



The Sabbath RECORDER

November 2004

News for and about Seventh Day Baptists

Summer Christian Service Corps 1964 – 2004



*Celebrating
40 years
of SCSC*



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.

For 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@seventhdaybaptist.org and the SDB Web site: www.seventhdaybaptist.org

Cover photos:

- SCSCers dutifully listening to trainer Helen Green in 1965. Seated (l. to r.): Phyllis Payne, Russell Johnson, and Irene Bond. Standing: Suzanne Jones, Althea Greene, Robert Babcock, and Nancy Cruzan.
- The members and project directors of 2002's Team "Of All Nations" (biggest team yet).

Young Adult Retreat

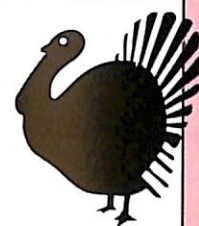
*December 28, 2004 –
January 2, 2005*

* * *

Where?

Camp Paul Hummel
Boulder, Colorado
*Registration form is on
the back cover*

This Thanks- giving...



Please remember to give generously to the SDB **United Relief Fund.**
*(See the back cover
for more info)*

SCSC Team and Church Application Deadlines

Are you willing to serve with next year's Summer Christian Service Corps? Is your church ready to host a team for service and outreach?
Team Member applications are due by **January 15**
Church Project applications are due by **February 1**

For more information and your application, contact Grace Crouch at rgcrouch@netzero.com. Every church will also get an application by mail, and the Women's Society website should have a form posted soon. Check www.sdbwboard.org.

Send your completed form to: SCSC Committee
c/o Grace Crouch
543 St. Rt. 100
Palatka FL 32177

**Birmingham, England
July 2005**

You're Invited
Come
Celebrate
100 Years of Baptist
Life Around the World!



Have you
heard
about
the BWA
Centennial
Congress?

Come celebrate and share
"Jesus Christ Living Water."

**For more
information
contact:** Baptist World Alliance
405 N. Washington St.
Falls Church, VA 22046, USA
Phone: +1-703-790-8980
Email: BWA@bwanet.org
Website: www.bwanet.org



Establ. 1844

November 2004
Volume 226, No. 11
Whole No. 6,900

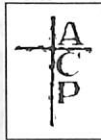


A Seventh Day Baptist publication

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

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

This is the 160th year of publication for The Sabbath Recorder. First issue published, June 13, 1844. Member of the Associated Church Press. The Sabbath Recorder does not necessarily endorse signed articles.



Kevin Butler
Editor

Leanne Lippincott
Assistant Editor

EC = Editor's Circle members

Contributing Editors

Rob Appel, Andrew J. Camenga, Don Graffius, Gordon Lawton, Jenn Layton, G. Kirk Looper, 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.

Features — SCSC's 40th!

What does SCSC mean to the Women's Board? 4
by Faith (Camenga) Green
Untold blessings abound throughout four decades.

A summer sojourn begins 6
by Judy Van Horn Maxson
A charter member looks back at the first project.

SCSC: From possibility to reality 7
by Leon R. Lawton
Long-time coordinator remembers the early years.

"If the cook ain't happy, nobody's happy" 8
by Shari Severance
Assisting the cook creates recipe for life.

Growing butterflies 9
by Vivian Looper
Each year, a staffer sees the "cocoon" open up.

The only constant 10
by Althea Rood
Coordinator reviews changes in the training—and herself.

"Field tested" for Christ 12
by Pastor Russell Johnson
Summer of service spurs decades of servanthood.

Departments

Women's Society 13 <i>One team's productive projects</i>	President's Page 20 <i>Strong... in our thanksgiving</i>
Pearls from the Past 14 <i>Adding more Spice to history</i>	Vision 2020 21 <i>The problem might not be outreach</i>
Christian Education 16 <i>Nursery teacher sets foundation for future</i>	Local news 22-23 <i>Battle Creek, MI 22</i> <i>N.E. Yearly Meeting 23</i>
Focus 17 <i>Burdens in Burundi</i>	Family flux 24-25 <i>New members, births</i>
The Beacon 18 <i>Finding time for God</i>	<i>Marriages 24</i> <i>Obituaries 25</i>
Reflections 19 <i>A handshake to remember</i>	Kevin's Korner 27 <i>A branch of service</i>



What does SCSC mean to the Women's Board?

by Faith (Camenga) Green

"Summer Christian Service Corps certainly means a lot to the Women's Board, but it is a real asset to the entire denomination."

That's the response I received from the current president of the Seventh Day Baptist Women's Board, Marjorie Jacob, when I asked her the above question. I could easily sum everything up by saying that, for the Women's Board, SCSC means work and reward.

Opportunities for dedicated service in the denomination existed long before there was SCSC. Many of our young adults strove to find time to dedicate to God and His work.

In February of 1964, Linda Bingham and her future husband, Jack Hays, met with a committee of the Women's Board in Milton, Wis., to plan for a Dedicated Service Program that the Board would sponsor. That meeting is where Summer Christian Service Corps was born.

Work...

I think that the SDB Women's Board was the perfect group to take on this challenge. The Board agreed to do the hard, behind-the-scenes work that is required to keep the SCSC program running. They approached the project as a mother would—with a loving and nurturing heart.

The Board desires to see our young adults encouraged to serve God while helping SDB churches. Over the last four decades, the Women's Board has continuously looked for ways to improve and update the SCSC program and have made changes as needed. They have done so with hearts for God. The Board supports SCSC through faith-

The Women's Board agreed to do the hard, behind-the-scenes work that is required to keep the SCSC program running.



They approached the project as a mother would—with a loving and nurturing heart.

ful prayers, an immeasurable amount of time, and financial backing.

Reward...

It's impossible to assess the positive effects that Summer Christian Service Corps has had on people, both within and outside of the Seventh Day Baptist denomination.

Although often intangible, the rewards are great.

The women of the Board are ever mindful of the life-changes that can occur when God chooses to use SCSC. The women (and men) who spend time making sure the ministry continues every year are blessed when they see the young adults grow and take a stand for our Lord Jesus Christ. They are encouraged when they see the children and youth of our denomination excited about an SCSC team coming to their church or hear a young person's desire to spend a future summer as an SCSC team member.

Imagine, *over the last 40 years*, all the faithful sisters-in-Christ who have watched SCSC be used as a tool to "grow" the young adults of our denomination spiritually. Imagine all the seeds that have been planted.

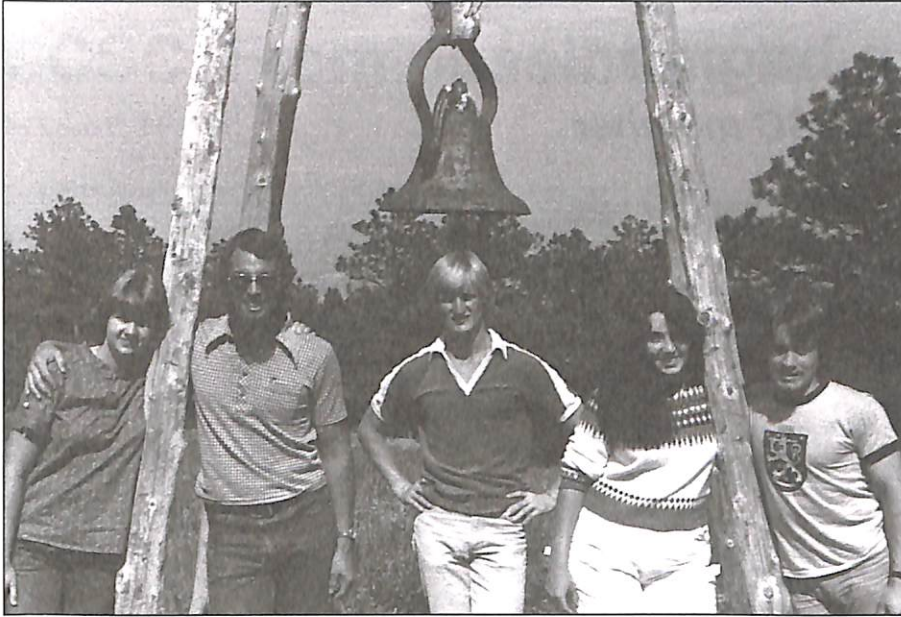
Our Conference has been blessed with pastors and pastors' wives, deacons and deaconesses, treasurers, Sabbath School teachers, choir directors and members, trustees, diligent parents, and faithful church members—thanks, in part, to SCSC.

My personal SCSC testimony

I am just one person, writing on a subject that would get a different response from another SDB woman if asked.

Summer Christian Service Corps has blessed me in many ways. As a child, I was able to observe SCSC-ers. They gave children's messages, shared testimonies and special music, and helped in Vacation Bible Schools.

As a youth, I was blessed to have more direct contact with workers in



It's impossible to assess the positive effects that Summer Christian Service Corps has had on people, both within and outside of the Seventh Day Baptist denomination.

When training overlooked Boulder, Colo., at Camp Paul Hummel. The 1981 team that headed to Los Angeles: Deirdre Sanford, Roger Payne, P.D. Brian Owen, Lori Loofboro, and Heikki Fuller.

camp and at Conferences. Many took time to encourage me and were good Christian role models.

I spent three years as an SCSC worker. I married a former SCSCer and spent a summer as a Project Director. Most recently, I have been *blessed* by serving on both the Women's Board and on the SCSC staff as a cook.

My hope and prayer is that our Conference will remain faithful in

lifting up all aspects of Summer Christian Service Corps in prayer. Pray that it can continue to be a program that will allow for our Seventh Day Baptist mission-minded young adults to serve their denomination and, more importantly, to serve God.

The following is quoted from a letter that the SCSC historian received in 1989. Barb Green served on the Women's Board when the SCSC

program was "born." She wrote:

"I could sing the praises of SCSC forever! All three of our children have been in SCSC for two or more years.... One summer, at work, I was asked what my kids were doing for the summer. When I told them about SCSC, they asked, 'How do you get a teenager to spend a summer doing that?!' I replied, 'How do you keep them *from* doing it?'... SCSC is the best program we have." **SR**

SCSC Snippets

Paint-by-number

From 1964-2004, a total of **434** young people have served in 65 SDB churches and 3 Associations.

