

The

S

abbath

News for and about
Seventh Day Baptists

April 2004

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*Camp
Wakonda*

*Camp
Holston*

*Camp Harley
Sutton*

Lewis Camp

Jersey Oaks

*Camp
Joy*

*Camp
Miles*

SDB

Camping

*Deep South
Camp*



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

Summer Institute on SDB History and Polity

June 7 – 18, 2004

Seventh Day Baptist Center
Janesville, Wis.

Taught by
Janet Thorngate
and
Gordon Lawton

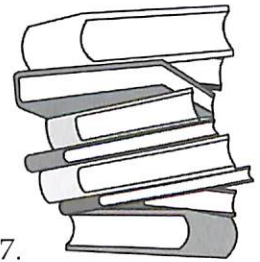
Please contact Rev. Lawton
for more information:
(608) 752-5055
sdbcom@inwave.com

Historical Society Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Seventh Day Baptist Historical Society will be held at the SDB Center in Janesville, Wis., on Sunday, April 25, 2004, at 2:00 p.m. in connection with the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors.

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

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



SDB Church Planters School

will be held at the
SDB Center
Janesville, Wis.
May 24-29, 2004

* * *

To register, contact the
Missionary Society office
(401) 596-4326
sdbmissoc@mindspring.com

Has your congregation been unable to send your pastor to General Conference?

Talk about it at your April church meeting. If it still looks out of the question, the SDB Memorial Board—working through the Council on Ministry—wants to assist (as funds are available) SDB pastors and their spouses to attend General Conference sessions.

Your pastor and spouse must qualify. For more details, contact the Director of Pastoral Services, Gordon Lawton.

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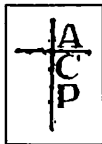


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“Camping 101”: A prerequisite for an excellent camp

by Chuck Graffius

Having experienced camping for more than 35 years, I have been a part of good camps, bad camps, and... *excellent* camps. Here, I will discuss only the excellent.

There are good campers, bad campers, and excellent campers. Excellent campers do not necessarily make an excellent camp, but an excellent camp will make some excellent campers.

About five minutes after a camp ends, the staff should begin preparing for an excellent camp the following year. We need to:

- plan our program and goals
- enlist only the best staff
- make all activities reflect our program and goals
- plan for recreational activities that every camper will enjoy
- plan for discipline problems
- plan to have fun

Program and goals

What do we want to teach the campers? What secondary goals do we want our campers to learn? How do we teach this in a fun way? How do we present Jesus Christ in a realistic way?

I remember at one excellent camp, we elected to use the theme, “Some-day a marriage without regrets.” We built the entire camping experience around the lesson material and listed our goals as:

- 1) Provide insights into what a marriage without regrets would be like.
- 2) Teach the “whys” and “hows” of being a lady or a gentleman in all our activities.
- 3) Teach the importance of time and being on time, all of the time.
- 4) Ensure that every camper fully understands what being “born again” really means.

Enlist the best

With these goals established, it’s time to select a staff.

Who would best teach the lessons to our campers? To enlist the best staff, we need to start early.

Don’t ask, “Would you like to be on staff at camp next summer?” Go early and talk to the person who you think would best serve the campers with enthusiasm and integrity.

“I have this neat, exciting program for camp next summer,” you might

say, “and I believe the Lord wants you to be a part of this camp. It’s going to be a fun experience, and I think you’ve got what it takes to help make this an excellent camp.”

Focus on the goal

So, how do we make all of our activities reflect our goals?

After each meal, while the campers are still at the tables, we take some time and discuss things like saying, “Please,” “Thank you,” and “After you.” We also talk about opening doors, showing respect and honor, etc.

