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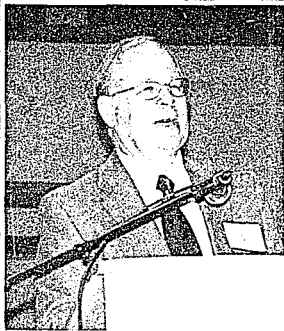
abbath

News for and about
Seventh Day Baptists

September 2003

R

ecorder



*George Fox
University*



I am in
Christ



2003
SDB
General
Conference





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 Year-End Retreat

Dec. 28, 2003 – Jan. 2, 2004
Camp Wakonda, Milton, Wis.

Leader: Wayne North
Theme: Leaders of Today

Airports: (near to far) Madison, Milwaukee, O'Hare, Midway
Bus and train service to Janesville.

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Front cover photos (left to right, top to bottom): President George Cruzan; Wednesday night leaders and speakers L.B. Lee, Bob Bruce, Don Graffius, and Samantha McElwee; Fed spiritually on Sabbath morning, heading to be fed physically; Kerith Camenga ministering in song; Pastors Paul Andries and Don Chroniger; Deacons ready to serve communion on Sabbath eve; "Um, could we share the microphone?" at the children's musical; Pastor Rod Henry; Barb Green (center) putting on the Robe of Achievement with help from Marjorie Jacob and Marguerite Heinig; President Cruzan passing the gavel to Pastor Dale Thorngate.

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Annual Corporation Meeting Notice Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education, Inc.

The annual meeting of the members of the Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education, Inc., will be held at the Edgar D. and Harriet Brown Van Horn building, 892 Route 244, Alfred Station, N.Y., on Sunday, October 26, 2003, at 10:00 a.m.

The purpose of this meeting shall be to hear and act upon the 2002 Annual Report of the Board of Directors, and to consider and act upon such matters that may properly come before said meeting.

Members of the member churches of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference USA & Canada, Ltd., are members of the Corporation. Accredited delegates attending the 2003 General Conference sessions in Newberg, Ore., are entitled to vote at this annual meeting.

The Sabbath Recorder

Establ. 1844



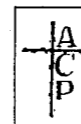
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Kevin Butler
Editor

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Assistant Editor

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

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

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I am in
Christ

That 'other' President George

by Justin and Karlene Hibbard
From the Conference Crier

Conference was almost planned, except for a small space in the schedule that revealed the lack of a musician for Monday morning's worship service.

Wrapping up his year-long visitation of Seventh Day Baptist churches, Conference President George Cruzan was worshipping with his brothers and sisters in Christ at the Seattle Area SDB Church in Auburn, Wash. With compassion and a desire to help, the church body asked if there was anything they could do to assist with the fast-approaching Conference.

President Cruzan was delighted—as we all were—when we heard the special selections of Seattle's vocal group, "Six Days Work," on Monday morning.

There are many more duties to being Conference president than simply chairing the business sessions. In fact, the president is in charge of almost everything scheduled for Conference week—or, at least, helping to plan it.

Though the president is involved in many activities, his/her two main jobs are to decide upon and develop a Conference theme, and to appoint people to carry out all of the Conference activities.

The theme for this year's Conference, "*I am in Christ*," came from a sermon given by President Cruzan's pastor, Don Chroniger, at the Shiloh, N.J., SDB Church.

Choosing the Conference theme, however, is only the beginning. As important as it is to have a well-developed, God-driven theme, it is also necessary to have enough people to carry out the activities. There are Bible study leaders to appoint, speakers to choose, and interest committees to head up.

"The most difficult part," said President Cruzan, "is the first six months of identifying people appropriate for each job."

As he traveled throughout the United States and Canada, meeting parishioners and speaking at SDB churches, Cruzan gathered a plethora of ideas for topics, speakers, and musicians, just as he did in securing the Seattle vocal group.

Of course, it would be too much work for one man to come up with all those names, which is why Cruzan is so thankful for people like his wife, Patricia, and for Kevin Butler, Andrew Camenga, Calvin Babcock, and

many more. Their suggestions and ideas were very helpful.

The process of developing a theme, picking leaders to carry it out, and planning Conference does not happen overnight. Each August, we experience the coming together of 23 months of measureless work and preparation.

Though the process of planning is long and ongoing, President Cruzan's job culminates at the end of the week. On Sabbath night, the "changing of the guard" ushers in President-elect Dale Thorngate as next year's Conference President.

"One difficult thing about this job," Cruzan noted,

"is that a person does it for only one year."

While there is little that can prepare one for stepping into the position of Conference president, Cruzan believes that being a part of General Council helped him to understand the role and importance of Conference within the denomination.

As attendees spend worry-free time in wonderful worship, Bible studies, seminars, and activities, we can be thankful for all the preparation President Cruzan has done. And we pray for future presidents

**Each August,
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preparation.**

of the denomination as they begin planning the countless details that bless Seventh Day Baptists at General Conference. **SR**



Arne Buhman, Dave and Doreen Davis, and Dave Alldredge make up Seattle's "Six Days Work."



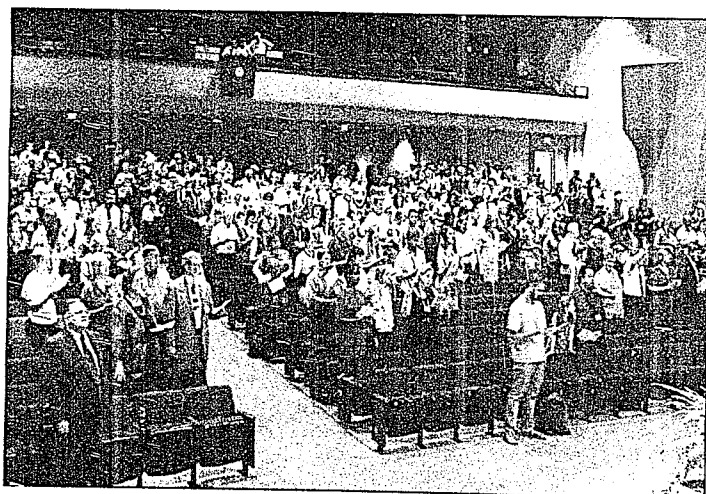
Mel and Yvonne Stephan read the Obituaries report.



Pastor John Camenga and fraternal delegates Vicki and Stefan Kube ponder a question in Sabbath School.



After declaring the Conference session ended, President-elect Cruzan returned to his seat to a standing ovation from an appreciative crowd (and wife, Pat).



Conference at worship on a Sabbath morning in the Pacific Northwest (George Fox University, Newberg, Ore.).



Sean Kelly and Bob Burdick ready to fish in the musical, "Down By the Creek Bank."

The Week in Review—August 3-9, 2003 at George Fox University, Newberg, Oregon

Statistics

- 467 registered guests
- 500+ at worship on Sabbath
- 215 delegates representing 43 churches
- 8 fraternal delegates from other SDB Conferences
- 53 enrolled in Junior Conference
- 61 at Youth Pre-Con, directed by David Thorngate with three staff
- 41 at Young Adult, directed by Scott Hausrath with five staff
- Women's Love Gift: \$3,924.25
- Conference offering: \$14,366

Elections

- President 2003-2004: Rev. Dale Thorngate
- President-elect: Don Graffius
- General Council: Rob Appel
- Council on Ministry: Ken Burdick, Steven James
- Faith and Order: Andy Samuels, Janet Thorngate
- Committee on Support and Retirement: Dale Green
- Tract and Communication Council: Dusty Mackintosh, Joel Osborn
- Memorial Fund Trustees: Erin Burdick, Jim Goodrich, Myron McPherson
- Christian Social Action: Elizabeth Green, Melvin Nida, Steve Rogers, Lana Van Horn

Awards/Recognitions

- Pastors accredited: Paul Andries, L.B. Lee, and Jerry Vaught
- Women's Board Robe of Achievement: Barbara (Cruzan) Green, Milton, Wis.
- Sabbath School Teacher of the Year: John W. Griffin, Paint Rock, Ala.
- Mary G. Clare Scripture Memorization Bowl: Shiloh, N.J., church

Business Action

- Approved 2004 budget of \$1,014,006 calls for \$425,153 to come from current giving

From Christian Social Action:

- We recommend the Seventh Day Baptist Conference of USA and Canada adopt the following statement: "Seventh Day Baptists strongly affirm that the Divinely instituted union of marriage is solely between a man and a woman."