"How long were you in?..."

For <u>one</u> year:	278
For <u>two</u> years:	98
For <u>three</u> years:	35
For <u>four</u> years:	20
For <u>FIVE</u> years:	3

The **five-year** "veterans" are Cathy Rogers, Marissa Van Horn, and Stephanie Ritchie.

Those serving **four years**: Tim Osborn, Steve Osborn, Sanja Severance, Keith Bond, Jeff Roberts, Kim Baker, Leah Martin, Erin Burdick, Lora Dickinson, Tanya Henry, Debbie Moncrief, John Mark Camenga, Angi Neher, Omari Rhoden, Steve Pimple, Paula Reynolds, Jeff Sinclair, Miriam Lawton, Amy Goodrich, and Brett Greene.



A summer sojourn begins

Reflections from a charter SCSC member

by Judy Van Horn Maxson

During the summer of 1964, Al Crouch, Dale Rood, and I joined Linda (then Bingham) Hays in Louisiana to form the first Summer Christian Service Corps team.

Monday mornings were spent at the Metairie SDB Church, planning weekly activities and preparing Bible lessons. These were to be shared with children in a Gretna neighborhood, and the Florida Avenue and St. Thomas housing projects of New Orleans. Monday afternoons found us on the streets of Metairie, visiting people at their homes and inviting them to worship with us on Sabbath.

The Florida Avenue housing project was our target on Tuesday,

The Lord truly blessed that summer sojourn, and I shall always be grateful for the experience.

where we visited and invited young people to join us in the afternoon at a volunteered apartment for Bible School.

Wednesdays were spent at the St. Thomas housing project, visiting and inviting in the morning, and Bible School in the afternoon.

Gretna was our location on Thursdays where we used a vacant barroom devoid of electricity and windows for a classroom, leaving the door open to let in light. (The open door also let in former patrons, who sat in the back of the room to listen.)

Friday's focus was preparing for Sabbath services and included one of my favorite activities: quartet practice.

There were occasional additions to our schedule, such as a visit to Camp Miles and a night meeting at a church in downtown New Orleans. We almost didn't make it to the latter because a car loaded with inebriated men pulled along side us as we walked toward our appointment.



Good church workers all. This team served in Washington, D.C., in 1987. Standing behind P.D. Paul Andries are Nate Crandall, Paula Davis, and Steve Osborn.



Where it all began: the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Metairie, La.

(The drunken occupants tried to persuade us to attend a party with them.)

Linda was a patient and inspired leader. One Sunday, she treated us to a day at the Gulf, and one of us returned with lovely lobster-red feet!

Our Metairie and Florida Avenue hosts and hostesses were generous in every way. The Lord truly blessed that summer sojourn, and I shall always be grateful for the experience. **SR**

SCSC Snippets

Boosting our Conference

They became ministers or a minister's wife: **33**

They have served or are serving as missionaries: **4**
(Tim Osborn, Morocco; Patty Petersen, Mexico; Miriam Lawton, Zambia; Jeff Hazen, Zambia)

They have served or are serving on denominational boards and agencies: **18**

SCSC: From possibility to reality

by Leon R. Lawton



One of the more "interesting" side-projects. David Carmichael and Mark Green helped rid the Plainfield church's bell tower of pesky pigeons in 1987.

Dorothy and I returned from mission work in Jamaica in the spring of 1964. After landing in Florida, we piled into a VW converted ambulance and headed to North Loup, Neb., and Battle Creek, Mich., to visit our parents.

Enroute, we stopped for the Sabbath near Metairie, La., where a small group of SDBs was meeting. That Friday night, a visiting quartet from Wisconsin arrived. They had come to help in the local outreach.

Settling in Battle Creek, I began working on the national field for the SDB Missionary Society. That year, General Conference met at Salem (W.Va.) College. It was there that I heard the testimony of Dale Rood, one of the four young people who had served in Metairie. Dale challenged the youth to give of their summers in witness, and share in this exciting experience.

Later that year, the SDB Commission met at the denominational building in Plainfield, N.J. Everett T. Harris, who represented the Missionary Society, and I traveled together.

I had been asked to study the pos-

sibilities and present a proposal on how such a youth ministry might continue with SDBs. Two other organizations had similar youth ministries. After reviewing these, I presented a paper listing guidelines for a possible SDB continuing youth ministry.

The Commission pored over the information, a small outline was set in type at the print shop, and it was edited again. This version was presented to General

Conference at their next session in Alfred, N.Y.

The Women's Board, headquartered then in Wisconsin, was asked to continue to oversee this ministry, and I was asked to head a brief training session for what had become Summer Christian Service Corps (SCSC).

This first session, with seven youth participating, was held at the Battle Creek church in 1965. Since one of the proposed projects involved visitation, the SCSC session included



I'm afraid we have no idea what Dick Burdick and Harold King were doing during the 1967 training.

training in this area. We studied a small book on visitation, but the youth wanted to get out and do it! So we did; two-by-two, making no more than three calls per outing.

This experience "turned us all on," as we became aware of the Lord's leading. He helped us meet the needs of several of the people we visited. One handicapped lady across the corner from the church had seen people come and go, but no one had ever called on her!

The second year, the SCSC training was held in Milton, Wis. Despite the reservations of some church leaders, we did do some calling, and a real ministry resulted. One person we contacted came to Christ.

What a joy it was to see how the Lord led and blessed SCSC as it continued to grow! More and more churches asked for teams to minister for them each summer.

I served as SCSC Project Director from the mid-60s through 1978, and sometimes also as Summer Coordinator. It was exciting to arrive a little early at General Conference to review the experiences of each SCSC team. Through this contact, we gained insights to improve the program and urged "veteran" workers to challenge those who were interested in becoming SCSCers the following year. **SR**

SCSC Snippets Going two-by-two

Teams of SCSCers have varied from **one** person to **eight** on a team. Most teams have been in groups of **two**.



“If the cook ain’t happy, nobody’s happy”

by Shari Severance

I’m sure most of us have heard this phrase in relation to camp cooking. This means that the camping staff is quick to get the campers “in line” to please the cooks by the end of the very first day!

My nine-year experience in assisting SCSC cook Vivian Looper during training gave this phrase a whole new meaning. This was a “service” opportunity, and it wasn’t about *us* (the cooks) at all. Bummer!!

I’m sure Vivian coined the phrase, “Kick it up a notch,” long before TV chef Emeril Lagasse ever thought of it. Ninety-nine percent of the food we prepared was made strictly from scratch or was the result of experimentation. With a shoestring budget (which she always met), Vivian tried to introduce SCSC workers to some foods which were native to the areas where they would be serving for the summer. Not all of our experiments were successful, but her mission was fiber, fiber, fiber!

A lot of the workers didn’t know that homemade bread was actually “home made.” I got nervous the first year working with Vivian, when only one loaf of “purchased” bread was on the shopping list—and that was for a staff lunch the first day of camp. From then on, yeast and flour went flying!

Vivian’s background as a nutrition major in college was used every day. Meals were balanced, attractive, and served on time. She could revamp a complete menu for a meal in a matter of seconds. This came in handy when there were shortages, schedule changes, or “oops” happenings in the kitchen (like my doubling the oil in a muffin recipe).

I remember grumbling one year when Vivian asked me to make homemade graham crackers. I did, and they turned out yummy! Then she dared ask me to grind them up for a pie crust. All I could think was, *My hard work has been reduced to crumbs! Doesn’t she know that you can buy these at the store?*

Vivian just smiled as the staff and workers later praised the finished pies.

I’m sure not everyone had all of the food they liked or were used to eating. And serving quantities were limited because of budget restraints.

Vivian’s other secret mission in the kitchen was to make the “food experience” for the workers and staff a vital part of the whole training package. Time was precious for them, but many wandered in as the smell of “real food” went beyond their ability to resist temptation.

Ideas and recipes were shared

SCSC Snippets What Great Staff!

These people have given more than 10 years of service to SCSC, as a team member, or on staff, or as project director:

Vivian Looper	18
Althea Greene Rood	18
(at least; 12 as project coordinator, 4 as staff, 2 as worker, and as P.D.)	
Chuck Graffius (on staff)	12
Doreen Sanford Davis	13
(11 on staff, 2 as worker)	
Gerry VanDyke	13
Leon Lawton	11
Shari Severance	11

with so many that I’m sure that Vivian impacted their lifestyles as they continued into adulthood. She taught all of us that it’s okay to eat modestly, healthy, stick to a budget, *and* have great fun while doing it.

Vivian started and ended her days by reading Scripture. I’m convinced that it allowed her to “hit the floor running.” Our very “tight” and life-long friendship began long before our children married.

Her humility, integrity, wisdom, humor, and willingness to serve touched the lives of many SCSC workers. She has been, and remains, “a good and faithful servant.” *SR*

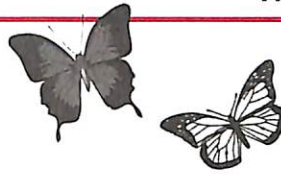


Those long locks have got to go! David Carmichael and Troy Munn get trimmed before heading to their projects.



Vivian Looper and Shari Severance.

Growing butterflies



by Vivian Looper

Each year as I begin planning for SCSC, the butterflies arrive. First the ones inside, then the ones outside.

Just *thinking* about the awesome experience of cooking for SCSC is exhilarating and frightening. Those are the inside butterflies.

I question everything. The menus: Are they attractive and yet well-balanced nutritionally, with enough fiber? Have I planned a meal to represent each area where a team will be serving? The grocery order: Did I count right, and what if we run out of food? What if the power goes out or there's no propane?

Will the food be done by the scheduled times? And what if they run overtime? Will it burn? What if no one shows up to help fix all this food?

The stomach turns and churns with increasing insistence—more inside butterflies. Then a still, small voice reminds me, "God is in control."

As I complete the planning, I wonder, *Did I forget anything?*

I know that others are preparing for our arrival. Supplies are purchased, workers are scheduled, facilities are cleaned and polished. Housing and transportation are even arranged, and a myriad of details are al-



These two butterflies each served five years in SCSC: Marissa Van Horn and Cathy Rogers.

ready taken care of. There are *so many* people to thank. Did I forget to say "thank you"? Just in case, **Thank You!**

At last, everything is ready. Amid much noise and confusion, we exchange greetings and hugs, share stories of travel challenges and opportunities, and the needs of the weary travelers are met. Many of these Project Directors and young people arrive having experienced a few "inside butterflies" themselves.