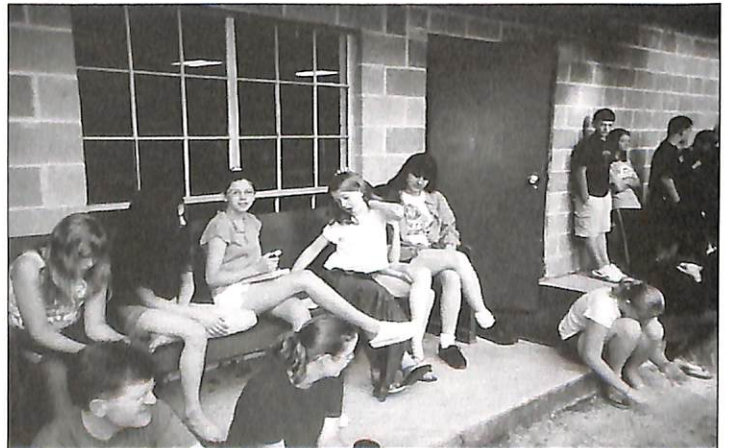
We ask, “What does it take to be a lady or a gentleman?” We remind them of these mature attributes and demonstrate them throughout the day.

Campfires must be planned before going to camp. Don’t go to a campfire unprepared and say, “Well now, what do we do?” Or, “What do we sing?” This is definitely a no-no!

The prepared songs, stories, skits, and everything else puts you in complete control. However, older campers (juniors and seniors) should be permitted to plan and do at least



Pacific Firs Camp rents this lovely spot in the Northwest.



At the Southwest Association’s Camp Miles (rented).

one campfire session on their own.

Campfire times should start with fun stories and songs, and then use a special chorus to transition to a more serious and spiritual atmosphere. At this time, you may reinforce the Bible lessons taught earlier and talk about the campers' relationship with Jesus.

Have fun having fun

Recreation times should include activities that every camper can enjoy and yet not be competitive.

At the start of one camp, we informed the campers that we would be playing volleyball in the rain on Thursday at 2:00 p.m. "You better come in your swimsuits," we advised. This aroused the campers' curiosity.

During the 1 o'clock quiet time, we connected a sprinkler to the post of the volleyball net. The result was a lot of fun for everyone.

To help eliminate competition, you can simply raise or lower the volleyball net. Just change the rules to include everybody—large or small, short or tall.

By substituting a soccer ball for a baseball, even the small, timid kids will play and have fun. Move the bases way out or in close. Allow more than one camper on a base at the same time. It isn't about winning. We're just having fun and making memories. Be creative!

But will it hold water?

I have a plastic barrel in my garage with 120, 1/2-inch holes in it. With two of these barrels and a good water supply (such as a pond, lake, or river), the challenge is to see which team can fill their barrel to overflowing first. Just be sure to provide the campers with soft plastic containers to carry water to the barrels.

You must be fully aware that this, and many other water games, will deteriorate into full-blown water battles. Prepare and be ready.

This could be one of those times when the director or a staff member "accidentally" gets wet. This will make some good memories for the campers. The bottom line is fun!

Time counts in discipline

Another goal for the excellent camp is to teach the importance of time, and being on time. We didn't schedule any activity on the hour or the half hour. The schedule delivered to each camper included times like 7:32, 6:41, or 11:58.

Being one minute late was unacceptable. To be late meant that you were "volunteering" for dining room duty. This kind of schedule worked well, and it was also a lot of fun.

When a camper broke a rule or was late for a scheduled event, it meant that he or she was volunteer-

ing and was anxious to serve the other campers at mealtime.

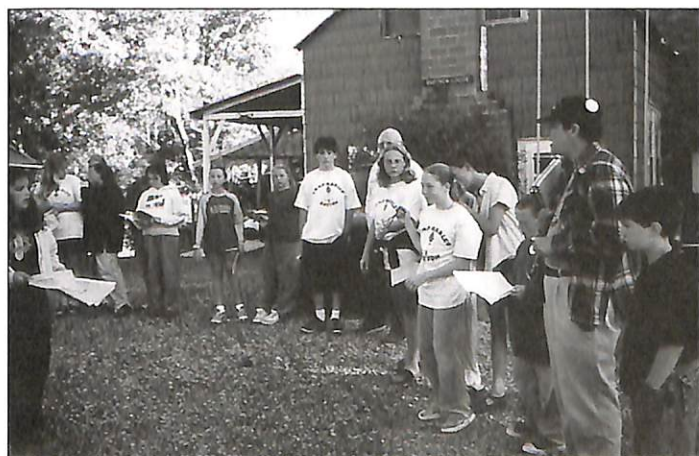
At the flag pole in the morning, we would announce the name of the "volunteers" while withholding their rule infraction. We would then encourage the campers to give the volunteers a great round of applause. They understood their problem, and the other campers did, too.