From General Council:

- To more adequately reflect the responsibilities and scope of the office, the General Council recommends a change of title from Executive Secretary to Executive Director of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference, and where "Executive Secretary" appears in the by-laws, that the title be changed to "Executive Director." [first reading]
- We are encouraged with the progress of the First Seventh Day Baptist Church of Alfred, N.Y. It appears that this church is currently functioning as a Seventh Day Baptist Church. It is appropriate for the church to retain Conference membership. First Alfred's interaction in the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference, USA and Canada, Ltd., and the SDB Allegheny Association of Churches, should be sufficient safeguard based on the association principle. Therefore, in good conscience we cannot recommend removal of the First Seventh Day Baptist Church of Alfred.

From Reference and Counsel:

- In recognition of the progress the First Seventh Day Baptist Church of Alfred has made toward reconciling itself with the polity and beliefs of

cont. on page 27



Andrea Davis, Luan Ellis, and Andy Samuels waiting for their World Federation program to start.



A cluster of young adults during Sabbath School.



Anna Mackintosh played keyboards for the young adults (left) on Tuesday morning.

SDB Young Adults engaged and involved

by Aubrey Appel, from the Conference Crier

A large number of young adults met Tuesday night to get down to business. Erin Burdick was gracious enough to run the meeting and put up with our interruptions and jokes. Jonathan Mackintosh opened with prayer, and last year's minutes were read.

First on the agenda was the topic of missions, especially those planned with young adults in mind. Seven to eight-week-long missions terms (plus training) are being designed for Guyana, Zambia, and Jamaica.

If you are interested in missions work, contact Kirk Looper, Miriam Lawton, Jeff Hazen, or Andrea Davis. Also, look into fund-raising and request pamphlets describing short-term missions work designed for our age group.

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Short-term missions opportunities took place this summer on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota, headed up by Pastor Chet Marks. Volunteers work with Vacation Bible Schools and a bus ministry, and they receive on-site training. Contact Andrea for further information.

Jeff reported that next August the Faith Orphanage AIDS/HIV Awareness International Conference will take place in Zambia, South Africa. Also next year, InterVarsity will sponsor the Urbana International Conference in Urbana, Ill., a missions conference with awesome worship.

Church Planting Missions—another project with young adults in mind—is in the planning stages. The SDB Memorial Board may fund the volunteers, who will be given at least three months to do dedicated work in planting churches in such places as Louisville, Ken.; Richmond, Va.; Las Vegas, Nev.; and Urbana. Pastor Scott Hausrath encourages us to pray for everyone involved in planning and preparing for this project.

cont. on next page



Several General Council members met with the young adults on the Sabbath before Conference.



Kecia Thompsongordon



Stephanie Ritchie



Young Adult worship team.



Brandon Parker

Engaged and involved, cont. from page 7

Wayne North or Dr. Pete May can supply further information.

The second item on the agenda dealt with the Board of Christian Education. Executive Director Andrew Camenga fielded our questions concerning the scholarships for Year-End Retreats. The board is looking to change the fund from being capped to being regionalized, as a basis for distributing money for young adults' travel expenses.

All young adults are strongly encouraged to raise money during the fall to build up the fund. The donations should be designated for The Young Adult Year-End Retreat Travel Expenses Fund and sent to the BCE office at P.O. Box 111, Alfred Station, NY 14803. All comments and requests can be e-mailed to Nathanael Lawton at: fred_ya@hotmail.com.

**We summed up
a previous discussion
about implementing
prayer partners to aid
the continuation of fast-
ing and praying on
Wednesdays next year.**

The young adults applaud the efforts the board is making, and has made, for us.

The third item of business was summing up a previous discussion about implementing prayer partners to aid the continuation of fasting and praying on Wednesdays next year.

It was decided that the Prayer Partner program will be open to all interested parties, regardless of age. A web page will be developed for posting messages of sharing and encouragement. Contact Lydia Davis for details.

We decided, as a whole, to set the goal of becoming more involved in our local churches this year. Pastor Scott suggested resources on fasting, such as books by Bill Bright, and *Fasting for Spiritual Breakthrough* by Elmer Towns.

It was decided that the YA Year-End Retreat will take place at Camp Wakonda in Milton, Wis. Kecia and Bethany Thompsongordon are co-chairing the host committee. Young adults on the East Coast were asked to begin planning for the 2004-2005 Winter Retreat. **SR**

Memorial Board lightens up

by Cheri Appel
From the Conference Crier

After the members of the Memorial Board were introduced and recognized, Erin Burdick began the presentation with, "We know you think we're stuffy and old-fashioned. That's why this year we've decided to *lighten up!*"

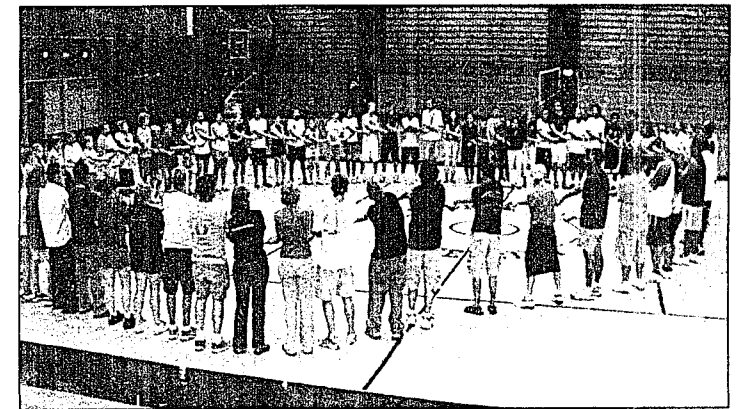
Erin high-LIGHTED the many grants, funds, loans, gifts, and scholarships that come through the Memorial Board for the benefit of individuals and organizations in our denomination.

Don Graffius indicated that there's a new investment program for our denominational future—our pastors' kids! (And we all know that they're the smartest of all "PKs"!)

The Memorial Board will put \$1,000 into a savings account for the children of pastors at the time of their birth. The account can be contributed to by anyone. The investment will mature until the child is 18, then the proceeds may be used for college or vocational school.

Don also reported that even though this has been a tough year for investments, our funds are showing positive returns, with some even in double digits!

So... What can you do to LIGHTEN UP? You can contribute to any existing Memorial Board fund. You can also create a new fund, give to an annuity, leave a gift for the SDB Conference in your will, or help develop a new ministry program. **SR**



"We need to stand shoulder-to-shoulder!" (The traditional post-game Youth Rally song.)



Now, who goes with whom? The oft-mistaken Chroniger and King boys. (Answer on p. 11)



Our extra-special Sabbath buffet.

The ABCs of UPGs for SDBs

by Abigail Vaught
From the Conference Crier

Tim and Jayme Osborn led a seminar at Conference on "The ABCs of UPGs for SDBs." They strongly encouraged people to begin praying for Unreached People Groups (UPGs) and to encourage others back at their home churches to pray.

UPGs are "ethnic-language groups with no indigenous church or no church-planting movement with enough strength and resources to evangelize the entire group without help."

According to current statistics, less than 1% of the funds used for evangelization go towards reaching people who have never heard the Gospel. Most of the money reaches those who are already Christians.

According to Jayme, the "10-40 window"—the largest area in the world filled with UPGs, including countries such as Iraq, Iran, and Mongolia—is the hardest to reach for Christ because of the deep Islamic

beliefs instilled from birth. Thus, in order to penetrate this zone for Christ, and to have the workers' efforts succeed, prayer is an absolute necessity.

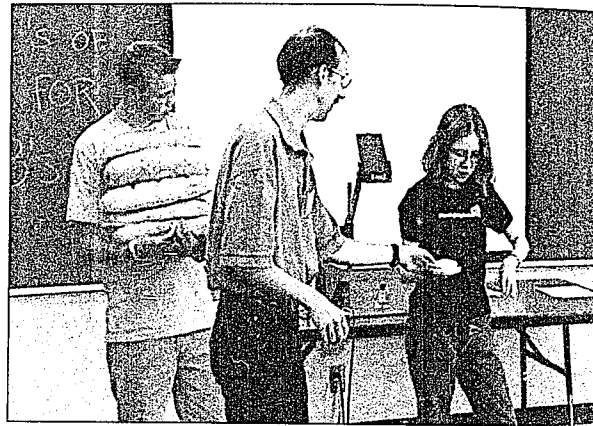
As an example of the power of prayer, Jayme told of the Moravians, a

group which started a 24-hour, 7 days-a-week prayer vigil which lasted 100 years. Within the first 25 years, they sent out 100 missionaries, more than their group had sent out in the previous two centuries. This is a case in point, demonstrating that prayer affects change.

