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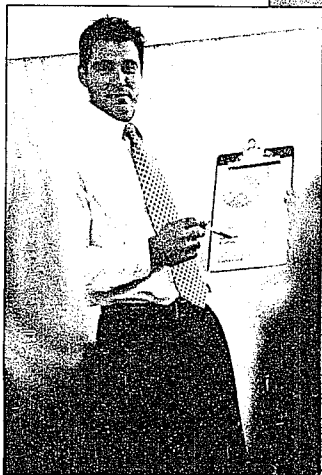
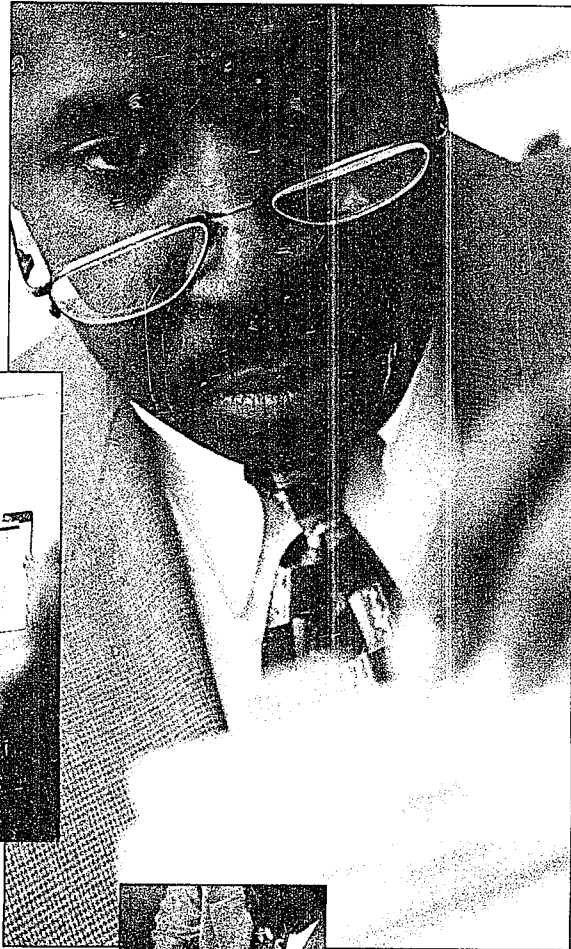
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*News for and about
Seventh Day Baptists*

November 2003

R

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In Christ—
at work



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 Christ Jesus.
- 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 our Lord. 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

Young Adult Retreat

Dec. 28, 2003 – Jan. 2, 2004

Camp Wakonda,
Milton, Wis.
(Registration form on p. 12)

Please give generously to
the **SDB United Relief Fund**
(More info on the back cover)

SDB Church web album

John Conrod, Denver, Colo., is collecting pictures of SDB churches for his web album. Check out <http://jconrod.tripod.com/sdbalbum.htm> and see if your church is posted.

SCSC Application

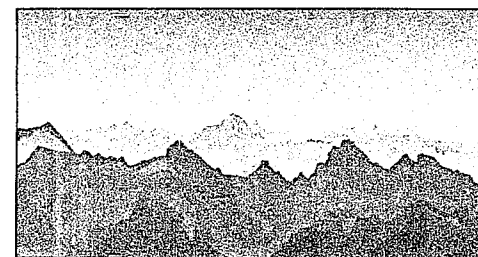
Deadline is now *January 15, 2004*

Are you willing to serve with next year's Summer Christian Service Corps? Contact Grace Crouch for an application at succotash95@bakpaka.net

Send the application postmarked by 1/15 to:
SCSC Committee
139-141 First Avenue
Daytona Beach, FL 32114

Head for the Hills!

2004 Conference site
changed to West Virginia



Due to the addition of a major sporting event taking place during our scheduled Conference week in 2004, we have had to cancel our tentative agreement with Kalamazoo (Mich.) College. The already sparse parking spaces on campus would be more severely limited.

Hoping to keep Conference in the same area, we approached Hope College in Holland, Mich., but unfortunately our desired dates were not available.

Thus, we are moving up the following year's site, and the 2004 General Conference (August 1-7) will be held at **West Virginia Wesleyan College** in Buckhannon, W.Va.

We apologize for the inconveniences resulting from this change, but the General Council felt that making the switch at this time would spare us from more inconveniences if we tried to share the Kalamazoo campus with a great influx of people and vehicles halfway through our Conference week.

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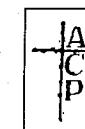


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Learning to trust God

by Robert Bruce

This testimony was shared at General Conference in August.

When Conference President George Cruzan first asked me to speak, my initial thought was to turn him down. But when I went to church that week, Pastor Jerry Vaught gave a sermon that convinced me that I should say "yes."

I thought maybe Jerry knew that I had been asked to speak and was sending a pointed message. After checking with my wife, who types the church bulletins, I found that this sermon had been planned for a long time. Jerry hadn't given it "just for me."

God wants me to share, so I will. I'm not a preacher, or even a person who likes to speak in front of people. My name isn't important, but my story is.

I will not be able to tell you all that went on, nor can I share totally the emotional roller coaster I encountered. But I hope to give you a feel for both my anguish and my overflowing joy.

The path to "trust"

In John 14, the apostles learned about the pending fate of our Lord. He said, "Trust God."

I was raised a Sabbathkeeper, but during my teen and young adult years, I wasn't even a practicing Christian. Joining the Army after high school, I knew four years later that I needed out. I had thought about God from time to time, and was beginning to realize that something was missing in my life.

Here I was with a good wife and a wonderful newborn baby. Getting out of the Army and starting a new life was not going to be easy.

I couldn't make it without a job. I knew from my upbringing that when you need help, ask God. So I did. I came to Oregon three months

Why would God give me a job that would cause me to violate His law?

before I got out of the Army and looked for work. This was during the late '70s, and many people said there was nothing to be found and I should stay in the Army. But, with God's help, I succeeded.

Plenty of work

When I first started my job, the plant was running plenty of overtime, 10 hours a day, six days a week. I worked every Saturday from June to November. I was able to buy all that my family needed, plus put money in the bank. We were accustomed to Army pay, so I figured this just *had* to be an answer to prayer. I never gave a thought about working on Sabbath.

Through different events in my life, I began to feel a calling from the Lord. I thought that getting rid of this "Sabbath thing" should be my first objective.

I was required to work Saturdays in a job I was sure God had given me. After talking to other ministers in different denominations and hearing their reasons for not keeping the Sabbath, I was even *more* convinced of the Sabbath! Their excuses were just empty.

A new foundation

About this time, my parents found a church that they were excited about—the Portland (Ore.) Area

Seventh Day Baptist Church. We went for a visit and knew right away that we had found a home.

I didn't have a good understanding of the Bible. Just the same, the church loved me and had patience with me. I began to grow. A few years later, I was baptized.

During this time, one question was always on my mind: "How do I keep the Sabbath?" I didn't want to be legalistic or a hypocrite. Yet, I still wanted to find a way out. The church tried to help by holding special Bible studies, but I just couldn't find the answers.

At work, I would go through some real challenging times. Every summer I would have to work Saturdays. Inside, I knew it was wrong. But I still couldn't get a handle on how to deal with it.

While I worked the Saturdays, I would discuss it with God. I wanted God—Who could do anything—to just fix it. One time, I was so upset that I asked God to hurt me so I couldn't work. And God obliged.

The problem was, I had the same doubts and the same problems the next week. I continued to question the Sabbath and whether or not to work on it. The closer I got to the answer, the harder it became.

I would call in sick and find someone to take my place. Sometimes I would get real brave and say it's my belief, only to back down later. My friends didn't care about the Sabbath, so they would help when they could by working in my place. This went on for quite a while.

The "war" gets worse

My dad told me that God will always give you a way out, but I was getting tired of waiting. Several more years passed. I kept growing in other

parts of my spiritual walk, but I just couldn't get a handle on the Sabbath.

At this point, the "war" got worse.

When I called in sick, I would feel guilty for lying and causing someone else to work on God's Holy Day. When I asked a worker to take my place, I was asking them to violate God's law.

No matter what I did, I felt awful. I was making the Sabbath a burden. The only time it felt right was when I stood up and said I wasn't going to work on Saturday because of my beliefs. But that got me written up for breaking attendance rules which threatened my job.

I was getting nowhere because I kept coming back to the same question: Why would God give me a job that would cause me to violate His law?

Supervisors would take verbal jabs, and even some of my supposed "friends" began saying hurtful things.

A new pastor

During this time, Jerry Vaught became pastor of the Portland church. He led me through example and was convicting me of the truth. I still tried to justify my actions, saying that I was being a good witness "because I was so concerned about doing God's will." But that wasn't the case. I was strengthening the charge that I was making the Sabbath a burden.

People at the company said things like, "You're just trying to get out of work." They accused me of really not caring about the Sabbath and questioned how this could be from a God of love. The war became very personal.

Time passed, and the problems continued.

At one point, my boss—who was a Christian—thought he would show

me that my beliefs were wrong and that I should give it up. All of that only caused me more frustration. The harassment at the plant grew. Supervisors would take verbal jabs, and even some of my supposed "friends" began saying hurtful things.

The company started to go out of its way to make it harder for me to get people to take my place. I tried to do what I thought was right, but *what* was right?

Getting closer to God

As the struggle went on, I seemed to be getting closer to God. I wanted to be a good Christian, a good employee, and a good example for my family. How could losing my job help me reach these goals?

Then I injured my back for the third time. (This time it wasn't a prayer request.) The doctor told me that I had ruptured a disk and probably wouldn't be able to return to my type of work. This later turned out to be untrue.

But that's when I figured it out: I could continue to try to save my job by ignoring what God had asked of me, and in a moment, the job could be gone!

Taking a stand

By now, I was gaining a great relationship with the Lord. I had accepted the gift of forgiveness. It was time



Bob Bruce testifies to his long path to trusting God.

to do what I knew I had to do: I had to trust God.

God did not want me to work on His Sabbath day for my earthly gain. I informed the company that I would no longer work on Saturday, and if they needed to fire me, so be it.

