

The

S

abbath

News for and about  
Seventh Day Baptists

September 2002

R

ecorder



*President Gordon and Linda Lawton  
as Elder and Mrs. H.P. Green*

350 years  
as a people

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200 years  
as a Conference

*Sessions of the 2002  
General Conference  
in Houghton, N.Y.*



## 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](mailto:sdbgen@inwave.com) and the SDB Web site: [www.seventhdaybaptist.org](http://www.seventhdaybaptist.org)

## Denominational Dateline

### September

- 7 North Loup, Neb.—Kirk Looper  
14 Rockville, R.I.—Looper  
19-23 Toronto, Canada Crusade—Ron Elston  
26-29 Toronto Evangelistic Meeting, Toronto, Canada—Looper  
28 *Sabbath Recorder* Committee, Seattle, Wash.—Kevin Butler

### October

- 7-8 Baptist Joint Committee, Washington, D.C.—Butler  
8-11 Evangelical Development Ministry Institute, Dallas, Texas—Andrew Camenga  
19 Daytona Beach, Fla., SDB Church—Butler  
19 Rockville—Looper  
19-20 Diaconate Workshop, Ashaway, R.I.—Camenga  
26 Rockville—Looper  
27 SDB Missionary Society Quarterly Meeting, Westerly, R.I.—Looper, Elston  
27 BCE Annual Corporation Meeting, Alfred Station, N.Y.—Camenga

### November

- 9-10 TCC Annual Meeting, SDB Center, Janesville, Wis.—Butler

## Annual Corporation Meeting Notice Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education

The annual meeting of the members of the Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education, Inc., will be held at the Edgar D. and Harriet Brown Van Horn building, 892 Route 244, Alfred Station, N.Y., on Sunday, October 27, 2002, at 10:00 a.m.

The purpose of this meeting shall be to hear and act upon the 2001 Annual Report of the Board of Directors, and to consider and act upon such matters that may properly come before said meeting.

Members of the member churches of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference USA & Canada, Ltd., are members of the Corporation. Accredited delegates attending the 2002 General Conference sessions in Houghton, N.Y., are entitled to vote at this annual meeting.

# The Sabbath Recorder

Establ. 1844

September 2002  
Volume 224, No. 9  
Whole No. 6,876



### A Seventh Day Baptist publication

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

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

This is the 158th year of publication for *The Sabbath Recorder*. First issue published, June 13, 1844. Member of the Associated Church Press. The *Sabbath Recorder* does not necessarily endorse signed articles.



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**WRITERS:** Please type manuscripts double spaced. Only manuscripts that include a stamped, addressed envelope can be returned. Unsolicited manuscripts are welcomed; however, they will be considered on a space available basis. No remuneration is given for any article that appears in this publication. Paid advertising is not accepted.

## Features

**General Conference goes back to Houghton** ..... 4-11  
*Photographs and memories from our annual gathering, this time in Houghton, New York*

**The week in review** ..... 5-7  
*Highlights of Conference statistics, elections, recognitions, and recommendations*

**From the Conference Crier**  
(Edited by Jenny Butler and Karlene Neher)

**God loves variety** ..... 6  
by Ann Pangburn

**Pastors cheat!** ..... 8  
by Eowyn Driscoll

**Pre-Con spurs on Young Adults** ..... 10  
by Jenny Butler

**The Project Is Right!** ..... 11  
by Cheri Appel

**A tale of four Aussie churches** ..... 21

**Life's relay for Righteousness (part 1)** ..... 12  
*Vigorous training, endurance, and determination are vital to athletes seeking gold medals. Do Christians need these attributes to achieve their heavenly reward?*

## Departments

**Women's Society** 13  
*SCSC testimonial*

**Christian Education** 14  
*2002 - 2003 Scripture  
Memory Verses*

**Pearls from the past** 16  
*How many sisters make  
a brotherhood?*

**Focus** 17  
*New groups*

**The Beacon** 18  
*Youth Pre-Con 2002*

**Reflections** 19  
*Birthday blessings (mixed)*

**Pete's Prescriptions** 20  
*Excellency in God's  
timing and works*

**Local news** 22-23  
*Alfred Station, NY* 22  
*Chatawa, MS* 22  
*Philadelphia, PA* 22-23  
*Hopkinton, RI* 23

**Family flux** 24  
*New members, Births*

**Kevin's Korner** 27  
*What did that  
stone mean?*



## General Conference goes back to Houghton

Following an 11-year absence, Seventh Day Baptists returned to Houghton (N.Y.) College to celebrate the 200th anniversary of our General Conference. President Gordon Lawton led us through his historical theme, "What Do These Stones Mean?" based on Joshua 4.

As the stones by the river served as reminders to the children of Israel, may these photos and stories remind us that we are part of a larger Conference family of SDB churches. **SR**

*Next year, Lord willing, we will meet at George Fox University in Newberg, Oregon, August 3-9.*

### Singing about home

by Paul Green, choir director

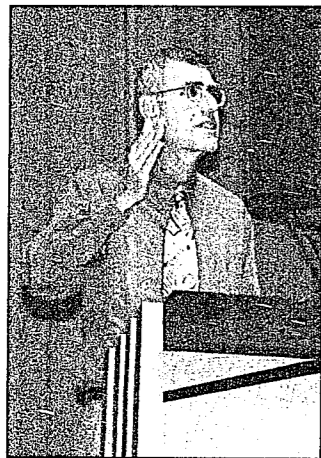
When I chose the anthem, "We Have One Faith" for the Conference to sing together at the Sabbath morning celebration, I wondered whether the first line would be appropriate: "Lord, for many generations we have gathered in this place."

But then I remembered that we had actually met in this very place—Houghton College—five times.

Then when August 9 was declared "Henry Clarke Day" for Allegany County, it brought into focus that we really have met here for many generations!

Our first meeting in this area was in 1830, at the Alfred, N.Y., church. In fact, we have met in Alfred 21 times over the years. In addition, we met at Little Genesee, N.Y., three times later in the 19th century, making a total of 29 times General Conference has met in Allegany County!

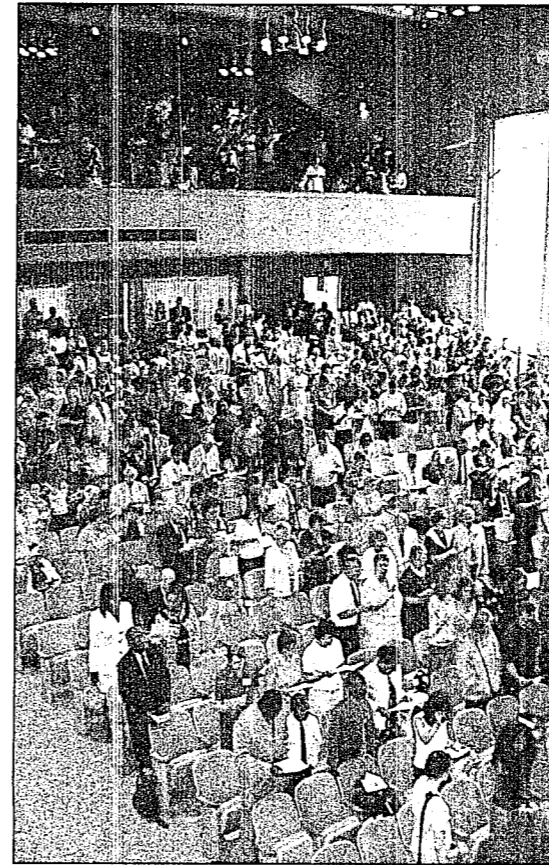
Truly, "For many generations we have gathered in this place." Thanks be to God!



Former historian Tom Merchant provided vignettes before our morning reports.



Our Sabbath morning choir.



Praising God on a clear Sabbath morning!



David Thorngate (right) receives his certificate of pastoral accreditation from COM's Gabe Bejjani.



Pastors John and Andrew Camenga.

## The Week in Review — August 4-10, 2002

### Statistics

- 825 registered guests
- 900+ at worship on Sabbath
- 379 delegates representing 57 churches
- 127 enrolled in Junior Conference!
- 56 at Youth Pre-Con, directed by Steve Osborn with eight staff
- 65 at Young Adult, directed by Andy Samuels with ten staff
- Women's Love Gift: \$4,573
- Conference offering: \$16,200
- Gallons of ice cream consumed: lost count

### Elections

- President 2002-2003: George Cruzan
- President-elect: Rev. Dale Thorngate
- General Council: Wayne North

- Council on Ministry: Steve Crouch, Karen Payne
- Faith and Order: John M. Peil, George Stillman
- Committee on Support and Retirement: Earl Hibbard
- Tract and Communication Council: Ralph Hays Jr., Steve Osborn
- Memorial Fund Trustees: Nellie Jo Brissey, George Cruzan, Doug Mackintosh
- Christian Social Action: Terry Durst, Don Shackleford, Dale Smalley, Laura Sutton

### Awards/Recognitions

- Pastor David Thorngate accredited
- Women's Board Robe of Achievement: Sylvia Lindo (deceased), Toronto, Canada.

cont. on page 6

# God loves variety

by Ann Pangburn, in *The Conference Crier*



*The Voices of Praise, from Toronto, led out Monday morning.*

One need only to look at Creation, the handiwork of God, to know that "God loves variety." Look at the myriad of flowers and insects; not just one, stamped out and placed everywhere. Look at the faces you pass. Each is different, like the multitudes of snowflakes. God loves variety. He created it.

