

The

S

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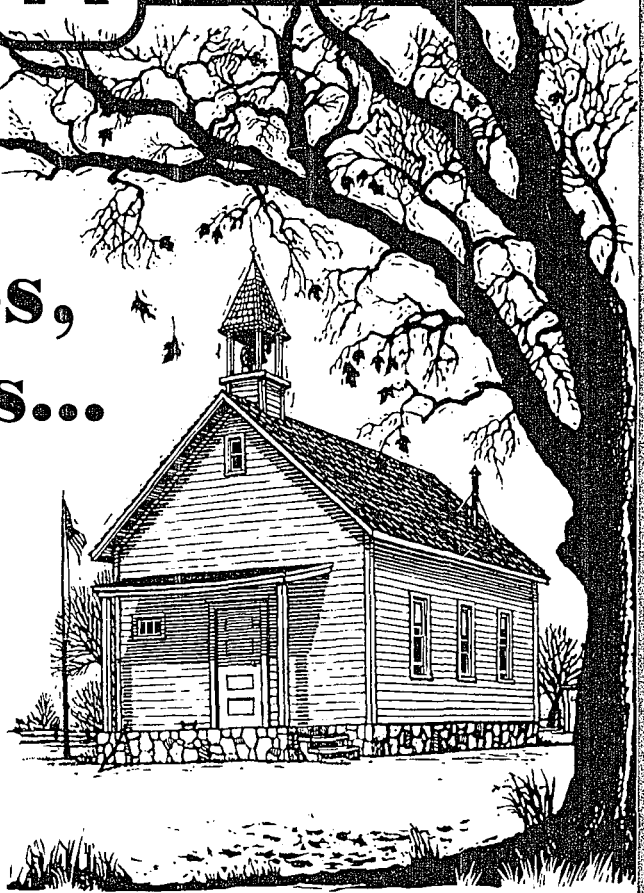
News for and about
Seventh Day Baptists

March 2003

R

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**Hard times,
good times...**



**The struggles & joys
of 104-year-old
Stanley Davis**



Who are Seventh Day Baptists?

If you've never read *The Sabbath Recorder* before, you might be wondering who Seventh Day Baptists are. Like other Baptists, we believe in:

- salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.
- the Bible as the inspired word of God. The Bible is our authority for our faith and daily conduct.
- baptism of believers, by immersion, witnessing to our acceptance of Christ as Savior and Lord.
- freedom of thought under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- the congregational form of church government. Every church member has the right to participate in the decision-making process of the church.

The seventh day

God commanded that the seventh day (Saturday) be kept holy. Jesus agreed by keeping it as a day of worship. We observe the seventh day of the week (Saturday) as God's Holy Day as an act of loving obedience—not as a means of salvation. Salvation is the free gift of God through Jesus Christ. It is the joy of the Sabbath that makes SDBs just a little bit different.

If you would like more information, write: The Seventh Day Baptist Center, 3120 Kennedy Road, PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547-1678. Phone (608) 752-5055; FAX (608) 752-7711; E-mail: sdbgen@inwave.com and the SDB Web site: www.seventhdaybaptist.org

Summer Institute on Sabbath Theology

June 9-20, 2003

Seventh Day Baptist Center, Janesville, Wis.

Taught by Rev. Gabriel Bejjani, Dean Council on Ministry

Please contact Rev. Bejjani for more information: (909) 682-2002

Sabbath Renewal Day 2003

Celebrated on May 17



Worship packets and bulletins will be sent to each church. Watch your mail!

SDB Pastors' Conference

March 19-22, Daytona Beach, Florida

Begins 9:00 a.m. Wednesday; \$45 Registration

Register at gabebejjani@prodigy.net

Historical Society Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Seventh Day Baptist Historical Society will be held at the SDB Center in Janesville, Wis., on Sunday, April 27, 2003, at 2:00 p.m., in connection with the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors.

The Society serves the denomination in the collection, preservation, and communication of SDB history. As a membership corporation, its work is financed by membership dues, endowments, contributions, and the sale of its books.

Any member of a Seventh Day Baptist church may become a Contributing Member for a \$10 annual fee, or a Life Member for \$100, payable to the Historical Society at the SDB Center, PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547.

The Sabbath Recorder

Establ. 1844



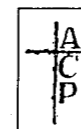
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Kevin Butler
Editor

Leanne Lippincott
Assistant Editor

Contributing Editors

Gabriel Bejjani, Andrew J. Camenga, George Cruzan, Eowyn Driscoll, G. Kirk Looper, Pete May, Laura Price, Don A. Sanford.

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Hard times, good times

by Stanley F. Davis

The following is a brief autobiographical sketch by one of the oldest Seventh Day Baptists living in the United States.

My mother told me that I was born on a frosty September morning; specifically, on September 1, 1898. I was the fourth child of Stephen J. Davis and Emma (Fox) Davis. They named me Stanley Fox Davis.

As was the custom back then, I was born at home, on a farm owned by my Davis ancestors since the late 1790s. That's when they moved as a Seventh Day Baptist church community from New Jersey to the wilderness of Virginia, an area now known as West Virginia.

Twisted feet

Soon after I was born, my mother noticed that both of my feet were badly twisted. When she asked Dr. Struthers about it, he said, "Emma, don't worry. Just hold his feet straight for a few days, and they'll be all right." How wrong he was!

I learned to walk at 10 months. But because both of my feet turned

times. I remember very little about my hospital stay, except that my feet were generally in plaster of Paris casts and I was in a wheelchair. I also remember that I was the "pet" of the nurses and had the run of the children's ward.

The operations were a success, with both of my feet now pointing in the right direction. But I was left with stiff ankles and a noticeable limp. Fortunately, my walk was not painful, and I was not excluded from the usual childhood activities, except those that required a lot of exertion. Over the years, this physical handicap has never kept me from having a normal life.

When I returned home from the hospital, I thought my siblings were other hospitalized children, and that the lady they called "Mama" was the nurse who took care of me. I soon learned that she was my mother.

Moving to Arkansas

In February 1905, I moved to Fouke, Ark., with my parents; four siblings—Karl, Lucile, Henry, and



Stanley Davis

already assumed the responsibility of further developing the Mission School.) Nan was fired with desire to help with this exciting adventure, and persuaded her family to move.

Fouke, located in Miller County, was a small village on the T&S Railroad between Texarkana and Shreveport, La. Rev. J.F. Shaw, who was also a surveyor, founded the town in the late 1880s. He laid out the community and named the streets after prominent Seventh Day Baptists.

Rev. Shaw had been the pastor of the First Baptist Church in Texarkana but later embraced the belief that the seventh day of the week was the Bible Sabbath. He resigned from the First Baptist Church and founded a small Seventh Day Baptist church in Texarkana. Later, he and most of the congregation moved to Fouke, where he envisioned a great Seventh Day Baptist community. With help from church members, he founded a school because there were no public schools at the time.

Pauline; my father's sister, Aunt Nan; and my Grandmother Davis. Why they moved, I do not know for sure. But in later years, I believed that it was my Aunt Nan's desire.

Nan was a recent graduate of Salem (W.Va.) College and had traveled to Fouke at the urging of her cousin, Rev. Gideon FitzRandolph. (He had

Late in the 1800s or early 1900s, the Rev. Gideon FitzRandolph, a representative of the SDB Missionary Board who had visited Fouke frequently, envisioned developing an educational center in the South. It would be comparable to Alfred (N.Y.) University, Milton

During the years Rev. FitzRandolph led the local SDB community, I joined the church and was baptized in Beech Creek.

(Wis.) College, and Salem (W.Va.) College. He resigned his position with the Board and took over the pastorate of the church. He also became director of the school already established at Fouke, displacing Rev. Shaw, who had retired in frustration.

Under Pastor FitzRandolph's able directorship, the school was staffed with volunteers from the three SDB colleges. After about 18 years, Rev. FitzRandolph—evidently disappointed by the slow growth of the Seventh Day Baptist community—suddenly resigned as church pastor and school director, sold all of his property in Fouke, and returned to his Salem birthplace.

Mission School renamed

Immediately after Rev. FitzRandolph left, parishioners called a new pastor, formed a School Board with Mrs. Nancy E. (Davis) Smith as president, and renamed the Mission School "Fouke Academy." During the next 11 years, the school and church prospered, with the school becoming the only high school in the area.

In 1927, the Board of Directors and the pastors of the SDB community believed that the public schools

had progressed enough that the whole community of Fouke would best be served by discontinuing the Academy and supporting public education.

During the years Rev. FitzRandolph led the local SDB community, I attended the Mission School, joined the church, and was baptized in Beech Creek, about three miles from Fouke. (The small stream had been dammed up to form a baptismal font.) Rev. Hurley Warren, a former editor of the *Sabbath Recorder* and a well-known SDB minister, was baptized at the same time.

The war years

After graduating from the Mission School in 1916, I entered Alfred University as a freshman. (My brother, Karl, was also a student there.) After World War I was declared in early 1917, the two of us returned to the family home in Fouke, intending to either join the Army or work on our father's farm.

Shortly after returning home, Karl was drafted into the Army and served through the entire war as a Lieutenant. He remained in the Reserves, and when World War II broke out, he returned to active service. I was classified as "4-F," physically unqualified for military service, and was refused enlistment by every branch of the military.

During the war years, I worked on my father's farm, in a bank in Kansas City, Mo., and taught for one year at Fouke Academy.

In November 1917, the Academy burned to the ground. The parishioners, with the help of the Missionary Board and the entire community of Fouke, immediately began rebuilding the structure that still stands today. (On October 12, 2002, it was dedicated as the home of the Miller County Historical Society.)

While they rebuilt the Academy, they continued holding classes in the Universalist Church, and in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Joel Babcock.

By this time, I was sure that I was not meant to be a farmer, banker, or schoolteacher. Instead, I decided to seek my fortune in the oil fields of West Texas.

