs and 11 pounds of rice. That may be a record for us. After about an hour and a half, we arrived back at Makapwa around sunset, with "day dying in the West."

There is a song we enjoy that goes something like this: "One more day's work for Jesus, one less of life for me. Heaven is nearer, and Christ is dearer, than anything could be. Lord, if I may, I'll serve another day." **SR**

Contact Info:

Kirk Looper, Executive Director  
SDB Missionary Society  
119 Main St.  
Westerly, RI 02891

Phone: (401) 596-4326

Fax: (401) 348-9494

E-mail: [sdbmissoc@mindspring.com](mailto:sdbmissoc@mindspring.com)

**The Missionary Society would be willing to assist a local church that might rally around a God-called candidate to foreign missionary service.**



# the BEACON

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

February 2002

## What is real love?

by Eowyn Driscoll

*"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, and it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, and always perseveres" (1 Corinthians 13:4-7).*

Did you know that there are three kinds of love? Like different levels, the first two are mediocre interpretations of what we *perceive* love to be, such as the love of a sister for a brother, parent for a child, girlfriend for a boyfriend, etc. Those kinds of love can and will change.

But God's love is different. He gives us a special kind of love called "agape," which is Greek for "unconditional love." As in, "nothing can, will, or has" the power to change it.

First Corinthians 13:8 tells us that, "Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away."

God's love is never-ending. We sing songs like "Your Everlasting Love" without really realizing that even before the earth was formed, God existed and loved us; as yet unformed creations, he knew us (Jeremiah 1:5). God's love is a gift for all of us, for anyone.

Once again, God's love is different than any love we can give. Because God's love is perfect. It holds no sin, and cannot. Whereas, we are sinners. We have faults, and living up to that perfect description of love is a daunting task.

Man generally doesn't have the willpower to always be patient, and avoid envy and pride. That's why God's love is so wonderful. When the entire world turns its back on you, God will still be there.

So while we prepare to celebrate the feast of Saint Valentine, we should be thinking about the *real* meaning of love.

By the way, St. Valentine was not a little cherub giving out cards made by Hallmark, or shooting people with arrows to make them fall in love. There were, in fact, three St. Valentines, and none of them had anything to do with how we see Valentine's Day today. The 14th of February became the "lovers' holiday" because birds in England and France began pairing up around that date.

As we consider what real love is, we should put our "best heart" forward as a sign of how God's love has affected us.

Love Always,  
Eowyn

*"And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love."  
—1 Corinthians 13:13*

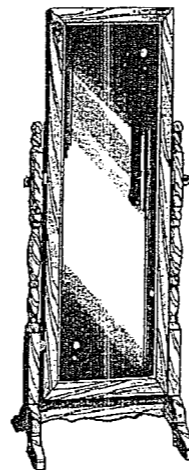
**As we consider what real love is, we should put our "best heart" forward as a sign of how God's love has affected us.**



## 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*



Once again, the holidays have come and gone. That loud whistling you hear is the collective sigh of millions of exhausted people.

Most of us enjoy Christmas and New Year's, but we try to do too much. We *have* to have three kinds of potatoes with our turkey or ham—mashed, baked, and scalloped—and don't forget the yams.

The tree has to have a multitude of twinkling lights, and the greeting cards, grouped by states and alphabetized by names, have to be hand-addressed before they're mailed. (I'm still working on that one!)

Even the house demands our attention. Bathrooms need scrubbing, bedding needs washing, furniture needs dusting. (Great Aunt Mildred would have a fit if she spotted the pile of Oreo crumbs on top of the television.)

During these special family times, everything has to be perfect.

"Hello," I smile through gritted teeth. "Welcome to my Martha Stewart house, pictured in *Better Homes and Gardens* and painted by Norman Rockwell."

Why do we seek such "perfectness"? To quote Teve from the musical, *Fiddler on the Roof*, "Tradition!" *I've always "done Christmas" this way, because Mom always did it this way. And my Grandma used to...*

Although my daughter wouldn't agree, I think I've finally learned to relax a little about the holidays because I've matured in wisdom and

perspective. (Translation: "I've gotten smarter as I've added more gray hairs and wrinkles.")