The same is true in worship. We bring our sacrifices of praise in a variety of forms: some voices raised, some murmuring; with organ and guitar; with raised hands and bowed heads.

The Young Adult-sponsored praise time on Wednesday night reflected this aspect of God. As ex-

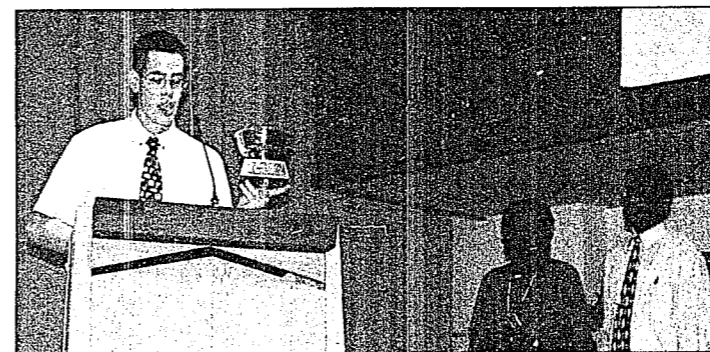
pected, it started with upbeat, exuberant music. Then the Spirit led the worshippers into quiet adoration with the same voices and instruments, but with a different expression.

Keith James ended the evening with an anointed pouring out of love to God, using the "voice" of the piano as we entered into utter stillness. As each song ended, there was silence—deep, deep, silent worship and waiting before God. No one moved, shuffled, or made the slightest noise as we stood before God.

We offered the sacrifice of praise that night as God led us in exuberant singing, in meditative singing, and in total silence. The variety reflected the One Who who created it.

Our God commands us to "Be still and know." He also says, "Shout to the Lord!" Does God accept only one form of worship when He Himself ordained both in His Word?

Our Heavenly Father created variety, and He loves it! **SR**



*Clockwise from upper left: Nathanael Lawton prepares to give the Scripture Memory award to the New York City church. President Lawton about to rule*

*on a motion under the watchful eye of parliamentarian Don Graffius. Dale Rood leads a Bible study. Pete and Nancy May, and Pat and Ed Sutton enjoy our history.*

## *The Week in Review, cont. from page 5*

- Sabbath School Teacher of the Year: Larry Bird, Washington, D.C.
- Mary G. Clare Scripture Memorization Bowl: New York City church

### *Business Action*

- Approved 2003 budget of \$957,617 calls for \$378,432 to come from current giving
- At Young Adult Pre-Con there was a discussion concerning the future of the denomination; many concerns were voiced. Those present at the Young Adult Interest Committee decided that until the next General Conference meetings they would use every Wednesday as a day of prayer and fasting for renewal and growth of this denomination. All are encouraged to participate.

*From Ministerial Interests:*

- We **recommend** that the COM require the Director of Pastoral Services occupy and utilize the offices in Janesville that are designated for use on a daily basis and that this would be accomplished by General Conference 2004.

*From Reference and Counsel:*

- To adopt from the General Council Report: The General Council **recommends** that the following statement be added to the *Manual of Procedures* (in Appendix 2-J: Guidelines for Calling a Pastor): "When a church considers calling a candidate who is not currently a Seventh Day Baptist to pastoral leadership, it is strongly recommended that the congregation seek the advice and counsel of sister churches within the Association. Sister churches are encouraged to provide honest

counsel to any member church requesting such counsel."

- The Committee **recommends** that the Committee on Faith and Order establish investigative procedure and recommend By-law revisions that address the discipline or dismissal of a church "displaying conduct which is no longer in harmony with the distinctive faith and practice of Seventh Day Baptists" (*A Manual of Procedures for Seventh Day Baptist Churches*, 1999:E-6). Such revisions should include provision for bodies or individuals, in addition to General Council, to initiate the investigative procedure.
- In response to the directive of General Conference to address the issue of the First Seventh Day Baptist Church of Alfred, N.Y., the Committee **recommends** that the General Conference refer this matter to the General Council, instructing it to make a recommen-

dation to the General Conference in 2003. *And this commentary:*

- The [Reference and Counsel] Committee understands that the actions of the First Seventh Day Baptist Church of Alfred, N.Y., in calling a Mormon to serve as pastor and in accepting a Mormon as an associate member, have damaged the witness of all Seventh Day Baptists. We acknowledge the steps the church has taken in correcting this situation and call on the church to repent completely of its actions. We also understand that neither the General Council nor our local churches responded to this situation in a timely and decisive manner. We strongly urge the General Conference membership to pray for all our churches and to be forthright, speaking the truth in love, when any of our churches fails to conform to our beliefs as Seventh Day Baptists.



The youth await a return from the pastors in blanket volleyball.



On behalf of the Memorial Fund Board, Don Graffius and Calvin Babcock serve coffee to David and Bettie Pearson.

## Proclamation

(Reprinted from *The Conference Crier*)

Friday, August 9, 2002, was proclaimed "Henry Clarke Day" in Allegany County, N.Y., by the Allegany County Board of Legislators. The Board wanted to recognize the contributions and impact that Seventh Day Baptists have had on their county, including contributing to the "educational opportunities of the County through the founding of the Alfred Academy (and) Alfred University."

They also wished to recognize the three churches within its boundaries that have been operating for over a century: Alfred, Alfred Station and Little Genesee. When the lawmakers learned that Henry Clarke is known as the "Father of the Conference," and that we were celebrating our 200th Conference anniversary, they officially declared Friday as the county's "Henry Clarke Day."

## Pastors cheat!

by Eowyn Driscoll  
in the *Crier*

Have you ever seen Andrew Camenga in shorts? Well, at the Youth vs. Pastors surprise blanket volleyball game, he made an appearance on the pastoral team.

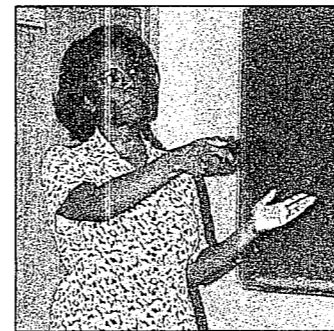
I don't know if you've ever seen blanket volleyball (or both of Andrew's feet leave the ground at the same time), but it's just like regular volleyball. Only you have to catch and throw the ball using a folded blanket. I know it seems a little odd to read about, but it's even odder to watch.

The whole point of this article is to comment on the behavior of the pastors. Who knew that they have a downright childish side! Like Nate Crandall *kicking* the ball to get it to stay on the blanket? For shame! Apparently, it's also an outrage for the ball to go out of bounds. (Hint to the pastors: Throw softer).

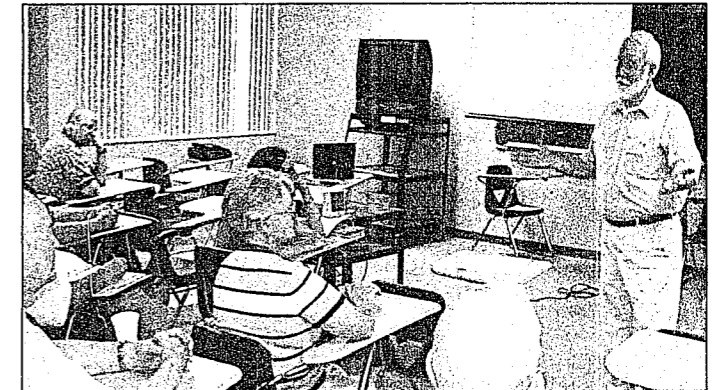
All in all, the game was rip-roaring fun, with a few delightful saves by the youth, and a couple of hecklers in the stands shouting, "Wrong side of the net!!"

Who won? Well, an hour into the first game, we-in-the-stands couldn't sort out the scores. Nate said that the pastors won the first game. But in the final match, "Team Jackson" of the Youth took the honors by a score of 5-4. Go, Youth! **SR**

## Seminars cover music, fasting, growth



Dannette Montague points out some strategies for church growth.



"What do you mean you're not sure if you want to go?" Dale Thorngate promoted February's World Federation sessions in Brazil.



Gwen Bowyer looks up the music while Bill Bowyer finds the story behind the next requested hymn.



"...And that's what really happens at SCSC training," says Helen Goodrich.



Kay Samuels (left) asked Sarah Calhoun to share her testimony on fasting.



Kristin Camenga praised the Lord in her seminar on worship.

## Pre-Con spurs on Young Adults

by Jenny Butler, in *The Conference Crier*

Around 70 Seventh Day Baptist young adults from around the world arrived early at Houghton, N.Y., responding to the call to further develop their godly character.

Young Adult Pre-Con Director Andy Samuels, along with Pastors George Calhoun and Scott Hausrath, provided stirring messages, often based on biblical characters like Job, Solomon, Jonah, and Moses.