Vivian Looper soaks her feet after a long day of cooking.

But they quickly subside as training begins.

The following days are full of learning opportunities, spiritual and physical food, music, worship, recreation, and fellowship. Challenges are prayed through, and deadlines prayed for and met. Still, questions arise.

What are we going to cook for the evening meal? How many will be eating lunch? What are we fixing for the evening snack? Where has all the food gone? How can we *possibly* prepare food to fill over a thousand plates? (Thankfully, not all at one meal!)

Can we have a nap? Will this ever end? Again, a still, small voice reminds me, "With God, all things are possible."

Mealtimes provide an opportunity to observe the interesting changes that are taking place. The varied personalities begin to mesh. Differences are worked through, and the "cocoons" begin to open. The "wings" of all become stronger, and by the end of training each can fly, although many still have inside butterflies.

I marvel at the different colors, shapes, and sizes of God's outside butterflies. Gracefully leaving a flower, slowly gliding past my window, settling gently on a nearby window box. Wow! God has created some magnificent butterflies!

SCSC training allows me to observe "butterflies" in the making. It allows me to daily experience the power of God as He works within me to carry out His purpose, superabundantly, far over and above all that I dare ask or think.

"To Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever" (Ephesians 3:21).

Butterflies? Yes, that sums up the experience of being on staff for SCSC. **SR**

SCSC Snippets What Great Hosts!

Of the 65 churches involved in hosting SCSC teams, these have used teams the most years—

Battle Creek, Mich.	24
Westerly, R.I.	22
North Loup, Neb.	20
Milton, Wis.	19



The only constant

by Althea Rood, SCSC Training Coordinator

SCSC training has changed to meet the needs of churches with new and different ministries, requiring different and improved skills.

“Change” is one of the words that best describes Summer Christian Service Corps training. That change is represented by different training sites, different styles of learning, different staff members, different emphases and topics, and hopefully, a difference in people’s lives.

Historically, training has been held in SDB churches and camps (Paul Hummel, Holston, and Jersey Oaks) across the United States. One year, it was even held at the huge Explo ’72 youth rally in Texas. Since 2001, the Daytona Beach, Fla., church has graciously made their facilities available to the SCSC staff and students.

SCSC training has changed to meet the needs of churches with new and different ministries, requiring different and improved skills.

In an effort to meet those varied needs, we decided in 2000 to hold classes during the day at the Shiloh (N.J.) church while staying at its camp overnight. This allowed us to provide more than one level of training in Evangelism and Christian Education.

Our move to Daytona Beach the next year enabled us to break into smaller groups for more specific training and mentorship—especially in the areas of Bible Study leadership, camp counseling, VBS teach-

ing and leading, testimony sharing, youth center leadership, worship leading, etc. While all SCSCers receive training in leading music, worship, recreation, and campfire, there are other ministry areas specific to one or just a few teams.

In 2001, we also launched our year-round training modules, designed to continue the SCSC students’ spiritual growth and leadership training. Initially, we had three modules per year but have realistically adjusted to two per year. The fall module has a spiritual growth emphasis, while the spring module focuses on leadership skills needed in Christian Education.

Having participated in SCSC training on many levels—as a student, project host, project director, staff member, and training director—some of the biggest differences have been in our style of training.

SCSC Snippets Get Out of Town

The SCSC program has gone International! Team members have come from Jamaica and Australia; American workers have traveled to Australia; and training has taken place in the Philippines (by Rod Henry in 2003). Althea Rood and Helen Goodrich will conduct training sessions in Australia this coming January.

In the past five to ten years, much change has taken place. We strive for a balance between teaching and hands-on training. A visit to our training sessions would find some large group lectures and lots of small group presentation times (after a little preparation time).

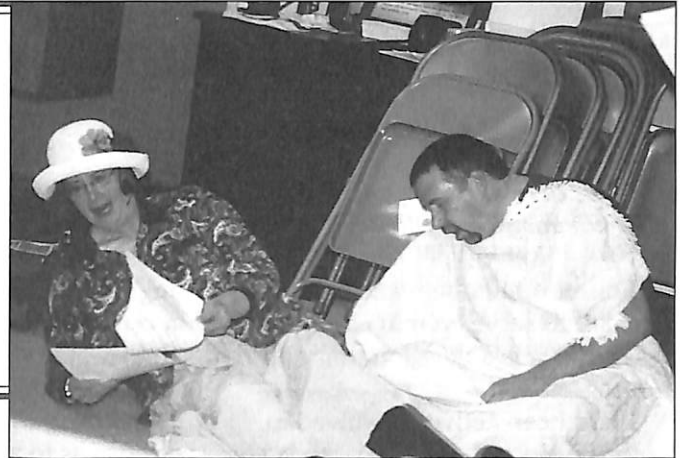
Some things are better “caught” than taught. It is the SCSC staff’s desire to model for our students, to watch them lead, and to share encouragement and suggestions as they grow in leadership.

Perhaps the greatest change of all has been the effect of SCSC on



“General” Althea Rood cutting up with daughter Kristin during a training skit.

It is the SCSC staff's desire to model for our students, to watch them lead, and to share encouragement and suggestions as they grow in leadership.



We hope this is another training skit with Helen Goodrich and Eric Davis.

my own life. Initially, it challenged me to develop my leadership skills and gave me tools and experiences to solidify my own Christian life. But over the years, SCSC has become a tool in God's hands to mold my life. God has radically changed my view of myself and others as I've experienced His grace and realized my own insufficiency.

While SCSC has changed a lot over the years, some things have remained the same. The dedication and com-

mitment of SCSC staff, project directors, committee members, mentors, hosts, and students continues at an admirable level. I sense God often saying, "Well done, good and faithful servant[s]! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!" (Matthew 25:21, NIV).

May we never stagnate but forever allow God to change us more and more into His image! **SR**

* * *

Althea (Greene) Rood, an SCSC-er in Metairie, La., in 1965-66, has been on the SCSC training staff since 1989 and has served as training coordinator since 1993. She is a high school math teacher and mother of two, Kristin Camenga and Jeff Rood. Her husband, Dale, was a member of the first SCSC team in 1964. As pastor and wife, they serve the Dodge Center, Minn., SDB Church.

SCSC Snippets

Following Footsteps

These are some of the two-generation team members from the records. (Years of service in parens.)

Jack and Linda Hays (1964-65)
Jennifer (1988-89)
Connie (1989-90)

Dale and Althea Rood (1964-66)
Kristin (1994-96)

Bob and Linda Harris (1969)
Joanna (2001-03)

Ruth Ellis Hazen (1965)
Jeff (1995)

Irene Bond Saunders (1965)
Becky (1986)
David (1991)

Phil and Irene Rood (1969)
Tim (1994-95)
Chris (1994-95)

Alice Rood Parker (1968-69)
Rachael (1995-96)
Brandon (2002-03)

Valerie Steele Heath
(1972)
Brian (1996)

Scott and Jeanie Smith
(1973/1977)
Aaron (2002)

JoAnne Burdick Kandel
(1977-78)
Emily (2002-2004)



“Field tested” for Christ

by Pastor Russell Johnson

(This article first appeared in the February 1993 SR.)

I don't remember exactly how I decided to serve on that early SCSC team, but it is a decision that I do not regret.

I had been actively involved in both the Nortonville, Kan., and Kansas City SDB churches. I had been president of the Youth for Christ Club in my high school, and had worked with two Billy Graham Crusade efforts.

I knew that I had a call to full-time Christian service, and felt that I would be a missionary on the foreign field. So, maybe it was only natural for me not to avoid an opportunity to serve my Lord.

We had no idea where we would be serving until the SCSC training was almost completed. I was surprised to hear that we would be working in New Orleans. Under the project direction of Pastor Ralph Hays, the four of us covered 64 square blocks visiting house to house. We had a marvelous time

reaching out to touch people's lives.

Can I tell you that I was always comfortable doing door-to-door calling? No, I wasn't then, and I still find a certain dread of the uncertain and unexpected while calling even today. And I have learned that getting closely involved with people will always expose us to a certain amount of personal risk.

But during those two summers in New Orleans (1965-66), I found a new sense of God's compassion for the hurting and lost which was greater than my personal fears. After knocking on that first door, everything went fine all day long. I keep thinking of the Scriptures which say, "For to obey is better than sacrifice." I am grateful for the experience which showed that pushing beyond fear is the best way to find joy without guilt.

After those two years, I found my mission field to be right in my neighborhood, and my ministry to be with people of our own country. Although I don't always experience success in everything I do, those two summers

of opportunity and responsibility made me much more confident that I could be a profitable servant for my Lord.

The opportunity to serve God, being trusted as responsible to accomplish the task, and God's faithfulness all played a positive part in my spiritual growth. I believe that much of what I do now in my ministry for the Lord Jesus Christ was "field tested" during SCSC. **SR**

SCSC Snippets Calendar Cutbacks

Penny Hurley Thorngate remembers how it was in the '70s: a full 10-week program. The team partners and sites were not chosen until the end of training. Now, the members know who they'll be with and where they'll be serving in their six weeks of service following training. (The six weeks includes evaluation, Pre-Con, and Conference.)

What's in a Name?

The first task for the summer is to decide your team name and Scripture verse. Each team's first letter comes from the overall team name. (The number of letters in the overall name corresponds with the number of teams going out. For example, Team "FIRE" in 1990 had these teams going to their projects: Fathom, Illuminate, Refuge, and Eagle.)



These dapper gents served in 1998. John Mark Camenga (left) is now a houseparent at a Christian Children's Home, while Steve Graffius and Nick Kersten are in seminary.



One team's productive projects

Editor's note: Laura Price wanted to get into the "SCSC spirit" of this issue, so she sent this letter from the team that was assigned to her home church this past summer.

Sam Lima and Stephanie Ritchie split their time between the "Carraway" church in Palatka, Fla., and the Daytona Beach church. Laura served as Project Director (P.D.) in Palatka, and Marie Ward was P.D. in Daytona.