I used to faithfully bake several kinds of Christmas cookies. If I didn't get anything else done, I had to make cut-out cookies with the kids. Which,

***If I didn't get anything else done during Christmas, I had to make cut-out cookies with the kids. Which, if my memory serves me right, took two weeks to frost and decorate.***

if my memory serves me right, took two weeks to frost and decorate. (The red sugar sprinkles that always fell on the dog's head was an especially festive touch.)

As the kids got bigger (and I got bigger and busier), the cookie baking didn't always get done. I eventually accepted that without feeling guilty.

The other day, Jan Ehlers told me an interesting story. (She's a wonderful co-worker who we teasingly call our "token Lutheran.")

Right before Christmas, Jan was busy making cut-out cookies for her family. As she pressed down on the dough, she was careful not to waste any. That meant that after working with her big cookie cutters, she used a smaller one to do the fine trimming, cutting into the narrow strips of leftover dough that were

spread out on her kitchen counter.

"Every time I pressed down with the smaller cutter, the cookie didn't turn out," she said. "The dough wasn't thick enough, and the cookie just fell apart."

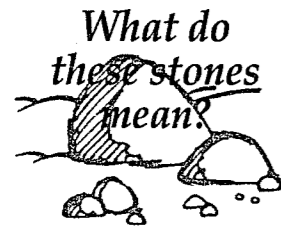
Then Jan described her small cookie cutter: it was in the shape of a cross.

"That's how our relationship is with God sometimes," she said. "We give Him just a little corner of our lives, and then we're surprised when things fall apart."

Later that morning, I mulled over what Jan had said. How many times a year, or even a month, do I give God only a small corner of my life? A scrap of my heart? A smidgen of my time? A leftover, warmed-over prayer?

*Heavenly Father, help us to put You first, not last, in our busy lives. Help us to prioritize and separate the important from the unimportant, the thick centers of our lives from the thin edges. Help us to give You entrance into all of the areas of our existence, not just the narrow regions or the dark corners where we try to hide our dust and crumbs. May each of us, Lord, become the person You want us to be. Amen SR*





Aug. 4-10, 2002

### The President's Page

## The third stone: Priesthood of all believers

by Gordon Lawton

Rev. Andrew J. Camenga, Executive Director  
Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education

Dear Andrew,

As we have talked about the current quarter of the *Helping Hand*, I hope that you have detected that I have been having fun with the lessons. Teaching these lessons is a challenge. They are different than the usual.

I have especially missed the *Heart of the Lesson* statements. (That is strange as I was not aware that I looked there each week. However, when that concise focus is not present with which to agree or disagree, it is missed.)

Sometimes the Bible study is mixed in with the presentation of the SDB historical figure and requires additional thinking about how to present the lesson. I have tried different methods of teaching these lessons, including: reading, studying, and discussing the Scripture before looking at the person from history in light of the Scripture; presenting the historical events surrounding the Protestant reformation in England and how the historical figure and SDBs in America fit with those events; focusing on the theological issues that prompted a change in the thinking and life of the person highlighted for the week; and even allowing a discussion about biblical connectedness to some of these persons.

Although we would not want to have this type of lesson each quarter, they contain good information about SDB belief and practice from the 17th into the 20th centuries, and help focus our attention on some of the "stones" which, when piled together, make SDBs unique. Examples from the lives of others, probably some more recent, would help illuminate the Scriptures in future Sabbath School lessons.

For me, these lessons have brought out the importance of the Priesthood of all Believers. As these persons studied God's Word they discovered principles which—when put into practice—looked a lot different than the religious expressions of the day.