I went home and explained to my wife what I had done. With her blessing, I started trusting God. I was

I informed the company that I would no longer work on Saturday, and if they needed to fire me, so be it.

very concerned, thinking about what could happen to my family. But I was also sure God would provide.

I never really felt comfortable until I realized that trusting God did not mean that He would make things better the way *I* thought they should be, but better in the way *He* wanted them to be. I was just beginning to learn what trust meant.

I wasn't going to work on the Sabbath, even if it cost me my job. That's not to say that I still didn't have moments of fear; after all, this is my family we're talking about!

The attendance policy was beginning to catch up with me. I had received Letters of Discipline, which could lead to my termination.

About this time, the company hired a new employee who was a Christian. As I shared my story, he told me of an organization—the A.C.L.J. (American Center for Law and Justice). He felt that they could help me and suggested I call them. I decided that I should fight for my job and see what happens.

I contacted the group, and they sent me a book on Christian rights in the workplace. They also offered advice on how to proceed and wrote a letter to my company, ex-

plaining my Constitutional rights. For many years, I had served as the plant union "rep." I like to serve people. It was now their time to help me.

I filed a grievance on religious discrimination. I wasn't asking God to do this for me; I was asking God to lead. And blessings began to happen. I had opportunities to share the Word with others, and now I was showing the hope that a Christian should have.

As time goes by

Two years went by after filing the grievance. It was taking too long. I was heading for a job termination

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and no one, except myself, seemed worried. I was "sort of" trusting God, but I still was concerned and tired of all the uncertainty.

I continued to be as good of an employee as I could. When the company asked me to help on their Safety Committee, I said "yes." I did whatever the company asked, as long as they didn't ask me to work on Saturday. I wanted to be a good example of a Christian, and blessings continued to happen.

Another job at the plant became available that didn't require me to work on the Sabbath. I bid on it and won. But the company kept saying that they might have to work me on Saturday, anyway. So although the problem wasn't as pressing as before, it was still there. And I could still lose my job.

For the grievance meeting, the union hired an attorney who had previous experience with this issue. He told the company to settle or go to court. The company agreed that I

had a Constitutional right, and they would comply where they could.

As I kept working for the company, I wanted to show them that I would continue to be a good Christian worker. I was still receiving complaints from some of the workers who thought it was wrong that I didn't have to work Saturday—even though I worked on Sunday, and they didn't.

A new job, new blessings

About six months later, I was approached about a promotion to a full-time trainer and safety manager. The plant manager said that this would not require any Saturday work, so I accepted.

This ended three years of litigation. I was very nervous in my new job. The only thing that kept me secure was that God was leading. Many times my job required me to do things that made me uncomfortable. I kept saying, "I can't do this." Then I'd stop and think, *If God put me here, He will help.* And He did. I always made it through.

There were many blessings in store for me. For training, the company sent me to Chicago. Class introductions required us to tell a little about ourselves, so I told them about my life and the church I belonged to. Later that night, after learning I was

I did whatever the company asked, as long as they didn't ask me to work on Saturday.

a Seventh Day Baptist, a manager from another shop came up to me and asked about the Sabbath. He had come to understand the Sabbath and wanted to talk.

Here I was, thousands of miles from home, sent by the company that fought against God's truth, talking to one of their managers about the Sabbath.

The blessings continued later on that trip when I traveled South. I was able to visit the SDB churches in Memphis, Tenn., and Mississippi.

God didn't give me a job that violated His law, but an opportunity to witness about the Sabbath.

What a blessing to fellowship with such great Christians! That trip gave me great strength.

I kept working and growing. People in the plant started sharing how they were watching the things God was doing in my life. It was great!

About a year later, I was named "Employee of the Year." That's right. Out of 18,000 employees, the company awarded the employee who, just over a year earlier, had been on his way to unemployment.

A worker walked up to me and whispered, "Is this a God thing?" What else did God have in mind for me? How about sharing my story at General Conference?

The three keys to what I am trying to say:

- 1) The Sabbath is important and not a burden.
- 2) God didn't give me a job that violated His law, but an opportunity to witness about the Sabbath. Freedom is scary. We are all responsible for our choices, and sometimes we make the wrong ones. God forgives.
- 3) God will lead, but you have to be willing to follow.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" (Romans 15:13). **SR**

Bob Bruce serves as moderator of the Portland Area SDB Church.

Make a difference in the workplace

by Don Graffius



My late mother used to enjoy relating a true story where she was telling a new acquaintance about her family.

"I have two sons," Mother told him. "One is a pastor and one is a lawyer." At this point the man quickly responded, "Oh, one turned out and one didn't."

My brother—the pastor—was not a great encouragement, either. He used to tell me that the Bible had a lot to say about lawyers, and most of it began with "Woe."

God uses all kinds of workers

In spite of these words of "encouragement," the Bible is full of laypersons from all walks of life—even judges—who have not only turned out, but have made a difference for God in the workplace.

One of the earliest to make a difference was a layman: Noah. In Genesis 6:5-8 we read, "Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the Lord was sorry that he had made man on the earth... So the Lord said, 'I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping things and birds of the air for I am sorry that I have made them.' But Noah found Grace in the eyes of the Lord."

Living a life of integrity and obedience to God always has the potential to positively impact others. Noah was selected to build the ark because of

The Bible is full of laypersons from all walks of life—even judges—who have made a difference for God in the workplace.

the way he lived. It also saved his family. Genesis 7:1 says, "The Lord then said to Noah, 'Go into the ark, you and your whole family, because I have found you righteous in this generation.'"

Noah also reminds us that we can make a difference at any age. Some people want to put restrictions on themselves according to their talent, intelligence, or experience. Others worry about their age. But age means nothing to God. God chose a teenager to bear His son, and when Jesus fed the five thousand, a boy provided the loaves and fishes.

In the case of Noah, when it began

to rain and he entered the ark, he was 600 years old. Moses was 80 when God called to him from the burning bush to lead His people out of Egypt. You're never too old—or too young—to make a difference for God.

Is God in control?

In order to make a difference for God and "be in Christ" on the job, there are certain prerequisites. First, we need to trust in God and accept that He is in control.

I first applied to become an administrative law judge in 1995. The process begins with a Statement of Qualifications and Experience that

details your knowledge of administrative law, and rules of procedure and evidence. You also give examples of any judicial experience. In my case, I had served as an arbitrator for the Court of Common Pleas of Bedford County, Pennsylvania.

Then, you must list 10 significant cases in which you have served as either a judge, arbitrator, or lawyer. You list opposing attorneys, judges involved, and courts before which you have appeared. That document is scored, and you move on to the next part—a written demonstration. (That's bureaucratic code for a five-hour test using a fact scenario where you are asked to write a decision based on procedural history, the facts, and conclusions of law.)

Next, your legal experience and temperament are rated by colleagues. After all of this—and a year or two of waiting—you receive a score. My score was 89.9, a good score for a non-veteran. Veterans received a five or 10-point preference.

There are as many as 20 candidates with similar scores. Since the largest federal administrative agency only hires about 40 judges a year, and three judges are interviewed for each slot, it would take awhile to get down to my score's range.

In the midst of all this, a federal lawsuit was filed over the way in which veterans' preference points were added to applicants' scores. A freeze was put on all hiring for a number of years, and the Office of Personnel Management was ordered to re-score the applications.

In the meantime...

While years of litigation ensued, I served the Office of Hearings and Appeals as a Supervisory Attorney, national instructor, and Hearing Office Director. I was also asked to serve brief details as the Regional Attorney in the Regional Chief Judge's office in Philadelphia and in the Chief Judge's office in Falls Church, Va.

During these details, I worked with numerous judges, including Judge Andrus from Huntington, W.Va.; Judge Costanzo from

On the day selections were to be made, more litigation ensued over the veterans' preference, and the court enjoined any hiring. After

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Charlottesville, Va.; and Judge Ravinski from Miami, Fla. While at the Regional office for four months, my brother and I visited regularly in Philadelphia or in Marlboro, N.J. As an instructor, I was sent in one year to St. Louis, San Francisco, Honolulu, and Orlando. It turned out the Orlando office was one mile from my father's residence.

Eventually, my application was re-scored, and my score *dropped* between two and three points. I tossed my notification letter in the waste can and assumed this was not God's will or direction for my life. I determined I would be happy in my current assignment. However, what I did not realize was that other scores had dropped far more than mine!

The next day the phone rang, and I was advised the Office of Hearings and Appeals intended to hire 120 judges. They were to interview 380 applicants and had reached my number on the register. I would be interviewed by three judges randomly selected from across the country. "Coincidentally," my three-judge panel consisted of Judges Andrus, Costanzo, and Ravinski.

approximately a year, the court lifted the stay for the limited purpose of permitting the Office to hire 120 judges.

Am I willing to go?

The Hearings Office has approximately 140 offices scattered across the country. The conventional wisdom is that if you want to be hired and your score is not exceedingly high, you must be willing to go anywhere in the country.

I was asked to state my geographic availability. My son, Gabriel, was finishing his junior year in high school and did not want to move. I also felt that, as a father, I should be with my son during his senior year. On the other hand, I knew the agency would probably never hire this many judges at one time. This was probably my best (and only) opportunity to be hired as a federal judge.

I prayed long and hard about it. I turned to my father who confirmed what I already knew in my heart: It was more important to be a father than a judge. But my dad also reminded me that God was in control and if this was God's will, it would

not be too hard at all for Him to place me in Johnstown, Pa. I limited my availability to Johnstown and one other nearby location.

In September, the day came when the Chief Judge's office made the calls, and by late afternoon I had not received one. My wife phoned and asked if this was "Judge Graffius." I explained that no, it wasn't, and that I had not heard a thing. But then she related that she had just received a message from the Chief Judge's office and I was to return the call.

When I did, the judge offered me a position as a federal administrative law judge in Johnstown! She also related that this was the first time that she could ever recall someone being asked to serve as a judge in an office where he was already stationed.

Many times during this drawn-out process, things did not make sense to me—but they made sense to God! He was in control.