Part I: "Correct Grammar"

Warm greetings from Florida! I (Sam) am eating Creme-Savers so my speech may be slurred—sorry.

Deep South Camp 2004 ended on Sunday (July 18th). We worked in partnership with the Miami

One of our campers, Karim, decided to accept Christ as his Savior during the week. (Yay!)

SCSC team—Rick Roberts and Alexandra Huntington-Ofner. We had a great time, and we were able to teach the kids a great deal!

I taught a class for the Junior campers in the afternoon, helped lead music, and organized recreation with Rick. Stephanie was the Junior Camp Director and camp "crazy person," and Rick and I were dorm counselors for the juniors. Stephanie and Alex were counselors as well.

One of our campers, Karim, decided to accept Christ as his Savior during the week. (Yay!)

Rick and I took turns being "human alarm clocks" for the kids. We pummeled them with pillows to "encourage" them to wake up every morning.

We took a field trip to the Florida Pioneer Arts Center on Thursday (I think that's what it was called). We were able to see life as it was when our parents were growing up: blacksmithing, butter making, weaving, log cabins made out of logs, candle making, etc.

Fun activities at camp included soccer ("football" for the Jamaicans), swinging, swimming, breakfast, canoe races, lunch, listening to Pastor John [Camenga] talk, dinner, campfire, snack time, chillin' and finding food in the walk-in freezer, and the water balloon battle!

Some of the kids didn't want to be at camp at first, but after a while they didn't want to leave. (The food was too good!) Music was fun because Stephanie and Alex taught them the "I love my underwear" song. They couldn't get the song out of their heads; it was awesome.

Stephanie is half asleep (or half awake if you're an optimist), so I'm going to go "encourage" her to get up and write the other half of this letter.

Part II: "I Done Speek Like a Hillbilly"

"Wanna come to our concert in the Stix?" Well, 50 people wanted to come and so they "done diddit."

The night before camp, we held a concert and invited the community to join us. Some of the acts were bluegrass, pure country, hymnal-type, and some original pieces.

Sam even wrote a song on Friday and played it for us that night. He forgot some of the words, and his song ended quickly. It was pretty funny. But he redeemed himself

The members are so supportive, and we are looking forward to serving them.

by playing the song again later that night. He is pretty talented. Even Laura, our P.D., performed.

I (Stephanie) was the MC; don't worry, I did not sing, but I told some corny jokes. All in all, the night was a success, and the people of Palatka will always be in our hearts.

We were blown away with how awesome the Carraway church is. They touched Sam and I very deeply, and we love them so much. Although we were sad to leave them, we were excited for camp.

Our final week we will be doing a Backyard Bible Club with the Daytona Beach church. The church is amazing. The members are so supportive, and we are looking forward to serving them.

Please keep us in your prayers as we try to reach the youth this week. Thank you for your support. God Bless you!

Samuel Lima
Stephanie Ritchie

1 Peter 3:15—"Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you..." SR



Pearls from the Past by Don A. Sanford, historian

Adding more Spice to history

One year ago, a “Pearls” column entitled, “Spicing up the joint,” carried the account of Clarence Winfred Spicer, a Seventh Day Baptist who in 1902 invented the Spicer Universal Joint for automobiles.

That Pearls was instigated by a call—and subsequent question—from an executive vice president of the Dana Corporation. The company was celebrating the centennial of Spicer’s invention, which offered an alternative way of coupling two shafts in different planes. The universal joint resulted in a quieter and more reliable means of transmitting power from the engine to the rear axle, eliminating the use of chain and sprocket, or belt and pulley, which earlier vehicles used.

However, the executive’s question was not about Spicer’s invention; he knew much more about that than I did. He wanted to know more about Spicer himself. He had discovered that Spicer was a Seventh Day Baptist and had been a student at Alfred (N.Y.) University. The factory Spicer founded in Plainfield, N.J., employed many Seventh Day Baptists.

The Dana executive asked, “Why did the company’s employees work only a five-day workweek, Monday through Friday?”

I explained our observance of the Biblical Sabbath, and he commented that he was a Catholic. He wondered why we had “changed” our Sabbath from Sunday to Saturday. Sadly, he wasn’t familiar enough with either the Bible or religious history to grasp the irony of his question.

Following this contact with the corporation, I delighted in finding

an article entitled, “Auto Magic,” in the Summer 2004 edition of *Alfred Magazine*. It was written by David Snyder, an assistant to the archivist at the University Library and editor of the *Alfred Sun*.

The article noted that Spicer, as an Alfred University student, “played a major role in getting American-made automobiles on the road a century ago.” (An early postcard from the Dana Corporation carried the slogan, “Spicer helped the Army convert from mule power to fuel power.”)

small railroad settlement in the fertile Illinois River Valley. The farm was home to Peoria County’s first creamery, and the mechanically inclined Spicer helped keep the operation’s artificial ice-making equipment up and running.

“The *Sabbath Recorder* brought church news as well as promotional material for Alfred Academy and University. The two schools were closely linked, with university instructors teaching classes at the Academy as well.

“Spicer was almost a victim of his own success. He found it hard to keep up with demand, and needed capital for expansion to fight off competitors who were producing imitations.”



Clarence Winfred Spicer

The article contained a section entitled, “The Road to Alfred”:

“Spicer was a Seventh Day Baptist so it was not unusual that he knew of Alfred and the school that is now Alfred University, both founded by the church. Alfred was the hub for the church’s continued westward migration and the denomination’s Board of Christian Education was headquartered here, as it now is to this day.

“Spicer grew up on a dairy farm in what is now Edelstein, Ill., a

“Spicer enrolled in Alfred Academy in 1891. He was involved with the Young People’s Society for Christian Endeavor, and no doubt was influenced by Boothe Colwell Davis, who would become Alfred University’s fourth president in 1895. It was Davis who would eventually separate the University from the Academy.

“Spicer courted Anna Olive Burdick, who also was enrolled in the Academy in 1891. In 1896, Spicer, 21 and Burdick, 20, were

married, with President Davis performing the ceremony.”¹

To this union, four sons were born. Two of them— Robert Thurston Spicer and John Reed Spicer— graduated from Alfred. John taught at the University and served as an administrative assistant from 1935 to 1945. He married Virginia Bond, daughter of Dean A.J.C. Bond, a prominent SDB and Dean of the Alfred University School of Theology from 1935 to 1956.

The article in *Alfred Magazine* continued with the account of Spicer’s enrollment at Cornell University, a list of other patents he secured, and the 1904 establishment of his manufacturing business in the building of the Potter

Printing Press Company in Plainfield.

Among the presses manufactured in that facility—aside from those invented by Potter—was a press invented by George H. Babcock, one of our denomination’s most benevolent benefactors. For many years, the *Sabbath Recorder* was printed on presses made in this plant.

While living in Plainfield, Spicer was not only a Trustee of Alfred University; for many years, he was “an active and efficient member of the Memorial Board and the Tract Board and its Supervisory Committee.”²

Snyder wrote that, “Spicer was almost a victim of his own success. He found it hard to keep up with demand, and needed capital for expansion to fight off competitors who were producing imitations.”

A lawyer, Charles Dana, visited Spicer’s office and found his desk piled high with papers. When asked what they were, Spicer stated that they were new orders. When asked where his bills were, Spicer pulled a bare handful of bills out of a drawer. Dana concluded that the company would be a good investment, and reorganized and refinanced it.

Today, Dana Corporation is headquartered in Toledo, Ohio, with worldwide sales of nearly \$10 billion a year. **SR**

¹David Snyder, *Alfred Magazine*, summer 2004, pp. 34-37.

²Clarence Spicer’s obituary in the *Sabbath Recorder*, Vol. 128, No. 1, pg. 14, January 1, 1940.

Ideas for White Christmas gifts—2004

- Bicycles for both the women in leadership and the pastors in most of our countries. These bicycles will cost from \$200 to \$400, depending upon the country. Countries included are The Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Malawi, Rwanda.

- Medical supplies and medicines are needed for Rwanda, Liberia, Malawi, The Gambia, Ghana, and The Cameroon.

- Many of our Conferences have schools linked to their churches, and they need funds to continue this service.

- Sewing supplies and material for Rwanda.

- Scholarships for Makapwa Bible School. \$500 per semester, per student.

- Funds for church building roofs in Rwanda. \$200 to \$300.

- Funds to help the poor and children in Indonesia.

- Funds to help organize and develop the Women’s Board in our sister Conferences and

churches. This will include sending a woman as the instructor/mentor. This is a new program, and we are not sure of the cost. We have had many requests for this service, especially from the newer Conferences and churches.

- And for many of our sister Conferences and churches:

- School supplies, books, and equipment.

- Bibles and study materials, including *The Helping Hand*.

- Children’s Bibles.

- Leadership materials and supplies. This includes the CALLED and T.I.M.E. programs.

- Keyboards and other musical instruments. These will cost between \$400 and \$800.

- Hymnals.

- Funds to support the translation and printing of literature used in outreach.

- Computers and printers. These will need to be purchased in

the country in which they are to be used. The amount of duty taxes is great enough that you end up paying almost as much as it costs there anyway. Also, a place for repairs and upgrading is available when you purchase it in the country.

- Photocopiers. Advice same as the computer. Cost is at least \$2,500.

- Funds for building plots.

- Funds for the leaders’ wives to travel to the churches to teach the women.

- Funds to help support church projects in the USA. This would include outreach, educating the pastor in our denomination polity and beliefs, and help in rent or salaries.

SDB Missionary Society
119 Main St.
Westerly, RI 02891



Nursery teacher sets foundation for future

Lucinda Snyder Torkaman of the Alfred Station, N.Y., Seventh Day Baptist Church received the Crystal Apple Award as the 2004 Sabbath School Teacher of the Year. I pre-

One parent proclaimed, "It is amazing how Lucinda can take a population that has not yet developed comprehension and understanding, and help them to learn about God and the Church."

sented the award to Lucinda's pastor, Rev. Kenneth Chroniger, during the General Conference award ceremonies at West Virginia Wesleyan College, Buckhannon, W.Va., in August.