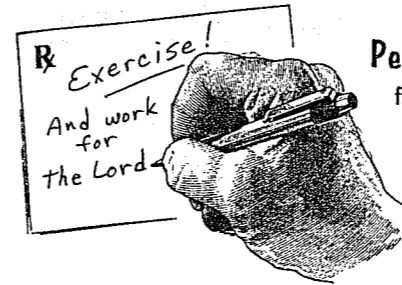
These persons made it clear that the Priesthood of all Believers was not an excuse to say that each believer was an island and needed no others. Rather, we should help others grow up into Christ who is the head of the Church,<sup>1</sup> help through hearing confessions<sup>2</sup> and assuring of forgiveness,<sup>3</sup> hold up the Scriptures which are useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness,<sup>4</sup> and pray together to join as equals at the throne of grace.<sup>5</sup>

Many of these things were formerly taught as reserved only to the duty of the clergy, who were needed to mediate for the people. Since we are a priesthood<sup>6</sup> and there is no distinction based on race, position, or gender,<sup>7</sup> then we all have responsibility as priests.

Thank you for your efforts as Editor of the *Helping Hand*, and please pass on thanks also to those who wrote for this issue, many of them almost 30 years ago.

Sincerely,  
Pastor Gordon Lawton

<sup>1</sup>Ephesians 4:15, <sup>2</sup>James 5:16, <sup>3</sup>Hebrews 3:12-14, <sup>4</sup>2 Timothy 3:16-17, <sup>5</sup>Hebrews 4:16, <sup>6</sup>1 Peter 2:9, <sup>7</sup>Galatians 3:28.



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

## God loves Rhode Island

*"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go into the house of the Lord'" (Psalm 122:1).*

The SDBs in Rhode Island should be so proud of their inheritance, their ancestors, their edifices, their faithfulness, and their God. Back there, we walk through history and have a beautiful feeling of being "home."

From the book, *Seventh Day Baptists in Europe and America, Vol. 1*: "They thus laid the foundations of the SDB Church in America where it could stand the shock of coming revolutions, of toppling monarchies or crumbling republics—in characters built on the word of eternal truth—tried and toughened by the fires of trials and polished by the disciplines of the best possessions of men."

The churches in Rhode Island are so beautiful, stately, and dignified. We, and they, should be proud



*Enjoying a luncheon at the Pawcatuck SDB Church, Westerly, R.I.*

came to Westerly to visit us. What a glorious luncheon we had at the Westerly church! All the guests were so blessed by the shared fellowship. Plus a "church party" was held in Ashaway Saturday night. They don't

group of people, led by Missionary Society Executive Director Kirk Looper and National Extension Minister Ron Elston, are seeing to it that SDBs are known around the world as well as in the United States.

So much time, energy, and dedication is spent by our Missionary Board. Nancy and I felt so privileged to attend their meetings. 2001 was a good year for us to visit boards and agencies. We've come to appreciate their dedicated work while learning how each board prayerfully plans the witness of SDBs in the world.

Acts 2:46-47 says, "So continuing with one accord in the temple [church] and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the Church daily those who were being saved."

God loves Rhode Island, as do we. **SR**

**2001 was a good year for us to visit boards and agencies. We've come to appreciate their dedicated work while learning how each board prayerfully plans the witness of SDBs in the world.**

of them. "Accepting the inheritance which they have handed down to us, let us see that it holds the high place on which they left it."

My wife, Nancy and I visited the Westerly, Ashaway, and Rockville churches in one day. Rockville's branch church, the SDB Vision Christian Fellowship of Pawcatuck, Conn.,

even need good street signs in Rhode Island, for all know God's directions.

Incidentally, it was a Missionary Society Board weekend also. We attended meetings all day Sunday, discussing Africa, Asia, Australia, and even Russia and Europe. The National Home Field Outreach Program was outlined. This far-reaching

## Fellowship (meal) draws many to 250th Yearly Meeting at Shiloh

by Pat Cruzan

*"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."  
(Hebrews 10:25)*

On October 12-13, 2001, Seventh Day Baptists met in Shiloh, N.J., for the 250th Yearly Meeting. Seven churches were represented: Berlin, N.Y.; Central Maryland; Marlboro, N.J.; New York City; Plainfield, N.J.; Shiloh; and Raritan Valley, N.J.