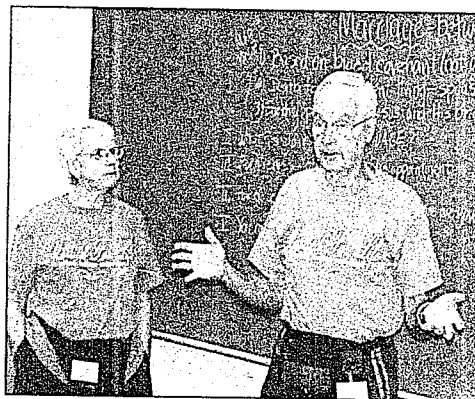
The Osborns also cited Elijah. He was a "normal guy" who prayed, and

it didn't rain in Israel for three years. Even one prayer can make a difference!

We had a brief time of prayer for the Imazighen-Berber people, an Unreached People Group; listened to statistics; watched some skits; and were inspired to pray and offer our hearts to God for other people. **SR**



No wonder they're unreached! Symbolizing the money and time spent on outreach, Tim Osborn (middle) gives daughter Baylea some leftover slices compared to the many loaves given to son Quentin who represented so-called Christian nations.



Denny (right) and Eunice Barber led a seminar on being in Christ in your marriage.



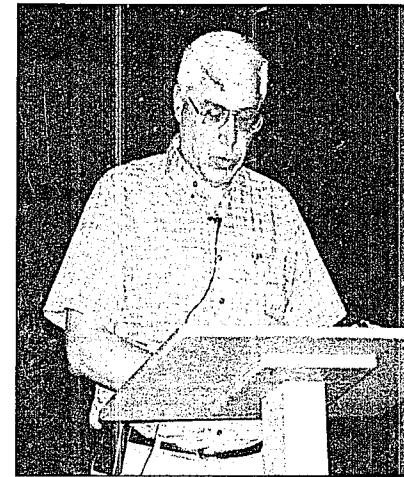
Paul Manuel studied the reasons for Muslim animosity against Christians.



Tim Bond provided insight in ministering to addicts and inmates.

Sharing in Christ's riches

by Donna Bond
From the Conference Crier



Ken Burdick

We thought we were entertaining a fraternal delegate from the Association of TV Evangelists when Friday morning's Bible study began. But alas! It was our own Ken Burdick (Seattle Area church) merely imitating the style of a more visible brother.

With Hebrews 3:4, Philippians 4:19, and Colossians 1:27-28 as our basic study Scriptures, Ken led us on a word study through many of Paul's letters to determine just what is meant by "Christ's riches." Material or spiritual? Hmm...

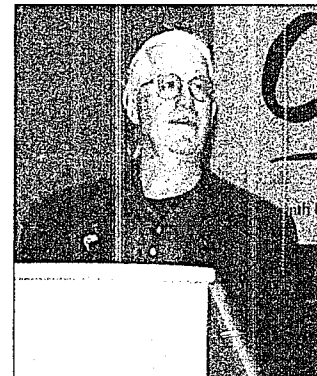
Since several passages used the word "all," it became obvious that

both spiritual and material needs will be met by God in Christ. Letters written from prison—possibly even death row—indicated that God had used the Philippian people to minister to Paul's needs in terms of financial support and encouragement.

Paul knew what it was like to have plenty, and also to be in need. However, he had learned to be content in both situations. How? By surrendering to God, by allowing Him to define needs (not necessarily wants), and trusting Him to supply those needs.

Thus, Paul challenged his contemporary supporters and 21st century Christians to "Live in Christ's Riches." **SR**

Other Bible Study leaders



Tom Mitchell



Andy Samuels



Eric Davis



Steve James (left) asked Dr. Paul Davis to help us find our pulse.

Next year
in Michigan!

**Kalamazoo College
in Kalamazoo
August 1-7, 2004**

President Dale Thorngate
"Seeking God with
All Your Heart"

Answer to "Who goes with whom?"
on page 9.

Left to right: Charlotte Chroniger
(goes with Don), Harold and
Kathi King, Ken Chroniger (goes
with Peggy), Don, and Peggy.

Confession of a pew potato

by Marty Jackson

This is the confession of a pew potato.

All my life, when I attended church, I usually tried to find a pew nearest the back of the sanctuary. I thought I was doing the right thing by going to church, singing some hymns, and listening to the sermon. I thought I was a pretty good person, and that the Lord should be happy with me.

Then, about 12 years ago, I moved my family to eastern Washington state. The closest Seventh Day Baptist church was in the Seattle area, about a four-hour drive from our home. I called the SDB Center in Janesville, Wis., to find out if there were any other people like me in our area. No luck.

We didn't have any place to worship (i.e., sit in the back pew). After 10 years of saying I wish there was a Seventh Day Baptist congregation in our area, the Holy Spirit convinced me that if there was going to be a church where my family could worship on Sabbath, *someone* would have to start one. Panic time!

Not me, Lord, please. I'm terrified of speaking in front of people. I don't even like to say a prayer when company is over for dinner.

I finally gave in and said, "Okay, Lord. I'll put a small classified ad in the 'green sheet' and see if You'll do anything with it."

I had led one Sabbath School class when we attended the Riverside (Calif.) church. And that was only because their pastor at the time—Gabriel Bejjani—couldn't get anyone else to fill in for him one Sabbath.

With a high school diploma and no great teaching skills or education,



I thought I was doing the right thing by going to church, singing some hymns, and listening to the sermon. I thought I was a pretty good person, and that the Lord should be happy with me.

I struggled through that class. Afterwards, I hoped that someone got something out of it, but I was lost. I really didn't know what I was doing. Why would the Lord of the universe want *me* to try to start a church?

After my ad ran for a few weeks, I started receiving some phone calls. I didn't know where to start! I would talk to callers and tell them I was trying to get people together to start a church. But I didn't have a plan, so nothing happened.

Then one day, a woman called and said that she and her husband would like to talk to us in person. We arranged to meet at a restaurant and dine together.

We enjoyed the meal and company, so we decided to start a Bible study on Friday nights. We took turns leading the study and added a few more members.

In February of 2002, we had six people meeting at our home. By the

first of September, we were meeting on Sabbath mornings and had 20 people one Sabbath. There wasn't an empty chair in our house, so we rented a church building.

We now average 15-20 people each week. I teach the lesson most of the time, and I'm not quite as nervous speaking in front of people as I used to be. My wife plays the piano during worship, and we have one family that loves to lead the singing. We have a church in Kennewick!

Now I don't want to go back to sitting in the rear pew. I've been greatly blessed by taking part in worship and have found out that it's not a spectator sport. I've received so much more by actively participating in worship that I can't even imagine being a pew potato.

There are times when I wish we had a pastor to take over some of the responsibilities, but I want to do what I can to help our church grow. I'm not a special person, but I have discovered that God will take what little we have and give us so much more in return.

Do you live far from an SDB church? Ask God to take care of it for you, but don't be surprised if He asks you to help. It's a blessing waiting to happen.

You can call me at (509) 308-6707. (We live on the West Coast, so please remember the time difference.) I'm always happy to share what I can. My e-mail address is: columbiakb@charter.net.

I know now that the Lord is not lucky to have me; I'm lucky to have Him! **SR**



Women's Society page
www.sdbwboard.org

Stories, songs, and a skit

by Vicki Burdick, *From the Conference Crier*

At the Women's Banquet during Conference, approximately 120 ladies of all ages enjoyed a buffet meal with unlimited desserts. What more could we ask for?!

Although the food was good and the program was great, it was the fellowship with our sisters in Christ that was the amazing part of the evening.

We were blessed with dinner music by Brett and Aubrey Greene, and hearing the shared Summer Christian Service Corps experiences of a project director (Linda Lawton), a four-year veteran (Miriam Lawton), and an Australian worker (Maureen Siolo).

The total, so far, of the Women's Love Gift is \$3,924.25. It will continue to grow until September 30th. **SR**



Acting up during the skit (l. to r.): MaryJane McPherson, Beth Boyd, Vicki Burdick, Helen Goodrich, and Sue Camenga.



Right: Matching outfits and smiles from Miriam Lawton, Linda Lawton, and Maureen Siolo. Far right: Gail Price shared some humorous stories.



Distribution of the Women's Society Love Gift:		The balance to be distributed as follows:	
Scholarship for Makapwa Bible School	\$500.00	15%	for the Rez Connection (Pine Ridge, S.D.)
Bicycles for women as Missionary Board determines	\$250.00	30%	SCSC (10% Australia and 20% USA/Canada)
NABWU under charge of Ruth Probasco	\$250.00	5%	for Bibles to women and children as Missionary Board determines
Efforts in Mexico under charge of Pastor Nathan Crandall	\$250.00	5%	for medical supplies
Tim and Jayme Osborn for major medical expenses	\$400.00	15%	for leadership training in sister churches/Conferences
Total	\$1,650.00	30%	for national outreach and growth materials for new churches in USA and Canada

Scripture Memory

Theme: "Seeking God

Verses—2003-2004

with All Your Heart"

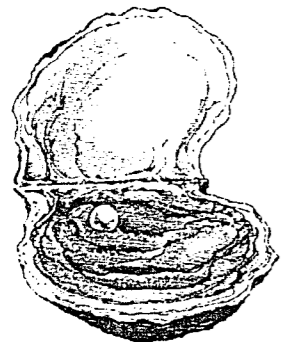
The Scripture Memorization Program for 2003-2004 Conference Year will focus on Conference President Dale Thomgate's theme: "Seeking God with All Your Heart."