Job did not blame God for his misfortune, and Solomon found that only God—not earthly pleasures—could give meaning to his life. Jonah found that his lack of devotion to God's plan got him in trouble, and Moses learned that having the right servant's attitude was key to overcoming any hindrances in spiritual missions.

Of course, in true SDB fashion, these lessons of faith were sandwiched between sessions of praise singing. In a music room lined with acoustical tiles, our offerings were amplified even louder. Tarike Delisser, a 22-year-old from Jamaica, said, "I really liked the worship services because they brought us into the presence of God. Some of the messages were also very edifying and uplifting."



Left: Sharai Fuffe prepares for spiritual warfare. Middle: Chris and Marissa VanHorn sing as Nick Kersten prays. Right: Pre-Con Director Andy Samuels narrated the worship skit.



These young adults led worship on Wednesday morning.

We ushered in the Sabbath with an impassioned, heartfelt discussion on the future of this denomination. Values and convictions of the Sabbath, and plans to encourage church growth were shared as great motivators.

Sarah Calhoun, 19, from Milton, Wis., said, "Our 'where is the denomination going' discussion was very beneficial. We united as young adults in the Body of Christ and as Seventh Day Baptists. I'm excited to see what the future holds."

The young adults also had an informative question-and-answer time with some members of the SDB Memorial Board. This discussion spurred many to begin think-

ing about growth and outreach projects for their own home churches.

The campers also enjoyed some "other kind of fun time," including old-fashioned campfire games and recreational activities like indoor soccer, swimming, and volleyball tournaments.

By the end of Pre-Con, all of the young adults were "fired up" and ready to accomplish God's mission in their lives, keeping in mind the camp's theme verse:

*"Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope" (Rom. 5:3-4).* SR



## The Project Is Right!

SCSC showcases tons of talent

by Cheri Appel, in *The Conference Crier*

Thirty-five lively SCSCers from Canada, Jamaica, Australia, and the U.S. came bouncing into the auditorium at Conference for the Summer Christian Service Corps program. The teams were introduced by "Barbara Barker" of *The Project is Right!*

This highly engaging presentation was based on the different kinds of activities and styles of worship experienced by the workers as they served God in dedicated service this summer.

The "show" began with the Bible verse from the overall team "Of All Nations." The first showcase was team Agape, singing their team verse to the tune of "Shaboom, Shaboom," followed by more SCSCers singing a humorous medley of Vacation Bible School and camp songs. It ended with the Beaver Jive. (If you weren't there, you should have been!)

Next, the Step Team used intricate rhythms of clapping, slapping, and stomping along with voiced verses to express their commitment to Jesus.

With a conga beat and rhythmic body movements, the next showcase expressed their team verse Jamaican style. Teams also sang their verses in cool, a cappella harmonies, showing the depth of talent within the group.

The variety of presentations was remarkable.

The final showcase was a medley of praise and worship songs. Acoustic guitars, piano, electric bass, congas, tambourine, mime/sign, and choir movements accompanied the beauti-

ful harmonies. The audience was brought to their feet in enthusiastic participation with "I Command My Hands (Feet, Mouth, Body) to Praise the Lord!"

Linda Camenga spoke of the year-round leadership training and ministry these young adults have been involved in preparing for their service. The Women's Board, SCSC Committee, and the SCSC Training Staff were recognized, along with the 12 Project Directors for the summer. Linda noted that a variety of skills and levels

**This highly engaging presentation was based on the different kinds of activities and styles of worship experienced by the workers.**

of maturity in Christ were challenging factors in bringing this large group together as a unit.

As individuals were recognized for their years of service, a large group of "rookies" stood with one year under their belt. However, there were many

with two, three, and four years. Marissa Van Horn was recognized for her five years of service! Linda went on to tell us of our SCSC "baby," the satellite SCSC program to begin in Australia. Two veteran SCSCers have been asked to prayerfully consider serving this coming January. Since costs may total as much as \$5,000, *your prayers and donations are needed!* (See more about this program on page 21.) SR



The SCSC Step Team.



The fun camp song medley.



"I command my mouth..."

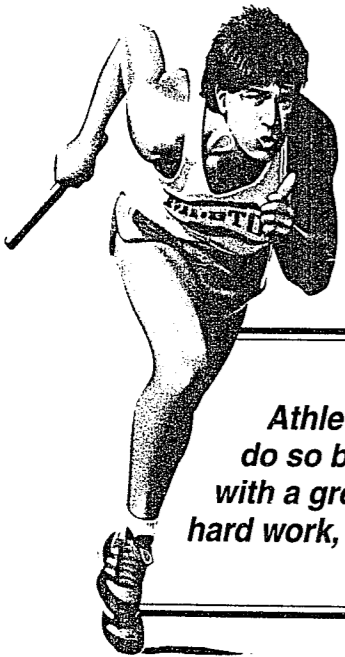
# Life's relay for Righteousness: Losers and winners (part 1)

by Dennis L. Palmer

When I opened the April *Sabbath Recorder*, I was interested to learn that Casey FitzRandolph, an athlete with Seventh Day Baptist roots, won a gold medal in the 500-meter speed skating competition at the 2002 Winter Olympics. Casey, however, was not *born* a winner; he did not simply sit back and do nothing to achieve victory.

Vigorous training and endurance is necessary to compete. Athletes who finish first do so because they seek it with a great deal of resolution, hard work, and determination. No gold medals are handed out on a silver platter to those who do not work hard to win them.

There was another type of race 2,000 years ago. But unlike today's



**Athletes who finish first do so because they seek it with a great deal of resolution, hard work, and determination.**

Olympic games, the winning team never stepped up to the starting line; in fact, it never even officially entered the race. In contrast, the losing team ran like the wind but fell flat on its face.

These two teams represented two great classes of people—the Israelites and Gentiles—who had the same great need: to be perfect (righteous) before God.

God was not pleased with the strident efforts of the team that ran hard in pursuit of righteousness and stumbled over the Cross.

The other team, not enamored with rules and regulations, “did not pursue righteousness” (Rom. 9:30). Instead, they acknowledged their deficiencies and trusted the fair promises of heaven. They took the “faith route,” never attempting to *win* righteousness. In the end, they were the ones who won the heavenly prize, eternal life.

Using Romans 9:30–10:7 as our guide, let us consider this “race for righteousness.” Why did the loser, Israel, fail to achieve righteousness?

Picture Israel running the Olympic 4 x 400-meter relay. Each leg of the

race, depicted by the passing of the baton, represents reasons why Israel lost her pursuit of righteousness and why the winners, the Gentiles, obtained righteousness. As we look at both the winners and losers, let us not see ourselves simply as spectators. We should be participants, overwhelmed by the grace, love, and mercy of God.

## The first leg of Israel's defeat

*They pursued righteousness by works rather than by faith.*

As they prepare for the 4 x 400-meter relay, we see the Scribes and Pharisees walking up to the starting line with their long flowing garments. With flags waving and an extraordinary mix of hype, Israel—plumed with good works from circumcision (Acts 15:1) and a reliance upon the Law “compelling Gentiles to live as Jews” (Gal. 2:14)—charges from the starting line with all the hopes of completing an impressive first leg.

Works are piled upon works in the hopes of winning a life-and-death race to gain eternal life. (Note that in Romans 9:30-32b; 10:4-7, Paul denounces Israel's attempt to gain righteousness by works.)

The Gentiles did not obtain righteousness by works; in fact, they did not pursue it at all. They attained the “righteousness which is by faith” (Rom. 9:30). By contrast, Rom. 9:31 says that Israel pursued a “law for righteousness.” In other words, Israel sought to obey the Law in order to achieve a right standing with God.

*cont. on page 26*



Women's Society page by Laura Price

## SCSC testimonial

### About SCSC

Summer Christian Service Corps has helped many young people (age 17 and up) over the years to mature spiritually and emotionally. However, SCSC is not designed to help troubled young people work out their problems. It is an intensive training program to prepare young people to be servants of the Lord Jesus Christ.

For the team members, SCSC training is designed to 1) make sure you have a right relationship with

**Most finish the summer with a deeper personal relationship with Jesus and new friendships that last a lifetime.**

Jesus Christ, 2) equip you with skills needed for the project, and 3) challenge you to continue spiritual growth even after your project.

Spiritual and emotional maturity are essential because of the demands which will be placed on participants during the project.

After training, participants are sent to an SDB host church for a summer ministry project. Under the close supervision of a project director, they serve the host church in camps, Vacation Bible School, worship, Sabbath School, or anything which is assigned.

SCSC is a demanding summer experience. Participants are stretched emotionally, physically, and spiritually as they serve Christ. At training they put in long and intensive days of study and preparation. Following training, participants are placed in a project where they serve at least 40 to 50 hours per week under sometimes difficult circumstances.

Here is one testimony which fits the model used for Summer Christian Service Corps training this year.

The outline: **B.C.**—Before Christ; **Conversion**—Sharing how we came to Christ (so others can do so, too!); **A.D.**—Since we became Christians.

**My B.C.:** During high school, I achieved much success, both academically and athletically. However, I found that all my accomplishments didn't satisfy. I longed to be loved for who I was rather than for what I could do.