A youth retreat was also hosted at Jersey Oaks Camp during this weekend under the leadership of Pastor Dave Taylor. Thirty-nine young people from 7th to 12th grades attended.

Pastor Jeanne Yurke, from the Raritan Valley SDB Church, led the Sabbath Eve worship service and introduced the theme of continuing to meet together and encouraging one another. In part, she shared:

***"The fellowship meals we enjoy are a bonus, a side-benefit to the 'true feeding,' the spiritual feeding that goes on here. It is that feeding, that personal and spiritual fellowship, which draws me back here from year to year."***

**—Pastor Matt Olson**

"First of all, we are empowered by God to do *together* what none of us can do as effectively (if at all) on our own. It was for this reason that Yearly Meetings, Associations,

societies for the work of missions and Christian education, as well as General Conference itself, came into being.

"Seventh Day Baptists have discovered over the years that we can accomplish more for the Lord by pooling our resources than by serving Him merely as individuals. And that's not only because a group is more able than any of its members alone. Something else is involved in the equation; or, better put, Someone else is involved! GOD is eager to pour out His blessing on His people who are committed to doing His will."

Pastor Matt Olson, from the Berlin SDB Church, continued the theme during the Sabbath morning worship, but with a slightly different emphasis:

"This morning we are going to consider why we have come together

this weekend from all over the East Coast. For we have gathered for a specific purpose, and it is one that I believe we all share. That reason is, of course, the fellowship meal...



"This is, in fact, one of the oldest meetings among Seventh Day Baptists. Yet almost every time we meet, there is discussion of doing away with it. But I can honestly say that I've never voted against it.

"Who could vote against macaroni and cheese, or corn chowder? Why would you say 'no' to toothpaste brownies or curried chicken? How can you walk away from a taco salad made with tortilla chips, hamburger, shredded lettuce, chick peas, and a quart of mayonnaise?"

"...I think it is a fair question to ask if Yearly Meeting serves a purpose for us. And I think the obvious answer is, 'Yes.' ...These meetings have stimulated those who attend them to good deeds. I have gather-

ed ideas on how to reach out to the community around me. I have heard news of how this church or that church has grown and the steps they took to achieve that growth. I have listened as people have shared about the ministries their church is involved in and have been encouraged to adapt those ideas to my local covenant community.

"Certainly the author of Hebrews had the local church in mind when he wrote these words, but it is just as certain that they can be applied to a broader community which gathers together for the same purpose. The people who gather for Yearly Meeting are, I believe, just such a community.

"In the end, I am quite aware that Yearly Meeting doesn't exist to feed me all the casseroles, cake, and cookies I can eat. The fellowship meals we enjoy are a bonus, a side-benefit to the 'true feeding,' the spiritual feeding that goes on here. It is *that* feeding, that per-

sonal and spiritual fellowship, which draws me back here from year to year.

"I am not always able to make it, but that's okay. These meetings are nothing if not voluntary, and if you

After the fellowship dinner, the churches shared about their ministries and ways they are reaching out in their communities. The evening vespers was an inspiring time, with musical selections from many of

***"We are empowered by God to do together what none of us can do as effectively (if at all) on our own."  
—Pastor Jeanne Yurke***

can make it, praise the Lord! If you can't, well, we hope to see you *next* year.

"There is no pressing business here to cast a pall over the 'good stuff.' It is just a time of encouragement to serve Christ better, to keep on hoping, to keep on working. It is a time of Christian fellowship and, as such, is something neither you nor I ought to neglect. Amen."

the churches, Scripture readings, and singing by the entire congregation.

And now, we look forward to the 251st meeting next year! **SR**

*(Please see page 26 for the historical background of the Yearly Meeting.)*

### SR Reaction

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

Dear Kevin:

I was pleased to see the article in the November 2001 *SR* about the 75th anniversary of the Paint Rock (Ala.) Seventh Day Baptist church.

While my cousin Lillian (Bottoms) Bee is the last surviving charter member of the Paint Rock church, I was privileged—as an 8-year-old—to be present at the founding of the church.