"Wildcatting" the oil fields

On July 19, 1919, I began working in the Material Department of the Gulf Oil Co. in Eastland, Texas. At the time, trucks and tractors were not used in the oil fields. For many years, the Eastland warehouse shipped 200 wagonloads of pipe and construction materials daily, pulled by horses, mules, or oxen.

Two and a half years later, I was transferred to South America with a "wildcat" or exploratory drilling crew. I remained there for the next 25 years, taking occasional vacations back home to Fouke. In those years, I helped explore and develop the oil industry in Colombia, Ecuador, and Venezuela. This area supplied more



Stanley Davis, about 15 months old.

When I returned home from the hospital, I thought my siblings were other hospitalized children, and that the lady they called "Mama" was the nurse who took care of me.

inward, I had to step one foot over the other and couldn't stand still.

When I was 2 years old, I was taken to a hospital in Baltimore, Md., and placed under the care of Dr. William Ousler, the most prominent pediatric surgeon at the time. I am told that during the next two years, Dr. Ousler operated on each foot 17

than half of the oil and petroleum products used by the Allied Forces during World War II.

A Colombian wife

While working in South America, I met and married a beautiful Colombian seniorita named Blanca Livia Vásquez. (She died on May 21, 1997.) Our two daughters, Wilma Blanca and Emma Livia, were born in Venezuela.

After returning to the States, I settled in Southwest Louisiana, still following the petroleum indus-

try until my retirement in the late 1980s. Since retiring, I have remained in that area, living near my children and grandchildren.

I must confess that my membership in the Fouke/Texarkana church has been an absentee membership, except for the few years I lived in Texarkana. Today, as back then, the church of my faith is under the able leadership of Rev. Mynor G. Soper. **SR**

Blanca Livia Vásquez. (Photo taken about 1928.)



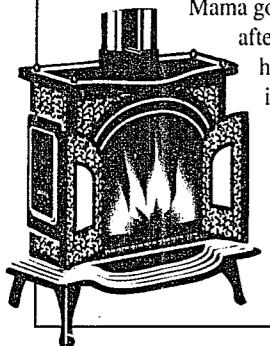
A day long ago in the Davis family

At 4 a.m., Papa would already be up. In the light from a coal oil lamp, he made a fire in the kitchen stove. It would take some time for the oven to heat up enough so that Mama could cook breakfast.

Papa would thump on the ceiling to roust out his three sons—Karl, Henry, and me—so we could head for the barn to do our morning chores.

My youngest brother was too young to help with the chores. So Kenneth, along with my two sisters, Lucile and Pauline, were allowed to sleep until breakfast time.

Once in the barn, Papa fed, rubbed down, and harnessed the mules for work in the field. Karl fed and milked the cows before turning them loose in the pasture. Henry and I fed the chickens and picked up the eggs. Papa always slopped the hogs after breakfast.



Mama got up soon after Papa. She had her morning cup of coffee and then cooked breakfast—corn meal

mush, bacon, eggs, and hot biscuits. Lucile's job was to set the table, and clean up the dining and living rooms. Pauline had to make the beds.

Except in very cold weather, we ate all of our meals on the screened-in porch adjoining the kitchen. Mama had a strict rule that everyone had to be seated at the table before anyone could be served, and Papa always said grace.

After breakfast, Papa worked in the garden, Karl plowed, and the rest of us chopped cotton or hoed. An hour later, we were back in the house, changing from our work clothes into school clothes (no shoes in either case).

School "took-up" at 8 a.m. and "let-out" at 4 p.m. When we arrived home, Mama always had a pan of roasted peanuts on the oven door for a snack.

We changed into our work clothes again and returned to the field. At dusk, we went into the house and repeated our morning chores while the girls helped Mama get supper.

In the summer, supper usually consisted of a big bowl of all kinds of seasoned cooked vegetables (we called it "mixture"), a pone of cornbread, homemade butter, and fresh milk or buttermilk. Dessert was likely to be bread pudding or rice pudding.

After supper, Mama washed the dishes, "set yeast" to make bread the

next day, and cleaned up the kitchen. We children sat around the dining table and did homework by gas light.

If Papa wasn't too tired, he read aloud from the works of Robert Burns, Rudyard Kipling, or other writers he liked. Papa was a good reader and enjoyed reading aloud.

About 10 p.m., everyone went to bed except Mama. She said the next hour after the family had gone to bed was *her* hour. She spent it darning stockings, patching clothes, writing letters, reading the Bible, or just resting in her favorite rocking chair.

We were a self-sufficient family, raising on our farm—or obtaining in the woods—almost everything we needed. By today's standards, it was a hard life. However, I sometimes wonder why all these people, Americans and others, who are starving or on welfare, don't move to the country and at least raise their own food.

—September 29, 1992



Excerpted and condensed from Stanley Davis' book, "100 Short Stories, 1898-2001," Tennessee Valley Publishing, © 2001.

Thorngate stresses SDB history, polity, and Sabbath at Baylor University

Studies program 'strengthened' according to Baylor mentor

Near the end of 2002, the Rev. Dr. Dale Thorngate, pastor of the SDB church in Salem, W.Va., was a Scholar-in-Residence at Baylor University's Program in Baptist Studies in Waco, Texas.

The program 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 Baylor's Department of Religion.

While at Baylor, Dr. Thorngate continued 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 following is from his report to the SDB Council on Ministry.

At the end of November, I returned home from Baylor University after a wonderful month of study, reflection, learning, and teaching.

My first week there I did research and studied to prepare to teach both about Seventh Day Baptists—our history and heritage, and our beliefs and polity—and about the Church as extended family, from my project on the Intentional Christian Family.

Lecturing

I lectured in six graduate-level classes on religion, theology, church history, Baptist identity, and ethics. These were in the Religion Department and at the Truett Seminary.

I always spoke about Seventh Day Baptists and handed out our literature: *A Baptist Church That's a Little Different, What the Bible Teaches About the Sabbath, Seventh Day Baptists and Seventh-day Adventists Compared, and A Thumbnail Sketch of Seventh Day Baptists.*



Top (l. to r.): Dr. Bill Brackney, Joyce Chan (PhD candidate), Dale Thorngate, and Dr. Leo Garrett, Professor at Southwestern Seminary. Left: Seminary MDiv class at Truett, with Dr. Bill Brackney.

In addition to informal conversations with professors, I was able to address the religion department faculty more formally when they hosted a luncheon for me.

I also presented Don Sanford's books on Seventh Day Baptist history and polity: *A Choosing People—The History of Seventh Day Baptists, Conscience Taken Captive, and Greater Than Its Parts.*

Researching

As part of my research, I also attended several sessions of an undergraduate class on marriage and family (similar to the one I teach at Salem International University), and sessions of a graduate class on counseling with couples, a class for master's-level social work students.

I had a chance to do research in Baylor's extensive libraries with the help of two doctoral student assistants and a professor from the Social Work Department. Besides teaching, I dialogued with professors from Baylor University, Truett Seminary, the Institute of Church-State Studies, Southwestern Seminary, and others.

Interacting

The chance to interact with many students and professors was very rewarding. In addition to informal

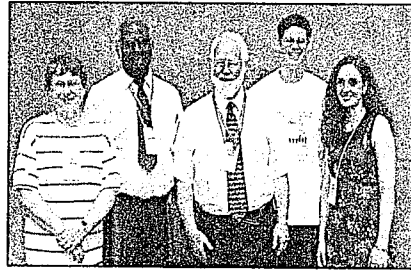
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Seventh Day Baptist World Federation

Delegates to the 2003 Sessions

Bocaiúva do Sul, Paraná
Brazil, South America
February 10-16

USA & Canada



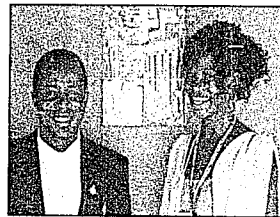
*Luan Ellis, Joe Samuels, Dale Thorngate,
Nathanael Lawton, and Andrea Davis*

Jamaica



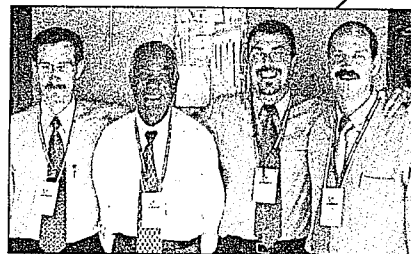
*Allan Chambers, Prudence Robinson,
and Naval Harley*

Guyana



Ewart Caesar and Kharlyn Henry

Brazil



*João Teles dos Santos, Salvador
da Silva, Luciano de Moura,
and Leonildo Lebkuchen*

Site of the
conference

Netherlands



Frits Nieuustraten

Federation President



Gabe Bejjani

Philippines



*Al Paypa and Fraternal
Delegate Bernardo Agudera*

Central Africa: Malawi



Canaan Phiri

South Africa



James and Mirriam Siwane

Australia



*Andrew Goulding,
Dorothy d'Alpuget,
and Marlo Siolo*

Thorngate stresses SDB history, *cont. from page 7*

conversations with professors, I was able to address the religion department faculty more formally when they hosted a luncheon for me at the faculty dining room. One particular event sticks out in my mind:

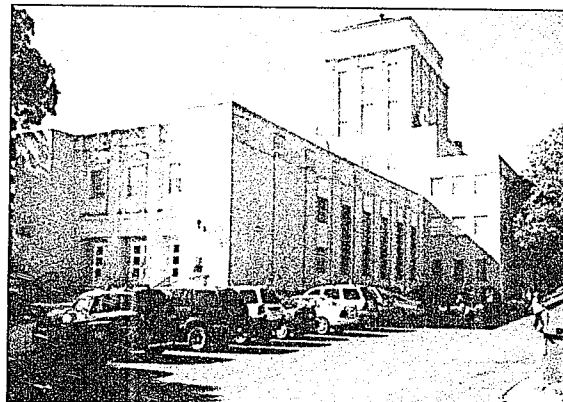
While touring Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth (the largest seminary in the world) with Dr. Bill Brackney and his graduate assistant, I was introduced to Dr. Leo Garrett, a professor of Theology. He was working on an assignment to present a paper on "congregational polity."