God put me in touch with judges who would eventually serve on my randomly selected final interview panel. He knew that those times I spent with my brother in Philadelphia would be some of our best and last times together. He knew that two judges would transfer from the Johnstown office just before the injunction was lifted and that there would be three openings there.

Trust in the Lord

To "be in Christ" on the job means that we accept that he is in control of our careers and circumstances. But there is a prerequisite. My life verse

is Proverbs 3:6—

"In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight." The prerequisite is found in verse 5: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding." Yes, God is in control, but we must trust and lean on Him.

This point is further illustrated in the book of Nehemiah. When the Children of Israel returned from exile, God—through Nehemiah—directed each of them to work on a specific section of the wall. Too many of us at work, and in other areas of our lives, want to toil on another section of wall, not the one God has assigned to us.

There were times when I was not inter-

ested in working on the Hearing Office Director's section of the wall. I wanted to work on the "Judge's

**Your life
will be so different
that coworkers
will ask about
your source
of joy.**

section" of the wall. Or perhaps at home, I am more interested in telling my wife or teenager what to do on *their* section of the wall than I am in working on my own wall.

Perhaps you have been there. Being "in Christ at work" means that we work, with joy and excellence, on the portion of the wall God has assigned to us.

If necessary, use words

From a practical standpoint, how do we remain in Christ on the job? St. Francis of Assisi once stated: "Preach Christ, and if necessary, use words!" Let me give some examples.

As a teenager, I worked on a number of dairy farms in the summer. Occasionally, the plow, disc, or baler would break in the middle of crucial operations. At times when washing a cow's udder or placing a milking machine on a cow, she will step on your foot, kick you, or swish you with her tail across the head. From personal experience, I can tell you that observing what is *not* said will "preach Christ."

What type of language do you use on the job? Others notice, and it also sets a tone for the entire office or work crew.

Being in Christ on the job also means that we serve others. In Mark 19:43, we read that "whoever wants to be great among



When I became a judge, a Hearings Office chief judge sent out to each of us "new hires" the "Ten Commandments for Judges." I pass them along because they will also help you preach Christ on the job, even if you are not a judge! They are:

- 1) Be kind
- 2) Be patient
- 3) Be dignified
- 4) Don't take yourself too seriously
- 5) A lazy judge is a poor judge
- 6) Don't fear reversals
- 7) There are no unimportant cases
- 8) Be prompt
- 9) Use common sense
- 10) Pray for divine guidance

—Don Graffius

you must be a servant to all.”

One of my fellow judges is also a judge in the Navy JAG corps. During officer's training, his instructor related this story:

Charles Plumb was a U.S. Navy pilot in Vietnam. After 75 combat missions, his plane was destroyed by a surface-to-air missile. Plumb

you see, I was a fighter pilot, and he was *just* a sailor.”

Plumb thought of the many hours the sailor had spent at a long wooden table in the bowels of the ship, carefully weaving the shrouds and folding the silks of each chute, holding in his hands each time the fate of someone he didn't know.

give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.”

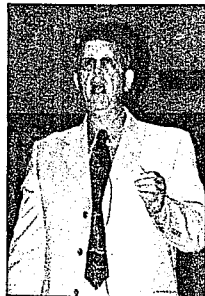
Peter assumes that your life will be so different that coworkers will ask about your source of joy. Now I can assure you that if on the job you're always complaining about the size of the wall assigned to you to build, and how life is unfair and the unreasonable working conditions, etc., no one is going to ask you anything, let alone the reason for the hope that lies within you!!

St. Francis and Peter are telling us that those who are “in Christ” at work will “be Christ” to others. You're the only Jesus some will ever know. And as they see Christ in you, they will ask!

So many laypersons have made a difference in your life. Perhaps it was a school teacher, a coworker, a fellow student. Or maybe it was your mother who, although she did not work outside the home, was nevertheless “on the job.”

Take a moment to thank God for those who have trusted Him, letting God control their lives. Thank Him for those laypersons who have been servants, who have made a difference, who have stood in the gap, and who have preached Christ in word and deed. **SR**

Judge Donald Graffius is a Seventh Day Baptist from Salemville, Pa. He has served for many years on the SDB Memorial Board and is President-elect for the 2004-2005 Conference year. This testimony was shared at Conference.



Thank God for those laypersons who have made a difference, who have stood in the gap, and who have preached Christ in word and deed.



ejected and parachuted into enemy hands. He was captured and spent six years in a Communist Vietnamese prison.

One day, when Plumb and his wife were sitting in a restaurant, a man at another table came up and said, “You're Plumb! You flew jet fighters in Vietnam from the Kitty Hawk aircraft carrier. You were shot down!”

“How in the world did you know that?” asked Plumb.

“I packed your parachute,” the man replied.

Plumb gasped in surprise and gratitude. The man pumped his hand and said, “I guess it worked.”

The former POW couldn't sleep that night, thinking about that man. Plumb said, “I kept wondering what he looked like in a Navy uniform: a white hat, a bib in the back, and bell-bottom trousers. I wonder how many times I might have seen him and not even said, ‘Good morning, how are you?’ or anything because,

Now, Plumb asks, “Who packs your parachute?”

Who packs your parachute?

There are many individuals who “pack our parachutes” each and every day. There are individuals who pack my cases, record the testimony, and write draft decisions for me. We exemplify Christ—we preach Christ, if you will—when we take the time to thank and appreciate these people, to say hello, to congratulate someone on something wonderful that has happened to them, or to just do something nice for someone.

Those who are “in Christ” will humbly build their assigned portion of the wall with joy and excellence. They will also be noticed and then, according to 1 Peter, a wonderful thing happens.

1 Peter 3:15 says: “But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to

Lawton to work at SDB Center



Gordon and Linda Lawton with children Philip, Nathanael, and Miriam.

The SDB Council on Ministry has appointed the Rev. Gordon P. Lawton as the new Director of Pastoral Services and Dean of the School of Ministry. Lawton replaces the Rev. Gabriel Bejjani, who has resigned.

Gordon is a “PK” (preacher's kid) and an “MK” (missionary's kid) who has lived in California, Jamaica, West Virginia, Michigan, Colorado (twice), New Jersey, Kansas, and New York state (twice).

Prior to becoming a pastor, Rev. Lawton's work experience in various states included a paper route, sales for Amway and Bestline, construction, AV tech, carpet repair, Montgomery Ward catalogue warehouse, security guard, grounds keeper, and school bus driver. He has attended or been on staff at nearly all of our SDB camps.

During this “pre-pastoral period,” he also taught a high school Sabbath School class in Denver; was a youth leader and worked with the camp committee; was a special service worker at the denominational building in Plainfield, N.J., for a year; served on the Board of the Ameri-

can Sabbath Tract Society; and was Summer Youth Pastor in Shiloh, N.J.

After graduating from Central Baptist Theological Seminary with an MDiv in pastoral theology, Gordon was called to served the First SDB Church of Hopkinton in Ashaway, R.I.

In contrast to his varied career, his wife, the former Linda Burdick, grew up in the Milton, Wis., church, attended and counseled at Camp Wakonda. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1978 with a Bachelor of Music in vocal performance. Until their marriage, she had lived in the same house her entire life.

They were married in December of 1978, while Rev. Lawton was serving in his first pastorate. Together they have served SDB churches in Rhode Island, Boulder, Colo., and Little Genesee, N.Y.

Linda returned to school as a “nontraditional student” for her Associates Degree in Applied Science in Medical Assisting in 1995. She is a certified medical assistant and is currently self-employed as a medical transcriptionist.

During the course of his ministry, Rev. Lawton served both as a full-time and a part-time pastor. He has driven school bus, been a substitute teacher, and a tax preparer.

Pastor Lawton has served on the SDB Missionary Society Board of Managers, the SDB Council on Ministry for 15 years, and the Board of Managers of the SDB Board of Christian Education for 10 years. He has been a certified First Aid and CPR instructor for the American Red Cross for 15 years. He has written for the *Helping Hand*, is a life-member of the SDB Historical Society, and has attended 37 sessions of the SDB General Conference, serving as President in 2002.

The Lawtons have three children. Oldest son, Nathanael, graduated from Alfred (N.Y.) University's College of Ceramics Engineering and Materials Science with honors in May. Along with Marissa Van Horn, he went to the SCSC Australia project in January 2003, and then was a Young Adult representative to World Federation in Brazil in February.

Their daughter, Miriam, is a senior at Houghton (N.Y.) College majoring in Intercultural Studies with a concentration in linguistics and minors in Bible and vocal performance. She has been on short-term missionary trips to Jamaica and Zambia, and has attended college courses in Honduras and Tanzania.

The Lawton's youngest son, Philip, is a 16-year-old high school junior who sings and plays guitar, bass guitar, and drums. Presently, he's planning on a college major in computer graphics and design. His dream job would be with Big Idea Productions (love those Veggie Tales!).

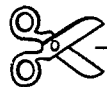
Rev. Lawton plans to begin his service at the SDB Center in Janesville in January 2004.

(Thanks, Linda, for the info!) **SR**

White Christmas Gift Requests 2003

- Bibles for most of our sister Conferences and churches. They use these to help their members as well as gifts to prospective members.
- Bicycles for women and pastors in Malawi, Ghana, Rwanda, India, the Philippines, Burma, and Ghana.
- Medical supplies and medicines in Malawi, Cameroon, Rwanda, Jamaica, the Philippines, India, Nepal, Bangladesh, and Pakistan. Many of our sister Conferences and churches need medicines for their members. Others use them to replenish their clinics. Then they provide the medicine at a much lower cost (or free) to those too poor to pay the full price.
- Food and clothing for refugees in Liberia, Nepal, Bangladesh, Rwanda.
- Bible study materials and books in Malawi, Cameroon, Rwanda, Jamaica, Myanmar, Ghana, the Gambia, the Philippines, Indonesia, and Benin.
- Scholarships for Makapwa Bible School, \$500 per semester.
- Business machines—such as computers, printers, FAX machines, typewriters, and telephones—for the business center in Ghana and the Gambia.
- School supplies, books, desks, and equipment for the Gambia, Malawi, and India.
- Translation and printing of tracts and study books for Mozambique. Brazil does the translation and printing.
- Hymnals for Jamaica, Guyana, Benin, the Gambia, Rwanda, the Philippines, and Cameroon.
- Keyboards and musical instruments for Kenya, the Gambia, Rwanda, and Sudan.
- Leadership training and supplies for most of our sister Conferences and churches.
- National outreach and growth materials for new startup churches in the United States and Canada.
- *The Helping Hand* for most of our sister Conferences and churches, who cannot afford the cost of the subscription.
- Computers and printers for Guyana, Jamaica, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sudan, Benin, Senegal, Ivory Coast, and other Conferences.