God has granted our churches many gifted educators, and each year the Board of Christian Education seeks one Sabbath School teacher who exhibits the qualities of faith and teaching that we find in the life and teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ. This individual award is intended to represent and recognize the dedication and excellent service of all the teachers in the Conference.

Lucinda is currently teaching the Nursery class of the Alfred Station church. Over the last 10 years, she

has created a place where children feel accepted and comfortable. She is even able to help reluctant children stay in the nursery because she shows them that her class is a great place to be!

One parent said that Lucinda has been an inspiration: "Every Friday night, I give [my daughter] the choice of going to Sabbath School and church, or going just to church," she said. "She always says that she wants to go to Sabbath School to see Lucinda."

In a young scrawl, one child wrote, "Lucinda is the best of taking care of me... and when I miss my mom and dad."

Concerning Lucinda's ability to teach in the nursery setting, her pastor wrote, "Lucinda is a teacher in the classic sense of nurturing affection and example setting. She is the ideal Nursery teacher. Her caring sets a tone and foundation for the Christian life through which a little one growing up can understand the love of God."



Rev. Kenneth Chroniger (left) accepted the Crystal Apple Award from Andrew Camenga on behalf of Lucinda Snyder Torkaman, the 2004 Sabbath School Teacher of the Year.

Most parents agree with that assessment. One proclaimed, "It is amazing how [Lucinda] can take a population that has not yet developed comprehension and understanding, and help them to learn about God and the Church."

Teaching in Sabbath School is an important part of the work that God has given most of our churches. From the nursery to the oldest adult class, our teachers provide knowledge, example, encouragement, and love. Learn from their example and reciprocate by supporting and encouraging each and every one of your teachers. **SR**



FOCUS on Missions

Burdens in Burundi

by Kirk Looper

I had the opportunity to visit Burundi, in East Central Africa, in 2002. That visit helped to produce a better working environment that started growing even while we were there.

After only a year, our SDB brethren in Burundi have expanded to 25 churches and have done much to “advertise” our denomination in their country. It is very exciting to see the work that they are doing in their own nation and beyond their borders.

Pastor Nduwayo Gilbert has organized and developed their Conference well beyond expectations. However, he has come up against a hurdle that many leaders in our sister Conferences and churches have faced: Government officials, both city and country, are noticing him. This means he is now confronted with new requirements.

Pastor Gilbert is expected to have a permanent building for his office,

Government officials are noticing Pastor Gilbert. This means he is now confronted with new requirements.

complete with equipment and personnel. He cannot afford a building, which would cost over \$20,000. Office equipment and personnel to run it would cost an additional \$500 a month. The Conference’s congregations cannot cover such expenses.

Pastor Gilbert reports that there are other problems, some of them personal, and he requests help:

“When I received Jesus, I was young and from a poor family. My job was teaching. This job here in

Burundi is not a good one. I think that you noticed that when you visited me. Since February 2004, I left my job because I was not able to do well in the ministry of our new Conference.”

He had to travel to each of the communities in which a church had organized and speak on their accord, providing the necessary paperwork so they could meet. It was paramount that he took the time to train and educate these developing congregations. He also discovered that he was expected to attend meetings concerning the work of each individual congregation.

“In Burundi,” he wrote, “a church legal representative is a very important person. In some circumstances, the government can ask the opinion of the leaders of the church. I often got requests to leave my teaching job to work in the ministry full time.”

The Burundi Conference has been working on teaching tools for church members to use to learn about the Gospel and to strengthen their relationship to God. They developed a book to help baptismal candidates, and they also came up with *A Manual of Procedures* for the churches. A book about the workings and beliefs of SDBs is in the process of being printed.

Church leaders are looking into developing correspondence courses so that more people in isolated areas can study and learn about God, the Gospel, and Seventh Day Baptists. It’s not an easy job, especially because of poor postal




Pastor Nduwayo Gilbert and his wife are working hard to build the SDB Conference in Burundi, Africa.

service throughout the country.

“Whatever I am doing, I do it with many problems of poverty,” Pastor Gilbert said. “It is very hard for me to live in this town of Bujumbura because I have no occupation that can give me money to pay for the house where I live and the food I am eating. It is by God’s grace that I have already completed nine months in Bujumbura.”

Seventh Day Baptists are “alive” in Burundi, but the churches have many problems. What the believers are giving financially cannot solve the problems of the churches themselves. Pastor Gilbert requests assistance for himself, his family, the ministry in Burundi, and the churches that have grown out of that ministry.

We at the Missionary Society of office pray that something can be done for these workers in His Kingdom. Please pray for our Burundian brothers and sisters, especially for their health and well-being. 



the BEACON

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

November 2004

Finding time for God

by Jenn Layton

Once again another summer flew by all too quickly. Camp, Pre-Con, and Conference all became "history," and fall snuck up on us before we knew it.

For most of us, that meant a change in our daily routines. Rituals such as sleeping in, going to the beach, going to the mall, hanging out with friends, and staying up late were no longer practiced. For the next 10 months or so, we had to establish new routines, much to the dismay of school goers across the country.

Now, instead of sleeping late, wake-up calls come before the sun has even gotten up. No trips to the mall or beach, unless it's after the seven hours of learning we receive, not to mention all the homework teachers give us. We may get to see our friends just passing in the hallways, unless we're lucky enough to have some classes with them.

Routines are often carried out after school, too. Some students may participate in sports, while others are mem-

bers of various clubs, take music lessons, or are involved in school plays. All of these contribute to a hectic lifestyle.

When we get home, we're often too tired to care about anything. We just want to shower, eat, and relax in front of the TV for a little while, or just head to bed. At least, that's how *I* feel after a long day!

In the midst of all our practices, meetings, and lessons, there's still one thing we must remember to do:

spend time with God. It doesn't matter when we do it or how long we do it, just as long as we find time to do it.

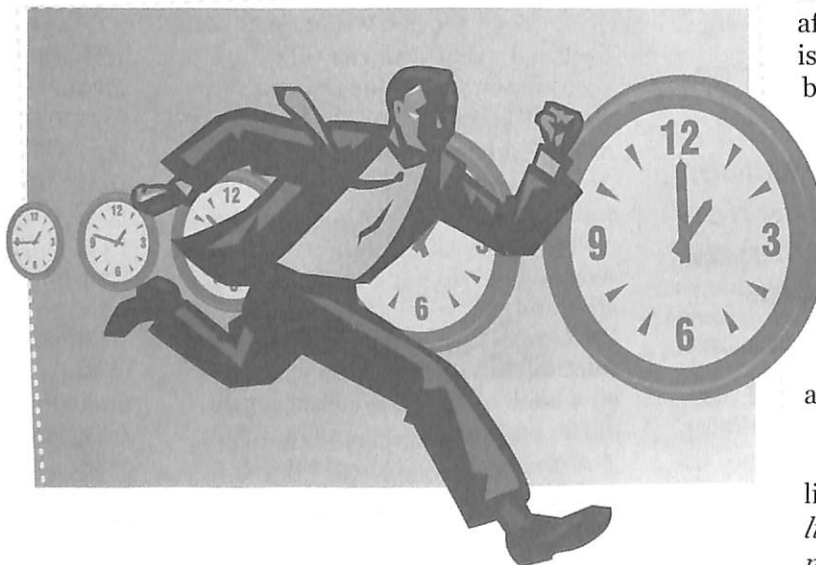
God created us and brought us into the world to serve Him. He wants us to be good servants. And what better way to do that than by giving Him some of our time!

So, I would like to encourage everyone, right now, to give some of your time to God. It doesn't have to be a long time, even 10 minutes a day

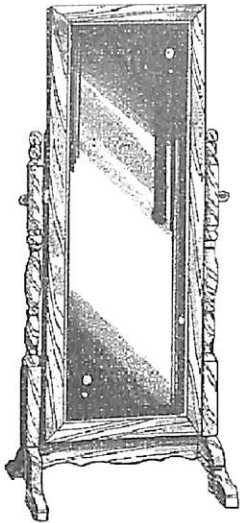
is good. A simple prayer after reading His Word is a great way to either begin or end your day.

For those of you who are already giving some of your time to God, I encourage you to give at least 10 minutes more. He deserves it! Thanks for reading, and God Bless! **SR**

I leave you with this little verse: "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).



**In the midst of all our practices, meetings, and lessons, there's still one thing we must remember to do:
spend time with God.**



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

A handshake to remember

There's a joke making the rounds on the Internet (my paraphrase):

The Pope flew into New York City to conduct an outdoor mass at Shea Stadium. When a limousine met the Pope at the airport, he informed the driver that he wanted to go directly to the stadium. "But on one condition," the Pope added. "I want to drive."

The limo driver gasped, "You can't do that! The traffic in New York City is horrendous!"

The Pope argued that he often drove around the grounds of the Vatican, and the driver finally relented.

On the way to the stadium, a state trooper pulled the limo over for speeding. Spotting the driver, he rushed to his squad car and radioed his captain.

"You aren't going to believe who I just stopped for speeding!" he exclaimed.

"The mayor?" the captain replied. "Nope, higher than that," the trooper responded. "The governor?" "Nope, higher than that." "The President?" "Nope, higher."

Exasperated, the captain blurted, "Who's higher than the President?!"

"I... I don't know," the trooper stammered, "but the Pope is his chauffeur!"



I wasn't his chauffeur, but I recently shook hands with someone notable. Not our City Administrator

(Janesville doesn't have a mayor), not the Governor of Wisconsin, not even the Pope. I shook hands with the 43rd President of the United States.

Tickets for President Bush's appearance at a local conference center were snatched up immediately, but I "lucked out" and was chosen to be one of 80 volunteers at the event.

After being screened by the Secret Service (they probably even know my

light was "The Handshake.")


On his way out of the room, the President stopped to chat with the woman standing beside me. (Her nephew is in Iraq.) The "Prez" put his left hand on her shoulder, but his right hand was there for the taking. When a man behind me shouted, "God bless you, Mr. President," I shook Bush's outstretched hand and said, "And God bless Laura, too."