The church was originally organized at the Oakdale schoolhouse, three miles northeast of Athens, Ala., and was called the Oakdale SDB Church.

I don't remember the impetus for the formation of the church, but I do remember that primarily members of the Thomas J. Bottoms family formed it.

While the church was in the Athens area, Rev. Verney A. Wilson was the pastor. He and his wife, Minnie, had four children—a girl and three boys. The parsonage was a home on Ary Bottoms' farm, and the meetinghouse was a tenant house near Ary's homestead.

A foot-powered organ and a pulpit at the front of the room were used for worship. The pews were rough planks set on upended short logs, and Sabbath School was held in the various rooms. It was drafty in the winter!

As the years passed and families moved away during the Depression, it was deemed advisable to move the church to the Paint Rock area. During this time, brothers Ary and Emmett

Bottoms entered the pastorate and initially moved to West Virginia, while Burrell's family and Gilbert moved to Battle Creek, Mich. Their parents, T.J. Bottoms and Talulah, died at the end of World War II and are buried near Athens.

James E. Butler was lost in the fighting in North Africa in 1943. His mother donated the government insurance to help build the Paint Rock church. It had a humble beginning but is a living memorial to Almira Butler and her son, Jim Ed.

George Bottoms (grandson of T.J. and Talulah Bottoms) Belmont, NY



## Marriage

**Wheeler - Ferry.**—Jon Christian Wheeler and Michele Elaine Ferry were united in marriage on January 5, 2002, at The Green Gables in Jennerstown, PA. The groom's father, Rev. Leon A. Wheeler, officiated.

## New members

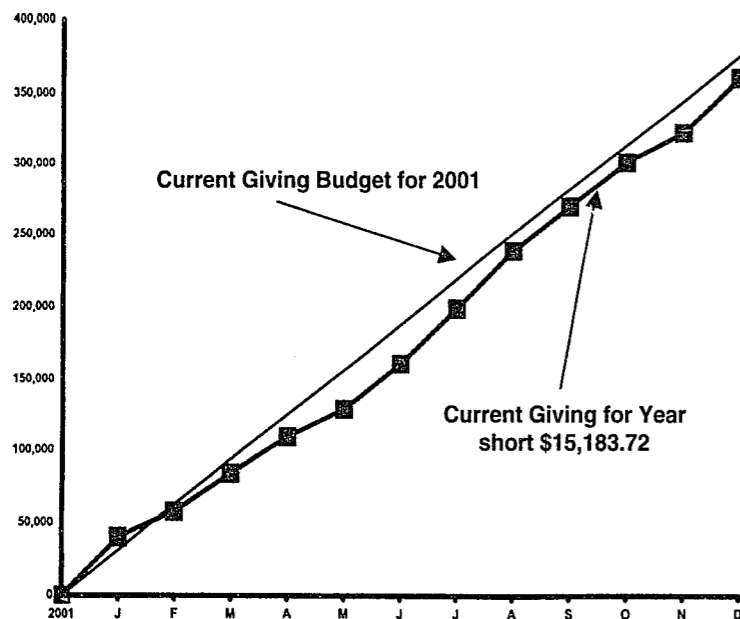
**Miami, FL**  
*Andy Samuels, pastor*  
Joined after testimony  
Wendy Samuels  
Sandra Streeter

**Philadelphia, PA**  
*Kenroy Cruickshank, pastor*  
Joined after baptism  
Erin Rohrer  
Matthew Findlater  
Joined after testimony  
Lisa Carr

## New Directory is here!

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.

## Current Giving 2001 Year-end



## Riverside Ministry opening

The Riverside, Calif., Seventh Day Baptist Church announces an open application process for a part-time Director of Christian Education, beginning August 1, 2002.