**Conversion:** Gratefully, God intervened during my junior year. He brought someone into my life who shared that God loved me for who I am, not for what I can accomplish.

My friend led me to ask God to forgive my sin and be the leader of my life. This was the beginning of a new adventure for me. I began to know God's love personally.

**A.D.:** This personal love began transforming my life. It made me less shy and more caring. Where I had earlier appeared to be “stuck up” because of my shyness, I now started reaching out and loving people.

I still struggle with occasional feelings of worthlessness. But then I'm reminded of how God loves me so much that He sent His only Son to die for me (Rom 5:8). I'm so grateful that my relationship with God is dependent on who *He* is and not on me.

I would encourage you to allow God to love you and change your life. He will love you not because of what you can do, but because of who He has made you. My desire is to reflect His love to others so that they can experience His unconditional love.—*Althea Rood, SCSC Training Coordinator.*

The challenges are great, but the rewards are even greater. Over and over, participants testify how the experiences of the summer allowed God to “come alive” in their hearts and lives. Most finish the summer with a deeper personal relationship with Jesus Christ and new friendships that last a lifetime.

Through the ministry of SCSC, the host church has the opportunity to benefit from each Corps member's talents, training, and enthusiasm. Realizing that this may be the SCSC-er's first ministry opportunity, the host church is responsible for nurturing and encouraging them.

SCSC is sponsored by the **Women's Society of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference USA and Canada, Ltd.** The SCSC Committee is appointed by the Board of Directors, and all policy regarding projects, teams, and training is established by this committee.

This year, 12 project sites were selected: Toronto, Ont.; Berlin, N.Y.; Shiloh, N.J.; Columbus, Ohio; Charleston, S.C.; Battle Creek and White Cloud, Mich.; Milton, Wis.; North Loup, Neb.; Boulder, Colo.; Riverside, Calif.; and Seattle, Wash.

Thirty-five participants served in SCSC 2002. Training was held at the Daytona Beach, Fla., SDB Church.

This spiritual training experience lasts for only a summer, but the benefits last a lifetime. **SR**

*This article included excerpts from SDB Women's Society Bylaws and Board Procedures, and the 2002 Six-Month Report by President Marjorie Jacob.*

*To share articles of interest, good news, comments, or concerns, contact Women's Page Editor Laura Price at 539 SR 100, Palatka, FL 32177. E-mail: Theeliza94@mac.com*

# Scripture Memory

Theme: "I Am

# Verses—2002-2003

In Christ"

The Scripture Memorization Program for 2002-2003 Conference Year will focus on Conference President George Cruzan's theme: "I Am In Christ."

The Board of Christian Education has chosen these verses to be memorized by the family. Anyone who prefers may memorize one or more of these verses from a different Bible version.

A list of persons from each church who have completed this Scripture Memorization Program should be submitted to the Board of Christian Education Office. The postmarked deadline is June 30, 2003. These people will be honored at General Conference.

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## Month

## Youth/Adult

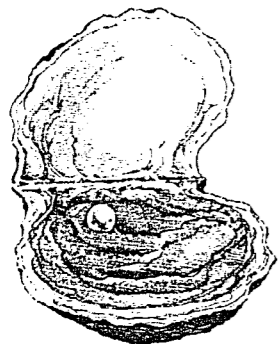
<b>October</b>	Christ is all, and is in all. Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. (Colossians 3:11b-12)
<b>November</b>	Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. (Colossians 3:13-14)
<b>December</b>	Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. (Colossians 3:15)
<b>January</b>	Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. (Colossians 3:16)
<b>February</b>	And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Colossians 3:17)
<b>March</b>	So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. (Colossians 2:6-7)
<b>April</b>	Yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live. (1 Corinthians 8:6)
<b>May</b>	Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. (Ephesians 5:1-2)
<b>June</b>	Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. (1 John 4:11-12)

## Junior

## Primary

As God's chosen people... clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. (Colossians 3:12)	Christ is all, and is in all. (Colossians 3:11b)
And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. (Colossians 3:14)	Forgive as the Lord forgave you. (Colossians 3:13b)
Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.... And be thankful. (Colossians 3:15)	Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts. (Colossians 3:15a)
Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly... as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. (Colossians 3:16)	Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. (Colossians 3:16a)
And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus. (Colossians 3:17a)	And whatever you do,... do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus. (Colossians 3:17a)
Just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him... strengthened in the faith as you were taught... (Colossians 2:6-7)	Just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him. (Colossians 2:6)
Yet for us there is but one God, the Father... for whom we live and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ... through whom we live. (1 Corinthians 8:6)	For us there is but one God, the Father... and... one Lord, Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 8:6)
Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us. (Ephesians 5:1-2a)	Live a life of love, just as Christ loved us. (Ephesians 5:2a)
Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.... If we love one another, God lives in us. (1 John 4:11-12)	Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. (1 John 4:11)





Pearls from the Past by Don A. Sanford, historian

## How many sisters make a brotherhood?

*The Last Legacy of Joseph Davis*, edited by William Henry Black in 1869, provided the background for an article by Timothy Larsen subtitled "A Case Study in Gender and Ecclesiology in Early Nineteenth-Century English Dissent." In it, Larsen posed the question, "How many sisters make a brotherhood?"

Larsen noted that a wealthy linen draper named Joseph Davis had established a charitable trust to help support several Seventh Day Baptist churches in England. Davis was particularly interested in the Mill Yard SDB Church, which was named after the property on which it was built. This Trust became the major support of the pastor's salary at Mill Yard, and was to be managed by the church's Board of Trustees.

William Henry Black recorded the content of the will of Joseph Davis of Middlesex County, dated 5 May, 1706: "I give unto the poor of the Congregation meeting on the Sabbath Day, commonly called Saturday, in Mill Yard, ten pounds, or fifty shillings yearly, as my friends Peter Lawrence, John Savage, and the rest interested in Mill Yard, shall see convenient."<sup>1</sup>

In succeeding sections of his book, Black traced the changes in the trustees of the Mill Yard church as death took its toll. In what he termed "the Memorial to the Charity Commissioners dated 15 February 1855," he identified himself as a Memorialist, along with his wife, Harriot Slater Black.

Although Black pastored the Mill Yard congregation, they never permitted him to act as a trustee. All

documents and information touching on the affairs of the Trust were withheld from him, "even when required for the legitimate use of the Congregation, and for the purpose of history."

Black's wife was a descendant of Thomas Slater Sr., one of the original contributors to the building of the Meeting House, and also one of the first trustees appointed in 1700.

Davis' will specified that the qualifications of a trustee were, "such person only as agree in religious profession with the said Congregation, and enjoy its confidence." However, there had been no duly-qualified trustee since 1825.

That year, Harriot's cousin, Joseph Slater Jr. (son of her uncle Joseph), "having malice against his uncle and minister, her father, and out of opposition to the religious principles of the said Congregation, and with a view to the annoyance and detriment thereof, filed information against her said father, aunt, and mother as Realtor, forsook his Membership in the said Congregation, and conformed to the Church of England, nevertheless retaining his Trusteeship; and after his father's death, procured his own private friends to be appointed Trustees, not one of whom belonged to, or was known or friendly to the said Congregation, and who manifested the most bitter hostility to the said Congregation and its interests and kindred institutions, and have used every endeavor for many years past to discourage, annoy, subvert, and ruin the said Congregation and institutions, to which the said Estates were given and funded to maintain."

In his book, Black gives no account of any resolution of the conflict. But he does show some hope that "with a change in the Public Ad-

vocate of Charitable and Religious Foundations, they will no longer permit such a scandalous state of things to continue, in a free and enlightened country, but will boldly take the case into its own hands, at once."

By 1830, the Mill Yard church had dwindled to the point that all of its remaining members were women, who had no voting power. Therefore, the Board of Trustees, a self-perpetuating body, declared that the church had ceased to exist. They promptly appointed trustees who were unsympathetic to the church.

That small remnant of women protested the Board's action, declaring that they were, indeed, "a true church." All parties agreed to arbitration, taking the case to the General Body of Protestant Ministers, a ministerial society comprised basically of Independent, Baptist, and Presbyterian ministers who lived in or near London.

For several days in 1831, many of the prominent "Nonconformist" ministers sat in on judgment of this small, relatively obscure religious group, debating its theological legitimacy. They discussed the dissenting attitudes of the day concerning the relationship between gender and the very nature of the Christian Church.

It is doubtful if such an issue by such a small minority would have been considered by the Foundation if it had not been a battlefield for a larger theological question within the Church. The case turned on the question of whether or not the male gender was essential to the nature of a true church.

Josiah Condor argued that, by definition, a local church is a group consisting of "a competent number of visible saints" and that an entirely female group is inherently a collec-

cont. on page 25



## FOCUS New groups

on Missions

by Kirk Looper

### Bangladesh

Under the guidance of James Somar Chowdhury, a group of Seventh Day Baptists has organized in Bangladesh. They have been meeting for almost a year and are patiently awaiting materials to help guide them in their work, and into a better understanding of SDB polity and beliefs. We pray that they will be able to add more groups and eventually register with the government.