Please send your gift to the
SDB Missionary Society
119 Main St., Westerly RI 02891
 and designate where you would like your gift to be used.



Leaders of Today Young Adult Year-End Retreat

Camp Wakonda, Milton, Wis.
 Sunday, Dec. 28, 2003, to Friday, Jan. 2, 2004, led by Wayne North

Name: _____ E-mail: _____
 Home Phone: _____ School Phone: _____
 Traveling by (circle one): Car Plane Bus Train
 Airport: _____ Airline: _____ Flight/Bus# _____
 Arrival Day/Time: _____ Departure Day/Time: _____

Please send \$15 fee and registration form (by 12/15) to: **Lindsey Cowden, 25676 611 St., Mantorville, MN 55955**
 Airports: Madison, Milwaukee, Midway, O'Hare; Bus and train services to Janesville

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Kecia Thompson Gordon.
 Phone: (608) 868-6130 E-mail: kecialatifah@hotmail.com



Women's Society page by Laura Price
 www.sdbwboard.org

Women's Societies check in

I received nine SDB Women's Society reports from this year's General Conference. I realize that there are many more SDB women's groups out there. If I fail to mention a particular group in the following months, please send me a copy of your activities to share with the rest of our SDB family.

Once again, I encourage you to send me any thoughts, anecdotes, encouragement, jokes, ideas, concerns of the day, questions, testimonials, or praises to ponder or share. In other words, keep in touch!

You can reach me at Theeliza94@mac.com or Laura Price, 539 SR 100, Palatka, FL 32177. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely and with thanks to God,
 Laura

"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not [do not lose heart]. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all, especially unto them who are of the household of faith" (Gal. 6:9-10).

Ladies Aid, Dodge Center, MN

We passed out loaves of holiday bread to our church's neighbors at Thanksgiving as a way to say "Happy Holidays." In December, we held our annual Christmas potluck and cookie exchange, preparing many plates of cookies to deliver to members and friends of our church.

We held our annual SCSC (soup/crackers/sandwiches/cake) luncheon in March, raising \$408 for this year's Summer Christian Service Corps program. We also hosted a women's retreat at Woodlands Camp just north of Rochester, Minn., in May. Guest speaker Betty Bond spoke on the topic of "satisfaction." Around 20 women

attended and had a wonderful time.

Members of our group worked on a New Testament quilt that we sold at Conference, with the proceeds going to SCSC. This same group of women worked on an Old Testament quilt last year, raising \$300.

When someone from our church gets married, our members contribute favorite recipes that we compile into a book for a wedding gift. When someone has a baby, we embroider quilt squares and make them into a baby quilt for the family.

We also tried something new this year: About once a quarter, we scheduled a meal at a local restaurant for anyone who could attend. This time of fun and fellowship was a popular activity and will probably continue.

Ladies Aid Society, First SDB Church of Hopkinton, Ashaway, RI

...an active and interesting year, also a year of change and growth... Among the changes voted on and approved was the reduction of elected officers to four: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Any other "committees" or "positions" would be nominated, appointed, and voted on as applicable... In addition to updating our bylaws, we also revamped our Parish Hall rental procedures to better serve those wishing to use our facility, making the process more efficient and consistent.

In an effort to offer financial support to our many charitable outreach activities without placing a strain on our membership, we decided to replace membership dues with a love offering, to be collected at each meeting. This amount, along with our hall rental fees and other donations, has allowed us to give monetary gifts to:

American Bible Society "Bible a Month" (to Brazil, Central America, Uganda, and India); Jeanie Smith Love Gift, Vivian Looper Love Gift, SCSC, Computer to Brazil Mission, Rwanda Mission, World Federation Delegate Travel, Birthday Party for Betty Markoff, Farewell Cake for Pastor Scott Smith and Family, Conference Women's Banquet Love Gift, VBS International Heifer Project, and the Living Closet of Westerly, R.I. Our gifts totaled \$1,131.56.

Our society decided to place more emphasis on community service and "adopted" the Jonnycake Center in Bradford, R.I., and the WARM Shelter in Westerly.

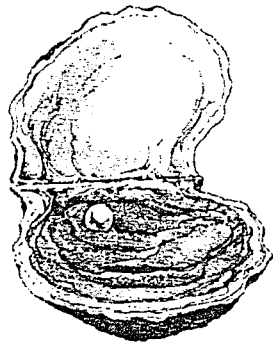
Shiloh, NJ, Benevolent Society

"Getting Back to the Basics" has been our theme. We contributed to the denominational budget, SCSC, Women's Board Love Gift, New Jersey Council for Alcohol/Drug Education, and collected cleaning and paper products for Mission Teens.

We have a committee that oversees stocking and cleaning the church kitchen, and another that coordinates monthly fellowship meals. We purchased a refrigerator and an under-the-counter freezer for the church, and bought mini-blinds and curtains for the new parsonage. A committee also renewed the church nursery for its newest additions.

While dues are officially \$1.00 yearly, many Society members are giving \$50 as well as saving loose change during the year. Monthly, we collect a chip fund and one cent per year from those celebrating birthdays. Several other donations were received also.

We hosted the November Day of Prayer gathering in Shiloh and paid expenses for the Women of God Banquet in May. **SR**



Pearls from the Past by Don A. Sanford, historian

Spicing up the joint

Last August, I received a telephone call from an executive of the Dana Corporation. That firm, originally connected to the Spicer Manufacturing Company in South Plainfield, N.J., was planning its centennial celebration and wanted information on their founder.

In 1902, Clarence Winfred Spicer invented the Spicer Universal Joint for automobiles and became engaged in manufacturing other automobile parts. As head of the company (and a vice president after the corporation moved to Toledo, Ohio), Spicer also served as treasurer and then president of the Society of Automotive Engineers.

The Dana executive had discovered that Spicer, once a student at Alfred (N.Y.) University, was a Seventh Day Baptist, and that his Plainfield factory had employed many workers who were SDBs.

"Why did the company's employees work only a five-day workweek, Monday through Friday?" the executive asked. I then explained our observance of the biblical Seventh-day Sabbath.

Commenting that he was a Catholic, the exec wondered why we had changed our Sabbath from Sunday to Saturday. He wasn't familiar enough with either the Bible or religious history to grasp the irony of his question about who changed what!

The Dana rep was also interested in learning about Clarence Spicer's background. I knew that Spicer's son, John Reed Spicer, had married Virginia Bond. (She was one of the daughters of A.J.C. Bond, the Dean of Alfred University School of Theol-

ogy when I was one of his students.)

The elder Spicer was a prominent member of the Plainfield church, serving on the denominational Memorial Board, and the Tract Board and its Supervisory Committee. He was also a member of the Board of Trustees at Alfred, his alma mater.

While verifying some of Clarence Spicer's roots, I discovered that he was born in 1845, baptized, and joined the Southampton, Ill., SDB Church, organized in 1850. Later, it was located in Peoria County near Edelstein, Ill., and called the West Hallock church.

Spicer's parents, John Green Spicer and Cornelia (Babcock) Spicer, were among the early settlers who

The West Hallock church also had an academy that served as a meeting house until a church building was erected. They constructed it to accommodate over a hundred people since their peak membership was 148. In 1876, their Sabbath School enrollment totaled 168.

In 1872, the General Conference met at West Hallock to celebrate the 200th year of Seventh Day Baptists in America. One hundred and two delegates from 40 churches attended this session, during which they established both the Memorial Board and the Sabbath School Board.

At the 50th anniversary of the West Hallock church in 1902, church clerk John G. Spicer, the father

In 1902, Clarence Winfred Spicer invented the Spicer Universal Joint for automobiles and became engaged in manufacturing other automobile parts.

migrated to the Illinois prairie from the eastern U.S. Some of these settlers rafted down the Alleghany and Ohio, then up the Mississippi and the Illinois rivers. Others, like the Spicers, made their way by wagon, accompanied by livestock. The journey was arduous, but the area touted some of the richest farmland in the country.

The first Seventh Day Baptist church in western Illinois was in Farmington, some 40 miles south in Fulton County. It formed in 1847, but eventually most of the members moved away or united with the West Hallock church. The church at Farmington erected a brick building for an academy which listed 100 students, but it was eventually taken over by Sunday-keepers.

of industrialist Clarence W. Spicer, wrote a history of the church.

He recorded that over that first half century, the congregation's total membership was 333—177 by baptism, 139 by letter, and 17 by verbal statement. On the other side was a loss of 154 by letter (transfer of membership to other churches); loss by death, 45; loss by excommunication, 43; and present membership, 9.

Their last statistical entry in the Seventh Day Baptist Yearbook was for the year 1922 and listed eight members. In 1950, the Quarterly Meeting of the Southern Wisconsin and Illinois Churches held a memorial service and placed a brass commemorative marker at the site of the West Hallock church.

cont. on page 26



SR Almanac

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

One year ago—November 2002

Executive Director of the SDB Board of Christian Education, Andrew Camenga, organizes the feature section. Camenga covers the Board's purpose and goals, reviews changes in the *Helping Hand* format, outlines two of the Board's traveling workshops, and advertises publications for sale.

Larry Bird, of the Washington, D.C., SDB church, receives the Crystal Apple as Sabbath School Teacher of the Year.

"Pearls" page stresses the historical importance of "The Seventh Day Baptist Memorial," a short-lived quarterly magazine of the 1850s.

Five years ago—November 1998

SDB writers Mayola Warner and Doreen Sanford Davis address the topic of blending music and worship styles.