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

A list of persons from each church who have completed this Scripture Memorization Program should be submitted to the Board of Christian Education Office. The postmarked deadline is June 30, 2004. These people will be honored at General Conference.

All Scripture quotations in this list are from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION® NIV® Copyright© 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society.

<u>Month</u>	<u>Youth/Adult</u>	<u>Junior</u>	<u>Primary</u>
October	"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11)	For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you. (Jeremiah 29:11)	"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord. (Jeremiah 29:11a)
November	Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. (Jeremiah 29:12)	Come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. (Jeremiah 29:12)	Come and pray to me. (Jeremiah 29:12)
December	"You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you," declares the Lord, "and will bring you back from captivity." (Jeremiah 29:13-14a)	You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. (Jeremiah 29:13)	You will seek me and find me. (Jeremiah 29:13)
January	But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well. (Matthew 6:33)	But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness. (Matthew 6:33)	Seek first his kingdom. (Matthew 6:33)
February	But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who love your salvation always say, "Let God be exalted!" (Psalm 70:4)	But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you. (Psalm 70:4)	May all who seek you rejoice. (Psalm 70:4)
March	Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name. I will praise you, O Lord My God, with all my heart; I will glorify your name forever. (Psalm 86:11-12)	Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth. (Psalm 86:11)	Teach me your way, O Lord. (Psalm 86:11)
April	Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice. Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always. (Psalm 105:3-4)	Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice. (Psalm 105:3)	Glory in his holy name. (Psalm 105:3)
May	Seek good, not evil, that you may live. Then the Lord God Almighty will be with you, just as you say he is. (Amos 5:14)	Seek good, not evil, that you may live. (Amos 5:14)	Seek good, not evil. (Amos 5:14)
June	"So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened." (Luke 11:9-10)	Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. (Luke 11:9)	Ask and it will be given to you. (Luke 11:9)



Pearls from the Past by Don A. Sanford, historian

Name changes are a part of history

A recent book by Michael Perry entitled, *Population: 485—Meeting Your Neighbors One Siren at a Time*, caught my fancy.

What intrigued me the most about Perry's book was that the town of 485 people he wrote about was New Auburn, Wis., where I had pastored from 1954-1958. At that time, the population was around 390. Except for nearby Interstate 53 and a new school, the town hasn't changed much.

From Cartwright to Auburn

One paragraph of Perry's book that especially caught my attention dealt with the town's name changes. I knew that the town and church used to be named "Cartwright," after David Cartwright, a member of the Milton, Wis., Seventh Day Baptist Church in the 1870s.

Cartwright secured a tract of land in the pines area and put up a sawmill. As his employees built their houses near the mill, it became known as Cartwright Mills. The postal department dropped the "Mills," and the town became Cartwright. When residents established an SDB church there in 1879, it took that name also. Even *Seventh Day Baptists in Europe and America* lists the church as "Cartwright."

"In 1902," Perry wrote, "a saloon keeper approached the village board and requested a liquor license. Cartwright, a devout Seventh Day Baptist, declared that as long as the town bore his name, liquor licenses were out of the question."

The Board voted to change the name to Auburn, but that conflicted with an adjacent township. When the railroad requested a name change, the town fathers tacked on the word "New."

New Auburn: which one?

In this historian's view, the town should have been named "Newer Auburn," because there already was a New Auburn Seventh Day Baptist church in Minnesota, founded in 1865.

This became particularly confusing in 1905, when Rev. Leon Burdick was pastor of the Minnesota church and his wife, Rev. Perie F. Randolph Burdick, ministered at the Wisconsin church. (I was glad to hear that the Seattle Area SDB Church, when it bought its building in Auburn, Wash., kept the Seattle Area name. Otherwise, it would have been the "Newest Auburn" SDB Church.)

Cuba to Genesee

Growing up in Little Genesee, N.Y., the church there was originally called "Cuba." When the county became more populated, Cuba was divided into about four townships.

I never understood why our corner of Cuba township was called "Genesee." The Genesee River flows through the central part of the county, but the water from our corner flows into the Allegheny River system.

"Little Rhode Island" would have been a more appropriate name, since the Little Rhode Island Cemetery is about a mile from our church. The cemetery was so named because many of the area's earliest settlers were Seventh Day Baptists from Rhode Island.

On to Milton, or Prairie du Lac

When I left to attend Milton College in Milton, Wis., it didn't take long to discover that the town was named after the English poet, John Milton. One of our college songs began with:

"Oh Johnny Milton was a writer of renown, and he wrote a lot of democratic things; So perhaps it was for Johnny that they named our college town, just because he had so little use for kings."

While reading about Milton's history, I discovered that when Joseph Goodrich and Henry Crandall settled there with their families in 1839, Milton was known as Prairie du Lac (French for "Prairie of the Lake"). However, the Post Office made them change the name because it sounded too much like the town of Prairie du Sac, named after the Sac Indian tribe.

Since all of this took place before zip codes, it's easy to understand how letters could be sent to the wrong post office. With a name like "Milton," mail sometimes went to Milltown or Wilton instead.

King Alfred on the Nile?

When I entered seminary in Alfred, N.Y., I had no problem with the town's name, for I had attended enough Alfred University football games to hear: "On Saxon Warriors, the Purple and Gold defend," linking the town to King Alfred the Great of England, who died in 899.

When workers constructed the Erie Railroad across the southern tier of New York, it missed Alfred by about two miles. The little town that grew up around the station was thus named "Alfred Station." The Seventh

cont. on page 26



FOCUS
on Missions

Big anniversary in Jamaica

by Kirk Looper

What a refreshing sight to behold as we stepped off our plane in Kingston. The lush vegetation and warm greetings of Jamaica promised many satisfying activities and memories.

Even in the July heat, the days were inspiring and challenging. We are grateful for the invitation to help celebrate the Jamaica General Conference's 80th anniversary.

The Conference meetings were held on the campus of the new Maiden Hall Conference Center and Camp. Work on the building was escalated so that it would be finished in time for the meetings.

The Center's cement structure has two floors. The lower floor houses the kitchen and dining room, with the men's dormitory off the dining area. The second floor contains a lecture hall and rooms that are used for the women's dormitory. It is a very efficient building, with little wasted space. More rooms—such as a lecture hall, and more dorm and cafeteria space—can be added as additional funds become available.

The Conference gathering was a time of tremendous fellowship, spiri-

tual leadership and, of course, good food!

Bible study, praise, and prayer started out each day; then we enjoyed the preaching of one of the pastors or leaders. Conference business was conducted on Thursday and Friday.

On Sabbath, morning worship and Sabbath School were the main activities. All of the speakers were great, and everyone felt the Spirit of God moving. All week, sweet fellowship enveloped us as people took advantage of the many opportunities to talk and share.

Even though the days lasted from 6:00 a.m. to after midnight, everyone was still in good humor at the end of the week. The meetings ended with a baptism at the local baptismal pool, a short walk from the campus.

As the Conference observed its 80 years, historical references were made throughout the week. It was especially interesting to hear of the work of Sister Smikle, who rode a donkey from town to town to spread the work of Seventh Day Baptists in Jamaica.

We also heard of the many pastors who took great pains to perpetuate the work of the Conference. During its years in Jamaica, the Conference has developed 30 churches, with 15 pastors and several branches. It has also developed an extensive leadership education program, built a ministry with the Maiden Hall complex, and provided materials and programs to educate the church youth.

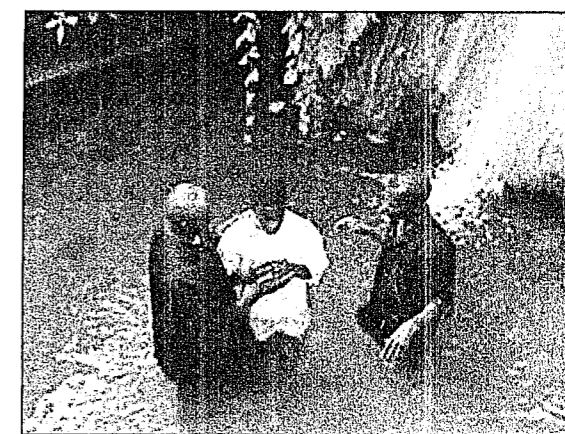
This is a wonderful inheritance, based on the faithfulness and sacrifice of our Jamaican brethren. It has been handed down through the years, and we pray that it will continue for many more! **SR**



Welcome to our celebration!