Mr. Chowdhury reports that 15 people attend church services at his house. There are 200 families in Dhaka City, so a church and a school building are badly needed. The poor people of Bangladesh have few educational opportunities. They also need money to hire laborers. These people converted from Hinduism and are willing to work with our group.

### Senegal

After Mr. Kwabena Opoku visited with relatives in Senegal, a church is meeting there also. Only a handful of people attend, but they are interested in seeing the church grow and are looking for support. They would like to use the CALLED program, which the Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education offers. This would teach their members how to lead those who join them later.

These SDBs are ambitious and are in the process of registering their church with the government. Led by Brother Johnson Agyare, they are surging ahead with determination. We pray that they will not be disappointed.

Some people in Senegal speak both English and French, but most speak only French, plus their native tongue. They hope that they can get SDB tracts translated into French and are working on translating *The Helping Hand* as well.

We continue to look for sources of French-language Bible studies and pray that we will be able to translate other materials. We hope that they will eventually have a computer to

**SDBs in Sierra Leone write that they are "growing rapidly" and need more supplies and funds to purchase a permanent building.**

help them translate, print, and publish their own work.

### Sierra Leone

Another group that organized because of Mr. Opoku's efforts is located in Freetown. They are currently trying to obtain land on which to build their meeting house. Their efforts to register have been slowed because of governmental requirements that they own a building and have a permanent address.

The government has indicated that the group needs at least 25 members, with an average attendance rate of 75 percent. During a nine-month probationary period, an official will visit

and observe their church's activities, then report back to his office.

This undertaking is led and promoted by Brother Isaac G.F. Kposowa. They write that they are "growing rapidly" and need more supplies and funds to purchase a permanent building. The cost of such a building is relatively high compared to surrounding countries.

They minister through a vocational school for the disabled, teaching sewing (tailoring) and other skills. Presently, they are trying to raise funds for sewing machines.

### Liberia

Liberia is a small country in western Africa that sits beside Sierra Leone and the Ivory Coast. The drive to organize SDB churches there has been an uphill battle.

In May, attacking rebels forced the General Secretary, Dr. Pah, and others out of the country. During the couple of weeks that they were under fire, many pastors were killed. Apparently, they continue to live under crisis conditions.

Presently, Dr. Pah is recuperating from a house fire that destroyed many of his possessions and hospitalized his daughter. They would appreciate funds to help pay their hospital expenses. **SR**



SDB church workers in Sierra Leone.



# the BEACON

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

## Youth Pre-Con 2002

by Eowyn Driscoll, in the *Crier*

*"Hear O Israel, Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength" (Deut. 6:5)*

This verse was the theme of the Youth Pre-Con 2002 Retreat led by Associate Pastors Steve ("Steve-O") Osborn of the Milton, Wis., SDB Church, and Nate Crandall of White Cloud, Mich.

The retreat was directed by the Lord, Who, through the work of these men and His presence at Camp Harley Sutton, brought many hearts to Christ, some for the first time.

God's power and grace could be felt throughout the camp from the very start, but especially on the final night when Pastor Nate gave the campers a chance to recommit their lives to Christ. Nate challenged the

campers to move forward in their Christian lives, and to return to Conference as better Christians. Pastor Steve reinforced this challenge with Bible studies on how to live better Christian lives.

One of the campers, Jessie Kandel, had a special experience:

"Many of us stood and acknowledged that Jesus is—and has been—our Savior, but now we wanted Him to be the Lord of our lives *all* of the time, not just when it's easy.

"The service ended with prayer, and most of the campers slowly headed up the hill for evening activities. I stayed in the chapel with a few others who were praying and crying.

"Katie (Neu) and I walked back to the altar and knelt before it. With our heads bowed before the cross, we felt God's grace pour down on us, and we

realized that God wanted to forgive us. Suddenly, we both felt the peace of forgiveness. As we walked back up the hill—back into the world—we were ready to face any obstacles to Christian living."

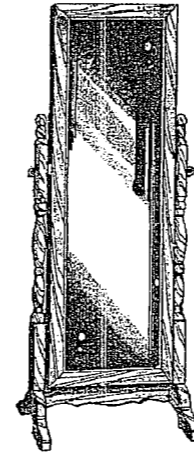
When the campers weren't lifting their souls to the Lord in worship, they were running around like madmen. They enjoyed a multitude of activities, ranging from Ultimate Frisbee to crazy campfire games like "Ride the Rhythm" and a sign language game called, "Who Has?" Two of the highlights of this year were slip-and-sliding in the rain, and a game new to most campers, "Persecution."

Other activities included a trip to Stony Brook Park, where we enjoyed a hike through waterfall-filled terrain and swimming in an icy river. We also made up skits to represent those values we thought most important in a relationship with God. Later, we presented some of these skits during Conference at the Youth Morning Worship Service.

God moved through the Pre-Connors' hearts, minds, and souls, giving them strength in the short time they had together at Camp Harley Sutton. As Conference continued, they asked attendees to remember to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength." **SR**



The Youth Pre-Con skit at Conference.



## 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*

## Birthday blessings (mixed)

old. I've always had trouble accepting the fact that "my earthly tent" is collapsing a little each day—and has been since birth. To some extent, I can *slow* the aging process by healthy eating and exercise, but I can't avoid the inevitable.

When I think about aging, I also think about death, and how it's no respecter of age.

My husband died when he was 38. Our children were still young, so I made out a will, bought extra life insurance, and arranged for guardians in case God called me "home," too.

For years after Denny's death, I asked God to allow me to live, at least until our children made it through those difficult childhood and teenage years. (Some days I felt like shouting, "God, take me right now!")

It wasn't easy being a single parent, but God honored my prayers. One of the great joys of my life has been to see my children grow into responsible young adults.

My cancer diagnosis three years ago also led me to think a little more about death.

Soon after my surgery, I asked God to allow me to see

my grandchildren grow up. Now I've added, "And it sure would be nice to be at my grandchildren's weddings." (I can almost hear God sigh every time I tack that onto my prayers.)

Pastor Herb Saunders once said, "Most people who say they're afraid of death are actually afraid of *how* they'll die." I think that's true. We worry more about the "process" of dying rather than the inevitability of it. (Okay,.... so I sometimes worry about both!)

It may sound strange, but my cancer encounter has been a blessing. I don't worry about death like I used to. ("Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?"—Matt. 6:27).

As this "old bod" fails, I revel in God's promise of a new body. "... The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable;... it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body" (1 Cor. 15:42-44).

Because of sin, Man will continue to age and die. But because of Christ's sacrifice, death is simply the doorway to a *new* life—a life so grand that it's beyond our imagining. **SR**

2002 has been a "banner year" for birthdays in our family: my daughter turned 30, a sister-in-law turned 40, a brother-in-law turned 50, my brother turned 60, my mother-in-law turned 80, and my dad turned 90.

I've always had mixed feelings about birthdays.

On the plus-side, they conjure up fond memories of earlier birthday celebrations with loved ones. Birthdays often mean that we're another year wiser, and more mature. If nothing else, birthdays confirm that we've been blessed with yet another year of life on God's precious planet.

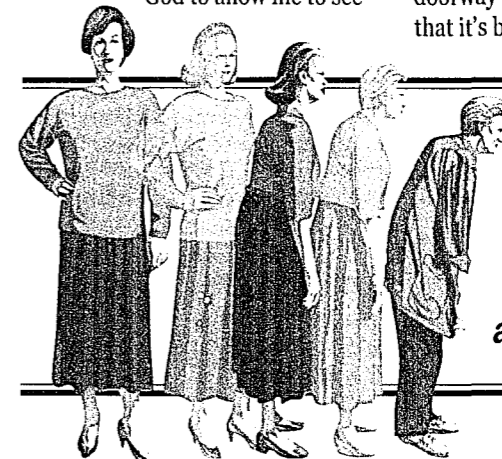
But then that pesky dark cloud of negativity appears.

With each birthday, I notice more gray hairs, more wrinkles, more aches and pains. Age spots are starting to appear on my hands, which look more like my mother's every day. It especially bothers me that my mind is becoming "slower." (To match my walk, no doubt.)

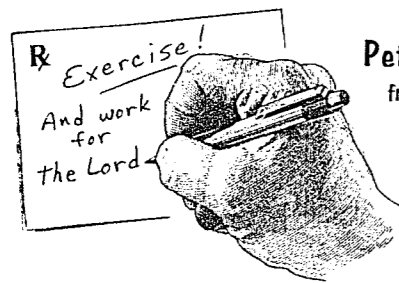
The Bible brims with encouraging words about aging:

- "Gray hair is a crown of splendor; it is attained by a righteous life" (Proverbs 16:31).
- "They [the righteous] will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green..." (Psalm 92:14).
- "Even to your old age and gray hairs..., I am he who will sustain you...." (Isaiah 46:4).

In spite of those verses, I still struggle with the concept of growing



**With each birthday, I notice more gray hairs, more wrinkles, more aches and pains.**



## Pete's Prescriptions

from Dr. Pete May,  
Executive Secretary

# Excellency in God's timing and works

From Ecclesiastes 3: "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven."