The volunteers' duties consisted of getting up from the table at the command of any camper and bringing food or whatever back to the table. The campers did the discipline, with the director remaining uninvolved.

Many of us have developed and taught these camping concepts, trying every example given. So we know they work! There are oodles of campers in "SDB land"—and other campers across the U.S. and around the world—who will testify to the kind of "excellent camping" they produce.

Someday, I'll write a longer "thesis" and come to *your* area to teach Camping 101. Until then, have an *excellent* camp. And remember, it's all in the planning! **SR**

"P.C." (Pastor Chuck, or "Prince Charles") Graffius is retired and lives with his wife Lorna in Whitewater, Wis.



Devotions time at Camp Harley Sutton, Alfred Station, N.Y.



The main lodge at Camp Holston, Battle Creek, Mich.



Elery's gift

by Brian Goodrich

Long, long ago, in a countryside far away, plans were forming for a thrilling adventure.

Well, maybe not *that* long ago, and not *that* far away. In fact, it was right here in North Loup, Neb., back in the "early years."

Some members of the local Seventh Day Baptist church wanted to start a camping program. Every thing went smoothly until someone brought up the location of the camp. No one was quite sure where to hold it. That's when Elery King stepped in.

Elery's land; Elery's gift

Elery owned some farmland near town, on the North Loup River. He worked out a plan where the church could rent a piece of his land for camps and others activities.

Overall, I think the church got a pretty good deal—\$5.00 a year to rent enough land to hold a camp full of lively kids. In addition to renting out the land, Elery worked on the camp staffs. He later donated the land to the church, but that didn't end his involvement with camping.

Since he was involved with Camp Riverview from its beginning, I asked

Elery about his memories of camp. This is what he related:

The early years

The first camps were somewhat similar to the camps we hold now. Kids came for a week to learn about Jesus and have Christian fellowship. There were vespers, campfires, games, study times, and swims in the river. (In the summer heat, that was appreciated then as much as it is now!)

There was also the dreaded plant, poison ivy. Even though it wasn't common, it was still out there. Animals, especially mosquitoes, were—and still are—as common as campers. Deer and cows have felt the need to "inspect" camp from time to time.

While those earlier camps shared some of the qualities of today's camps, there were also major differences. Like bathrooms!

Water! Water!

In the initial years, Camp Riverview had two outhouses, the only buildings out there. This meant no showers. Yes, that's right. No showers for a week!

Just imagine 20 to 30 kids running around for a week without showers. And to top it all off, they swam in the river every day. They had to use a pan and a washcloth so they could take a "sponge bath."

Another point of interest: there was no plumbing at camp. All the water had to be brought from town and stored in a giant stone jar. For food, volunteers from

church did all of the cooking over an open fire.

And for shelter?

The church rented big tents to protect campers from the elements—two tents for sleeping (one for boys, one for girls), one for cooking and eating, and one for other activities.

Some of the best times were spent out in the pasture. Every year, campers and staff would trample down the grass, then take part in the "great American pastime." Elery recalled that some of the best baseball he ever saw was played in the camp pasture.

A memorable night

Elery said that his most memorable event at camp was a storm.

Storms at Riverview can last all night and day, raising the river a few inches. (Okay, maybe not *that* much, but the rains are pretty bad.) Thunder and lightning—and even tornadoes—can accompany them.