We spent over an hour exchanging ideas about this very basic Baptist principle. He seemed pleased that Seventh Day Baptists really are Baptist in their polity, and he was interested to hear my biblical support of our continued Sabbath practice.

Dr. Garrett was also helpful in providing me with some excellent sources to support my understanding of the biblical model of the family for my project.

Seminar on ordination

One of the most significant blessings of my time in Waco was the opportunity to attend a seminar on "Ordination in the Baptist Tradition." In advance of the seminar, eight scholars had been contacted to prepare a paper for presentation. These were then reviewed by another scholar who readied a paper in response to the original.



Religion Department Building, Baylor University.

The seminar format allowed each presenter 20 minutes on his topic. Then each respondent had 15 minutes, followed by questions from the audience. The topics included: "Pastoral/Lay Ministry Concerns in Ordination," "Toward a Baptist Theology of Ministerial Ordination," "The Ordination of Women Among Texas Baptists," "The Absence of an Ordained Ministry in the Churches of Paul," and "Ordination in the Larger Baptist Tradition."

One surprise

I was surprised that Southern and Texas Baptists don't have the equivalent of our accreditation process. Although I did not make a presentation at the seminar, I did talk about Seventh Day Baptists at the formal dinner for the presenters.

The ordination study was a rich, full day and a half. A book containing the seminar's papers, responses, and observations will be published, providing us with some theological and biblical support for our "Baptist" principles for ordination.

Contact with our people

In addition to my work at Baylor, I traveled to SDB churches in the area. On my first weekend there, I stayed with Dick and Mary Shepard and worshipped with the Houston, Texas, church, presenting a program on the World Federation. We shared a fellowship dinner, and I enjoyed

visiting with many of my friends and relatives in the area.

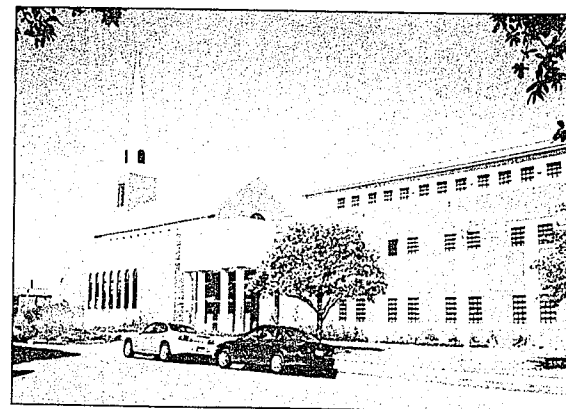
The second weekend, I traveled to Ft. Worth, where I worshipped with that church and made another presentation on the World Federation. For the first time, I met their pastor, Earle Holston, and his wife, Linda. Earle is a graduate of Southwestern Seminary and a strong addition to our pastoral ministry in Texas.

I also was able to meet with Fritz Nieuwstraten from the Netherlands, who was in Dallas for the Corrie Ten Boom Foundation. This gave us a chance to discuss World Federation issues and to reminisce about the past five years of our lives.

Hard work, with joy

It was a month of hard work in Waco, but also one of real joy and fulfillment. In response to my thank-you note to Dr. Brackney, my Baylor mentor, he indicated that my presence had been a personal blessing to him. He noted that many of those who met me were impressed with our Seventh Day Baptist witness. Bill also indicated that the Baptist Studies Program had been strengthened by my presence, and that its future looked bright.

I have been honored by this opportunity, as, I pray, have all Seventh Day Baptists. I thank the Council on Ministry for providing for my transportation so that I could participate in this program. *SR*



Truett Seminary at Baylor.

Hit the Oregon trail

by Justin Camenga

Seventh Day Baptists in the Pacific Northwest eagerly anticipate hosting a *great* General Conference in Newberg, Ore., this August. (Great spiritually, denominationally, and numerically.)

Those who have visited or studied this area already know something of its geologic, alluvial, arboreous, lacustrine, oceanic, volcanic, atmospheric, and riverine allurements. (*Editor's note: Please remember, Justin wrote this. <grin>*)

Every student has been required to read about the Oregon Trail's importance in history. Attending this year's Conference provides additional opportunities, benefits, and challenges.

Some necessary "warnings"

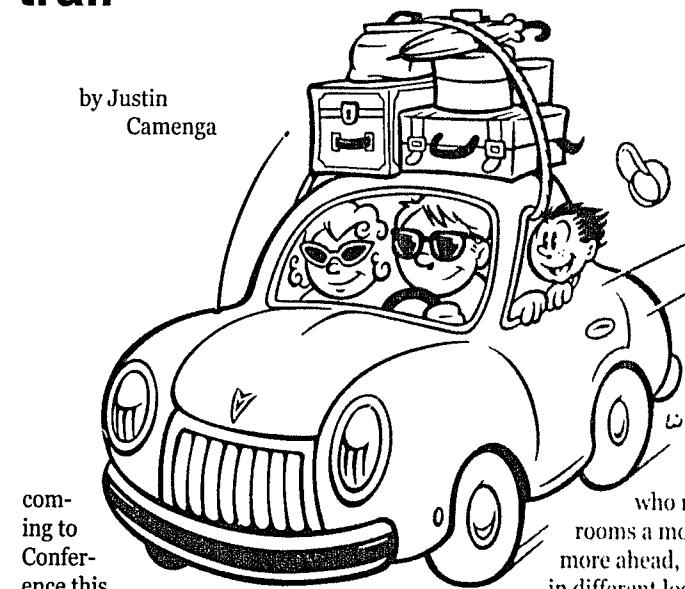
- People who endure hot summer nights may have to adjust to our cool evenings.
- Those used to sales taxes will be unnerved as they pay their tax-free bills here.

Are there some friends in your church who would go to Conference if you could be their sponsor or transportation?

- Californians will have to adjust to green fields, plentiful water, and air without flavor.
- Wisconsinites will have to do without mosquitoes and may have trouble remembering that all Oregon restaurants and public buildings are non-smoking.*
- Everyone except New Jerseyites will have trouble remaining in cars while an attendant is required to fill the tank.

Are we there yet?

If you have children in the "Are we there yet?" stage—or have dismissed



coming to Conference this

year as too far, too costly, or too anything else—*reconsider!!* **Yes, gasoline** is expensive. But there are bargain fares for planes, trains, and buses that haven't been equaled in years. Auto travel with

who reserve rooms a month or more ahead, or stay in different locations

at the same motel chain. Remember, there are friends, relatives, and churches you could ask about hosting you for an overnight stay. There's camping, too.

Yes, travel can bore children, but a well-planned trip could include caves, parks, hikes, riverboat tours, and picnics. With young children, it's easier if travel ends before sundown and resumes very early (3:00 or 4:00 a.m.). Travel with friends is always more fun. Are there some in your church who would go if you could be their sponsor or transportation?

Plan early!

Early planning is economically advantageous. Each state has websites listing events and attractions. Auto associations offer their members tourbooks, maps, and discounts. With appropriate early requests, SDB churches might be able to house Conference travelers.

Except for emergencies, it's difficult for everyone when unexpected travelers request overnight accommodations—especially when plans have already been made weeks in advance by others. It's hard to believe, but

four or more individuals is still a bargain.

Yes, food on the "I-ways" is costly. But less than a mile off the main road, restaurants serve healthy fare at modest prices, and there are opportunities for memorable picnics in spectacular scenery. And aren't there relatives or friends you would like to visit along the way?

Yes, motels cost money, but most offer in-room refrigerators and microwaves, complimentary breakfasts, pools, hot tubs, and workout rooms. There are bargains, discounts, family rates, and specials for those

there have been one or two such instances in the last 100 years. Let's keep it that way!

Early planning helps the Host Committee, too. If you come to General Conference 2003, you will be warmly welcomed. If you are able to plan early, you will not be more welcome, but Dave and Doreen Davis will have a place prepared for you. If you're a last-minute existentialist, there will be a place for you as well.

Lodging in Newberg

It's not too late to plan early. Price per day for August 3-9 quoted late January for **Newberg Travelodge Motel** (with pool, spa, and exercise room) for a double-queen room with refrigerator, microwave, hair dryer, and coffeepot will be \$53.84, including tax. Price for a room with a one king or queen-size bed will be \$50.09, including tax. For more than two people per room, add \$5.00 per person per day; children under 12 are free. There are 33 non-smoking rooms. Call 1-866-537-3777 for more details or reservations.

Price per day for August 3-9 quoted late January for **Newberg Best Western Motel** (with pool, spa, exercise room, and sauna) for double-queen room with refrigerator, microwave, hair dryer, coffeepot, iron and ironing board will be \$62.01, including tax. Price for a room with one king-size bed will be \$52.47, including tax. There is no additional charge for more guests per room. Call 1-503-537-3000 for more information or reservations.

Price per day for August 3-9 quoted late January for **Newberg Shilo Inn** with identical amenities to Best Western (see above) for a double queen room will be \$76.28, including tax. Price for a single king room will be \$76.28, including tax. No charge for children under 12.

Pre-Con!

The Pre-Conference camps begin on Wednesday afternoon, July 30, and run through Sunday morning, August 3.

Youth Pre-Con

Director: pending
At Camp Molalla in Molalla, Oregon, about 30 miles south-east of Portland.

Young Adult

Director: Pastor Scott Hausrath
On the campus of George Fox University in Newberg.

For more Pre-Con info:

(607) 587-8527

sdbbce@EducatingChristians.org

Call 1-503-537-0303 for details or reservations.

Price per day for two-person occupancy at **Portland-Dayton R.V. Park** (8 miles from Newberg) is \$22 per night, with 7th night free. Senior rates are \$20.00 per night. An additional \$2.00 per person per night is charged for extra people. Fax 1-503-864-4853 or call 1-503-864-2233 for more information, requirements, or reservations.