**A time to be born:** Our boys think it made a lot of difference if they were born first, middle, or last in our family. They also knew they were all loved greatly and unequivocally.

**A time to die:** We feel for friends and family who are afraid and fear death because they do not know the Lord.

**A time to kill:** Being a non-hunter, I feel that there is never a time to kill, except maybe for our friend who brought home 60 frog legs for his wife to cook.

**A time to heal:** Patients are so appreciative of a gall bladder operation, or when migraines are stopped for awhile. Can we use this "healing" in our churches?

So many misunderstandings, egos, and doctrines (some Christian and some not) get tied up in church politics and in the community. We have churches in our denomination which must heal. Sometimes the group must break down, forgive, and then build up again. This same scenario is repeated in our homes and families.

**A time to weep and a time to laugh:** The older we get, the more we know when to weep and laugh—not *at* others, but *with* others. There are so many incidents that we have caused and not fixed.

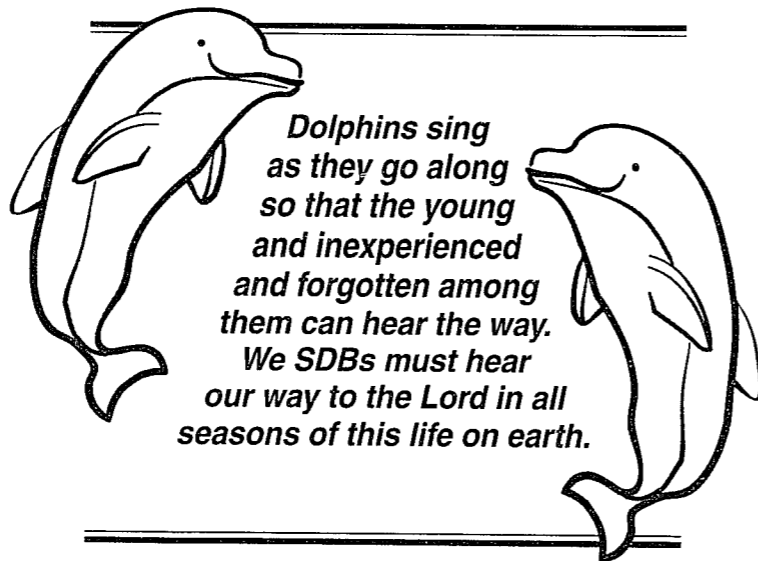
**A time to mourn and a time to dance:** Many people spend too much time during their brief lives mourning a loss or mistake. The brave survivors and firefighters of

9/11 are trying to dance, as David did, and look to our Lord.

**A time to cast away stones:** Our denomination does not dictate to the churches. Instead, it prays and hopes that the separated stones can see their way to love and understand others. This way, we build a wall, not to keep others out, but with a gate

unless "Someone does us SDBs wrong." As humans, our mouths too often work more than our brains. But we must protect our SDB heritage and beliefs, as an eagle would guard its young.

**A time to love and a time of peace:** We do not want hate and war. I look to a 2020 VISION



that is open to old and new Sabbath believers.

**A time to get and a time to lose:** Our churches and pastors need to emphasize getting new people into our fellowship in a hospital setting. Thousands of lonely people stare at their computers 10 to 12 hours a day. We all know people who need God's help and direction in their lives. These are the ones we should take into our churches.

**A time to keep silent and a time to speak:** Silence is golden

of love and peace among old and many new SDBs.

Dolphins swim together in the ocean, I think knowing of the seasons. These creatures know right from wrong in fishing, mating, healing, and helping. They sing as they go along so that the young and inexperienced and forgotten among them can hear the way.

We SDBs must hear our way to the Lord in all seasons of this life on earth. **SR**

## A tale of four Aussie churches

(Reprinted from *The Conference Crier*)

There were four wee Seventh Day Baptist churches in "the land Down Under." They were strong in Christ and loved the Lord. They were happy little churches except for one thing: How to spread the Gospel to the youth? What to do? What to do? Think, think. Pray, pray...

Inspiration! Isn't there a young adult training program on the North American continent called SCSC? What *is* SCSC?

SCSC is Summer Christian Service Corps, a program of intensive training that prepares young people to be servants of the Lord. Sounds just like what would be needed down under! Would our brothers and sisters in the North American SDB Conference be willing to help us?

Oh joy, oh joy! They are *very* willing to help us. They say, "Yes!" They are willing to help us train young Aussie adults in the U.S. so that they, too, may start an SCSC-type program over here. Yippee!

Would an exchange program be possible?...

Well folks, what has happened since then?

In the summer of 2001, the churches in Australia raised enough money to send Karl Rudd to Daytona Beach, Fla., for SCSC training. He participated in SCSC that summer, completing his project in Milton, Wis. All parties involved were delighted to work with Karl, and he was equally delighted to take part in SCSC.

This year, the Australian churches managed to raise the



Karl Rudd shared his Sabbath testimony at General Conference.

money to send *two* young adults into SCSC. These same churches also encouraged Peter Kube and Karl to attend Conference in Houghton, N.Y. Karl and Peter will work with the rest of our core SCSC Committee (Donnah Ciemka, and Pastors Gabriel Alegre, Andrew Goulding, and Marlo Siolo) in developing an Australian SCSC-type program.

The round-trip tickets for the our Australians cost approximately \$2,400 per person, plus Conference registration fees. These Australian churches have undertaken an awesome commitment, especially since they have small congregations made up of people of modest means. They are an inspiration in their continuing commitment to train their young adults and spread the Gospel among the youth. They certainly are looking to the future.

SDBs in North America now have a wonderful opportunity to help spread the Gospel in Australia by sending two mission-minded veteran SCSCers to Australia this coming January. These two young people,

who would help set up an SCSC program in Australia, will have to provide money for airfare and personal items.

The Women's Board, Memorial Fund, and other Conference funds are not underwriting this project. Instead, financial support will have to come from your donations, and the money other SCSCers raise to help cover these costs. The host churches in Australia will provide room and board.

Can we show Australia that we in the General Conference of U.S.A. and Canada are also committed to spreading the Word of God and helping our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ? Surely, with all of the churches and SDBs we have in North America, enough money can be raised to send Australia the help they need.

You may send donations to:  
The SDB Women's Society  
c/o Enid Nobles, Treasurer  
9 Little Pond Trail  
Ormond Beach, FL 32174

Please make checks payable to the Seventh Day Baptist Women's Board, designated to "SCSCers to Australia." **SR**

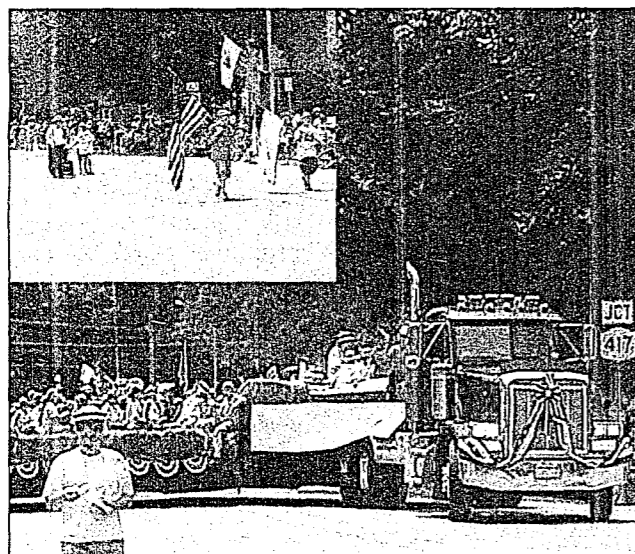


## Church shows patriotism

by Heather Rao

The Vacation Bible School (VBS) of the Alfred Station, N.Y., SDB Church entered a float in the Andover Fourth of July parade.

Many children from the VBS Program—Gospel Light's "SonCanyon River"—participated in the celebration. As they traveled down the parade route, the 5th and 6th grade class handed out candy, along with church business cards.



Alfred Station, N.Y., VBS students help America celebrate its July Fourth birthday.

The children, ranging in age from Pre-K through 6th grade, behaved well in spite of arriving at the parade's holding area two and a half hours early. Everyone held a flag and wore a patriotic sailor hat to help ring in the holiday.

After the parade, the children went to Pastor Ken and Peggy Chroniger's house for a picnic. Everyone had loads of fun! **SR**

## Couple surprised for 50th

On June 15, 2002, members of Hope SDB Church of Philadelphia, Pa., surprised Fred and Virginia Ayars with a 50th Wedding Anniversary celebration. The event took the place of the regular worship service.

Pastor Cormeth Lawrence was the officiating minister, and Pastor Kenroy Cruickshank gave the invocation. The Ayars' daughter, Christine Sias of Salem, W.Va., joined Pastor Selvin Findlater in paying

tribute to the couple. Others in the congregation also offered gracious remarks.

Carissa Lawrence and her mother, Lois Lawrence, provided music. Fred and Virginia, who serve the church as a deacon and deaconess, reaffirmed their wedding vows during the gathering. Those in attendance deemed it "a beautiful and heartfelt celebration."