Most of the work was completed on the Maiden Hall Conference Center before the celebration.



The beautiful baptismal pool near the Center.



the BEACON

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

September 2003

When "The Fat Man" asks you to come forward

by Philip Lawton
From the *Conference Crier*

This year at Pre-Con, the self-declared "Fat Man" (Pastor Rod Henry) spoke on becoming full of the Holy Spirit. He used the analogy of a golf glove becoming full from the hand of Tiger Woods.

That glove, though limp without Tiger's hand, can become a great instrument for golfing. Rod said that we are like that glove. Until we have the Holy Spirit, we cannot do much. But with the Holy Spirit, we can move mountains.

At the end of his second sermon, Rod asked anyone who wanted to change their life and be filled—or refilled—with the Holy Spirit, to come forward. Many of us at Pre-Con, including myself, went up front for various reasons.

In the following two sermons, Rod again asked us to come forward for other public displays of change in our lives. Before which he said—and I quote—"Oh, no... 'The Fat Man' is asking us to come forward again!"

Rod's sermons were very moving, and I believe that many other lives were changed besides my own.

In addition to Pastor Rod's sermons, Pastor David Thorngate conducted classes on prayer, touching on "how" and "why" to pray. They were informative and helped me to better communicate with God.

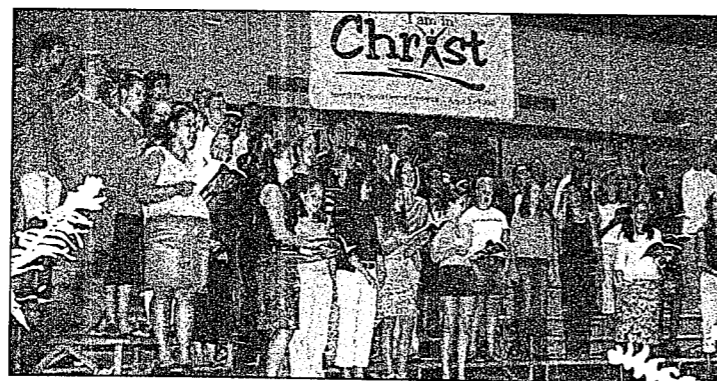
Pre-Con was highly enjoyable because of all the fun that "The Fat Man" and David brought to the youth. I believe that lives will continue to be changed because of these pastors. **SR**



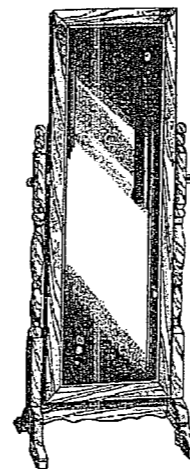
Katherin Clarke, Aubrey Greene, Carol Wiley, and Carrie Spaur.



Ben Harris, Chuck Meathrell, and Sam Lima.



The Youth Pre-Con led our Wednesday morning worship.



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

God's green thumb(print)

each with its own unique texture and fragrance—perennials and annuals, fruit-bearing plants and vegetables, trees and shrubs, herbs and tropical flora. Everywhere I looked, a living rainbow of petals and leaves spread out before me.

I asked a young clerk where I could find the moss roses, and she directed me to a large table several yards away. As I sorted through the plants, an older couple approached. They, too, were searching for moss roses.

After exchanging comments about the flowers—obviously not the old-fashioned, double-petaled moss roses that we were looking for—the pair headed off in another direction.

I "safaried" past a few more tables before locating our elusive quarry.

By now, the elderly couple was on the far side of the greenhouse. I hurried over to them and triumphantly announced, "I found our moss roses!"

They followed me back to the flowers and were delighted. "These are what we've been looking for!" the husband said excitedly.

The three of us scrutinized our treasure trove of delicate blooms and stems before selecting just the right plants.

Suddenly, the words burst from my lips: "I don't know how anyone can stand here and look around, and say there is no God." A smile lit up the

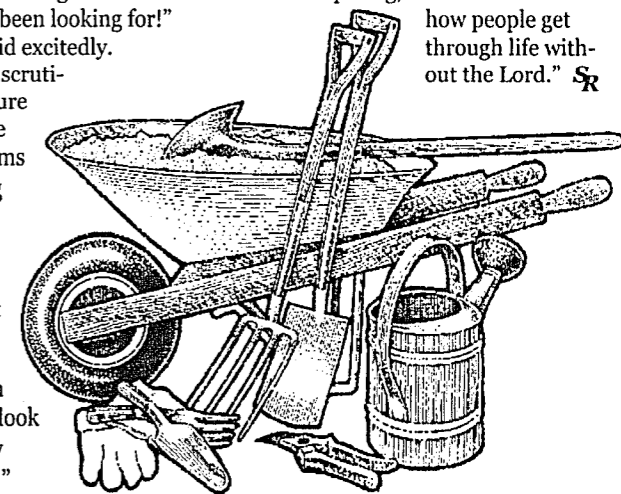
white-haired woman's face, and she nodded in agreement.

We were strangers, but we stood there among the moss roses, quietly sharing. I mentioned my early widowhood and battle with breast cancer, and the tremendous support I received from my church family during those crises. "I don't know how people get through life without the Lord," my new friend commented.

When they were ready to leave, the couple thanked me for my help, gathered up their flowers, and headed towards the checkout counter. I returned home and planted the moss roses along the front edge of my small fish pond.

I like to sit near my pond at night and listen to the soothing sounds of its arching fountain and trickling waterfalls. And whenever I glance at my moss roses, glistening with water droplets in the moonlight, I hear another soothing sound—

the voice of a stranger gently whispering, "I don't know how people get through life without the Lord." **SR**



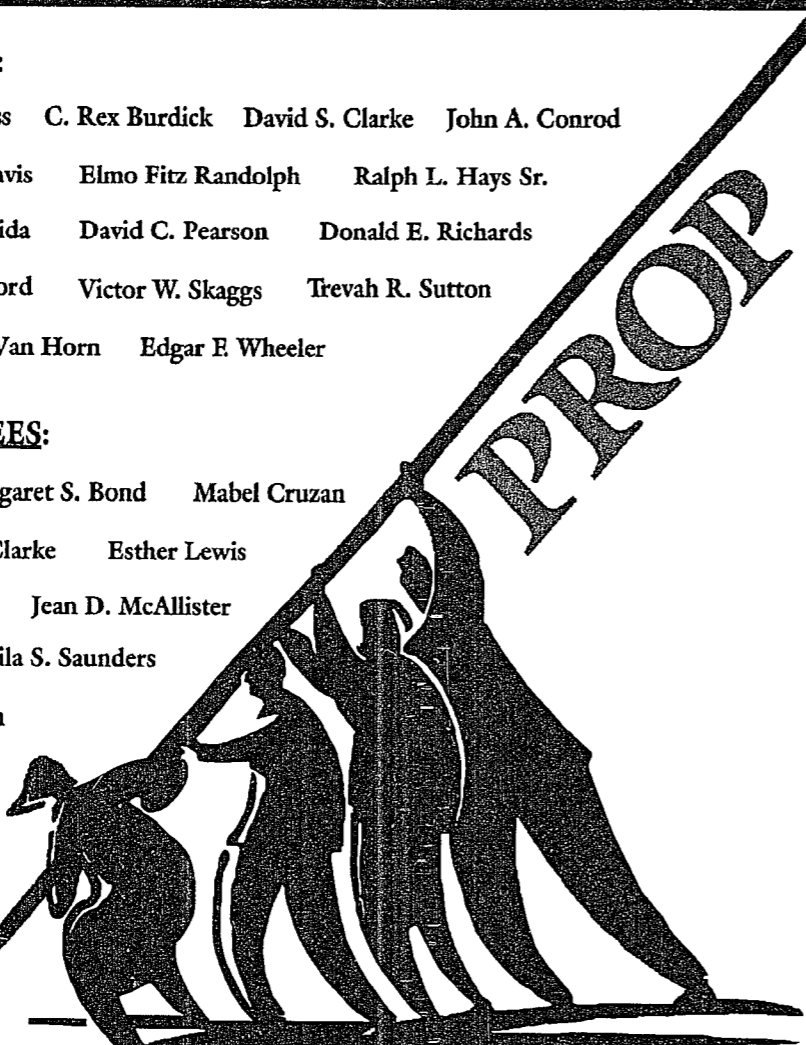
Give to those who gave so much.