On-campus housing

Price per day for "suites" on the George Fox University (GFU) campus will be \$44.00 per night. The suites are two rooms, four single beds and private bath, with shared kitchenettes on each floor. Bathrooms are at one end of the suites (which means occupants of the "far bedroom" pass through the "near bedroom" to use bathroom facilities). There is no limit on number of people per suite. Sheets, pillowcases, blankets, towels, and pillows are not included, but a limited number are available at \$7.00 per person per week (no mid-week change.)

Price per day for two-bed dormitory rooms on GFU campus will be \$22.00 per day. Bathroom and showers are communal, and may be one floor above or below assigned rooms. Remarks above concerning room occupancy and linens apply.

Self-contained RVs can park on campus without charge. Ten electric hookups are available for RVs at \$15.00 per day. Dumping facilities are at Champoeg Park (pronounced shampoo-ee, about 20 minutes from GFU) or near Dayton (9 miles).

Dave and Doreen Davis have accepted the task of GFU room assignments. Requests for reservations should be made to them at 1-425-255-3999. They also encourage you to e-mail them at: dave@davisplano.com.

"Go West, young and old!" We hope to see you at Conference. **SR**

*One serious warning: There is absolutely NO SMOKING on the campus grounds of George Fox University. Anyone caught smoking will be asked to leave the Conference.



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

Remembering the 2002 Summer Christian Service Corps

Last year, SCSC training was held from June 20-28 at the Daytona Beach, Fla., Seventh Day Baptist Church, under the direction of Training Coordinator Althea Rood.

Staff members included Pastors Andrew Samuels and Eric Davis, Kristin Camenga, Linda Camenga, Helen Goodrich, and guest Hope Heinig, first aid trainer. Vivian Looper again served as the "gourmet cook," assisted by Faith Green. Volunteers from the Carraway and Daytona Beach churches also helped with the meal and snack preparations.

We were blessed with 35 young people and 12 projects. We wish to

thank Lois Davis of Rome (N.Y.) Travel Bureau, Inc., and Bonnie Flint for another year of successfully scheduling the SCSC travel packages.

In 2002, SDB churches and individuals contributed \$12,892.32 to SCSC.

This included transportation for each SCSCer from home to training, training to project, and project to evaluation and Conference. Travel arrangements were also made for each staff

member, with the respective churches arranging transit for each Project Director.

We thank all of the volunteers who drove the SCSCers to and from training and projects, and transported participants from and to the Daytona Beach and Orlando, Fla., airports.

The SCSC Committee asked each SCSCer to raise at least \$300 to help defray their expenses. Any excess funds were added to the SCSC account. The total amount raised last year was \$10,394.

In 2002, SDB churches and individuals contributed \$12,892.32 to SCSC. We thank all of you for your prayers and support. Prayer partners were once again assigned. **SR**

THANKS to all of last year's SCSC projects, teams, and project directors

Battle Creek, MI: Steven Pimple (Riverside, CA) and Amy Goodrich (North Loup, NE). *PD*—Pastor Kory Geske

Berlin, NY: Craig Mosher, Jeremy Bullinger, Kevin Bonesteel, and Jennene Schillinger (all Berlin, NY). *PD*—Paul Greene

Boulder, CO: Lindsey Cowden (Dodge Center, MN), Joshua Michaels (Berlin), Maureen Siolo (Brisbane, Australia), and Bethany Thompson-gordon (Daytona Beach, FL). *PD*—Sonja Looper

Charleston, SC: Keith Ashley and Siana "Jody" McLean (both Toronto, Ontario, Can-

ada). *PD*—Pastor Christian King
Columbus, OH: Theona Gordon (New York, NY), Marissa Van Horn (Columbus, OH), and Heather Wright (Milton, WI). *PD*—Lana Van Horn

Milton, WI: Miriam Lawton (Little Genesee, NY), and Sonya Fyffe (Toronto). *PD*—Angie Osborn
North, Loup, NE: Jeffrey Neher (Dodge Center), Aubrey Appel (Milton), and Emily Kandel (Alfred Station, NY). *PD*—Helen Goodrich

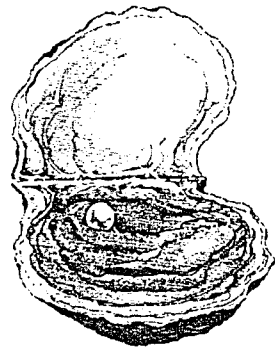
Riverside, CA: Virginia "Ginny" Burdick (Seattle, WA), Omar "Chris" Sinclair (Miami, FL), Amy Wright (Milton), and Sharai Fyffe (Toronto). *PD*—George Lawson

Seattle, WA: Joanna Harris (Colorado Springs, CO) and Matthew Tori (Brisbane). *PD*—Ruth Burdick

Shiloh, NJ: Brett Greene (Columbus), Oneika Rhoden (Toronto), and Katie Colvin (Nortonville, KS). *Co-PDs*—Dottie Moncrief and Debbie Bond

Toronto, ONT: Jeffrey Sinclair and Jamaal Fyffe (both Toronto). *PD*—Phoebe Fyffe

White Cloud, MI: Brandon Parker (Denver, CO), Paula Reynolds (Toronto), Stephanie Ritchie (Riverside), and Tarike Delisser (Mountain View, Jamaica). *PD*—Michelle Crandall



Pearls from the Past by Don A. Sanford, historian

Reentering closed doors in Argentina

six week's journey to their work at Cerro Cora, Province of Misiones, Argentina."

Rev. George Hills, then pastor of the Los Angeles SDB Church, had been very active in home missions. In describing the beginnings of the Robinsons' mission, he wrote:

"Many earnest prayers had been offered asking the 'God of Missions' to send suitable workers who could speak the Spanish language, that the needs of the field might be met. It seems that these

"The young people have co-operated in advocating and assisting in the undertaking, with all the zeal and enthusiasm of consecrated young life. For which we can not be too thankful, when we consider their relations to our future religious work and needs; for they will soon be called upon to take up the steering wheel in hand.

"At this very date, that zeal is finding another channel of expression. There is a goodly number of them already studying the Spanish

**In their sharing
of the pure Gospel, the
Robinsons were making such
inroads into the Catholic Church
that the local priest turned to
underhanded methods to
counteract their work.**

prayers of faith have been answered, and the missionaries are now speeding down the great Pacific on their way.

"When it was ascertained that our Missionary Board was financially unable to take up this added burden, this Pacific Coast Association decided to forward the work."

Youthful enthusiasm

Some of Pastor Hills' observations are reflected in this new century. Just as we are encouraged by our young people participating in missions, he found encouragement in the youth of his time.

language and the customs and social, political, religious, and economic conditions of Spanish-speaking America."

The responses—good and bad

After two years, the Robinsons were able to report on both the positive and negative responses to their labors.

They were able to establish two small groups in a rural area in the extreme northern part of Argentina. They then moved to Santo Tome, a city of about 5,000 where the Gospel had never been presented in any

cont. on page 23

*"All men will
hate you because of me,
but he who
stands to the end
will be saved.
When you are persecuted
in one place, flee to another."
—Matt. 10:22-23*

Jesus never promised His disciples success in all their missionary efforts, but He did call them to be faithful in their mission. As we review the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation meetings in Brazil last month, we are challenged to expand our mission into new areas of outreach.

Brazil is the largest country in South America. Last year's July/August issue of the *Sabbath Recorder* reported on Pastor José M.D. Alegre establishing a Seventh Day Baptist church in Buenos Aires, Argentina, the second largest country in South America. (It's about four times the size of Texas.) But that was not the first time that SDBs have attempted mission work in Argentina.

Eight decades ago

Over 80 years ago, the Pacific Coast Association voted to sponsor a mission in Argentina. The *Recorder* for June 26, 1922, carried this note: "Brother and Sister William Robinson, with smiling, bright-eyed Mary Ellen, whom we all love, sailed from Los Angeles Outer Harbor on their



SR Almanac

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

One year ago—March 2002

Front cover asks, "Is Bible Study the weakest link in your spiritual arsenal?" How-to features on Bible study come from Liz Green, Dan Cruzan, and Paul Manuel.

Kirk Looper shares about the struggle of our churches trying to register with the government in Burundi, Africa.

The Miami, Fla., church honors long-time member and deaconess, Gladys Hamilton.

Thirty-five young adults gathered at Camp Paul Hummel in Colorado for the year-end retreat. Their focus was on God's calling.

Conference President Gordon Lawton reveals the fourth stone of his "What do these stones mean?" theme: the Sabbath.

Five years ago—March 1998

Annual focus for Seeking Spiritual Maturity highlights "Family Life." Articles—organized by the Women's Society—come from Pastors Don and Charlotte Chroniger, Mary Jane McPherson, and Floy Owen.

Pastor Trevah Sutton recalls family memories as he turns 90.

"Pearls" column relates Rev. Herman Clarke's experiences with the Orphan Train in the early 1900s.

Local church news comes from Bridgeton, N.J., and Lake Elsinore, Calif.

Adella Botticelli Latus shares her SDB memories and salvation testimony.

Updates from India clarify the differences among the three SDB Conferences there.

10 years ago—March 1993

Articles look at the SDB pastoral search process. Director of Pastoral Services Rodney Henry explains the calling procedure and local church pastoral options.

Pastor Bill Shobe shares his perspective on matching churches and leaders.

"Focus" column lists overseas projects in need of assistance.

Don Sanford's *A Choosing People* receives favorable review in the Southern Baptist Historical Commission quarterly, "Baptist History and Heritage."

Memorial Fund trustees vote to give \$5,000 to each of the major SDB boards.

Central Missouri church holds Sabbath Rally Day.

25 years ago—March 1978

Mrs. Lillian Crichlow of Washington, D.C., is featured in "Personality Profile."

Former *SR* editor Leon Maltby shares a feature on "Resurrection Faith."