—Rolleesa Phillips

## A Golden celebration



Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Hays

On June 20, 2002, friends and family members gathered at a local cafe in Chatawa, Miss., for a dinner party honoring Rev. and Mrs. Ralph Hays on their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

Ralph and Mary were married in Poplarville, Miss. Although Ralph had been preaching for some time, he was preparing to enter the ministry when they wed.

Over the years, Ralph has served Seventh Day Baptist churches in Metairie, La.; Adams Center, N.Y.; and Texarkana, Ark. He's retired now, but the church in Chatawa—Sunshine Mountain—still considers him their pastor.

Since returning to Mississippi in 1976, Ralph has been ministering to the mentally and physically handicapped at Sunshine Mountain Home, a facility that he established to care for his wife and other impaired individuals.

Ralph Jr. is a deacon in the Milton, Wis., SDB Church, and daughter Sally works and lives in Ft. Worth, Texas.

—Linda Hays

## Hope SDB Church celebrates anniversary

by Rolleesa Phillips

On July 6, 2002, the Hope SDB Church of Philadelphia, Pa., celebrated 20 years of service to the Lord in the Delaware Valley.

Rev. Kenroy Cruickshank welcomed members and visitors, and then introduced the master of ceremonies, Pastor Harold Smith. Pastor Smith noted that he had brought most of the congregation of the New York City SDB Church with him to witness the occasion.

Members from the New York church presented a musical selection. The Hope church also contributed to the singing, with Sister Lois Lawrence, the Hope Singers, and the J.O.L. group adding much to the service.

Deaconess Virginia Ayars read her poem, "We Wanted a Church."

It traced the church's journey from a storefront in Ambler, to a one-room mission in North Hills, to a rented church in Chestnut Hill, to the pres-

### The Hope SDB Church of Philadelphia, Pa., celebrated 20 years of service to the Lord in the Delaware Valley.

ent building in the Mt. Airy section of Philadelphia.

Her husband, Deacon Fred Ayars, read excerpts from a church history compiled for its 10th anniversary.

Sisters Rolli Phillips, Maulene Cruickshank, and Olga Bennett presented some of their church memories. Brother Rick Gaskin and Pastors Cruickshank, Cormeth Lawrence, and Selvin Findlater also joined in the reminiscing. Church members and guests shared comments and words of encouragement.

Brother Bill Brooks gave the "interactive" 20th Anniversary message, and recognized the six members present who were among the 11 charter members at the church's 1982 organization service in Ambler.

The hymn, "Amazing Grace," aptly closed the service. A prayer of thanks followed, acknowledging God's grace in blessing the church the past 20 years, and requesting His continued guidance in the years to come. **SR**

## New England Yearly Meeting annual picnic overflows

by David Taylor

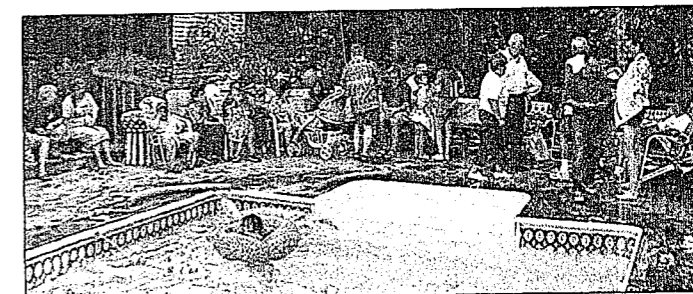
On Sunday, July 21, 2002, over 60 adults and children gathered at the home of Charlie and Marilyn Greene in Hopkinton, R.I., for the annual New England Yearly Meeting picnic. People attended from our churches in Rockville and Ashaway, R.I.; and Middletown, Pawcatuck, and Waterford, Conn.

Attendees spent the afternoon fellowshiping, swimming, and pitching horseshoes. They brought a plethora of picnic fare to share at the evening meal. The overflow crowd required additional seating. Howard McAuliffe, Bob Gordon, Scott Smith, and Charlie Greene were seen moving a heavy picnic table closer to the deck.

During the festivities, Pastor Leon Lawton baptized Dennis and Patricia Sousa of the Rockville church. **SR**



At left: Leon Lawton (in white shirt) performs a baptism at the annual picnic. Below: Food, fun, and fellowship around the pool.



## Births

**Burdick.**—A daughter, Kelsey Renée Burdick, was born to Ian and René Burdick of Frisco, TX, on February 20, 2002.

**Krejci.**—A daughter, Katelin Elizabeth Krejci, was born to Michael and Maria (Long) Krejci of Las Vegas, NV, on June 22, 2002.

**Cargill.**—A son, Trevor Reese Cargill, was born to Gale and Angie (Bremerman) Cargill of Scotia, NE, on June 23, 2002.

**Rao.**—A daughter, Eden Lynn Rao, was born to Dan and Heather (Chroniger) Rao of Almond, NY, on August 2, 2002.

## New members

**Vision Fellowship  
Pawcatuck, CT**  
*David Taylor, pastor*  
Joined after testimony

Cheryl Bowyer  
Israel Bowyer  
Maryanne Bowyer  
Matthew Fallon  
Dawn LaFrance  
Dina Mills  
Walter F. Mills  
Etienne Samuel  
Connie Tassias  
David Tassias  
Duane B. Taylor  
Desiree J. Taylor

Joined by letter

Gary Chester  
Lori Havens  
Marcia Hays  
William Hays II  
Susan Lamphere  
Cassandra Nadine Lawton

Jeffrey Lawton  
Anne Mills  
Barbara Nugent  
Honor S. Owens  
Robert E. Owens  
Elizabeth C. Stillman  
David L. Taylor  
Margaret F. Taylor  
Florence Thorp  
Elsie White

**White Cloud, MI**  
*Bernie Wethington, pastor*  
Joined after testimony  
Linda Vining

**Milton, WI**  
*George Calhoun, pastor*  
Joined after testimony  
Patrick Hamm  
Brenda Hamm  
Joseph Vrydaghs  
Kathy Vrydaghs

### Moving soon?

Please let us know of your change of address. It costs us money every time an issue is returned to us, and sometimes we get several issues a day! Help us be good stewards by sending us your proper address.

**The Sabbath Recorder**  
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sdbmedia@inwave.com

## 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.

People interested in attending as observers should contact Rev. Dale Thorngate, SDBWF Executive Secretary, for additional information: 171 E. Main St., Salem WV 26426 USA. Phone: (304) 782-1727; FAX: (304) 782-4792; E-mail: sdbwf@aol.com

### How many sisters? *cont. from page 16*

tion of saints of the incompetent variety. He also defined a visible church "as one that had enough people to have a proper fight, and when looked in this light, it was quite clear why men were essential."

The statement of Joseph Davis, who had given the endowment which fueled the division, was used in rebuttal:

"It hath been my professed faith according to the Word, near sixty years; that when Persons, Men or Women, or young Persons, do give themselves up upon the Lord and to each other... with the Sacraments of Baptism with Water, and the Lord's Supper, properly administered: They are the Lord Christ's Church, and it is their duty to choose from among

themselves such, as according to the Word are most fitly Qualified for such Officers; which Offices, are not by the Patron, to be thrust upon them without their free Choice; but the whole Church is solemnly to wait upon God... depending upon the Spirit's Help and Direction, in the Choice."

The case ended with a split decision. Eleven of the ministers voted that the Mill Yard group was not a church, but 19 voted that it was. The feelings of the majority having been expressed, the ministers agreed unanimously that the seven women were "a true church."

Note: Quoting from *Seventh Day Baptists in Europe and America*,

Timothy Larsen wrote, "...that a compilation of biographical sketches of Seventh Day Baptists not only predictably had an entry on William Slater, but none on Elizabeth (who in her own time and way was surely also a leader of the congregation), but even manages to credit him with having seven children without acknowledging her assistance—or even her existence."<sup>2</sup> SR

*'This quote and others, unless otherwise noted, are taken from William Henry Black's book, "The Last Legacy... of Joseph Davis," London, 1880.*

<sup>2</sup>SDBs in Europe and America, Vol. I, p. 92.

## Thorngate to teach at Baylor

The Council on Ministry is happy to announce that Rev. Dr. Dale D. Thorngate, pastor of the SDB church in Salem, W.Va., has accepted a position of Scholar in Residence at Baylor University's Program in Baptist Studies. Pastor Thorngate's designation as Visiting Fellow for the fall of 2002 was recently confirmed by Dr. William Brackney, Chairman of the University's Department of Religion.

"I am personally honored by this appointment," Thorngate says, "but I am more excited about the opportunity it provides for Seventh Day Baptists to be better known in the Baptist community." During his month at Baylor in Waco, Texas, Thorngate will have opportunity to lecture in classes of three to six different courses on the distinction of Seventh Day Baptist thought, particularly with respect to the Sabbath.

Baylor University's Program in Baptist Studies provides opportunities for "instruction, research, dialogue and cooperation, dissemination, and publication of scholarship

relating to the people called Baptists worldwide." It is an interdisciplinary area of study for M.A. and Ph.D. candidates in the Department of Religion.