The fundamental responsibilities of the Director will be to serve the spiritual needs of the church family by focusing on ministry to families with youth and children. This ministry will include evangelism, instruction, and counseling. The minimum requirements are:

- 1) Preferably has completed or is pursuing the completion of a ministerial education degree.
- 2) Has experience in the area of Christian Education.
- 3) Demonstrates a deep, personal relationship with the Lord and maintains a good reputation.
- 4) Understands and is in agreement with the Seventh Day Baptist Statement of Belief and the local Riverside SDB Church's mission statement and congregational goals.
- 5) Should be a member in good standing of an SDB Church.

Interested parties should request a job description from the Riverside church and submit a resumé by June 30, 2002. Call (909) 686-0545, or write to:  
**Seventh Day Baptist Church  
of Riverside  
5901 Chicago Ave.  
Riverside, CA 92506**

## Obituaries

**Hansen.**—Mildred Ermil (Palmquist) Hansen, 89, of Jane Lew, W.Va., died on December 2, 2001, at the United Hospital Center in Clarksburg, W.Va., following a brief illness.

She was born in Los Angeles, Calif., on July 5, 1912, the daughter of Arthur and Lillian (Larson) Palmquist. On October 19, 1935, she married the Rev. Dr. Clifford W.P. Hansen. He died on February 22, 1997.

Mrs. Hansen was a nurse and homemaker, and a member of the Salem, W.Va., Seventh Day Baptist Church.

Survivors include one daughter, Esther Mildred Bond of Jane Lew; and four grandsons, one granddaughter, and six great-grandchildren. In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by one son, Charles, in September of 2001; her stepmother,

Esther B. Palmquist; and one sister, Evelyn Erickson.

A private family memorial service was held, and Mrs. Hansen's remains were buried in the Mountain View Cemetery in Fresno, Calif.

**Maxson.**—Dolores M. Maxson 76, of Beatrice, Neb., formerly of North Loup, Neb., died on December 31, 2001, at her home.

She was born on June 19, 1925, in Iola, Wis., the daughter of Harry and Effie (Jacobson) Swenson. She grew up in Iola and Waupaca, Wis., graduating from the Waupaca high school.

On December 15, 1945, Dolores married Lyle E. Vore in Waukegon, Ill., and they lived in many places. In 1966, she moved to North Loup after her husband's death. On June 1, 1973, Dolores married Herman Maxson in Beatrice.

Dolores worked for NE Community Action in Loup City and was

chairman of the board. She served as mayor of North Loup, and was on the North Loup Village Board. She was a member of American Legion Auxiliary Post 285 for more than 45 years. She was also a member of the North Loup Seventh Day Baptist Church. Dolores lived in North Loup until moving to Beatrice in August of 1999.

Survivors include one son, Keith, of Burwell, Neb.; three daughters, Lynette Lundstedt of Beatrice, Lee Cording of Hebron, Neb., and Sue Ellen Yanez of Tulsa, Okla.; two brothers, Delmont Tysdal of Waupaca and Royal Swenson of King, Wis.; one sister, Inez Naasen of Iola; 13 grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her two husbands and one brother, Donald Swenson.

Funeral services were held on January 6, 2002, at the North Loup SDB Church, with Mike Chase officiating. Burial was in Hillside Cemetery, North Loup.

## Denominational Dateline

### February

- 1 Coordinating Leadership Team meets in Daytona Beach, Fla.
- 2 Preach in Orlando, Fla.—Gabe Bejjani
- 2-5 General Council, Daytona Beach
- 6 Nashville, Tenn.—Ron Elston
- 9 Diaconate Ordination, Marlboro, N.J., SDB Church—Kirk Looper
- 16 San Gabriel, Calif., Church of Faith—Bejjani
- 16 Sabbath School Workshop, Portland, Ore.—Andrew Camenga
- 17-24 Liberia, Africa—Looper

### March

- 4 Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs Executive Committee, Washington, D.C.—Kevin Butler
- 8 Planning Session, Church Planters School, SDB Center, Janesville, Wis.—Elston
- 9 Church anniversary, San Gabriel, Calif.—Butler

- 9 Alfred Station, N.Y.—Looper
- 9 Outreach Bible Church, Portage, Wis.—Elston
- 11 SDB Center, Janesville—Elston
- 17 Annual Business Meeting of the SDB Missionary Society, Westerly, R.I.—Looper
- 17-21 Committee on the Uniform Series, Orlando—Camenga