Council on Ministry sponsors student weekends in Los Angeles, Calif., and Milton, Wis. More than a dozen seminarians attend. Then, for the first time since the establishment of the Council in 1962, students meet with COM members, discussing matters of mutual interest and concern.

Ladies' Aid groups from London, England, and Battle Creek, Mich., are highlighted on the Women's Society page.

Construction begins on a children's home at Sunshine Mountain in Chatawa, Miss.

50 years ago—March 1953

American Sabbath Tract Society officially dissolves its New York corporation and transfers its property to the New Jersey corporation, where the work had already been located for many years.

SDB churches profiled: Berlin, N.Y.; Hebron, Pa.; Chicago, Ill.; Ashaway, R.I.; and Boulder, Colo.

A large gathering attends the dedication of a new SDB church building in Bath, Jamaica.

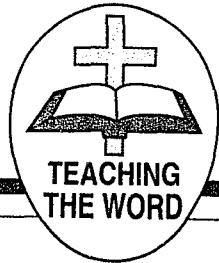
Dr. Carroll L. Hill, who resigned as president of Milton (Wis.) College in January, is appointed administrative assistant to the president of Beloit (Wis.) College. Professor Leland Skaggs is named acting president at Milton.

Deaths reported of Deacon Robert L. Coon of Ashaway, and Dr. Lester M. Babcock, long-time dentist in Milton.

...where are we headed?

Pray for—

- a stronger emphasis on Bible study
- our extended church families
- numerical and spiritual growth for young adults
- those seeking SDBs, that they find us
- the SDB Council on Ministry
- our women's groups, local and national
- our evangelistic efforts



Christian Education

by Andrew J. Camenga

Nominate a teacher

Nominate one of your church's Sabbath School teachers for the Crystal Apple Award. This award recognizes one teacher each year whose outstanding teaching skills have helped to prepare their students for Christian growth.

Think about the gifts, skills, abilities, and attitudes your Sabbath School teachers bring to the class. Choose one who consistently and currently demonstrates the kind of teaching you would like to encourage. Then, nominate that person for this award.

We urge you to participate in the nomination process. In February, we mailed the nomination forms to pastors and Sabbath School Superintendents across the Conference. If for any reason you need an additional form, contact the Board of Christian Education office and we will send additional forms to you.

Once you have the form, simply gather the necessary information, complete the form, and mail it back to us by June 30, 2003. In July, we will pick a Sabbath School Teacher of the Year, and we will announce the Crystal Apple recipient at General Conference.

Each member and branch church of the General Conference may nominate one teacher. The following criteria will be used for determining the Sabbath School Teacher of the year:

- Is a member in good standing of the nominating church
- Exhibits the qualities of faith and teaching found in the life and teaching of Christ
- Currently serves as a Sabbath School teacher

- The church has not had a recipient of the award in the last three years.

If you need a nomination form, please contact the Board of Christian

Education office at P.O. Box 115, Alfred Station, NY 14803.
 Phone: (607) 587-8527
 Fax: (607) 587-9895
 E-mail: sdbbce@EducatingChristians.org

The following people have received the Crystal Apple Award:

1986 **George E. Parrish**
Battle Creek, Michigan

1987 **Shirley S. Cargill**
North Loup, Nebraska

1988 **Margaret B. Allen**
Lost Creek, West Virginia

1989 **Helen K. Bond**
Columbus, Ohio

1990 **June Johnson**
Nortonville, Kansas

1991 **Ruth B. Bennett**
Battle Creek, Michigan

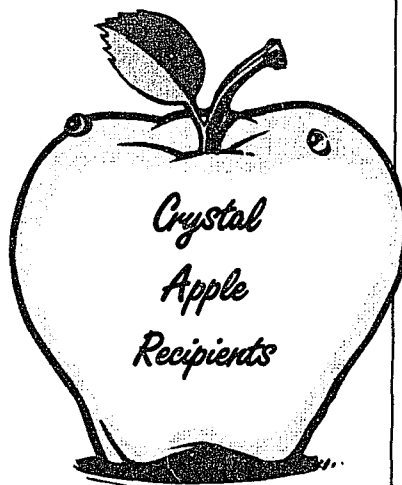
1992 **Dan Richards**
Texarkana, Arkansas

1993 **Dr. Lewis H.V. May**
Riverside, California

1994 **Alan R. Crouch**
Daytona Beach, Florida

1995 **Madeline Fitz Randolph**
Boulder, Colorado

1996 **Karen S. Payne**
Dodge Center, Minnesota



1997 **Janis M. Bond**
Shiloh, New Jersey

1998 **Earl W. Hibbard**
Central, Maryland

1999 **Marilyn Merchant**
Riverside, California

2000 **Esther A. Burdick**
Waterford, Connecticut

2001 **Judy Parrish**
Battle Creek, Michigan

2002 **Larry Bird**
Washington, D.C.



FOCUS on Missions

New outreach to Spanish speakers

by Ronald Elston

Several years ago, SDB Missionary Society Executive Director Kirk Looper answered an inquiry from the Canary Islands. A pastor there had a vision of coming to America and starting a Seventh Day Baptist outreach to the Spanish-speaking community.

That pastor was Luis de la Cruz, a missionary with a burning desire to share the Gospel with the unsaved. A short time later, Pastor de la Cruz moved to Washington state to start his ministry. A job transfer necessitated a move to the Riverside, Calif., area.

National Extension Minister for the SDB Missionary Board, traveled to the West Coast to help develop a Missionary Society/Riverside Spanish Outreach project. He met

According to his most recent report, Pastor de la Cruz is teaching a Spanish Sabbath School class at the Riverside church, as well as ministering throughout the local community.

After arriving in Southern California, he contacted our Riverside church, which agreed to sponsor an outreach to the Spanish-speaking community.

In November of 2002, Rev. Ron Elston,



Pastor Luis de la Cruz (l.) and his brother-in-law, Jesus Cruz, at the Riverside, Calif. SDB Church.

with Pastor de la Cruz and the church's pastor, Eric Davis.

They held several meetings at the church and at homes to work out the details of the project. Rev. Gabe Bejjani, Director of Pastoral Services for our denomination, also assisted during the weekend meetings.

According to his most recent report, Pastor de la Cruz is teaching a Spanish Sabbath School class at the Riverside church, as well as ministering throughout the local community. He passes out tracts and books, and is developing a core group for the outreach project.

Brother de la Cruz pastored and taught in his own country for a number of years prior to his call to minister in the United States.

We praise God for His faithfulness, and welcome "Pastor Luis" and his family into fellowship with Seventh Day Baptists. **SR**



Pastor Luis de la Cruz (left) and Pastor Eric Davis.



the BEACON

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

March 2003

Broken, emptied, filled

by Eowyn Driscoll

We laughed, we cried, and we left with new knowledge and understanding of what God can do in our lives.

In January, over 35 youth from as far away as New York and Colorado—and as close as just down the road—gathered at Camp Wakonda outside Milton, Wis. We enjoyed three days of prayer and learning, as well as the usual overdose of fun and fellowship.

During our time together, God led Pastor Nate Crandall (Associate Pastor at White Cloud, Mich.) to show us all how our lives can be broken, emptied, and filled with Christ.

Right from the get-go, we were able to see the impact this retreat would have on us. The arrival of our "Music Master" (Pastor David Thorngate of the Boulder, Colo., church) was delayed, thus prohibiting the commencement of the opening ceremonies. But God was with us and provided the soulful "improvs" of one Ben Calhoun. By the end of the session, our Maestro had arrived, and the *real* fun could begin!

Pastor Nate started off by giving us the usual "Hello, great to see/meet all of you, please don't hurt yourselves" speech. That was followed by our first personal devotion time, where we began to reflect on why we had come to the retreat. All of us had different reasons for being there—He was here for cleansing; she was here to learn... But all of us

were there because we felt a calling from God to "come home."

The first step, *brokenness*, comes only when a person is desperate for Salvation. The next, *emptied*, is the part of life when you give up all those things which are interfering with your relationship with God and ask Him to deal with them.

The final stage of *filling* is achieved after you allow your heart to be opened to Christ and filled with the Lord's light. God went to work right away. By the end of the weekend, all of us had found a new part of ourselves and, in many cases, bonded with each other.

On the lighter side, "Cool Hand Luke" and "Mandy the Magnificent" led us in campfire games every day, including a few thrilling rounds of everyone's favorite game, "Mafia." We also had an informal chess tournament, with one Josh Baker defeating all of those who opposed him.

A select few set out to play "Let's dig through the leaves to find a missing ring." We eventually found the ring and returned it to its owner, thanks to some diligence, Sam Lima's metal detector, and the Hand of God.

During the first day of the retreat, we went roller skating. Some chose to be anti-social and played video games, while others did the "Hokey Pokey" and the "Chicken Dance" on the rink.

On the second day, the schedule announced that we would be having a Winter Fest, which *would* have happened except for the complete and utter lack of snow! In all honesty, Wisconsin at midwinter this year had less snow than Long Island, N.Y., where the average annual snowfall is three inches.

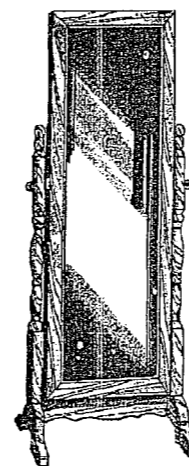
Some of us decided to play football in the snowless weather. Unfortunately, one of our counselors twisted his ankle. (But he was okay.)

New Year's Eve was one of the most memorable experiences of the weekend. First, we played two games of Persecution. A concert/praise time followed, given by a group composed of members of the local band, "Mabel," plus or minus a few musicians.

The camp then split into those who wanted to play board games, and a larger group who decided to watch a video.

We had Communion at midnight, and were tucked safely into our beds by 3:00 a.m.

This was a great retreat—from missing rings to broken ankles, from the "Profession Song" to praise songs. The weekend was a way for all of us to get closer to each other, closer to God, and to make new friends. There was much rejoicing. Yay! **SR**



Reflections by Leanne Lippincott

"Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror;
then we shall see face to face."—1 Cor. 13:12

Odoriferous March

coming on the earth..." (Genesis 7:17).