The Scholar in Residence program brings individual guests to campus either to contribute lectures or conduct research on a specific project of value to the academy or the church. The program includes annual symposia on topics of interest to the Baptist community and those who interact with Baptists.

Rev. Gabriel Bejjani, executive for the SDB Council on Ministry, notes that this is not the first connection between Seventh Day Baptists and Baylor. Dr. Brackney was a featured speaker at our Pastors' Conference last spring in Alfred Station, N.Y., and he is also an advisor to Rev. Kenneth Chroniger as he pursues his Doctor of Ministry degree at McMaster University in Ontario, Canada, where Dr. Brackney also teaches. Our historian, Don A. Sanford, serves on the committee

which has been developing the website, *Baptist Heritage.com*, administered at Baylor as part of the Baptist Studies Program. The site includes numerous references to SDB distinctives and resources along with those of other Baptist groups.

While he is at Baylor, Dr. Thorngate will also continue his research on "The Intentional Christian Family and How the Congregation Can Support It," a project begun during his six-month sabbatical granted by the Salem church in 2001.

"The Baylor visit is really an outgrowth of the sabbatical work," Thorngate says. "I am grateful to the Salem church for the opportunity to develop this study booklet on the Intentional Christian Family, but neither they nor I had envisioned how it would develop into this new opportunity for Seventh Day Baptist visibility. I am grateful once again for the church's willingness to grant the necessary leave of absence, and also for the Council on Ministry's assistance with travel funds." SR

Life's relay for Righteousness, cont. from page 12

She thought salvation came through the Law, rather than through faith.

Rom. 10:4 says, "Christ is the end of the law with reference to righteousness to everyone who believes." Notice the words *with reference to righteousness*. Again, we have the same idea: Israel was trying to pursue the Law in order to gain a right-standing with God. However, Christ, by His death, fulfilled the Law so that we can have eternal life by faith and not by keeping the Law.

Romans 9:32 further confirms that Israel's failure to achieve righteousness is because she attempted to achieve it by her works. Notice the terse reply to why Israel missed the mark: "They did not pursue it by faith, but as though it were by works."

The reformer Martin Luther, in his famous *Commentary on Romans*, said, "The goal [righteousness] which they [the Jews] seek is correct; but the way is wrong by which they endeavor to reach the goal."

Israel was defeated because she did not pursue righteousness by faith through Christ. But the Gentiles, by *not* pursuing it, received God's righteousness.

The idea that Israel wrongly pursued the Law in order to gain salvation is taken up especially in Rom. 10:5-7. Verse 6 says, *But the righteousness based on faith speaks thus, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' (that is, to bring Christ down), or 'Who will descend into the abyss?' (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead)."*

In other words, salvation does not come by prompting God to act on one's behalf. It is denying the claim of the pagan nations that the gods are passive and must be awakened and persuaded to act.

Consider how the prophets of Baal made an uproar in hopes of persuading their gods to rain fire down from heaven and consume their sacrifice. Elijah simply prayed to God.

In contrast to the pagan notion of human merit, no one can prompt God's grace to save them. God alone bestows His grace upon the sinner and graciously saves the lost. Men and women cannot manipulate God and cause Him to save them by ascending to heaven or going down

of offense." The Rock was none other than Jesus Christ, for the next line says that "He who believes in Him will not be put to shame."

Israel was put to shame because she stumbled over the Kings of Kings, her Maker and her God. She lost the race for righteousness because she

**Men and women cannot manipulate God and cause Him to save them by ascending to heaven or going down into the abyss. No work, however magnificent, can merit salvation.**

into the abyss. No work, however magnificent, can merit salvation.

Israel, running with its long flowing garments of works, did not score well in the first leg of the relay.

**Second leg of Israel's defeat**  
*They stumbled over Christ.*

During the first leg of the 4 x 400 relay, Israel imagined that, by some great work, it could run a perfect race and achieve victory by keeping the Law perfectly. Judging from its poor performance thus far, to beat the world record time of two minutes and 55.74 seconds, she would have to run the last three legs in less than .74 of a second. The pressure is on, and we see how poorly Israel ran under pressure (Rom. 9:32b-33):

"They stumbled over the stumbling stone, just as it is written, 'Behold, I lay in Zion a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense, and he who believes in Him will not be put to shame'" (Cf., Isa. 8:14; 28:16).

Israel strove so hard to win that she stumbled and fell. What did Israel fall over? Rom. 9:33 calls it a "stone of stumbling and a rock

refused to trust Christ. Placing her confidence in Jewish pride and works, extending the tassels of her garments, refusing to dress appropriately for the occasion, Israel stumbled over the tassels of her garments of good works.

Because of her predicament, Israel should have called it quits. She should have wept over her sins and turned to Christ as that point in her history. Instead, she launched a campaign to kill the very One who could have given Israel life.

Stiff-necked Israel, like a horse that had fallen and injured its neck, did not turn to Christ; she just kept on the same course of despondency. Pulling herself up by the tassels of her garments, Israel, with stiff neck and broken hips, slowly passes the baton to the next runner.

*Next month, the third and fourth legs of the race. SR*

*Dennis Palmer, formerly of San José, Calif., is the new pastor of the Evangelical SDB Church of Lake Elsinore, Calif. He began his ministry there on August 31.*

# KEVIN'S

## ORNER

### What did that stone mean?

It was a Monday morning in early July. The pre-Conference crush was about to bare its teeth in earnest; three weeks and counting before I was to head east to visit family and attend General Council meetings.

During a phone call, I remember "changing ears" with the receiver when a strange feeling hit the right side of my face. The pain started in my jaw and quickly traveled all the way to my ear.

I managed to force down a little food for lunch, then checked my sick days list. This would make only the second half-day all year that I would miss, so I headed home to rest. The pain persisted so we set up a doctor's appointment, thinking it might be an ear infection.

My ear, throat, and nasal passages looked fine, and the pain seemed bearable as the day went on.

After a fairly good night's sleep, Tuesday morning began as usual. But as I reached the office, the pain returned "big time." Let's just say I experienced areas of physical discomfort that I had not lived through in about a decade.

An afternoon visit to a specialist, and a subsequent CAT scan that evening, revealed a stone—like those found in a kidney or gall bladder—lodged in a salivary duct under my tongue. What?? I'd never heard of such a thing! But there it was, blocking my normal salivation process.

Scheduling conflicts with the doctor (his wife was having back surgery) caused me to endure this intruder until the following Tuesday morning. During the interim, I could eat some soft food, and then only if I was lying on my side.

The procedure (finally!) to remove the stone was successful. I will spare the details. The culprit beneath my tongue was the size of a small pea, bumpy and ugly; the doc said that they're usually smooth and sesame seed-sized. I told him that I've always been an over-achiever...

So, borrowing from the president's Conference theme, "What did this stone mean?" (Sorry, Gordon.)

Didn't the Lord realize that I still had a lot of work to do? Didn't He know that the Tract Council skit had to be finalized and the Powerpoint presentation prepared? Didn't He think ahead to how inconvenient it would be to hammer out the script on a laptop while lying in bed?

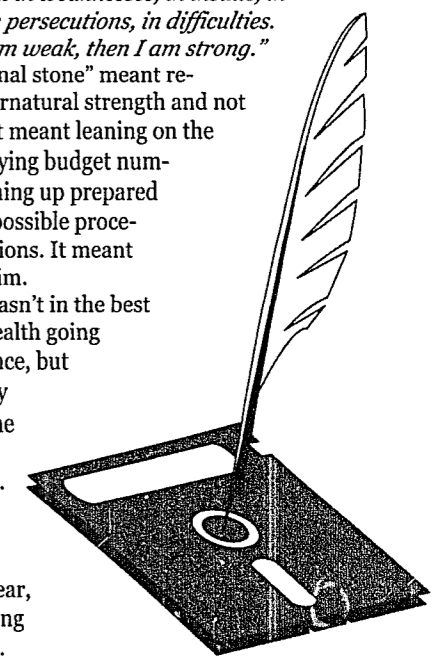
Doesn't He know the demands of Conference and how I needed to be healthy and rested going into it?

What did that stone mean? It meant slowing down and listening to the Lord. It meant depending on my Core Committee to brainstorm and be creative with the rough draft of the program. It meant taking to heart the message that Pastor Steve James shared in Verona, N.Y., the Sabbath before General Council. His text was 2 Corinthians 12. Quoting from verses 9-12:

*"But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong."*

My "personal stone" meant relying on supernatural strength and not a quick wit. It meant leaning on the Lord vs. studying budget numbers or polishing up prepared remarks for possible procedural discussions. It meant trusting in Him.

Maybe I wasn't in the best of physical health going into Conference, but I pray that my spiritual frame of reference was on target. I just hope that I can remember this lesson next year, without reliving all the details.





*Friday was a gorgeous day for a picnic!*



*Our youngest (ever?) attendee. Eden Lynn Rao was born on the Friday before Conference and registered with hundreds of others on Sunday! Congrats to parents Dan and Heather Chroniger Rao of Alfred Station, N.Y.*



*Lambert Lynch and George Lyons debate over who has to buy the next round of free fruit punch.*



*Our future in motion.*