Religious researcher George Barna declares that "True Worship Is Rare" among churches today. Lannette Calhoun invites readers to think more about worship as part of seeking spiritual maturity.

The educational and ministry path of Experience Fitz Randolph is reviewed on the "Pearls" page.

Earl Hibbard named Sabbath School Teacher of the Year.

Rodney Henry announces intention to leave denominational service at the end of 1999.

10 years ago—November 1993

Main features for "Getting into the Word of God" include Conference sermons by pastors Andrew Samuels and John Camenga.

"Pearls" looks back at SDB missionary Dr. George Thorngate.

"Focus" column asks for lightweight clothes for our churches in Africa.

Local church news: Pastor Harold and Kathi King honored for 25th wedding anniversary; Pastor Herlitz Condison graduates from the T.I.M.E. program; grandparent retreat held at Camp Joy, Berea, W.Va.; area meetings hosted in Dodge Center, Minn., and Newport, R.I.

25 years ago—November 1978

Features prepared by the Conference Committee on Christian Social Action, located in Daytona Beach, Fla. Writers include Laura Lee Martin, Alan Crouch, Bernice Davis, and Velma Maxson.

Women's interest committee at Conference visited by some members of the Dutch SDB Women's Society.

Dodge Center church completes construction of a new addition that holds Sabbath School rooms and a church office.

Catholics mourn the death of Pope John Paul I after only 34 days of leadership.

A number of SDB families are commissioned to start a new church in Orange County, Calif.

50 years ago—November 1953

November is promoted as church attendance month. "The best way to double a preacher's power is to double his congregation. Try this on your preacher."

Photo shows off new church building in Paint Rock, Ala.

U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower opens the fifth annual Religion In American Life (RIAL) campaign.

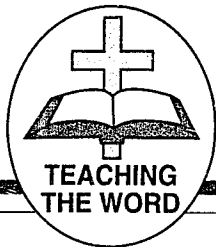
Newly-ordained minister Duane Davis' statements of belief and Christian experience appear in print.

First direct news received from medical missionaries Beth Severe and Joan Clement serving in Nyasaland (Malawi), Africa.

...where are we headed?

Pray for—

- our SDB Board of Christian Education
- our Sabbath Schools and teaching ministries
- our seminary and T.I.M.E. students
- greater church attendance and involvement
- our Conference President and Host Committee
- more new churches to be planted
- our former missionaries, with thanks



Christian Education

by Andrew J. Camenga

Griffin named Teacher of the Year

John W. Griffin of the Paint Rock, Ala., Seventh Day Baptist Church is the recipient of the Crystal Apple Award as the 2003 Sabbath School Teacher of the Year. The award was announced during the General Conference sessions at George Fox University in Newberg, Ore., this past August.

John received the award—consisting of a certificate and an apple made of leaded crystal—at his home church on Sabbath, September 6, 2003, from his pastor, John Bevis, and moderator Don Monroe.

People from Paint Rock know John as a dedicated teacher. They see that he spends significant time preparing for each class. He encourages participants to discuss each lesson, and they recognize and respond

to his challenge to increase their biblical knowledge.

Summarizing what his students know about him, one said, "John is

outside of the classroom, demonstrating humility and a Christ-like spirit in ways that let him function as a role model. His life demonstra-

"John is always fully prepared, and systematically and spiritually guides us through the lesson. He integrates a variety of instructional techniques and involves everyone in the process."

always fully prepared, and systematically and spiritually guides us through the lesson, leaving no stone unturned. He integrates a variety of instructional techniques and involves everyone in the process."

John is also seen as a teacher

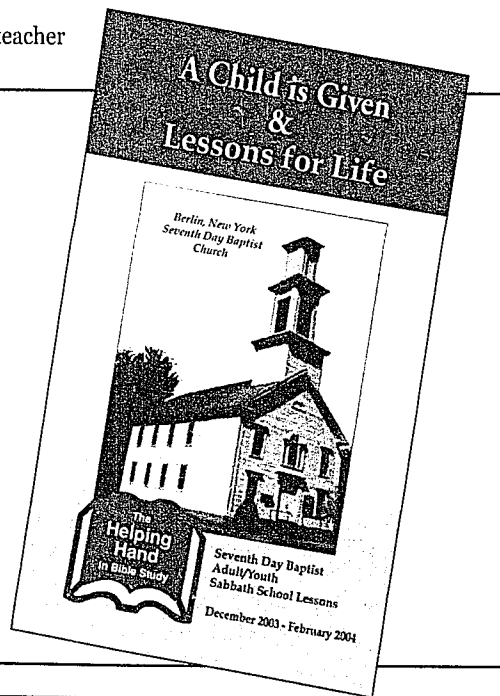
tes a walk with God that is inspiring. One student said that John's influence led directly to a closer relationship with God and better study habits. SR

Large-print Helping Hand

Does someone in your church need larger print in *The Helping Hand in Bible Study*? If so, there may be a solution to that need.

For churches in the United States and Canada that subscribe to the *Helping Hand*, a large-print edition of the quarterly is available on CD-ROM as an Adobe Acrobat file. Your church prints the pages and chooses an appropriate method for binding. Formatted for an 8-1/2 x 11 sheet of paper, page numbering remains the same.

Contact the Board of Christian Education office for more details. SR



FOCUS on Missions

Ministry to Native Americans

by Ron Elston

If a group of almost three million people has never heard the Gospel, would you say that the Church has neglected them?

That is what has happened to the 510 tribes of Native Americans. Of the more than three million living in the U.S., an estimated 90 percent are unevangelized.

Where is this "invisible" missions field? About 37 percent of Native Americans live in our cities; however, most have strong ties to the reservation.

The Native American population is exploding. The last census reveals a nearly 40 percent growth rate, compared to six percent for African-Americans and 13 percent for whites. They are also a youthful group, with over 40 percent under the age of 20.

Native American youth especially need the Gospel message. A recent university study revealed that their suicide rate is four times greater than the national average, and that alcoholism is rampant, with one in four becoming alcoholics by age 17.

Less than 50 percent of Native Americans graduate from high school, and only 3 percent earn college degrees. Drug abuse is also a problem, along with unemployment. Ninety percent of those on reserva-

tions are unemployed, and half live below the poverty level.

With such a great need, God has provided an effective strategy to get the job done; and, by His grace, it will be accomplished.

God called Chet Marks and placed a desire in his heart to minister to Native Americans. After working in children's ministry for eight years, Chet founded the Rez Connection in 1999. Both he and his German wife, Barbara, are dedicated to this special ministry. The outreach is headquar-



The Rez Connection is dedicated to bringing the Gospel to the people of the Pine Ridge Reservation. Using love, prayer, and discipleship, this ministry is already restoring lives and changing neighborhoods.

tered in their home in Denby, South Dakota. (Denby is located on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, which is about 100 miles from Rapid City, S.D.)

The Rez Connection is a faith-based ministry dedicated to bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the people of the Pine Ridge Reservation. Using love, prayer, and discipleship, this ministry has already reaped benefits, restoring lives and changing neighborhoods.

cont. on page 21



Just some of the many Native American children who worship at the Rez Connection in Pine Ridge, S.D.



the BEACON

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

November 2003

Dresses, ties, and "Life with G.W."

by Jessi Kandel and Aubrey Greene, from the *Conference Crier*

Did you notice that dinner at Conference was unusually quiet Thursday night? Where were all the youth? Perhaps you saw them parading past parents with cameras as the line formed outside the cafeteria. They were on their way to the much-anticipated Youth Banquet.

Ever since we were old enough to know the difference between "ban-

quet" and "bouquet," we have looked forward to the Youth Banquet. It's one of those perks of being 12, an opportunity to spend two hours getting dressed and to eat far from the watchful eyes of your parents. But the true benefit of the Youth Banquet goes beyond "photo ops."

The dresses and ties set a mood of maturity that—for at least that meal—the youth try to live up to. The fellowship throughout the night is generally more meaningful than at any other time during the week.

The highlight is the guest speaker (invited by the youth officers), who challenges us to be the current and future leaders of our denomination. This year, our speaker was Jonathan Mackintosh. He not only told us about his internship at the White House under the Office of Public Liaison, but also about how Christ worked through him while he was there.

Jonathan started off with a "conversation" he had with "Mrs." and "G.W." which was pep-



"Jono" Mackintosh wore his White House polo shirt.

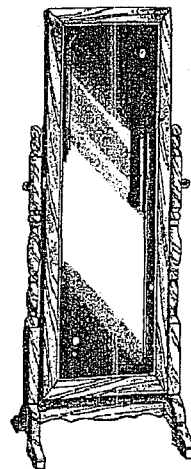
pered with phrases such as "Word" and "Hussein's been rippin' on yo mama."

After our laughter subsided, Jonathan told us he actually had never "sipped sodas with Mrs. and G.W." He did say that when he called people and told them he was "Jonathan Mackintosh from the White House," people reacted with a range of emotions: silence, hysterics, and tears of joy. This, he said, made him feel really important.

cont. on page 26



YF officers got to hit the buffet line first.



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

Digging for blessings

in knots, stewing over how I was going to pay for a badly needed new roof. I fretted and fussed, just like Dad did with his peanut plants. And I got angry. Angry at my husband for dying so young and leaving his family with little life insurance and no mortgage insurance. *If you were here, Denny, you could lay the roof for me.*

Then, as God is apt to do, He snapped me back to reality. I was outside, gazing up at the warped brown shingles when it happened.

"Be thankful you have a house," a still, small voice whispered.

I was so worried about financing a new roof that I failed to notice, or remember, that there are people all around me who don't have roofs to worry about.

That reminded me of many similar blessings:

I complain about how hard it is to find good shoes and forget about the people who have no feet; I complain about carrying bags of water softener salt down to the basement without thinking about women in Third World countries who walk miles just to dip a bucket into a muddy river; I give the waitress grief when my

steak is cold, not once thinking about all the children who died of starvation that day; I worry about my cancer coming back and lose sight of the fact that I'm blessed with two healthy children.