PASTORS:

- Leroy C. Bass C. Rex Burdick David S. Clarke John A. Conrod
 Leland E. Davis Elmo Fitz Randolph Ralph L. Hays Sr.
 Melvin G. Nida David C. Pearson Donald E. Richards
 Don A. Sanford Victor W. Skaggs Trevah R. Sutton
 Kenneth B. Van Horn Edgar F. Wheeler

OTHER RETIREES:

- Ida Babcock Margaret S. Bond Mabel Cruzan
 Ethel D. Dickinson Clarke Esther Lewis
 Beatrice D. Hibbard Jean D. McAllister
 Janette Rogers Lila S. Saunders
 Rowena R. Van Horn
 Ethel M. Wheeler
 Jaunita Zwiebel



Pastors Retirement Offering Project

Contributions are needed for continuing support of SDB retired pastors and denominational workers, and surviving spouses of pastors.

Please donate to PROP!

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Putting the "fun" back in fund-raising

by Valerie Heath, Boulder, Colo.

Don't you "love" it when your child comes home from school and utters those dreaded words?—"Mom, my class is going to raise funds for band uniforms. We're going to sell..." Then you get hit with the usual list of calendars, magazines, chocolate, wrapping paper, and on and on.

In your head is a vision. Oh, not of your child going door-to-door, peddling whatever the school came up with to sell. Instead, you see *yourself*, dragging order forms to the office, begging coworkers to help you out. Friends avoid you, afraid that you might ask them to give you money on the spot.

For all of you who have "been there, done that," fund raisers are the least favorite aspect of any extra-curricular activity in your school, service club, or church.

So, when Jean Jorgensen from

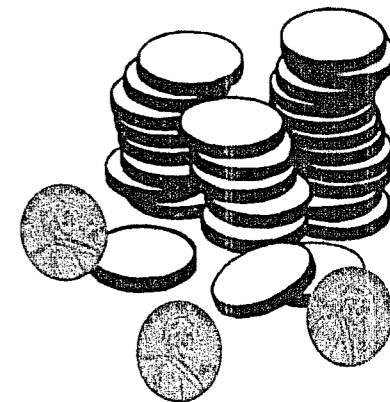
the Nortonville, Kan., church sent a letter about designating May as "Youth Missions Month"—and having SDB youth, nationwide, raise money for a camp in Guyana, South America—my heart sank. Yet, our youth in Boulder were very enthusiastic about the whole idea.

With some skepticism, I listened to the fund-raising proposals. As expected, our young people bombarded me with the usual ideas.

"We could have a spaghetti supper," one child said timidly. This proposition was met with groans. It's not that we don't love spaghetti; it's just so much work.

"We could have a slave auction," someone else said, with even less enthusiasm.

This idea of raising money for a mission camp in Guyana was going nowhere fast.



I believe it was Levi Thorngate who spoke up next: "We could have a Penny War," he said with a grin.

"A Penny War?" I asked innocently.

"Yeah!" chimed in Amberle Thorngate. "We did one at school. It was totally fun, and no work at all!"

Now, when a teenager says that something is "no work at all," I tend to believe it. Teens aren't inclined toward physical effort, unless they're playing a competitive game. Still, the question that kept running through my mind was, *How will the good people of the Boulder church react if they're asked to pitch pennies at each other?* Somehow, that did NOT sound like much fun; at least, not for adults.

"How does this Penny War work?" I asked.

The other kids were equally interested. (Another clue that "the war" might actually be a good idea.)

"It's easy," Levi said. "We challenge each of the church classes to participate. They get a bucket with a lid that has a hole cut in it. Everyone brings pennies from home and puts them in the bucket in their classroom."

"So, the class with the most pennies wins?" I asked.

"Well," Amberle interjected, "it's not quite that simple. You see, you

Youth and missions—a great match!

Having our SDB youth focus on Missions is a wonderful idea. The kids in the Boulder church were so excited to learn about another camp being formed in another part of the world. On May 31, our youth Sabbath focused on our own facilities at Camp Paul Hummel. We sang camp songs and held a slide show of old camp pictures that brought tears to many eyes. What a lot of great memories!

Isn't this what camps are all about? Our SDB camping programs are probably our foremost tools for evangelism. I hope we never lose sight of how important it is to continue to teach our youth in a camp setting.

Following our youth Sabbath, our kids met at Camp Paul Hummel to count pennies, but they also undertook a camp service project.

In the spring, a large trench had been dug to bury some repaired electrical lines, and our youth were asked to fill in the trench. They also painted, cleaned, and did several smaller jobs to get the camp ready for its season-opening in July.

All in all, it was a wonderful weekend and a perfect ending to a wonderful month. I truly hope that SDB Youth across the country will consider doing a Missions focus again next year—indeed, every year!

—Valerie Heath

can sabotage another class by putting other things in their bucket—like quarters, dimes, nickels, dollars, ten-dollar bills—you get the idea. The other types of money count *against* the number of pennies in the bucket. If you have someone put a dollar in your bucket, you need to have at least one hundred pennies to break even.”

I thought for just a moment before I nodded my head in approval. *This Penny War does sound like fun!*

The very next week, the youth presented their idea to the church. The competition would be between our Sabbath School classes. The one thing I hadn't foreseen was just how competitive the people in our small church are.

We limited our war to four weeks. Members brought in large pickle jars half full of pennies. We selected one of our youth—Ana Peterson—to act as an “embedded reporter,” giving weekly updates on how the classes were doing, and who had been caught sabotaging some of the other buckets. Her updates became the highlight of our sharing time.

One week, I overheard someone telling Mary Wells, “No, no, Mary! You can't put that dollar in OUR bucket! Let's go put it in someone else's bucket!”

**Our Penny War
raised almost \$675.00.
By far, it was the
most successful
fund raiser we have
ever had.**

During the entire war, not a week went by that members weren't caught visiting other Sabbath School classrooms, dropping in bills as fast as they could.

At the end of the four weeks, our youth gathered at Camp Paul Hummel for a work retreat (see box on page 21) and to count the money so they could announce a winner.

It was interesting that the class that won (*The Helping Hand* class)

was still “in the hole” by \$1.16. The other classes raised far more money, but they lost because their penny numbers didn't even come close to matching the amount of dollars in their buckets. The losing class was more than \$100 in the hole!

With about 75 members, and in four short weeks, our Penny War raised almost \$675.00. By far, it was the most successful fund raiser we have ever had. And the church members subsequently cornered me to let me know that they were already saving their pennies for *next* year.

This “war of coins” taught me an important lesson: successful fund-raising needs to come from an idea that is well-received by your target group. And the idea should be original and have an aspect of fun to it.

This experience also taught me something else: SDBs are very competitive! In the end, the camp in Guyana is the real winner.

Thanks, Jean Jorgensen, for a great idea. Let's do it again! Who will be next year's recipient of the Youth Missions Month? **SR**

A litany of God's goodness

On June 7, 2003, the First SDB Church of Genesee in Little Genesee, N.Y., held a groundbreaking ceremony for its new church building. It will replace the one destroyed in a fire two years ago. Attendees included the church's pastor, Rev. Gordon Lawton, and its oldest living members—Letha Polen, Hazel Grantier, and Ruth Bottoms. The dedication's Responsive Reading is printed below. (The leader read the regular type; the people read the bold type.)

How great are your works; O LORD,
how profound your thoughts!

How great you are, O Sovereign LORD!

There is no one like you, and there is no God but you.

How great is your goodness, which you have stored up for those who fear you,
which you bestow in the sight of men on those who take refuge in you.

(For each of His acts of mercy and kindness we all declare it would have been enough.) If the Lord had merely prevented any serious injury to firemen and others during the fire, but had not provided us with an alternate meeting place,
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN ENOUGH.

If He had only provided us with an alternate meeting place, but had not provided willing hands of brothers and sisters in Christ to prepare it,
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN ENOUGH.

If He had only provided willing hands to help prepare the Community Center, but had not provided donations of furniture and equipment to help replace what was lost,
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN ENOUGH.

If He had only provided donations of furniture and equipment, but had not provided money from the insurance company beyond the insured amount,
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN ENOUGH.

If He had only provided unexpected

insurance money, but had not provided monetary gifts above and beyond what could have been hoped,
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN ENOUGH.

If He had only provided an abundance of funds in gifts from all over, but had not provided an SCSC team to redecorate and refurbish the Community Center,
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN ENOUGH.

If He had only provided an SCSC team, but had not brought in new attendees and musicians,
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN ENOUGH.

If He had only seen fit to expand our congregation, but had not provided the opportunity to expand by acquiring the neighboring property,
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN ENOUGH.

If He had only provided opportunity to expand into the neighboring property, but had not granted us a unanimous vote to proceed with this building,
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN ENOUGH.

If He had only provided unity in the vote to proceed with this building, but had not sent us a construction supervisor who is a believer,
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN ENOUGH.