One of those "tempests" caused great concern one evening. The staff finally loaded up the kids and spent the rest of the night at Elery's house.

Elery loves young people; that's why he's helped at camps. It was a challenge to find room for over 20 kids, but he managed. And it proved to be a great time for everyone!

Camp Riverview continues to change. About a decade ago, one of the many current buildings was put up. Gone are the days of "washcloth baths," sleeping in tents, or getting water out of a stone jar.

We thank God for camp, and for gracious servants like Elery King. **SR**



Yes, they now have running water at Camp Riverview.

Brian Goodrich is a high school senior, an Eagle Scout, and a member of the North Loup, Neb., SDB Church.

Mister Rogers goes camping

by Donald Graffius

Camping has always been an effective evangelistic tool for reaching children. According to statistics from Focus on the Family, children between the ages of 5 and 13 have a 32 percent probability of accepting Jesus Christ as their Savior. But only 6 in 100 will decide to commit their lives to serving Jesus Christ after the age of 18.

Child Evangelism Fellowship reports that 80 percent of missionaries accepted Christ before they were teenagers. Such notables as Ruth Graham, Corrie ten Boom, Leighton Ford, and Matthew Henry had all accepted Christ by age 10.

Many, many Seventh Day Baptists made their initial commitment to Christ in a camp setting, or at least made a rededication of their lives at a retreat or camp. I certainly grew in the Lord at Camp Joy in Berea, W.Va. And my wife totally surrendered her life to Christ at a retreat setting at the same facility. My children and their friends had similar experiences.

But what role does the SDB Memorial Fund have in Christian camping?

It all began with Clarence "Sunny" Rogers, a pillar of the Salem, W.Va., Seventh Day Baptist Church. Clarence graduated from Harvard Law School and set up his practice in Clarksburg, W.Va. He also taught business law at Salem College. It was his teaching and inspiration that led me to become a lawyer.

Sunny, nicknamed after his "sunny disposition," was always interested in camping and helped incorporate Camp Joy in Berea, W.Va. (That camp was operated by the Board of Directors of the Southeastern Association, later named the Appalachian Association).



Clarence "Sunny" Rogers

During this time, Clarence served our denomination as president of the Memorial Fund. The Boulder and Denver, Colo., SDB churches were running the Rocky Mountain Seventh Day Baptist Camp (now Camp Paul Hummel), and urgently needed to upgrade its facilities to meet standards established by the state of Colorado.

In addition to a new lodge roof, the camp needed a well and a bathhouse to provide indoor toilets and showers. The camp trustees also hoped to winterize the facilities to make the camp useable year-round. Financing such a large project meant finding a source of money well beyond the means of the two churches.

In 1971, under Rogers' leadership, the Seventh Day Baptist Memorial Fund made their first camp grant, funding the Rocky Mountain project with \$25,000 spread over a two-year period. The amount came from the Board's discretionary funds.

This grant demonstrated the Memorial Board's faith in the Rocky Mountain Camp, while fostering the significant role that camping would play in the future of our denomination.

In the mid-'70s, Clarence Rogers was "promoted to glory." In honor of his commitment to camping and Christian service, friends and loved ones created a memorial fund with the proceeds earmarked to benefit Seventh Day Baptist camps.

The Board has followed Sunny's lead by continuing to offer grants and loans to camps. Dormitories, bathhouses, and lodges have been built or repaired from "Cali to Rhody." In several instances, the Board funded the materials, with the local churches and Senior Saints providing the labor.

As campfires are lit across the denomination this camping season, Sunny Rogers camps with you. Funds from his bequest enable counselors, pastors, and cooks to transform lives for Jesus Christ and Seventh Day Baptists. Without adequate facilities, most camping ministries would be unable to continue.

Rev. Fred Rogers, who passed away recently, was the creator of the popular PBS children's program, "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood." In his opening theme song, he invited everyone to be his neighbor.

In a very real sense, the friends of Sunny have turned your local SDB camp into Mister "Sunny" Rogers' Neighborhood. To carry on his vision of camping ministry, he would very much like to have a neighbor just like you.