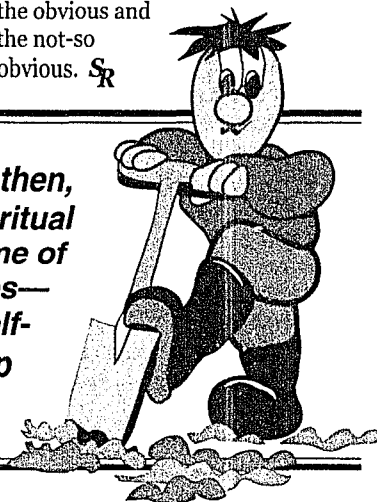
After putting myself through months of worry, God took care of my roof. I discovered that I was eligible for a home equity loan. Then my son-in-law's friend, who was starting his own roofing business, offered to fix my roof for free, charging only for materials. The whole job was soon done, at about half of the original estimate.

Do you have mounds of unnoticed blessings buried under *your* feet? Do the obvious "bushy blessings" distract you from the even more important ones that are often hidden away?

Every now and then, we need to grab a spiritual shovel and toss some of the "dirt" from our lives—things like worry and self-absorption—that keep our blessings buried.

Let's thank God for *all* of our blessings—for the obvious and the not-so-obvious. SR

**Every now and then,
we need to grab a spiritual
shovel and toss some of
the "dirt" from our lives—
things like worry and self-
absorption—that keep
our blessings buried.**



It's easy to become tangled in the webs of our busy lives and overlook our blessings. Especially those that are partially hidden or go unnoticed because we take them for granted.

An editor once told me not to compare my blessings with people who aren't similarly blessed. By pointing out my good fortune, I make their misfortunes even more apparent. I understood that editor's reasoning, but I still think it's important to occasionally remind ourselves how good we really have it.

Several years ago, I tied myself up



The President's Page

by Dale Thorngate

Seeking God's kingdom

***This is the time for us
to not only seek God personally
with all our heart, but to also seek
God's kingdom for our lives and for
the mission of Seventh Day Baptists.***

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (Matthew 6:33).



Dale D. Thorngate

Last month, we began the Conference year by looking at Jeremiah 29:11-14a. The passage states that God has a plan for us, and we will receive that plan when we "seek God with all our heart." This is my desire for us in these next few months as we seek God together.

Since I am a Christian—and a 21st century Christian at that—I felt that in my accepting God's promised plan for me, that plan must include Jesus Christ. I certainly need to accept his saving grace, but must also hear and pursue God's plan

by listening to Jesus' teaching.

As I studied and preached from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount recorded in Matthew, I heard his admonition to "seek God's kingdom first and then everything else that was necessary would be provided to me as well."

For the last several years, my response to God's plan for me has been to seek God with all my heart and His kingdom in my life every day, and to help others in that same pursuit.

Early in my ministry, I looked for the ideal model for the local church. I must admit that I was surprised to discover that Jesus' teaching didn't provide any clear model for the church.

I was also frustrated to realize that every Christian group claims to support their particular organizational structure by Scripture. Catholics, Presbyterians, Episcopalians, Methodists, as well as other Baptists, all claim that the Bible supports their form of church government.

What I discovered in my scriptural search was that Jesus didn't talk about the Church, but he did talk a lot about the kingdom of God and the kingdom of heaven.

As I share the idea that God has

a plan for Seventh Day Baptists for the 21st century, I also want to challenge each of you to personally pursue God with all your heart and God's kingdom every day in your life. To do that during this Conference year, I want us to study together what Jesus had to say about God's kingdom.

The Board of Christian Education has selected scriptures for us to memorize this year. That is a good place to begin. Each month, I will also be challenging you with what I am learning as I study those passages in which Jesus says, "the kingdom of God is like..."

This is the time for us to not only seek God personally with all our heart, but to also seek God's kingdom for our lives and for the mission of Seventh Day Baptists, and to be encouraged to bring others into that kingdom.

God's kingdom is not a place or a political state; it's where God dwells and where His Spirit is at work. Our challenge is to hear Jesus when He says, "The kingdom of God is within you." God has provided His Holy Spirit to activate that kingdom.

Let us spend this year seeking God's kingdom and reaching out to share it with others. **SR**

Native Americans, cont. from page 17

Pastor Marks envisions a ministry which will eventually produce leaders, teachers, and pastors who will, in turn, minister to new generations of Native Americans.

When the Rez Connection first started, they bought a fleet of buses to go to the villages and bring the children to a central point. Even though this enabled them to do more and reach out to the children equally, the cost for transportation was tremendous. It also depended heavily on human resources.

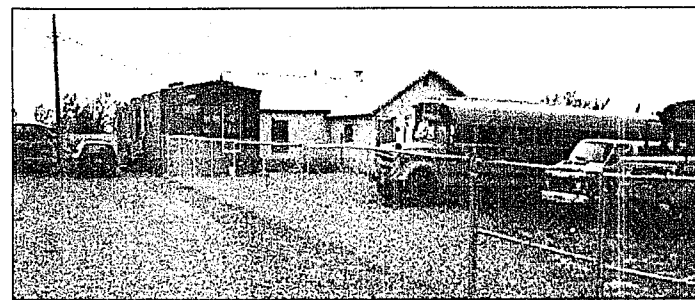
Finally, they decided to drive the buses to each village to present their program there. Interns trained in the methodology of ministry, evangelism, visitation, and teaching greatly helped the children's ministry. In turn, this training develops leadership and communication skills. Interns build relationships, gain boldness and discipline, and reap a strengthened prayer life.

As the ministry continued to grow, Pastor Chet began to convert the buses into mobile church sanctuaries. Seats were removed and carpeting was put down. In the back, partitions allow for a pulpit, TV presentations, and other visual aids.

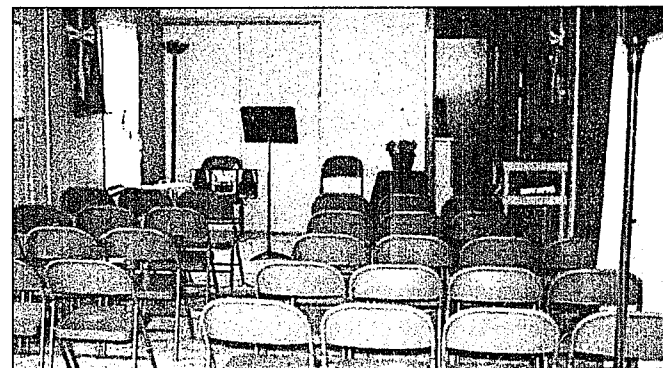
This approach has worked out well, with over 400 children being ministered to on weekends. It takes about \$1,500 to renovate a bus, and fuel costs over \$1,000 per month. A mechanic is needed to keep the vehicles running.

In addition to this mobile ministry, they have an outreach in Whiteclay, Neb., a border town two miles south of Pine Ridge. Whiteclay is often in the news because it sells three million dollars worth of alcohol to Native Americans each year. Many homeless alcoholics live in the burned out buildings of Whiteclay or in surrounding fields. Many never get a decent meal or have adequate clothing.

Pastor Chet uses a sidewalk truck that lowers on one side to form a stage. While he preaches, interns serve food and drink. The people are



Children flock to the mobile home for church, and the buses go to them as "mobile sanctuaries."



Inside the converted mobile home used on Sabbath.

very thankful for the food, and many ask for prayer at the end of these services. They respect Chet's ministry and many have come to know Jesus as a result of this outreach.

Earlier this year, the SDB Missionary Society teamed up with the Rez Connection/New Life Fellowship SDB Church to provide a short-term missions program. Missionary Society Executive Director Kirk Looper has been developing this program for years, and the Lord has used it to open a window of opportunity for those wanting to do missions work.

The internship/short-term missions program is geared for individuals who want to be used of God but need practical experience and training. This program is open to committed Christians over the age of 18. (If younger, they must be accompanied by an adult sponsor.)

Participants will be equipped to minister and share the Gospel. This means training in personal soul winning, in-home visitation, and various

public ministries. They will also learn how to effectively communicate the Gospel, and will be taught leadership and teaching skills, as well as discipline.

To apply for this program or to receive additional information, contact Kirk Looper at the SDB Missionary Society, 119 Main St., Westerly, RI 02981 or call (401) 596-4326.

New Life Fellowship SDB Church is a branch of Faith SDB Church in Doniphan, Mo. A Missionary Society-sponsored project has assisted in re-vamping a mobile home for use as a church on the Denby property, where services are held each Sabbath. Kirk and Vivian Looper visited the reservation in mid-September, as did National Extension Minister Rev. Ron Elston, and Pastor John Brewer and his children from Louisville, Ky.

The Rez Connection is a viable and exciting ministry with many needs. You can help by your prayers and financial support. For a list of needs, contact the Missionary Society. **SR**

Salem church dedicates new Hurley memorials

During its worship service on September 13, 2003, the Salem (W.Va.) Seventh Day Baptist Church honored the late Dr. K. Duane Hurley and his wife, Shireen, by dedicating several memorials in their honor.

Dr. Hurley (1915-2001) was President Emeritus of Salem College and former Executive Secretary of the General Conference. He served the Salem church for many years as a deacon and lay minister. Shireen (1917-1996), also a deacon, served as church organist for many years.

The Salem church has established the K. Duane Hurley Memorial Fund, an endowment to honor the kind of projects and activities which Dr. Hurley championed throughout his years of church and community service. Interest from the fund will be used for those purposes, particularly



Dr. K. Duane and Shireen Hurley

in the areas of Christian education and communication. The church also dedicated a classroom in its new educational addition in honor of the Hurleys.

In announcing the classroom designation, Fred Sias, chairman of the Building Finance Committee, paid tribute to Dr. Hurley's support dur-

ing the initiation of the recent building project. The new addition to the 100-year-old building includes classrooms, library, nursery, restrooms, and office space.

During that same service, the church dedicated new hymn books in honor of Shireen.

"We were especially pleased," Pastor Dale D. Thorngate said, "that many members of the Hurley family—children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren—were able to share with us in this special occasion. The singing of old hymns from the new hymnal gave witness to our grateful thanks for the many contributions this gifted couple made to our lives and service."