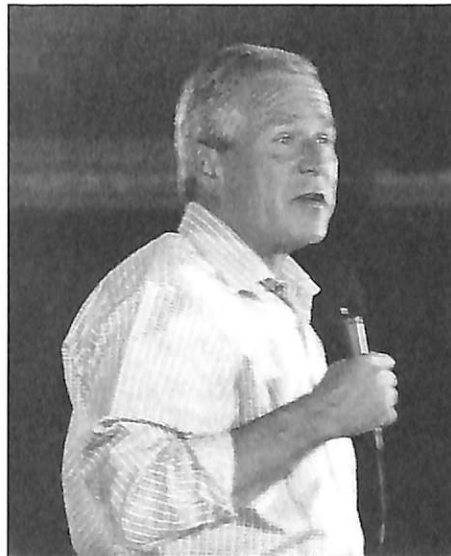
I'm sure "Dubya" never heard me, and he probably didn't even realize I shook his hand. But I knew I did. Even if you're a Democrat (obviously, I'm not), it's an honor to shake the hand of a sitting President. It's even an honor if he's standing.

In Biblical times, people flocked to see, hear, and touch Jesus. Many who sought healing were content to simply touch his robe.

It's human nature to want to see, hear, and touch someone we admire. God, in His infinite wisdom, knew that the best way for mankind to accept His Son was to have him appear on earth as flesh and blood.

By dwelling among us, Jesus gave people a tangible means to connect with the intangible divine. We can still "see," "hear," and "touch" Jesus today—through his Word, through his Church, and through the loving acts of others.

What a thrill it will be when we believers enter heaven! Not only will we be able to shake Jesus' hand; we'll be able to look on his glorious face and enjoy the warmth of his loving embrace. Maybe he'll even put his hand on our shoulders and say, "Well done, faithful servants." 



I snapped this photo of President George W. Bush speaking in Janesville, Wis.

favorite flavor of ice cream), I received my credentials and assignment: I would greet people after they passed through the metal detectors, check their color-coded tickets, and then direct them to the "seaters." I was also told to keep an eye out for "anything suspicious." (Yeah, right. Like this wimpy, 59-year-old grandmother is going to tackle a terrorist.)

This once-in-a-lifetime experience was fascinating, but the high-

Strong, steady and enthusiastic...

In our thanksgiving

For many of us, Thanksgiving involves too little “thanks giving,” and too much food and football. Oh, most of us remember to thank the Lord for the food, but we have many material blessings we fail to even think about.

When was the last time you thanked God for the shoes you are wearing? According to a non-profit organization, 40 in 100 people in the world do not have shoes to wear. Many get parasites due to cuts, abrasions, and infections on their feet.

When I was younger, we wore tennis shoes in the summer and had a sturdy pair of shoes—known as “school shoes”—that we wore during the school year.

Now, in our blessed country, children think nothing of paying \$75 to \$100 for a single pair of shoes and have several other pairs for different occasions. It’s hard to imagine that so many people don’t even own a pair of sandals!

Recently, I read about a teenager dying of cancer who wanted to encourage his parents once he had gone to be with the Lord. Instead of immersing himself in self-pity or anger, he made a list of the joyful moments he had experienced with his father and mother. He told a visiting minister that he wanted to remind his parents of the blessings they had together so that instead of sorrowing at his death, they could thank God for their shared blessings and memories.

Perhaps we need to create a “Thanksgiving list” of our own, not-

ing joyful moments at this Thanksgiving and then adding to our list daily.

In Paul’s letter to the Philippians, he told them to meditate on things that are true, noble, just, pure, lovely, and of good report (4:8). What would happen if we began this kind of thinking in our homes and churches? Would our perspective on life undergo a radical change?

If we *did* “meditate on these things,” we would be strong, steady,

**Your gift
doesn't have to be
money. It may be
a kind word, a smile,
a flower, a letter,
or a simple act
of kindness.
Give what you
have.**

and enthusiastic about “thanks giving” on more than just one day.

Thanksgiving is also more meaningful when we share it with others.

Many years ago, a gentleman had a blacksmith do some work for him, and when he offered to pay for it, the blacksmith said, “That was just a little job; there’s no charge.” The man tried to slip a few dollars into



The President's Page
by Don Graffius

the “smithy’s” hand anyway. The blacksmith’s reply teaches us a beautiful lesson:

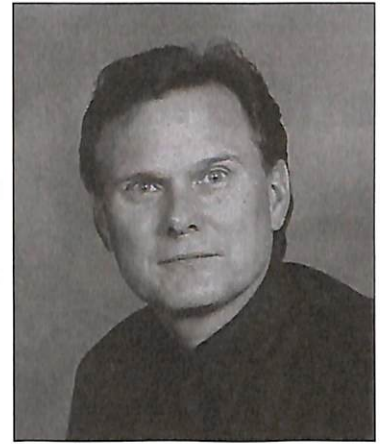
“Ed,” he said, “can’t you let a man do something now and then, just to stretch his soul a bit?”

I had the privilege of attending the New England Yearly Meeting recently, and a member of the Rockville, R.I., church suggested that our churches designate a Sabbath before year’s end for a special Conference offering.

This seems like a good way for Seventh Day Baptists to “stretch their souls a bit,” helping to meet the ministry needs of our denomination. Jesus said, “Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over...” (Luke 6:38).

If you want to delight in a bit of real joy and inward happiness this Thanksgiving, try giving. Your gift doesn’t have to be money. It may be a kind word, a smile, a flower, a letter, or a simple act of kindness. Give what you have. It will bring more joy than you can imagine!

You will be amazed how God will bless you as you give daily thanks and give from the heart. These activities will help make all of us “strong, steady, and enthusiastic for the work of the Lord” (1 Cor. 15:58). **SR**



*by Executive Director
Rob Appel*

The problem might not be outreach

Last month

We discussed who Seventh Day Baptists are and what distinguishes us from other Christian churches. We questioned what we take a stand on and what we shirk away from. We wondered where we are headed as a Conference.

The bottom line is that some church groups simply do not want to grow. They choose to not really open their doors to the public. If you are a visitor, they want to know who you are related to before they include you into their fold. It would be nice to claim that these are made-up

Most of us think the problem with our lack of growth is an outreach problem. In many cases, it is a presentation problem.

During self-examination, there are some hard questions that we need to ask (and answer) about ourselves.

The challenge

The challenge was made to all Seventh Day Baptists to look to a new vision of working together to establish 20 new churches, and increase in another 20 of our established churches over the next 15 years. Vision 2020!

This is quite the undertaking, considering that we have not been successful as a whole Conference in getting behind a goal.

The problem

Most of us think the problem with our lack of growth is an outreach problem. In many cases, it is a presentation problem.

facts and that there is no truth to them. But this is reality in some situations.

At the 2004 General Conference, Pastor Scott Smith of Salem, W.Va., spoke to us one evening about the parable of the master who was going on a journey (Matthew 25:14-30).

This master entrusted to three servants his talents (money) to hold for him while he was gone. The first two servants went out right away and put the money to work and soon doubled the money entrusted to them. However, servant number three was afraid that if he lost the money, the master would be angry with him, so he hid it.

The master returned to find that his investment had been doubled by the first two servants, but that the third servant only gave back what

was originally given him—no more, no less. Unfortunately, many of us would, or could, be happy with the third servant's outcome. But with Christ as our Master, and we being entrusted with this "talent" (his Church), which servant do you want to be when he returns from his journey?

To understand why we fail in some of our endeavors, we need to understand our shortcomings in the growth process. We need to find out if we "get in the way" of process and progress.

So what can we do?

We need to market who we are as SDBs in the local church setting so that others feel the family spirit and love within our open doors. By "market," I mean that we need to put our best foot forward.

What does the local church do well? How well do we make others feel welcomed? Are we a loving, caring, and nurturing church? If not, how can we change?

Each church will be different in their approach to their community. They will need to set a plan in place and then follow it diligently.

We do have a number of churches showing significant growth in our Conference. We will visit and interview the keyworkers to get the information on their growth. Then we can develop strategies for other churches wishing to grow, and assist them in their vision. *SR*

Battle Creek church celebrates 100th year

by Judy Parrish

The Battle Creek Seventh Day Baptist Church has had “Centennial of Remembrance Celebrations” throughout 2004. Our church was constituted on December 10, 1904, by Dr. Lewis W. Platts, then of Milton, Wis.

Dr. Platts came to Battle Creek after being invited by a group of Sabbathkeepers. The church began with 17 charter members, and grew in part because the *Sabbath Recorder* advertised that Sabbath-free employment could be found at the Battle Creek Sanitarium. People moved here from across the country.

The first SDB to live in Battle Creek was Ella Eaton Kellogg, wife of Sanitarium director Dr. John H. Kellogg. She came from Alfred, N.Y., in the late 1800s but was not instrumental in the church’s formation. Mrs. Kellogg did join the Battle Creek church in 1914 and was a well-respected member until her death in 1920.

Dr. Kellogg and our church maintained a close association over the years. Prior to having our own building, we worshipped in the Battle Creek Sanitarium chapel for almost 18 years, paying only a nominal fee. For a time, we also were in charge of the Sabbath School and services held at the “San,” and our SDB ministers and Sanitarium chaplains often exchanged workplaces.

On March 28, 1929, we dedicated our own church building, erected as a memorial to Ella Kellogg. Dr. Kellogg, W.K. Kellogg, and other family members and friends of the Kelloggs made substantial gifts to our building fund.

Rev. D.B. Coon, our first resident pastor, started the push for a permanent home for the Battle Creek



Battle Creek, Mich., Seventh Day Baptist Church.

church back in 1914. He canvassed the denomination and many other SDB churches, and people donated funds to help support the work being done in Battle Creek. The Shiloh (N.J.) Christian Endeavor Society was the first to offer a financial gift to help the church’s ministry, even before the drive started.

In 1919, General Conference met in Battle Creek, with about 600 people attending. They held meetings at the old Seventh-day Adventist Tabernacle and the old Sanitarium Gymnasium. Battle Creek also hosted General Conference in 1940 and 1953. All three sessions were held when attendees stayed with local families.

To celebrate our 100th Anniversary, we have had contests to come up with an anniversary theme, song, and poem. Many of us enjoyed an old-fashioned Fourth of July picnic at Camp Holston, and we continue to present monthly historical vignettes to recall our past leaders and activities.

We’re currently publishing an anniversary book detailing our century-long journey, and a Living History Video Project has recorded the


memories of our oldest church members. We’re also selling commemorative items such as mugs, plates, and boxed pens.