If He had only provided us a construction supervisor who is a believer, but had not blessed us with the prayer support of

our brethren in Christ,
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN ENOUGH.

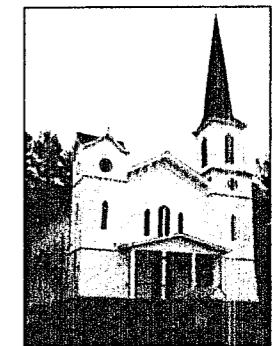
If He had only provided us with the prayer support of our brethren in Christ, but had not sent His Holy Spirit into our lives to encourage our spiritual growth,
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN ENOUGH.

But the Lord, the Holy One, blessed be He, provided all of these blessings and so many more. **“Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of Heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.”**

Blessed are You, Oh God, for in addition to all these blessings, You have given us our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, forgiveness for sin, life abundant, and life everlasting.

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!

All: HALLELUJAH!



The SDB church in Little Genesee, N.Y., prior to being destroyed in a fire on June 20, 2001.

Alfred Station VBS news by Heather Rao

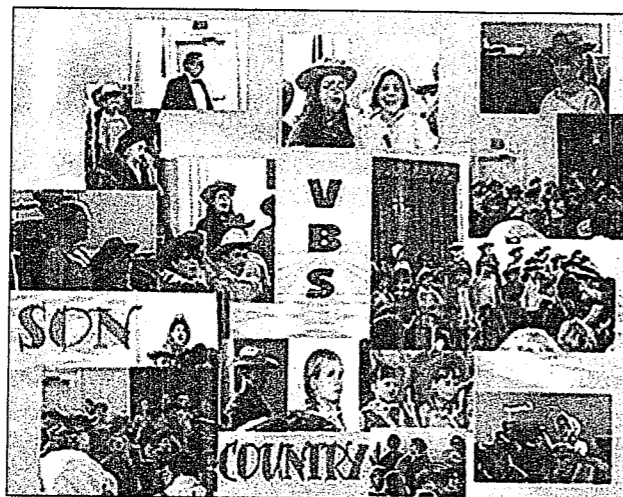
The Alfred Station, N.Y., SDB Church completed another successful Vacation Bible School. We had 58 children registered, with 55 as our average attendance.

Many thanks go out to our director Peggy Chroniger. She has led our VBS for 10 consecutive years and has decided to pass that pleasure on to someone else next year. Please help our church by praying that we can find

someone with as much enthusiasm for VBS as Peggy.

Our VBS again had a float in the Fourth of July parade. The float was in memory of Paul Branon, who drove our float in 2002 and then passed away later in the year in a trucking accident. Paul is dearly missed.

When we reached the judges' stand this year, the children and adults on the float stood up to sign and sing “God Bless America.” A great time was had by all. **SR**



Obituary

Prentice.—Marie Prentice, 85, of Leavenworth, Kan., died on July 17, 2003, at the Cushing Hospital in Leavenworth.

She was born on July 1, 1918, in Herb City, Utah, the daughter of Charlie Lewis Hurley and Jennie (Sayre) Hurley. She spent her childhood in Utah and Colorado before moving with her family to Kansas in the 1920s.

Marie attended public schools in and near Nortonville. On April 10, 1930, she was baptized and joined the Nortonville Seventh Day Baptist Church. She was an active member, taking part in Christian Endeavor and the church choir all the years she lived in the Nortonville area.

On February 24, 1940, Marie married William A. Prentice in the Nortonville church. They started their married life on a farm near Milton, Wis.

In addition to her husband, survivors include one son, Carl, and two daughters, Genevieve Prentice and Yvonne Lockhart, all of Leavenworth; one sister, Lulu Maxson, Seattle, Wash.; one granddaughter, and one great-granddaughter. Marie was preceded in death by a son, William, a grandson, three sisters, and two brothers.

Funeral services were held on July 27, 2003, at the Oskaloosa, Kan., Funeral Home. Her pastor, Rev. Stephan Saunders, officiated.

Births

Greene.—A son, Wade Landon Greene, was born to John and Damian (Stall) Greene of Berlin, NY, on April 14, 2003.

Wheeler.—Twin daughters, Lily Brook Wheeler and Caitlin Ray Wheeler, were born to Jon and Michele (Ferry) Wheeler of McKinleyville, CA, on June 10, 2003.

Crandall.—A daughter, Julianna Marie Crandall, was born to Nathan and Michelle (Danford) Crandall of White Cloud, MI, on June 14, 2003.

Marriage

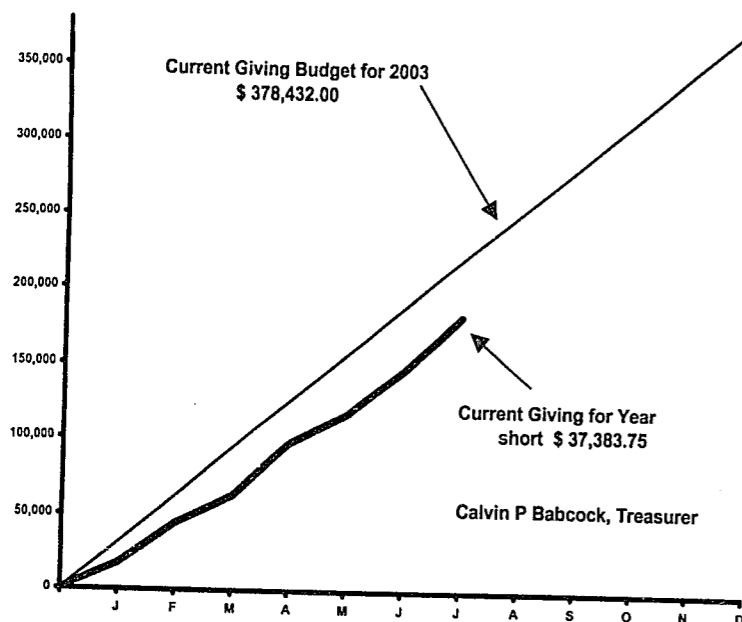
Anderson - Thore.—Phillip Gerald Anderson and Cheryl Ann Thore were united in marriage on June 22, 2003, in Metairie, LA, by their pastor, Rev. S. Kenneth Davis.

New members

Alfred Station, NY
Kenneth Chroniger, pastor
Joined by letter
Ernest K. Bee Jr.
Arlene Bee

Daytona Beach, FL
John Camenga, pastor
Joined after testimony
Bernadette Albright
Kevin McCall
Joined by letter
Ed Ayers
Teresa Ayers
Andrew Ayers
Emily Ayers
Jeff Mather
Karen Terrones
Karlo Terrones
Sylvia Terrones

Current Giving 2003



News from northern Mississippi

by John Bevis

As believers, we are bound together in fellowship and through our relationship with sister churches.

The Paint Rock (Ala.) SDB Church and the Cornerstone SDB Church (Pontotoc, Miss.) have enjoyed good fellowship for several years. Cornerstone was once a branch of Paint Rock, and our mutual support continues.

There is renewed interest in the Cornerstone church, which was featured in a Pontotoc newspaper article about several Sabbathkeeping churches in northern Mississippi.

Don McPherson leads a Thursday evening Bible study with some 15 at-

tending. Sabbath services are held weekly, and recent speakers included Pastor John Bevis and Donald Monroe, both of the Paint Rock church.

The Cornerstone meetinghouse's stained glass windows were a gift from the DeRuyter, N.Y., SDB Church. One of the windows is dedicated to Dr. Ella Swinney, a missionary to China from 1883 to 1895. Descendants of her family, now living in Texas, visited Pontotoc recently and donated funds to install a plexiglas panel to protect the window.

The church currently has no pastor. Leadership is provided by the church officers—Larry and Carolyn



Part of the congregation at the Cornerstone SDB Church.

Broussard, Adele Brown, and Pauline Douglas. Services begin at 10:00. **SR**

SR Reaction

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

Dear Kevin,

As you know, at Conference this August I stepped down as a member of the SDB General Council. I had toyed with the idea of also stepping away from the podium and our Monday morning script to "preach a little sermon" on what I see as the obligation of all our churches to financially support the General Conference. (My colleagues on the Council were relieved to know that I abandoned that plan, in favor of this note.)

A few years ago, Pastor Jack Morgan of our Palatka, Fla., church showed me a passage in Numbers 18 that seems to provide an excellent model for the way both individuals and churches should contribute to the work of God's earthly kingdom. Inasmuch as we don't read Numbers in great numbers (groan), here is a summary of God's plan for His people regarding giving:

Levites, the priestly tribe, were to receive tithes from the rest of the Israelites. These offerings were set apart for the Lord. The Levites, in turn, were told to give a tenth of the tithes they received—a tithe of the tithes—to Aaron, the high priest. Then, God warned the Levites not to treat the holy gifts of the people of Israel as though they were common.