Rev. Thorngate noted that anyone is welcome to contribute to the K. Duane Hurley Memorial Fund. **SR**

Science and religion: Conflict or compatibility?

Sometimes old friends can really give a congregation a boost!

Dr. Ben Clausen, an old friend of Pastor Dennis Palmer, spoke on science and creation at the Evangelical Seventh Day Baptist Church of Lake Elsinore, Calif., on September 13, 2003. Dr. Clausen is a research scientist at the Geoscience Research Institute of Loma Linda, Calif.

He warned of the danger of basing theology on a scientific theory or model because our understanding of science keeps changing, and a scientific theory or model may become outdated or proven inadequate.

Twenty-seven people attended the event, with Rabbi Hilibrant, a messianic Jew, leading the congregation in some lively music. The church was blessed by the service, and by the filling of over half (27) of their 42 newly-purchased stacking chairs.

Pastor Palmer noted, "We are also happy that the Jewish-Christian Unity Mission—a messianic congregation affiliated with Southern Baptists—is meeting Friday evenings at our church." **SR**

Attendance Contest more than 'numbers'

Begun in September, the attendance competition between two of our churches has already reaped heavenly rewards.

First, the cumulative number of attendees beyond the base average:

Alfred Station, NY 47
San Gabriel, CA 12

Here's the more exciting figure: Six souls came to Christ during a revival service at San Gabriel on October 11. Praise God!!

Wanted: Camp stories

by Jean Jorgensen

Kharlyn Henry of Guyana wants to build a camping program for their youth at Camp Glory. She would like to learn of the programs and events that we have experienced, and would love to hear from the youth as well as camp directors. Please write to her at: Kharlyn Henry, Sara Lodge Housing Scheme, Stewartville West Coast, Demarara, Guyana, South America.

Here is a letter from Amanda Colvin of St. Joseph, Mo., telling about an experience she had at Camp Riverview in North Loup, Neb., this summer:

Kharlyn,

Over the years, I have acquired a lot of memories from camp, and this year was no exception.

On Friday (7/11/03) we washed each other's feet by the light of the silvery moon. Earlier that day, we got into our work groups* and made our own Communion bread.** Our cook, Carol Severance, baked the bread for us while we were having vespers.

A tradition at Camp Riverview is to have Friday night's vespers on Vespers Hill, which is in the middle of a cow field. When we came back, Pastor Chris [Mattison] gave us some

personal time to reflect on the past week and to think about the counselors' testimonies. Then all the campers went to the campfire.

The counselors followed shortly after with the bread, juice, and water.

Chris explained the love Jesus had to wash his disciples' feet. Then Gabe came back to our group and washed Katrina Goodrich's feet. Then Katrina picked someone, and it went on like this in every group.

Watching each camper wash another's feet, I could tell they weren't doing it because they felt they had to, but because they wanted to.

We sat in our work groups, then broke the bread and ate it. For our juice, each of us took a grape, squeezed it into the pitcher, and drank it.

After everyone was finished and the trays were returned, Pastor Chris asked for seven volunteers to be in Helen Goodrich's group so she could be involved in the foot washing. More than seven stood up. Then Pastor Chris took Gabe Graffius and showed us how to wash each other's feet.

As he washed Gabe's feet, Pastor

As each one of us sat back down, we put an arm around our neighbor's shoulder and rocked from side to side. Watching each camper wash another's feet, I could tell they weren't doing it because they felt they had to, but because they wanted to. They did it out of love for one another, just like Jesus did for his disciples (John 13).

When everyone was done with the foot washing, we all stood in a circle and held hands and sang, "I love you with the love of the Lord." That evening showed me how much love was at camp this year. It was an experience that will never leave my memory.

*Our camp had four work groups, with each having a chore to do every day. This included cleaning the bathroom, washing dishes, setting and clearing off the tables for each meal, and sweeping and picking up the dorms. This helped to keep the camp clean. Each work group also planned a campfire and vesper service.

To make our Communion bread, we used wheat flour that was ground by hand, adding water, oil, and salt. We then kneaded the dough and took turns putting in the ingredients. **SR

Has SDB camping changed your life?

Our new SR Committee—based in Nortonville, Kan., and North Loup, Neb.—wants to feature our SDB camping program in a future issue.

Do you, as a camper or counselor, have a short story to share with our readers? Did an SDB camping ministry initiate your walk with the Lord? Do you want to

encourage others to attend or serve at camp?

Write it down now, before winter sets in!

Send your testimony to:
The Sabbath Recorder
PO Box 1678
Janesville WI 53547

or e-mail to:
sdbmedia@inwave.com

SR Reaction

Dear Kevin,

In September, you published a letter criticizing the *SR* for not having a regular feature supporting a particular interpretation of Genesis 1 and 2. In contrast to that opinion, after having spent a long sojourn in the wilderness of denominational dogma, I am thankful to have found a church that truly values "freedom of thought under the guidance of the Holy Spirit."

Taking a doctrinaire stance on any interpretation of scripture would surely alienate many wonderful Christians. I pray the SDB church will continue its tradition of celebrating the love of God as something that is ever reaching out in the spirit of inclusiveness.

F. Scott Rogers
Salem, WV

Dear Kevin,

I always enjoy Leanne's page in the *SR*. The September issue brought back poignant memories, the things that I missed the most after I moved from my home of over 50 years—

My flower beds with the beautiful flowers.

The lily pool with its sparkling fountain.

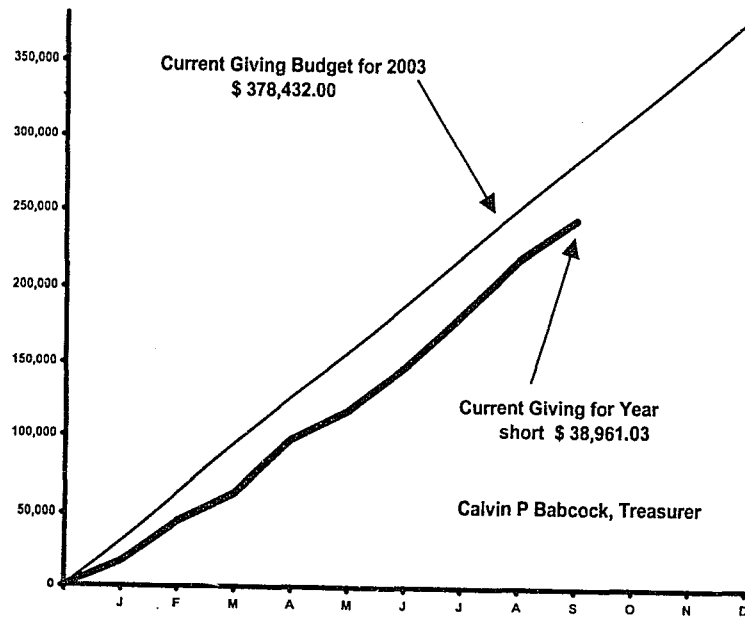
The fish which came to the surface for food when I rippled the water with my hand.

The pair of chipmunks who took up abode in the rock garden behind the pool and scampered into hiding whenever I invaded their domain.

All were examples of God's magnificent creation. "How Great Thou Art! How Great Thou Art!!"

Thelma Stewart
St. Louis, MO

Current Giving 2003



New members

Houston, TX

Joined after testimony
Mary Lou Broadway
Judy Lamb
Cliff Wall
Linda Ziganay

Pontotoc, MS

Don McPhearson, pastor
Joined after testimony
Kay Hall
Patrick Hall
Vickki Klepaci
Diane McPhearson
Don McPhearson
Earl McPhearson
Cheri Tutor

Birth

Bond.—A son, Jonah Charles Bond, was born to Ward and Debbie (Moncrief) Bond of Bridgeton, NJ, on August 4, 2003.

Marriages

Severance - Balog.—Keith Severance and Lynne (Skaggs) Balog were united in marriage on June 14, 2003, at Old Mill Park in Longmont, CO, by Rev. Victor Skaggs, father of the bride.

Calhoun - Czeslawski.—Ben Calhoun and Alison Czeslawski were married on August 23, 2003, at the home of the groom's parents in Milton, WI. Rev. George Calhoun, father of the groom, officiated.

Gulley - Kinnicutt.—Thomas Matthew Gulley and Heidi Renee Kinnicutt were united in marriage on September 20, 2003, in Bolivar, NY, by her former pastor, Rev. Edward Sutton.

Obituaries

Fisher.—Dora V. Fisher, 94, of Bedford, Pa., died on August 11, 2003, at Pennknoll Village, Snake Spring Township, Pa.

She was born in Napier Township, Bedford County, Pa., on March 27, 1909, the daughter of James Henry and Effie (Mitchell) Ferguson. On June 12, 1929, she married Lloyd S. Fisher. He died on October 28, 1990.

Dora was a housewife and farmer, and a member of the Ryot Church of the Nazarene. She attended the Bell Seventh Day Baptist Church of Salemville, Pa., with her daughter and son-in-law, who are members there.

Survivors include one daughter, Jean (Mrs. Dwight Kagarise), of Centerville, Pa.; one son, Jay, of Hedgesville, W.Va.; one sister, Mary Hinson of Osterburg, Pa.; 10 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandson. She was preceded in death by three brothers and three sisters.

Funeral services were held on August 14, 2003, at the Mickle-Geisel Funeral Home, with Revs. Edward Sutton and Mark Mohnkern officiating. Interment was in Bedford County Memorial Park, Bedford.

White.—Elsie May White, 84, died on September 2, 2003, at the Westerly (R.I.) Health Center. She was the wife of the late Walter A. Buck of Alton, R.I., and the late Robert R. White of Denver, Colo. Having worked most of her life in area factories, Elsie realized her lifelong ambition in 1981 when she became a missionary for the Seventh Day Baptist Church, taking a position as housemother at the Sunshine Mountain Home for Handicapped Persons in Chatawa, Miss.

She attended the First Hopkinton SDB Church in Ashaway, R.I., and the Pawcatuck SDB Church in Westerly. At the time of her death, she was a charter member of Vision Christian

Fellowship in Westerly. Although poor health made it impossible for her to leave the Health Care Center, she supported the church's work through prayer and encouragement to those who visited her. She will be greatly missed by many.