Our Service Project for the year is to supply the Haven of Rest—a Christian shelter for homeless men—with items they request each month.

Homecoming Sabbath, November 27, 2004, will hold a full schedule of celebratory events, including an Anniversary Banquet following morning worship at the old Battle Creek Sanitarium (now the Hart-Doyle-Inouye Federal Center). The event will feature special speakers, music, and guests.

Please let us know your plans as soon as possible, so we can reserve your spot. If you cannot attend but have special greetings or memories of times in Battle Creek, we would love to hear from you.

On Sabbath, December 11, 2004, we will mark the actual founding of the church 100 years before, and we extend a warm family welcome to all attending that event as well.

In Battle Creek, we “Fall Back on Godly Heritage” and “Spring Forward to God’s Glory!” 

Churches gather for Yearly Meeting

by David Taylor

It was a gorgeous Sabbath morning as 100 "Strong, Steadfast, Enthusiastic" Seventh Day Baptists gathered for the New England Yearly Meeting on September 25, 2004, at the Rockville, R.I., SDB Church.

Eleven churches were represented at the 10:30 a.m. worship service led by Pastor David Taylor of Vision Christian Fellowship, Westerly, R.I.

John and Kathy Hughes, from the Pawcatuck SDB Church in Westerly, opened the service with a piano-trombone duet. Gwen Bowyer was the pianist, and Dennis Sousa and his daughter, Dolores, provided special music. All three are from the Rockville church.

Vivian Looper, a member of the First SDB Church of Hopkinton in Ashaway, R.I., gave the Junior Message, and Conference President Donald Graffius was the guest speaker. Pastors Edgar Wheeler (First Hopkinton) and Leon Lawton (Waterford, Conn., SDB Church) led the Communion service.

The Yearly Meeting President Robert Gordon called the business meeting to order at five minutes past noon, with 61 present. In addition to the churches named above, Pine



Participants at this fall's New England Yearly Meeting enjoyed their food and fellowship.

Street Gospel Chapel in Middletown, Conn., was represented. And we were pleased to have eight members of the Springfield, Mass., SDB Branch Church join us.

Other delegates attending included Gordon Lawton (Milton, Wis.), Director of Pastoral Services; Joe and Joyce Samuels and Kay Maltby (Plainfield, N.J.); Gordon and Beverly Kilts (Berlin, N.Y.); and Larry Watt (Central SDB Church, Mitchellville, Md.).

At 2:00 p.m., Sandra Neugent, moderator of First Hopkinton, call-

ed to order an Ordination Council for G. Kirk Looper. At the conclusion of the Council's deliberation, 39 delegates voted unanimously to recommend that the Hopkinton church ordain Kirk to the Gospel ministry.

Following the Council, Conference President Graffius shared his theme for the year, encouraging everyone to attend Conference in Holland, Mich., next summer.

The next New England Yearly Meeting will be held on September 24, 2005, at the SDB Meeting House in Newport, R.I. **SR**

Denominational Dateline

November

- 3 SDB Historical Society Board of Directors, Seventh Day Baptist Center, Janesville, Wis.—Don Sanford
- 4-5 Coordinating Leadership Team, SDB Center
- 7-8 General Council, SDB Center
- 12-14 South Atlantic Association, Daytona Beach, Fla.—Rob Appel, Don Graffius
- 13-14 Tract and Communication Council Annual Meeting, SDB Center—Kevin Butler
- 20 Spanish House of Worship, Washington, D.C.—Appel

- 20 Central SDB Church, Mitchellville, Md.—Appel
- 27 Battle Creek, Mich., Centennial Celebration—Butler, Gordon Lawton

December

No scheduled trips yet

January 2005

- 9-11 North American Baptist Fellowship, Orlando, Fla.—Appel
- 29-30 Council on Ministry Mid-Year Meeting, SDB Center—Lawton

New members

Albion, WI

Michael Burns, pastor

Joined after testimony

Gary Nechuta

Sue Nechuta

Milton, WI

George Calhoun, pastor

Joined by letter

Chuck Graffius

Lorna Graffius

(Assoc.)

Gordon Lawton

Linda Lawton

Philip Lawton

Danielle Lee

Joined after testimony

Mary Matthews

Leanna Richey

North Loup, NE

Christian Mattison, pastor

Joined after baptism

David Williams

Marriages

Ray – Hunt.

—David Spencer Ray Jr. and Amanda Rae Hunt were married on August 21, 2004, in Illinois, with Pastor D. Scott Smith officiating.

Korzec – Beegle.

—Eric Paul Korzec and Rhiannon Arlene Beegle were united in marriage on September 3, 2004, at the Bell Seventh Day Baptist Church of Salemville, PA. Rev. Edward Sutton presided.

Births

Weekley.

—A son, Scott Joseph Weekley, was born to Randy and Amy Jo (Meathrell) Weekley of Salem, WV, on August 6, 2004.

Bjurstrom.

—A son, Brady Lee Bjurstrom, was born to Mel and Lisa (Dooley) Bjurstrom of Burlington, WI, on August 31, 2004.

Big birthdays

Family and friends of Rev. and Mrs. Kenneth Van Horn gathered on a recent Sabbath to celebrate a couple of milestone birthdays.

Pastor Ken reached his 90th birthday on September 18, while wife Doris marked her 85th the day before. The Little Rock, Ark., SDB Church shared a big cake and refreshments, and presented the couple with some lovely flowers.

The Van Horns have a new mailing address where you could pass along greetings:

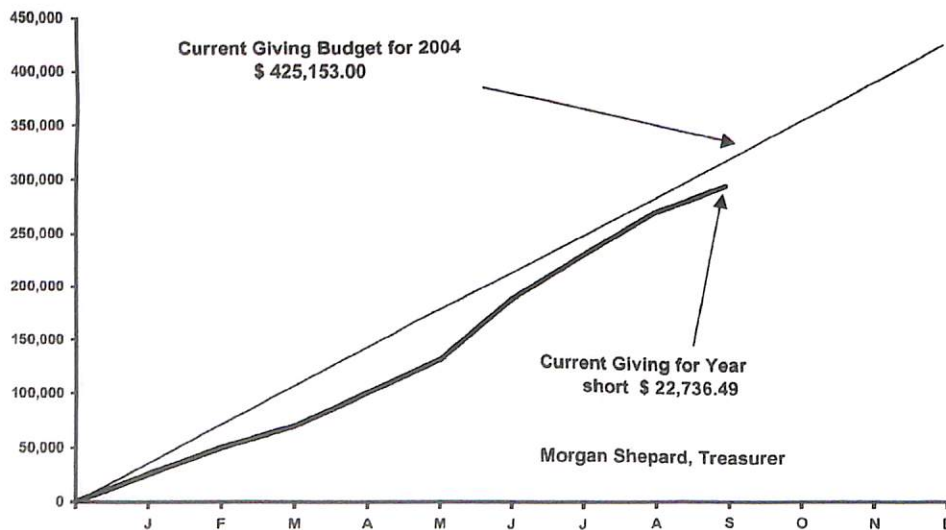
*Kenneth & Doris Van Horn
PO Box 360
Lonoke AR 72086*

Now would also be an opportune time to send your gift to "PROP"—the Pastors' Retirement Offering Project. Your gift will assist the Van Horns and other retirees in their well-deserved monthly support.

Please send donations to:

PROP
Seventh Day Baptist Center
PO Box 1678
Janesville WI 53547

Current Giving 2004



Obituaries

Tate.—Ruth Kenyon Tate, 90, of White Plains, N.Y., died on September 18, 2002, at White Plains Hospital.

She was born on May 21, 1912, in Hopkinton, R.I., the daughter of Walter D. and Evangeline (Canfield) Kenyon. She was baptized in 1924 and joined the Second Hopkinton Seventh Day Baptist Church. She was a graduate of Alfred (N.Y.) University, and Cornell University in 1943.

During World War II, Ruth served with the Red Cross in the South Pacific. In 1948, she married W. Preston Tate in Alfred. He died on April 3, 1970.

Active in dramatics since grade school days, Ruth attended international drama festivals throughout the world and received a volunteer award from the American Community Theatre Association in 1982. She was also a published poet and a cast member of the syndicated radio series, "Willow Crossing."

Ruth taught in the White Plains school system from 1961 until her retirement. She also was a Field Director for the Red Cross, and Director of the Senior Drama Group from 1976-1986. She was a member of the White Plains Presbyterian Church and the SDB Church in Ashaway, R.I.

Ruth was vitally interested in SDB missions and financed the construction of a school that was named after her in The Gambia, Africa.

Survivors include one brother, Reginald Kenyon of Ashaway, and many generations of nieces and nephews. In addition to her husband, she was predeceased by six brothers—George, Walter, Lawrence, Simon, Kenneth, and Arling—and one sister, Hazel Green.

Following interment on September 23, 2002, in Bath, N.Y., a celebration of Ruth's life was held on October 26, 2002, at the First SDB Church of Hopkinton. Pastor D. Scott Smith officiated.

Rood.—Nelsie Evelyn Rood, 95, of Milton, Wis., died on June 24, 2004, at the Memorial Community Hospital Long Term Care Unit in Edgerton, Wis.

She was born in Milton on June 4, 1909, the daughter of Byron R. and Lena (Nelson) Rood. After graduating from Milton College, she taught school for two years. In the 1940s and early '50s, she was employed at Goodenough Music Store in Janesville, Wis. She subsequently worked at the Burdick Corporation in Milton, retiring in 1974.

Nelsie was a member of the Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church, teaching the girls' high school Sabbath School class for many years. She was an active member of the church's Afternoon Women's Circle well into her 80s.

Nelsie enjoyed people, especially children, whose antics often made her laugh. Visitors would stop by because they knew that Nelsie would "take them as they were," at the same time communicating her own values.

Survivors include six nieces and nephews, Carol Palmer of Alburg, Vt., Lawrence and Gordon Rood of Portland, Ore., Dale Rood of Dodge Center, Minn., Philip Rood of Omaha, Neb., and Alice Parker of Thornton, Colo.; one sister-in-law, Doris Rood, of Lafayette, Colo.; three first cousins, Reva Stump of Minneapolis, Erlo Nelson of Hayward, Wis., and Candace Hurley of Madison, Wis.; and various other cousins, including Miriam Randall of Janesville, and Elise Walker of Ankeny, Iowa. She was predeceased by two brothers, Leman and Edward.