Is it too much of a stretch to substitute "churches" for Levites and "denomination" for high priest? I have it on good authority that if all our churches were to tithe their tithes and offerings, we would have no difficulty raising our denominational budget.

Many churches are already doing this. Just as God blesses individuals who faithfully tithe, I am convinced that He blesses churches who do as well. It's the right thing to do!

I look forward to an exciting future for Seventh Day Baptists. God has kept us around a long time for a reason. I also feel that our denomination is at a crossroads, and that each congregation should prayerfully consider a decision to support our larger work by voting to regularly send a tenth of its income to the denominational budget.

Norma Rudert
White Cloud, MI

Dear Editor,

I have been a member of the Paint Rock, Ala., SDB Church for several years and regularly read the *Sabbath Recorder*. Unfortunately, there is a significant area that is not being addressed, an area that God addresses throughout the Bible: Creation.

The Bible speaks in the areas of biology, astronomy, hydrology, geology, and more. While God thought these areas were worth addressing, unfortunately the Church has generally remained silent on them. The stories that are presented in the *SR* are excellent but, by themselves, they're inadequate. The lies of the world, if left unanswered, will be accepted as truth.

Every day, the Discovery Channel broadcasts at least one program promoting evolution. Almost every week, PBS will have some TV program promoting evolution. All the while churches, including SDB, are just telling more Bible stories.

Bible and other inspirational stories need to be a significant part of Christian education, but in today's world, they are not enough. If you wish to equip Christians of all ages to confront the dominant "religion" in the world today—evolution—you must give them the information they need.

What is needed is a regular feature in the *SR* that will give a biblical and scientific answer to the lie of evolution, showing how the evidence supports the reality of Creation.

Yours in Christ, Sean Meek
Mt. Juliet, TN

Name changes, cont. from page 16

Day Baptist church in that town took on the same name, a great improvement over its first location in Goose Pasture.

Nearer the center of Allegany County was a branch of the Alfred church, designated in 1825 as the Friendship Seventh Day Baptist Church. Yet to most of us, it was known as the Nile Church. (I never knew why the community was named Nile. Its waters flowed into the Genesee River, not the Nile!)

Fighting friends and getting rich

Even the town of Friendship went through a name change. According to tradition, it was once known as "Fighting Corners." I attended the ordination of Rev. Alton Wheeler in this church. In 1953, I also participated at Nile in my first ordination after my own, welcoming Rev. Paul Osborn into the ministry.

That church eventually merged with the Richburg, N.Y., SDB Church. The town of Richburg may have got-

ten its name from the rich flow of oil in the area. Because of its name, a Sabbathkeeping group in the Gold Coast area of Africa contacted that church in hopes of getting some of its riches. A short-lived mission was established at Ayan Main in West Africa in 1900.

Associating our historical geography

Physical geography remains fairly constant, but historical geography is ever changing. Our first SDB church in America was in Newport, R.I., in 1671. Its daughter church, called "Westerly," later became "Hopkinton"—our easternmost church in the United States.

In 1835, three SDB Associations were established: the Eastern Association, comprised of the churches near the Atlantic; the Central Association, made up of churches in Central New York State; and the Western Association included western New York and expanded into western Virginia, Ohio, and even Wisconsin.

Carved out of this latter group,

the Southwestern Association was later changed to the Southeastern, which recently divided into the Appalachian and South Atlantic Associations. These included the churches in southwestern Pennsylvania, western Virginia, and Ohio.

In 1849, the Northwestern Association was established, and included all of the area from Wisconsin to California, and from Minnesota to Arkansas and Texas.

It wasn't until about 1968 that the Western Association became the Allegheny Association—spelled after the river, not the county where most of the people lived. Around 1980, it expanded out of the country to include Toronto in Canada.

So as members of our churches followed the "Oregon Trail" to Conference this year—whether by car, train, or air—perhaps they considered some of the historical changes as well as the geographic variations. For geography and history are not isolated studies, but closely intertwined. *SR*

K E V I N ' S

O R N E R

In Christ at Conference

At one of my first Conferences, I heard an outspoken delegate bellowing about how appalled he was at our "paltry" budget for the work of the denomination.

"This budget should be over a million dollars!!" he insisted.

I didn't realize that we had a prophet among us.

It may have taken 20 years, but our combined budget is now in the seven-figure category for the first time. Are we ready for this challenge? (More on this in future columns; in the meantime, read the Reaction letter on page 25 for a "numbers" idea.)

earnest. (And one piece of the puzzle was just named—see below.)

- a high level of involvement and commitment from our young adults and youth.
- a "different" kind of Tract Council presentation, with lots of reminiscing—and a surprise for the cast.
- various important committee actions and recommendations (see page 6 and below).
- a brunette assistant photographer instead of a blonde. Daughter and college-grad Jenny was home working, so Andrea Davis filled in behind the camera. Great job, Andrea, and THANKS!!
- a very hospitable staff and fine facilities at George Fox University.

Other reflections from the first week of August:
• a search for new Conference leadership is underway in

So, hey, what do you say? Shall we do this again next year?

The SDB Council on Ministry announces their appointment for Director of Pastoral Services and Dean of the School of Ministry:
The Rev. Gordon P. Lawton
Pending the approval of General Council, Rev. Lawton plans to begin his service at the SDB Center in Janesville in January 2004.

Denominational Dateline

September

- 7-10 Evangelical Development Ministry Institute, Orlando, Fla.—Kevin Butler
- 12-13 Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, Rez Connection, Pine Ridge, S.D.—Kirk Looper
- 18-22 Pine Ridge Indian Reservation—Ron Elston
- 19-21 North Central Association, Outreach Bible Church, Portage, Wis.—Looper, Don Sanford
- 20 Stewardship Workshop, Alfred Station, N.Y.—Andrew Camenga
- 29-30 BJCPA Meeting in Washington, D.C.—Butler

October

- 4-5 SR Committee, Nortonville, Kan.—Butler
- 11-12 Muriel Osborn Seminar for Teachers, Lost Creek, W.Va.—Camenga
- 18-19 Memorial Fund Meeting, Paint Rock, Ala.—Calvin Babcock

25-26 Missionary Society Board Meeting, Westerly, R.I.—Looper, Elston

November

8-9 TCC Annual Meeting, SDB Center, Janesville, Wis.—Butler

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
- SR**— *Sabbath Recorder*

The Week in Review, cont. from page 6

Seventh Day Baptists, the Committee recommends that the General Conference take no further action regarding removal of this church.

•The Committee recommends the following by-law change (to appear as the final paragraph of Article 2): "If, after the General Council has had time to research issues carefully and to pursue reconciliation, it reports to General Conference that it does not recommend the church for removal from membership, then the Corporation may, by 2/3 majority vote by churches at a General Conference session, override that decision and remove the church from its membership." [first reading]

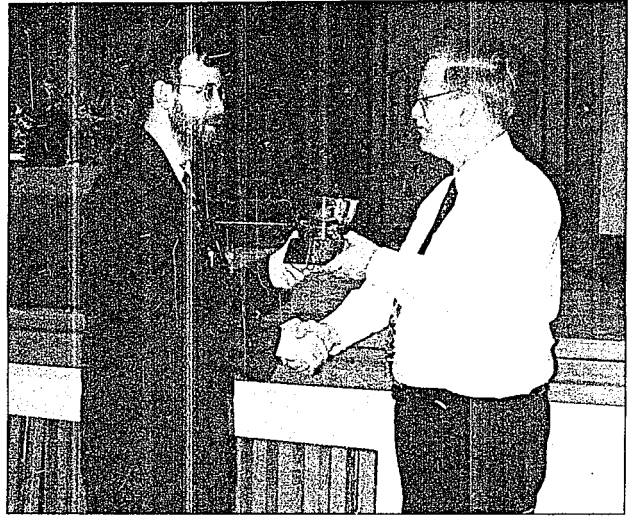
- Large sections of new wording for the Manual of Procedures pertaining to the investigation of member churches, and the hiring of pastors from other denominations.

From Communications:

- We recommend that the American Sabbath Tract and Communication Council take responsibility for administering the denominational website.
- We recommend that the American Sabbath Tract and Communication Council seek and find funding to upgrade, enhance, and regularly maintain the denominational website. *SR*



Brooke North sang out during the kids' musical.



Christian Education Executive Director Andrew Camenga (left) hands the Scripture Memory Bowl to Pastor Don Chroniger of the church with the highest number of participants: Shiloh, N.J.



The obligatory "Camp Harley" t-shirt presentation from Gordon Lawton (right) to President Cruzan. So, where was the group photo??



Desserts, touched by an angel, at the President's reception.