### April

- 6 San Gabriel church—Elston, Looper
- 7-8 SDB churches in Lake Elsinore and Lucerne Valley, Calif.—Elston
- 13 Riverside, Calif., church—Elston, Looper
- 13 San Gabriel church—Calvin Babcock
- 20 Memorial Fund Quarterly Meeting—Babcock
- 28 Missionary Society Quarterly Board Meeting, Westerly—Looper, Elston

A "leisurely" trip, cont. from page 14

County, where he stayed at Uncle Bill Burdick's house.

On Sabbath, September 26, he went to church at Hopkinton, shared in the Lord's Supper, and then went home with Cousin Samuel Crandall. He spent most of the next week visiting other friends and enjoying the beach, fishing, gathering mussels and oysters, and enjoying the surf crashing on the rocks.

Green wrote in his diary that on "Oct. 1st—The General Conference commenced at the meeting house in Hopkinton. Eld. J. Watson preaching the introductory discourse from Psa. 122. The congregation was large and attentive. After service, Conference opened by Eld. Henry Burdick."

Green did not describe much of the workings of Conference other than the fact that he attended the Missionary Society meeting (of which

he was a member). Most of his other notations dealt with continued visiting with friends and relatives, going to the shore, and staying overnight in different homes.

"Sabbath, Oct 10th—Went to meeting and heard Eld. Bailey preach from Matt. 16:26. After meeting went home with Uncle Billins Burdick."

On October 11 he started the trip home to Alfred, stopping at Berlin, Stephentown and Petersburg. On November 6, he arrived at Brookfield for the Sabbath. "Nov. 7th—The weather was very stormy; no meeting; went toward night and visited a sick person."

The next day he visited two or three old neighbors and went to the first-day Baptist meeting. "Heard a very good discourse. Then went to Jonathan Sweet's and stayed the night."

The rest of the return trip presents a slightly different list of settlements and mileage traveled each day, arriving home November 13. "Through the tender mercy of our all-gracious God, we arrived at Alfred in tolerable health and safety, about nine o'clock in the evening. Traveled in all not far from 1,000 miles.

"When I take a review of this long journey and consider how many accidents might have befallen us, it should fill me with praise and thanksgiving to God. May I daily devote myself to Him from whom I receive so many mercies." SR

*'Jonathan Allen, "Conference—Its Origin," Sabbath Recorder, Vol. 37, February 3, 1881, p. 3.*

## Background of the Yearly Meeting

(Prepared for the 1974 Yearly Meeting by then-Historian Albert N. Rogers)

In 1745 the Piscataway, N.J., church sent Jonathan Dunham to the Yearly Meeting at French Creek, Pa., for ordination. Its first pastor, Edmund Dunham, had been ordained at the Yearly Meeting at Hopkinton, R.I., in 1705.

Yearly Meeting on an annual basis in New Jersey was begun by the Piscataway and Shiloh churches in 1752. Plainfield and Marlboro joined in 1852, then New York City in 1875, and Berlin (N.Y.) 1910. (Marlboro organized in 1811, Plainfield in 1838, Schenectady in 1834, and Berlin in 1780.) The invitation to Yearly Meeting in 1900 was said to include "every Seventh Day Baptist from the Catskills to Cape May."

General Conference was organized in 1801-02 on the pattern

of the yearly General Meeting and Great Communion established at Hopkinton. It was urged that Conference should not interfere with attendance at the stated Yearly Meetings in Rhode Island and New Jersey. By 1834 Conference had sent out home missionaries, published a hymn book, corresponded with our British churches, sponsored a weekly paper (*The Protestant Sentinel*), and adopted a statement of faith. Now it called for the forming of Associations, and a year later recommended the churches group themselves at Eastern, Middle, and Western Associations.