"...the winds will pick them up, and a gale will blow them away" (Isaiah 41:16).

"A sluggard does not plow..." (Proverbs 20:4).

Of all of these, my favorite verse remains, "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will..." [*still shovel your sidewalk and driveway*].

In spite of all of March's faults—rain, sleet, snow, fog, mud, and minimal sunshine—it does have one redeeming quality: it promotes communication between friends.

I hate March, but my friend, Barbara Saunders, loves March. In addition to being her birth month, she

claims that March weather is much "nicer" than April. (That's often been the case here in Wisconsin the past several years, but don't tell her I said that.)

When it's a particularly nasty March day, I phone Barbara and gloat. And when it's a gorgeous March day, she phones me and gloats. It's gotten to the point that neither of us have to call as often, since both of us know what the other is thinking. Which can be irritating. Even when Barbara doesn't call, I find myself thinking, *Will she call today? Tomorrow? I know she's going to give me a hard time.*

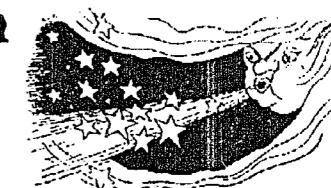
Other than this increased communication between friends (*I think* we're still friends!), March is for the birds. No doubt vultures. **SR**

An Ode to March

I asked God why He gave us March;
He smiled and winked an eye.
Patiently, I asked again,
"Why can't You tell me why?"

God pelted me with rain and snow,
and blew my hair awry.
He mounded mud around my feet,
while I began to cry.

Then suddenly the sun came out
and bathed me in its light.
I felt reborn, as if the world
had switched to day from night.



"You see, my child," God gently said,
"You need both sun and rain.
Both good and bad exist on earth,
sweet joy and bitter pain."

"I gave you March so you would know
how bad some days can be,
and all the more appreciate
the good that comes from Me."

I am in Christ

The President's Page - March 2003

George Cruzan

Why is there a Seventh Day Baptist General Conference of USA and Canada?

The purpose of our Conference is to serve the local churches in their Christian life—not to rule, control, or direct local churches. The Conference provides advice and assistance, and allows the local churches to do collectively what they can't do alone.

The Conference operates through an annual business session each August. This year the sessions will be held at George Fox University, just outside Portland, Oregon. Voting on business is by churches, with the number of delegates and votes based on your local church membership totals. Come and represent your group!

Recommendations and proposals are reviewed in smaller interest committees before final action in the business sessions. Bring your ideas for improved Conference operations; these can be presented in the interest committees and may lead to improvements.

Conference activities that are done collectively for the churches include missionary programs, publications, education materials, and ministerial education. Are these important to your church?

The Conference provides advice and assistance in the areas of ministerial search, Sabbath awareness, and church and leadership development. Current assistance programs for churches include new ministries to reach new people, facilities improvements, and custodial investment accounts. Does your church benefit from these programs?

The purpose of the Conference is to serve local churches. Come to Conference to present and discuss what your local church needs. And come to Conference for spiritual growth. The worship and study activities will be centered on living in Christ.

Come to Conference at George Fox University, Newberg, Ore., August 3-9, 2003. **SR**



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

Temple care: eat less!

When I became Executive Secretary, I knew that I was not someone who would be able to enthuse "the spirit of SDBs" to higher spiritual experiences. But, as a medical doctor, I should be able to help SDBs to better health and energy to serve Jesus Christ.

The first thing I tried was to challenge our people to see who could lose the most weight in a year. Our winner was Pastor Dave Taylor, who lost 50 pounds. In second was my "old buddy," Steve Pierce, who lost 30 pounds. (Dave is still losing more, and Steve's wife, Joan, says he's holding his own.)

Another pastor lost 30 pounds, and his mother thought he was going to die. My wife's friends tell her that I look sick. She says to me, "You must be sick; eat more."

I often repeat a favorite phrase from British Prime Minister Winston Churchill: "Never, never, never, NEVER, NEVER GIVE UP."

Excess weight can affect mankind's ability to serve the Lord. This concerns me greatly as it lessens the effectiveness of Seventh Day Baptists as we try to serve God.



Simply carrying around 20 pounds of excess weight is fatiguing. It is also a strain on the mind and heart. Each pound of fat has 70 miles of small capillary blood vessels. If you lose seven pounds, that's 490 miles of less strain on your heart.

If I could encourage all just *slightly* overweight SDBs to lose 20 pounds each, we would have much more energy to work and witness.

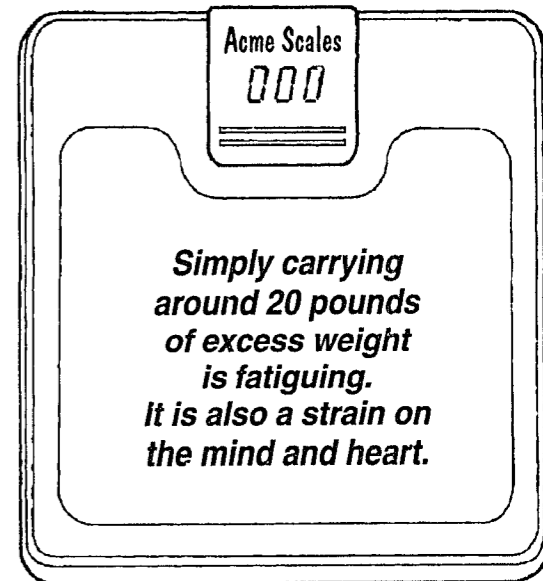
We also now know about something called metabolism stress ("insulin resistant syndrome").

Being overweight strains the heart and its vessels, resulting in hypertension, stroke, and heart failure. The presence of too much fat is the main culprit. Extra weight also can cause kidney failure, and can stress the pancreas, causing diabetes.

Excess fat is at the root of all these problems. If you are overweight, you *will* be diabetic, and you *will* have kidney failure and heart disease. We doctors didn't used to talk like this, but now we have to.

This is an "American cross" we all bare and should consider conquering! As a physician who gives advice, I have learned that people will not do the one easy thing to lose weight: My advice? EAT LESS.

I now tell people to put food on their plate and then have someone take half of it off and put it in the refrigerator. By following this formula, you should lose 10 pounds in three



weeks. If you don't, then eat only one-fourth of your usual serving. That means juices, "veggies," meats, everything!

We all know that Jesus Christ is our Savior. He expects us to save our bodies for His service. Does He not say that your body is the temple of the Lord, and that your heart is where He lives in this world?

How can you serve God throughout your life if you spend all of your time, energy, and money on struggling with health problems? If you have excess weight, you will! All you have to do is *eat less* of what is normally in front of you—at each meal, every day. **SR**

What does the Conference do?

Please contact us to receive this beautiful and informative pocket-size folder.

Each sheet contains a list of ministries that a Conference agency performs for you and your church.

Call or write today for your SDB ministries folder.

SDB Center
PO Box 1678
Janesville WI 53547
(608) 752-5055
sdbmedia@inwave.com

Nortonville hosts free breakfast

by Reba Wheeler

The youth of the Nortonville, Kan., Seventh Day Baptist Church, under the leadership of Jean Jorgensen, sponsored a free "Community Pancake Feed" on January 26, 2003. Around 70 people showed up to "chow down" on pancakes, sausage, orange juice, and coffee.

The youth canvassed the town and distributed flyers. They read, in part, "Come to the basement of the Seventh Day Baptist Church. Bring the family and greet your neighbors. We want to meet you."

The church's pastor, Rev. Stephan Saunders, made the pancakes, and the young people served the breakfast from 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Many guests came after attending worship in their own churches.

The event was deemed excellent and greatly enjoyed by all. The

youngsters and their leader slept at the parsonage in sleeping bags so that they would be at the church early Sunday morning.

Special thanks and appreciation go to Jean, Pastor Steve, and the Youth Group for the delicious breakfast and excellent service. **SR**



Amanda and Katie Colvin distribute flyers advertising the Pancake Feed.

Church youth working at the free breakfast included (l. to r.): George Graves, Kristi and Eric Drinkard, Robert and Amanda Colvin, Lahla Hunsaker, Katie Colvin, and Tina Pluff.

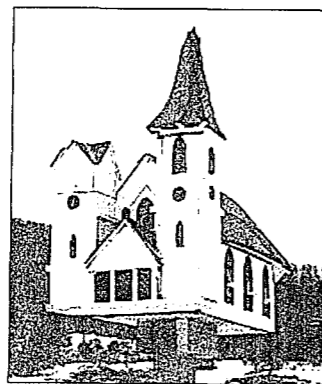


Church replica houses feathered friends

This is a replica of the Little Genesee (N.Y.) Seventh Day Baptist meetinghouse which was lost to fire in June 2001.

The birdhouse/feeder was made by Ernie Cowell, whose wife, Peggy, is a long-time member of the church. Like many in the congregation, she has felt the loss of the church building very deeply. So Ernie decided to make the birdhouse/feeder for her as a Christmas gift.

There are eight "windows" in the sanctuary area which are individual birdhouses, with more compartments in the back and front of the upstairs. The two towers on the front hold bird seed that funnels down onto the porch as a feeder. It was put on a post in Cowell's back yard just after Christmas, and already has



chickadees as tenants. Various other birds also visit the feeder daily.

If you would like more information on this birdhouse/feeder, please contact Peggy Cowell at 921 Salt Rising Road, Bolivar, NY 14715. Her phone number is (585) 928-1974. **SR**

Card shower

Believe it or not, Lorna Austin Graffius will be 80 years young on April 6, 2003! Her family invites you to join in the celebration by sending her a birthday card. Feel free to write about a memory or include a picture. Send all greetings to:



Lorna Graffius
PMB #164
2811 Milton Ave.
Janesville, WI 53545-0234

Reentering closed doors, cont. from page 14

form. There they reported that 15 people had already been baptized, and eight more were in training for baptism.