A memorial service was held at the Milton SDB Church on July 1, 2004, with Pastors Dale Rood and George Calhoun officiating. Interment was in the Milton Cemetery.

Kramer.—Edith Amelia Kramer, 95, died on September 13, 2004,

at the Fairview Nursing Home in Dodge Center, Minn.

She was born on June 22, 1909, the daughter of Ulysses and Charlotte (Langford) Langworthy in Ashland Township, Dodge County, Minn. She and her twin sister, Ethel, were in incubators in Minneapolis, Minn., the first three months of their lives. They were widely hailed as two of the very first "incubator babies." Edith used to delight in telling how she was sent on the train from Dodge Center to the hospital in Minneapolis.

Pastor H.C. Van Horn baptized her in the Zumbro River near Dodge Center in 1919. She graduated from Dodge Center High School in 1927.

On June 22, 1932, Edith married Walter Kramer at the family home in Dodge Center. Early on, the couple lived on a farm near Hayfield, Minn., and later on a farm near Blooming Prairie, Minn. Walter died in 1961.

In 1971, Edith moved back to Dodge Center and worked at Gaukerke's Department Store. In retirement, she lived in Dodge Center's Centerview Apartments, taking pride in being their longest-standing charter resident. In 2001, she moved to the Fairview Nursing Home.

Edith was a member and deaconess of the Dodge Center SDB Church. For years, she hosted a church-sponsored, Tuesday morning "hymn-sing" at the Centerview Apartments, an activity that continues.

Surviving are two sons, Wallace of Rochester, Minn., and Gary of San Antonio, Texas; one daughter, Vickie Klemmensen of St. Paul, Minn.; seven grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews. Besides her husband, two brothers and three sisters predeceased her.

A funeral service was held at the Dodge Center SDB Church on September 17, 2004, with Pastor Dale E. Rood officiating. Interment was in the Riverside Cemetery in Dodge Center.

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

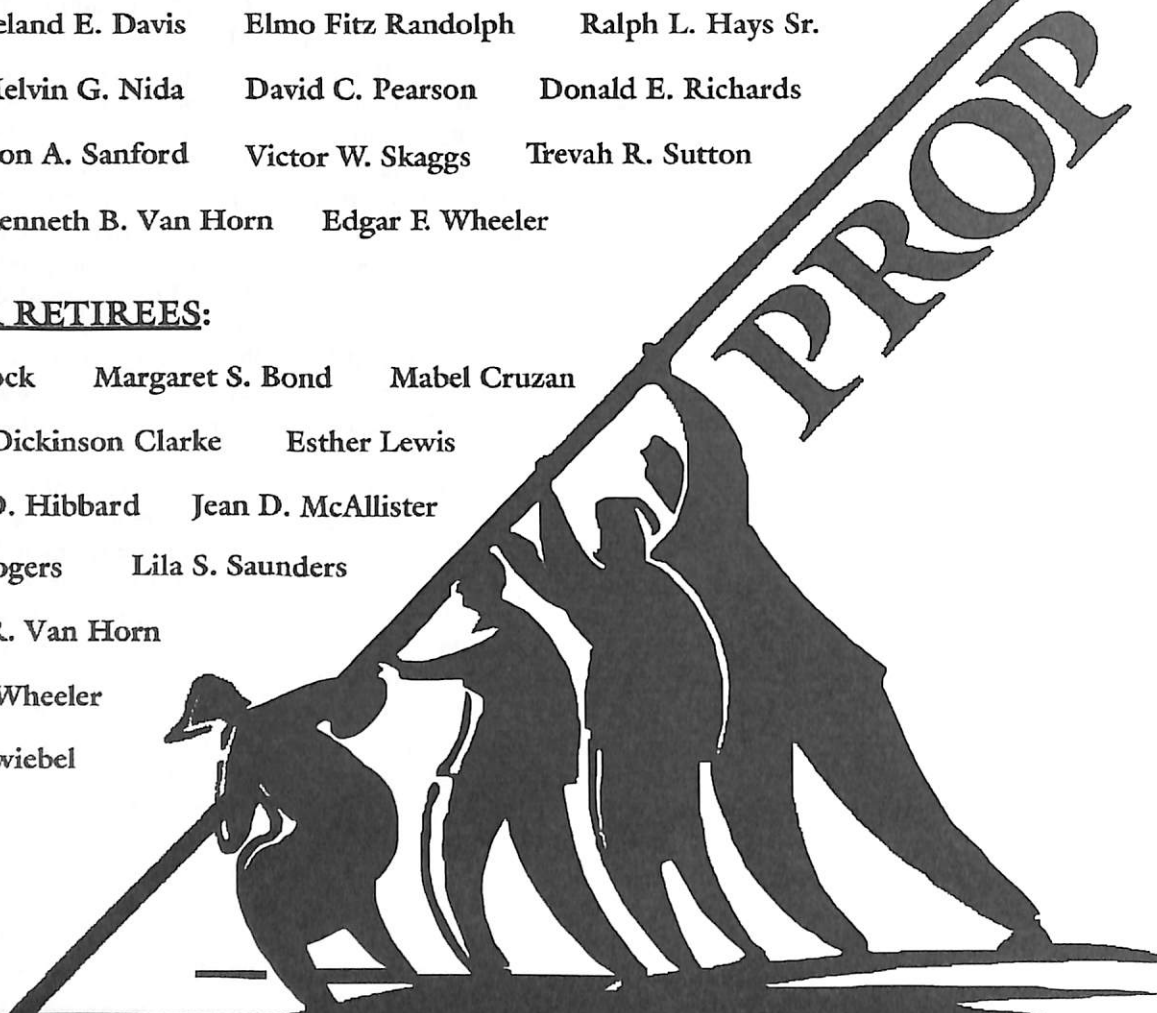
Beatrice D. Hibbard Jean D. McAllister

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!

Please send your check to: PROP
Seventh Day Baptist Center, P.O. Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547-1678

KEVIN'S

ORNER

A branch of service

As graduation loomed, my career options appeared wide open. So open in fact, there was even room for dreaming.

A college classmate of mine had a whopper of a dream. Mark had a vision to start a new easy-listening radio station in south-western New York state, not too far from our school in Houghton.

If there was one person who could pull off this new venture, it was Mark. He had served as chief engineer for the college's station, and had other hands-on experience in radio and TV during the summers. He had the radio "smarts," the business savvy,

the engineering skills—plus a great voice. All that alone might have pulled it off, but Mark also had that vision to drive his dream.

Flattered to be asked to join this venture, it was time to assess my own inventory of talent. I could dabble with the electronics, had a business minor, and was affirmed as an on-air personality. Yet it was hard for me to look beyond some obvious questions and drawbacks.

There were things like: Don't we need a building and all the equipment? An antenna? A proper FCC license? Mark had many of these details mapped out, but I kept thinking, *Who's going to pay for all this? Our parents??*

The list continued ballooning in my mind. Janet and I were to be married by Labor Day, so that meant a place to live, health insurance concerns, and the slight need of a regular paycheck!

Since I didn't fully share Mark's drive or vision, I had to turn him down.

I don't know if his station ever became a reality. I noticed Mark's name on one of the Syracuse television station credits, but pretty much lost track of him as the years rolled by and we moved out of state.

Any regrets? That's hard to say because I can't truly envision what I would have missed.

I'm convinced that there are several hundred young people—and countless lives touched by them—who would have regretted missing out on the many blessings of SCSC.

I thank God for the vision of those "pioneers" of the Summer Christian Service Corps. Linda (Bingham)

Hays, in a 1993 *SR* article, shared two Scriptural principles she learned during the Corps' infancy:

"The first principle is found in John 12:32 where Jesus said, 'And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.' As an SCSC worker, witnessing verbally to people on an almost daily basis, I found that as I lifted Jesus up, not only were other people drawn to him, but I, too, was being drawn to a closer personal relationship with Jesus.

"When young people make the effort to give of themselves and glorify Jesus in their SCSC projects, they are inevitably drawn closer to him. This is one reason SCSC continues to influence the lives of those who have given themselves to it.

"A second principle also comes from Jesus. In John 15:2, he spoke of the vine and the branches: '...every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.' I doubt there has been a single SCSC worker who has not borne fruit of some sort during the project.

"It's not all fun and games. Sometimes the work is hard, and tough decisions must be made. That is part of the purging, or pruning process. SCSCers will find that every time they make a choice in line with God's will, even when it means personal sacrifice, the result is more and better fruit. That's the way God works, and that's why SCSC works."

SCSC does work. May we be thankful for *ALL* of the past dedicated service workers, student assistant pastors, the Stained Glass musicians, as well as the SCSC training staff and cooks and project directors and hosts and churches—everyone who has served on this branch of God's kingdom.



“Class, how do you spell relief?”



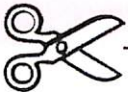
“Correct! Your gift to the SDB United Relief Fund provides help for medical and emergency needs both here and abroad.”

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

*SDB United Relief Fund
P.O. Box 1678
Janesville, WI 53547-1678*

* * *

**Please remember
the United Relief Fund
on November 27**



YA Year-End Retreat

Camp Paul Hummel, Boulder, CO

Tuesday, Dec. 28, 2004 to Sunday, Jan. 2, 2005

Hosted by Denver SDB

Name: _____ Working E-mail: _____

Home Phone: _____ Secondary Phone: _____

Traveling by (circle one): Car Plane Bus (Bus service available to Denver)

Airport: DIA* Airline _____ Flight/Bus# _____

Arrival Date 12/____/04 Arrival Time _____

Departure Date 1/____/05 Departure Time _____

Please send \$15 fee (check payable to Heather Hemminger) and registration form by Dec. 14th to:

Denver SDB Church, Attn: Heather Hemminger, 2301 Wadsworth Blvd., Lakewood, CO 80214-5710

*All flights use Denver International Airport (DIA)

For general questions, including travel arrangements and directions, contact:

Dave Fuller, kotbgm@yahoo.com, (303) 717-9954