Minutes of the 1852 Yearly Meeting at Shiloh record that "a worthy zeal was manifested by the different churches in endeavoring to increase the interest and render profitable this anniversary meeting." Circular letters

sent out at the close of Yearly Meeting were enthusiastic and optimistic as they attempted to encourage each congregation to stand fast in the faith and work vigorously for its promotion.

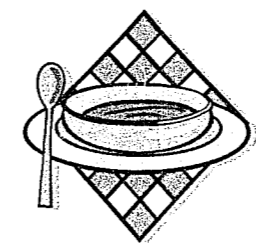
In 1910 Theodore L. Gardiner wrote, "Long before railroads were known, the farmers of East Jersey and West Jersey with their families drove the distance of nearly one hundred miles to enjoy Yearly Meeting. It was to them like the annual festival of Israel in days of old. Conditions have changed since the days of John and Jonathan Davis, William B. Maxson, and Walter B. Gillette; and these meetings are not made quite so much of since the Associations and Conference have come to call the people together in denominational work."

# KEVIN'S

ORNER

### A bowl of hot soup

I don't know if it was the weather (finally getting some snow in Wisconsin), or if it was the fresh, warm homemade bread (thanks to my new breadmaker), or maybe it was because—thanks to some



### Here's the recipe for Friendship Soup:

(Yields 8 servings)

- 1/4 Cup dry split peas
- 2 cubes beef bouillon
- 2 Tblsp. pearl barley
- 1/4 Cup dry lentils
- 2 Tblsp. dried minced onions
- 1 Tblsp. Italian seasoning
- 1/4 Cup uncooked rice
- 1/4 Cup shell macaroni

### Additional Ingredients:

- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1-1/2 Quarts water
- 1 Can (28 oz.) diced tomatoes, undrained

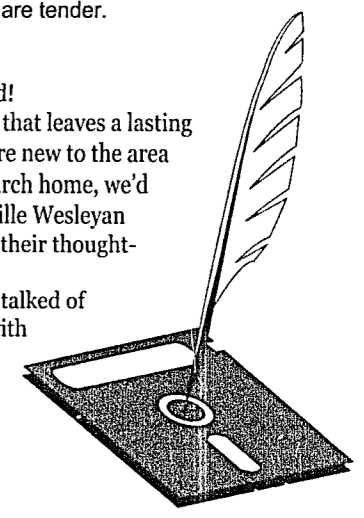
### To Prepare Soup:

Carefully remove macaroni from jar and set aside. In a large saucepan or Dutch oven, brown beef; drain. Add the water, tomatoes, and soup mix; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 45 minutes. Add the reserved macaroni, cover and simmer for 15-20 minutes, or until the macaroni, peas, lentils, and barley are tender. Serve and enjoy!

### We did and we did!

What a great idea that leaves a lasting impression. If we were new to the area and looking for a church home, we'd certainly give Janesville Wesleyan a second thought for their thoughtfulness to us.

I know that Jesus talked of rewards associated with a "cup of cold water in my name" (Mark 9:41), but in wintry Wisconsin, a "bowl of hot soup" goes a long way, too.



recent sickness—the main course was something we could safely ingest (I'll spare the details), but it was one of the most enjoyable meals our family had shared in a long time.

And it all revolved around a simple glass jar.

Daughter Crystal visited another church to hear a friend sing during a holiday service. On her way out, she was handed a small canning jar filled with a mixture of dry ingredients.

The lid was decorated with a six-inch square of country fabric, and a thin strip of ribbon carried a tasteful paper label saying, "Our Gift to You: Friendship Soup. Thank you for attending Janesville Wesleyan."

Being the "crafty" one in the family, Janet inspected this nice gift right away. Opening the jar, she found a small piece of paper with the recipe, and a plastic baggie containing some macaroni and bouillon cubes near the top of all the other veggies and seasonings.

She found that we needed to add a couple of ingredients, so we couldn't slurp the soup that night.

Several weeks later, when the time was right, we sat down and got warm all over.

## Share the Journey



*If you enjoyed reading our recent full-color special issue, "Journey of a Lifetime," how about sharing the story with neighbors and friends?*

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

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

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