But in their sharing of the pure Gospel, the Robinsons were making such inroads into the Catholic Church that the local priest turned to underhanded methods to counteract their work. In a letter to the sponsoring Association, William wrote:

"On Monday, while en route to a store where I make some purchases, I gave a tract to a man who said to me, 'The Priest will make war on you.' I replied, 'I don't doubt it. I don't like fighting, but I can and will, whenever necessary.'"

Meeting the priest

When William Robinson entered the store, he met the priest for the first time, face-to-face. The priest asked him to define God. William replied with the words of Jesus, "God is a Spirit..." but the priest would not wait for the full text.

"Then he began insulting me, saying I was not worthy to discharge the office of a minister of the Gospel and that I ought to be making an honest living by driving an ox team. He affirmed that he had studied theology for 15 years and that I was an ignoramus."

However, words were not the only tools of assault. The following Friday night, at 12:30 a.m., their house was pelted with stones, breaking windows and disturbing the family. Pastor Robinson reported that the three of them turned to Psalm 91:5—"Thou shalt not be afraid of the terror by night," and they resumed their sleep.

The editors of both local papers visited him and wrote favorable articles, condemning the priest's insulting remarks. The newspaper reports of the assault enabled the Robinsons to gain some support.

But the SDB pastor's "attack" upon the Catholic Church—in a country

which was over 90 percent Catholic—fostered adverse reactions. A month later, a second attack upon his house was even more destructive. When a sympathetic neighbor called the police for help, no one responded.

What's in a name?

Another aspect of the Robinson's ministry that contributed to the close of the Argentine mission involved its name.

At the General Conference held in Milton in 1924, the Santo Tome Church, numbering 31 congregants,

South America as their representatives, and were receiving support from the Association, that group had a right to expect the newly organized churches to accept the common church name. In the end, Association members felt compelled to discontinue their official relations with the Robinsons, which also meant an end to their regular financial support.

Along with this report, they noted that the Robinsons were earnest, devoted Christian workers. They believed William and his wife were doing a good work in leading peo-

The Pacific Coast Association felt that they had a right to expect the newly organized churches to accept the common church name.

applied for admittance into the General Conference. The Conference referred the application to the sponsoring Pacific Coast Association, with approval hinging on the condition that the new church take the name of Seventh Day Baptist and make a statement of their belief.

General Conference expressed a willingness to accept them as a member church, granting them the privilege of taking any other name in connection with the name, "Seventh Day Baptist."

In spite of pleading and arguments, the Robinsons refused to use any name that was not found in the Word of God. Such names as Church of God of Seventh Day Baptists, were rejected. They insisted on merely using the name Church of God or Church of Christ.

Good work, but goodbye

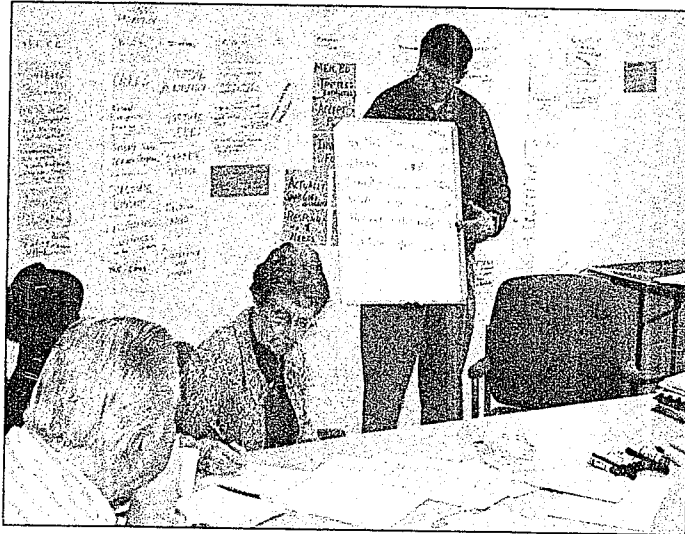
The Pacific Coast Association felt that since the Robinsons had gone to

ple from the darkness of Catholicism into the liberty of the Gospel, including the seventh day.

To some, it may seem that an inconsequential matter closed what promised to be a ripe field for the witness of the Gospel message. Yet, as we see the vast growth of sects within our modern culture—and the confusion many have in distinguishing Seventh Day Baptists from other Sabbathkeeping groups—we need to point out our distinctive beliefs. These beliefs give us our identity, based upon our Biblical convictions. **SR**

Information and quotes in this article were taken from the Sabbath Recorders of the time and from the General Conference Yearbooks of 1925 and 1926.

General Council meets in Florida



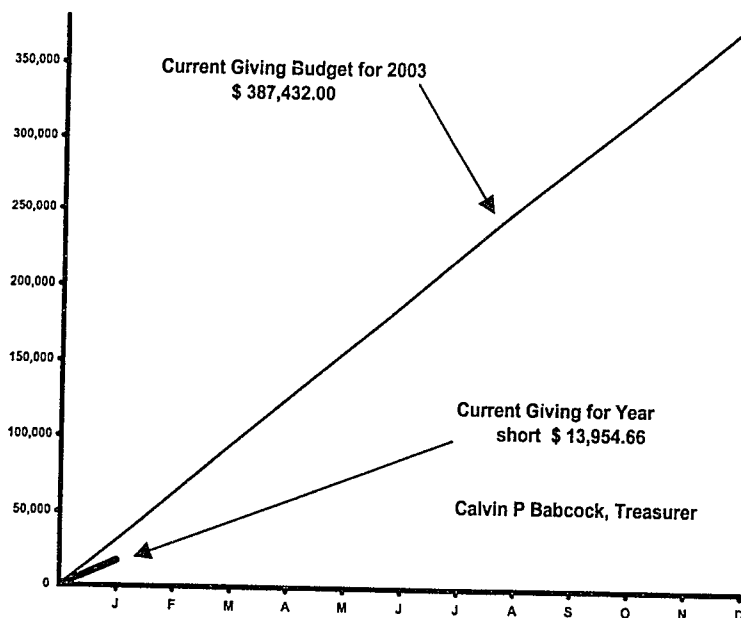
General Council chairman Gordon Lawton holds the future in his hands: the timeline of leadership positions due to change hands in the next few years. Council Secretary Norma Rudert takes notes as Memorial Fund President Owen Probasco ponders the rapidly approaching changes.

COM Notice

In January, the Council on Ministry received notice that Rev. Gabriel Bejjani would not be able to move to the General Conference Center, Janesville, Wis., in 2004. The Council is in the process of revising the current job description and contract requirements of the Director of Pastoral Services/Dean of the School of Ministry and will be announcing the opening of the position soon.

The applicant must be a senior accredited SDB pastor with 10 years service and a Master of Divinity Degree as a minimum.

Current Giving 2003



New members

Chatawa, MS
 (Sunshine Mountain)
Ralph Hays, pastor
 Joined after testimony
 Jennifer Bond
 Jordan Bond
 Jay Hays
 Linda Hays
 Richard Warren
 Connie Warren

White Cloud, MI
Bernie Wethington, pastor
 Joined after testimony
 Victoria Nader
 Deborah Nienhuis
 J.R. Shick

Obituaries

Irish.—Alta Martha Irish, 87, formerly of Friendship, N.Y., died on December 21, 2002, at the Wellsville (N.Y.) Manor Care Center following a brief illness.

She was born on February 9, 1915, in Friendship, the daughter of William J. and VeEtte (Goltry) Robertson. On January 8, 1949, she married William A. Irish Jr. in Friendship. He died on January 28, 1999.

Alta lived in Friendship most of her life and was a 1933 graduate of Friendship High School. Various firms in Buffalo, N.Y., employed her for several years, and she also worked many years as an assembler at Daystrom Furniture in Friendship. She attended the Seventh Day Baptist Church in Richburg, N.Y., and the United Church in Friendship.

Alta was a member of the Friendship Senior Citizens Club, a 60-year member of the Friendship and In-avale Grange, and a member of the Belmont Grange #1234. She enjoyed reading, sewing, and sending and receiving greeting cards.

Survivors include several nieces and nephews, Duane Burrows of Newfane, N.Y., Harold Burrows of Ophelia, Va., Victor Burrows of Newport News, Va., Phil Burrows of Milton, Wis., John Burriss of St. Simons Island, Ga., Arvis Burrows of Cuba, N.Y., Sandra Williamson of Clinton, N.J., and Jessie Emons of Allegany, N.Y.; and several grand-nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by a son, William A. Irish III, and a sister, Dorothy Burriss.

Funeral services were held on December 26, 2002, at the Treusdell Funeral Home in Friendship, with the Rev. Rick Kiddy officiating. Burial site is the Mt. Hope Cemetery in Friendship.

Brooks.—Ruth Randolph Brooks, 98, of Orange City, Fla., journeyed to the Lord on December 21, 2002. She was born in Ashaway, R.I., on

July 7, 1904, the daughter of Curtis and Adelle (Carpenter) Fitz Randolph. When she was 7 years old, her family—including older sister Janette—moved to Alfred, N.Y. In 1914, she was baptized and joined the Alfred Seventh Day Baptist Church. She graduated from Alfred Academy as valedictorian in 1923, and graduated cum laude in 1927 from Alfred University, majoring in History and English.

After teaching high school for a year, she attended the School of Commerce in Rochester, N.Y., studying Secretarial Science. She worked there as a secretary and then as a teacher in the secretarial department. From 1933 to 1943, she headed the school's typewriting department.

On August 7, 1937, she married her beloved husband, Frederick Brooks of London, England, at her parents' home in Alfred. He died of tuberculosis on December 10, 1958.

Ruth conducted her own business for 25 years, a franchise with the Ford Gum and Machine Company. She also taught adult education typing for 15 years and, upon retiring in 1972, traveled extensively. She lived in Rochester for 62 years before moving to Orange City in 1991.