Elsie is survived by three sons, Charles and Richard Buck, both of Griswold, Conn., and George Buck of Stonington, Conn.; three daughters, Martha Buck of Charlestown, R.I., Norma Kenney of Hope Valley, R.I., and Laura Lee Mansfield of Gales Ferry, Conn.; 24 grandchildren, and 38 great-grandchildren. In addition to her husbands, she was predeceased by her sister, Lilla Reasor.

The funeral service was held on September 5, 2003, in the Rushlow-Iacoi Funeral Home, Westerly. Her pastor, Rev. David Taylor, officiated. Burial was private.

Goodrich.—Marjorie C. Goodrich, 71, of North Loup, Neb., died on September 13, 2003, at the Valley County Nursing Home in Ord, Neb.

She was born on March 20, 1932, in Hammond, La., the daughter of John Benjamin and Lillian Marie (Gray) Campbell. She was raised in Milton, Wis., and graduated from Milton Union High School in 1950.

She received nurses training at the Methodist Hospital and University of Wisconsin. On January 27, 1952, she married Ronald Goodrich in Milton.

Marjorie lived in Fort Carson, Colo., before making North Loup her home. There, she worked in Dr. Markely's Clinic and at the Valley County Hospital in Ord as a nurse's aide.

She was a member of the North Loup Seventh Day Baptist Church, where she sang in the choir. She was also a member of the Dr. Grace Missionary Society, American Legion Auxiliary Ralph R. Rich Post #285, the North Loup Election and Library Boards, the North Loup Housing Authority, and the American Red Cross.

Survivors include two sons, James of North Loup and John of Anchorage, Alaska; two daughters, Janece Mollhoff of Ashland, Neb., and Joni Kuzma of Grand Island, Neb.; two brothers, James of Sun Prairie, Wis., and Elnoe of Janesville, Wis.; 11 grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews. Her parents and one grandson, Robert Goodrich, preceded her in death.

Funeral services were held on September 17, 2003 in the North Loup SDB Church, with Rev. Chris Mattison officiating. Burial was in the Hillside Cemetery, North Loup. **SR**

Dear *SR* correspondents,

Thank you for keeping us informed of your church family news.

If you need more of the two-part information forms, please let us know. You may also e-mail your updates to us at sdbmedia@inwave.com

If you mail in obituaries cut or copied from the newspaper, please make sure that the death and service dates are listed, along with the location of the burial. Thank you.

Spicing up the joint, *cont. from page 14*

From such SDB churches as West Hallock, several lessons can be learned. These are offered not so much as excuses but to convey the reality of changing times, particularly in what was once a rural-oriented society.

The desire for education caused many second and third generation SDBs to seek higher education that couldn't be had in rural areas. A number of families in Illinois and Iowa moved to the Milton and Albion areas of Wisconsin so that their children could attend the academy and college in those towns.

Few ever returned to their rural roots. John Spicer's historical review of the West Hallock church lists four deacons who moved to Milton.

Another SDB with roots in West Hallock was Dr. Rosa Palmberg. She was born in Sweden but eventually lived with the George Butts family in West Hallock and became convicted of the Sabbath. While attending Milton College, she heard repeated ap-

peals from Dr. Ella Swinney for help with the medical work in China. Palmberg prepared herself for the medical mission and served in China from 1894 to 1940.

We can only speculate what the impact would have been if he had established his business in Peoria, giving employment to the many SDBs in that area.

John G. Spicer served as clerk of the West Hallock church for much of its existence and lived on what was considered some of the most fertile land in the state. He built a creamery on his farm and developed equipment to produce a high quality butter

that received the highest markings at the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago. He also developed an apparatus for making ice. The stationary on which his church correspondence was written carried the letterhead "Spicer's Creamery—J.G. Spicer and Son, proprietors."

Spicer and his wife had four children, two dying at less than four years of age. When a third child, a daughter, died at age 26, Clarence was left the sole surviving sibling.

With a background in manufacturing, it's not surprising that Clarence Spicer went on to improve his mechanical bent, attending Alfred University and, afterwards, Cornell.

When Clarence came up with the idea for the Spicer Universal Joint, it took him into the entirely new field of automotive parts. We can only speculate what the impact would have been if he had established his business in Peoria, giving employment to the many SDBs in that area. **SR**

"Life with G.W.," *cont. from page 18*

But God used this to teach him a lesson in humility.

Each year, 25,000 kids—and our speaker stressed this by saying, "Do you *know* how many kids 25,000 kids is?"... [pause] ... "25,000 kids!!!"—show up on the White House lawn for the "Easter Egg Roll." There, the kids get to see clowns, hear stories, and just plain have fun.

Each intern at the White House was given a slip of paper telling them what they would be doing to help. When Jonathan received a slip reading "Cost. Fill," he figured it would be something along the lines of handing out papers or cleaning up trash.

You can imagine his surprise when he was told that it meant "Costume Filler" and found him-



Bring on the food!

If each of us prays as Jonathan suggested, we can help change our nation.

self inside a very large and hot replica of the Hungry, Hungry, Caterpillar!

As he told of his experience inside the giant caterpillar, most of us were doubled over in laughter. Jonathan never failed to admit that it was God's plan for keeping him humble.

We greatly appreciate Jonathan for taking the time to share his experiences with us. He encouraged us to pray for God's help to accomplish great things, not just small things. If each of us prays as Jonathan suggested, we can help change our nation.

Thanks also to our 2003 officers—President Robyn Somers, Vice President Sarah Tyson, Treasurer Margie Burdick, and Secretary Nate Hemminger—for organizing and making our banquet possible. We know it takes a lot more effort than most realize.

Thanks! The 2003 Youth Banquet was a success! **SR**

K E V I N ' S

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Musty, moldy midnight madness

It was already past midnight.

The four of us had *just* caught the 9:00 bus out of O'Hare, with Janet and Jackson running full-tilt after snatching their luggage. (Matt and I flew on another airline, so we were waiting nervously at the bus stop.)

After finally arriving in Janesville and grabbing some breakfast goodies for the morning, we drove our van the final three miles to our little ranch house in midwestern suburbia.

"Home in our own beds!" we cried as we rounded the last curve. We had been in Oregon for Conference just shy of two weeks.

"Remember, it'll be pretty stuffy in there, so open the windows and turn on the attic fan," I reminded Matt as he unlocked the door.

"Whoa, something stinks!" Matt yelled as he stepped inside.

"Oh, come on, it's just musty."

No. Oh, no. It's more than just musty, we realized as we pushed our way in, begging to get some sleep.

"Whoa, something stinks!" the rest of us agreed.

"What's that dripping sound?"

"Why is the toilet running?"

"Why is there water all over the bathroom?"

"Oh, no! The toilet tank has a crack in it! It's been trying to refill itself!"

"For how long?"

"Well, look at all the water!!"

"Um, Dad, you'd better come downstairs..."

No. Oh, no. Water, water everywhere!! What a world, what a world...

That's how we were greeted as we came home from Conference this year.

Gallons and gallons of water had been seeping through the bathroom floor into the basement for who-knows-how-many days. (How does a toilet tank just develop a crack all by itself?)

So, did we crack up all by ourselves after seeing this?

"Look, there's nothing we can do right now," I assured everyone, after jamming something into the tank to stop the water flow. "Let's just get to bed and we'll work on it tomorrow."

We worked on it for many "tomorrows," and are still having the floors re-done and replacing stuff that needed replacing.

But we found that not *everything* needed replacing. After reporting the claim to the insurance company and listing all the damaged items, it made us think about what was really essential.

It forced us to clean house, too. In fact, one of our handyman's sons made a keen observation: "Wow, Dad. They need to get rid of this junk!"

Well said my young one.

How much "junk" are we holding onto spiritually?

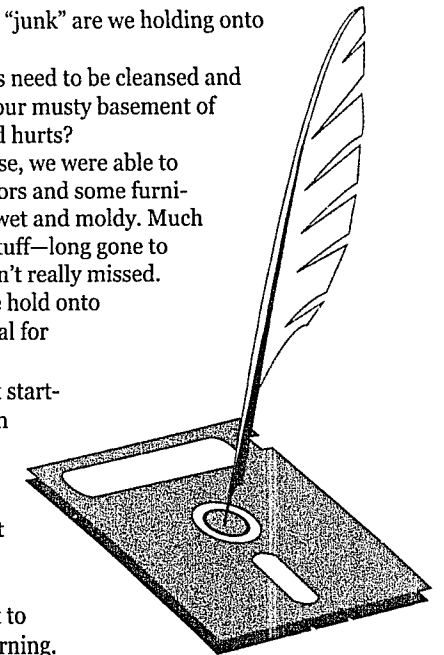
What items need to be cleansed and culled out of our musty basement of memories and hurts?

At our house, we were able to renew our floors and some furniture that got wet and moldy. Much of the other stuff—long gone to the dump—isn't really missed.

Why do we hold onto the unessential for so long?

How about starting to work on the old junk in your life before you're forced to do it in a crisis?

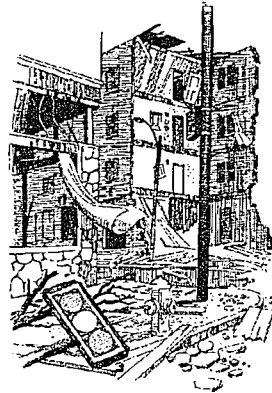
And you may not want to wait until morning.



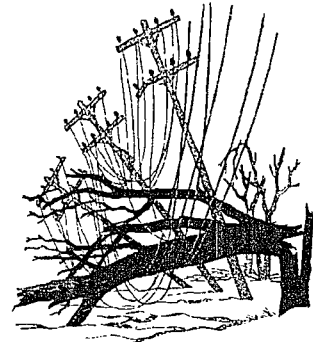
What a Year!



Hurricanes



Earthquakes



Floods

Your gift to
the *SDB United Relief Fund*
provides help for medical and emergency needs
both here and abroad.



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

SDB United Relief Fund
3120 Kennedy Rd.
P.O. Box 1678
Janesville, WI 53547-1678