In addition to being a lifelong member of the Alfred SDB Church, she was a charter member of the Women's Club of Alfred University. She held offices in her Senior Fun Club and in church women's groups. She was also the corresponding secretary of her Alfred University class for 50 years.

Ruth was an accomplished pianist and vocal accompanist, and enjoyed reading, especially her Bible and historical novels. She would wish to be remembered most for her years of dedicated teaching. Through that work, she hoped that she had con-

tributed her best toward a meaningful life on earth for her Savior, Jesus Christ.

Survivors include one daughter, Adella B. Latus of Palm Coast, Fla.; and nieces and nephews and their families.

In the spring, a memorial service will be held at the Alfred SDB Church, followed by interment in the Alfred Rural Cemetery.

Lippincott.—Elda Marie (Dimond) Lippincott, 85, died on December 25, 2002, in the Palliative Case Unit of the Altoona (Pa.) Hospital.

She was born on June 7, 1917, in Salemville, Pa., the daughter of Harvey and Susan (Kagarise) Dimond. She married Warren Lippincott on January 20, 1943, in Sedalia, Mo., while Warren was in the U.S. Army. After his discharge, the couple moved to Salemville, where they lived the rest of their lives.

Elda found great joy and blessing in being Mom to her three children, all of whom survive. Daughter Juanita lives in Everett, Pa.; oldest son, Kenneth, lives in St. Louis, Mo.; and the youngest, Roger, resides in the New Enterprise area of Pennsylvania.

Other survivors include one sister, Mildred Coble of San Antonio, Texas; four brothers, Kenneth Dimond of Mechanicsburg, Pa., Bill of New Enterprise, Bob of Martinsburg, Pa., and Ulcie of Everett, Pa.; six grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Elda was a lifetime member of the Bell (Salemville) Seventh Day Baptist Church. She was an active deaconess until the last two months before her death. She enjoyed painting, cooking, and baking, and is fondly remembered by those who knew her in the church and throughout the community.

cont. next page

Obituaries, cont.

Funeral services were held on December 28, 2002, at the German SDB Church, Salemville, with the Reverends Edward Sutton and Michael Benner officiating. Burial was in the Salemville Cemetery.

Simon.—Sheila W. Simon, 78, of Washington, D.C., died on January 4, 2003, quietly and unexpectedly while worshipping her God in an assembly of believers and in the presence of several of her loved ones.

She was born on September 7, 1924, the daughter of Frank and Victorine Lyttle of Uitvlugt, Guyana. She was the wife of the late Clifton Simon and the mother of 10. She was well known for housing those in search of a new start, as well as those who needed a place to stay for a night or two. Her sacrificial nature led her to feed and clothe many in her native country.

Sheila came to the United States 25 years ago to care for three of her grandchildren after their mother was murdered. The Lord mended her broken heart while she was actively involved in the Washington, D.C., Seventh Day Baptist Church. She became a deaconess there, and later joined with the Shiloh Church of God Seventh Day.

She eventually managed to bring all of her surviving children to America, except one. A year ago, her mended heart received another blow when she learned that her daughter had been placed on life support. Still, she fought her pain with unwavering faith in God. She was always a tenacious faith warrior, even in tumultuous circumstances.

Sheila's departure has etched a void within the hearts of many, including her eight surviving children, one sister, 45 grandchildren, 34 great-grandchildren, one great-

great-grandchild, and numerous other relatives and dear friends.

A memorial service was held on January 12, 2003, in Memorial Chapel at the University of Maryland. Officiating pastors were Randolph L. Douglas, Samuel W. Carson, and Paul R. Andries, her grandson. Interment was in the Uitvlugt SDB Cemetery.

Death Notices

Holly L. August, 41, of Atchison, Kan., died on December 13, 2002.

Mary Susan Bond, 71, of Lost Creek, W. Va., died on January 12, 2003.

Ruth S. Brock, 93, of Coudersport, Pa., died on February 6, 2003.

Denominational Dateline

March 2003

- 3 BJC Executive Committee meets in Washington, D.C.—Kevin Butler
- 15 TCC Core Committee, SDB Center, Janesville, Wis.—Butler
- 15 BCE Workshop, Daytona Beach, Fla.—Andrew Camenga
- 16 SDB Missionary Society Annual Meeting, Westerly, R.I.—Kirk Loper
- 19-22 SDB Pastors' Conference, Daytona Beach—Gabe Bejjani, Butler, Camenga, Ron Elston
- 25 Myrtle Beach, S.C., SDB Fellowship—Elston

April

- 11-12 Shepherd's Fold SDB Church, Blountville, Tenn.—Elston
- 26-27 SDB Memorial Fund Quarterly Meeting, Seattle, Wash.—Calvin Babcock
- 26-27 SDB Historical Society Annual Meeting, SDB Center, Janesville—Don Sanford
- 27 Missionary Society Board of Managers, 1st Quarterly Meeting, Westerly—Looper, Elston

May

- 3 Mill Yard SDB Church, London, England—Looper
- 5-9 BWA Summit on Baptist Missions, Swanwick, UK—Looper
- 10 Birmingham, England, SDB Church—Looper
- 25-31 Church Planters School, Janesville—Elston, Loper

Dateline Key

- BCE**— Board of Christian Education
- BJCPA**— Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs
- CLT**— Coordinating Leadership Team
- COM**— Council on Ministry
- COSAR**— Committee on Support and Retirement
- NET**— Natural Evangelism Training
- SCSC**— Summer Christian Service Corps
- TCC**— Tract and Communication Council
- T.I.M.E.**— Training in Ministry by Extension
- SR**— *Sabbath Recorder*

KEVIN'S

ORNER

We'll see you again

Jackson, our 8th grader, was all set to serve a month-long stint as mentor for an exchange student from South Korea. He would escort the visitor to all of his middle school classes and show him what our local American lifestyle was like.

Little did we realize how much of our lifestyle we would share.

The family which had agreed to host Jackson's student needed to back out of the agreement, which left the coordinator scrambling for a new host home. Since Jackson had shown such promise as a mentor, the request came our way:

"Would you be willing to actually host the Korean boy for a month?"

Hmm...

We had "survived" a three-week stint hosting a teenage boy from France a couple summers ago. And this would be during the school year, so we wouldn't have to entertain all day...

And with the girls off at school, we *did* have a spare bedroom...

Well... okay.

Ji-hoon arrived on a cold and blustery Wisconsin weekend (poor kid!). We had a hard time imagining how his parents felt sending their boy halfway around the world to live with complete strangers.

One big question was answered at our first meal together. Before we could start our usual singing grace, our guest bowed his head for an earnest silent prayer. A Korean/English Bible and hymnbook confirmed that Ji-hoon was a believer.

Week one was quiet. Ji-hoon knew how to read well in English, but attempting to follow our conversations left him bewildered. As time went on, both of the teenagers loosened up and became more like brothers. The activity-filled days flew by.

On the Sunday before Janet and I were to leave for Brazil, it was time to say goodbye to Ji-hoon. We had grown accustomed to his big grin and laugh; we had become his proud "parents" as he sang a popular Korean song at the closing program.

Tears mingled with the hugs as we bid him farewell. But we knew that we would see him again. He was a believer.

Fast-forward two weeks and the tables are turned.

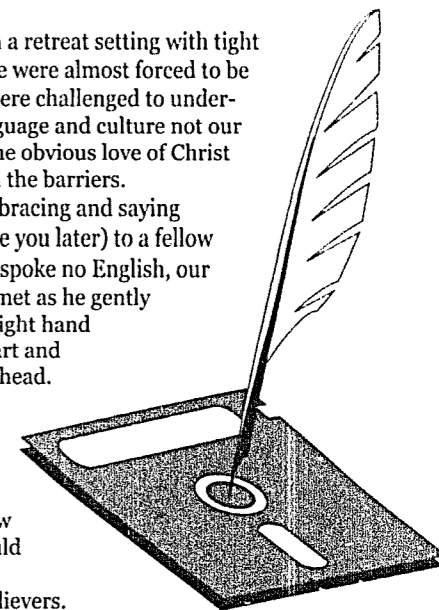
Jan and I are broiling under the summer heat of South America as we sob our farewells to some of the most beautiful people on this planet: our Brazilian SDB brothers and sisters.

In a mere ten days, our hearts and arms had embraced these wonderful people. (You'll hear more about the World Federation meetings next month.)

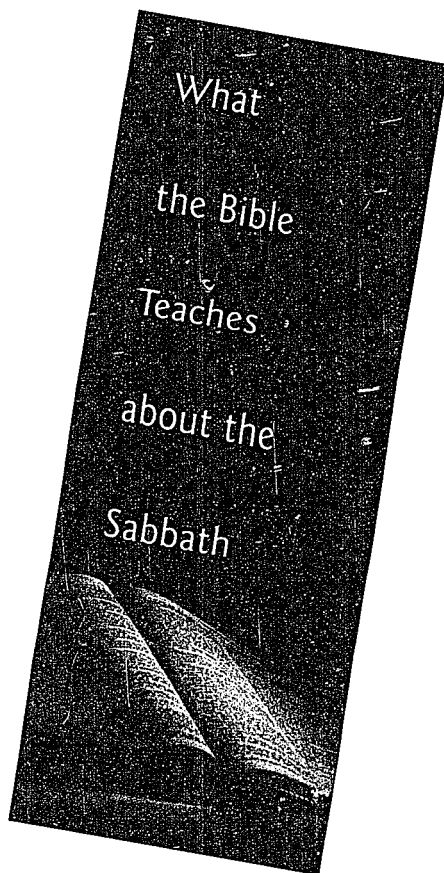
Placed in a retreat setting with tight quarters, we were almost forced to be close. We were challenged to understand a language and culture not our own—but the obvious love of Christ broke down the barriers.

After embracing and saying *até logo* (see you later) to a fellow pastor who spoke no English, our moist eyes met as he gently placed his right hand over his heart and nodded his head.

We had shared our lives and our love, and we knew that we would meet again. We were believers.



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