To contribute to the Clarence Rogers Memorial Fund—or to create a memorial gift for a loved one—contact the Memorial Fund at the Seventh Day Baptist Center in Janesville, Wis. *SR*



Things are different now

by Jean Jorgensen

The song, “Things Are Different Now,” plays in my mind as I look at photographs from Camp Paul Hummel (originally Rocky Mountain Camp) in Colorado. My photo album bulges with cherished memories and camp choruses that have pervaded my mind and life. Things are different now, yet much is the same.

Around 1938, Paul Hummel had the vision and generosity to deed his land to the Denver and Boulder SDB Churches for a camp. My memories didn’t come into the picture until 1950. At that time, his cattle grazed the 250 acres around the campsite, and a corral was on the campgrounds. Also, bears and mountain lions roamed the area.

Campers and counselors from North Loup (Neb.), Nortonville (Kan.), and Colorado would congregate in the parking lot of the Boulder SDB Church. “Grampa Hummel” would meet us with his big, old truck. Loading our belongings and ourselves into the back of that truck, we’d bounce our way out of Boulder, up Lee Hill Road to camp. We would sing at the top of our lungs, hoping that people along the way would hear us.

Back then, the road consisted of one lane. In several places, the wheels of the truck were on the road but the box of the truck hung out over the edge. If you dared to stand up and lean over, you could see hundreds of feet below. We jostled over rocks and rough roads until entering the campgrounds, setting the stage for a week of transformation.

The camp facilities consisted of a boy’s cabin dubbed “Pine Lodge,” a girl’s cabin called “Valley View,” the cook’s cabin called “Soup Bowl,” the kitchen and lodge, “Old Rusty,” and two outdoor johns—“The Brown

Palace” and “Dew Drop Inn.”

Camp water came from a pump at the bottom of the knoll near the lodge. We’d wash our faces and hands each morning from basins of cold water set on a wood frame in front

of Old Rusty. A bucket of fresh water had one dipper that we all drank from. The cook stove was heated by wood in a dinky kitchen.

The campers were divided into four work teams: Tables ‘n’ Hall (set/clear tables and sweep the hall); Wood ‘n’ Water (chopping wood and carrying water from the pump); Dishes (washed in a sink with a hole in the bottom that drained to the outside of Old Rusty); and Worship (prepare morning chapel and evening vespers).



Loading up “Grampa Hummel’s” old truck for the return home.

Vespers were held on “Vesper Rock,” a short hike from the campgrounds. One tree along the way was designated as the point to stop talking. We ascended the rock in silence and stayed quiet during the service.

Bible passages, poems, skits, and songs were shared while trying to maintain our balance on “the Rock.” Often, when vespers ended, we would stay there and watch the sun disappear over the mountain range.

In one indelible memory, a thick

cont. on page 12



Soaking in God’s creation on a camp hike.



Where the large cross and chapel platform is today.



Can't wait for Camp Joy to start in Berea, W.Va.



Kicking up a storm at Deep South Camp (rented) in Florida.



Family picnic time at Camp Wakonda in Milton, Wis. The Elmo Fitz Randolph Lodge is in the background.



Miller Cottage, one of the many beautiful buildings at Pacific Pines Camp in Crestline, Calif.



All the age groups of Eastern Association's Lewis Camp (rented) held still just long enough for this photo.



Almost above the tree line— but not above the law

by Sanja Looper

When I think back on my own camping experiences, I can't recall many of the details. But I do remember that those weeks at camp were the most enjoyable ones I had each summer.

What great memories: swimming in the North Loup (Neb.) River, Friday night vesper services on Vesper Hill, and Scripture memorization contests. They are second only to Larry Graffius—a remarkable camp director—in assuring me that my decision to follow Christ was real. He also affirmed that God would change my heart as I continued to follow and serve Him.

As a camper, I never knew about the “behind the scenes” work involved in preparing for camp. Today, as one of those seldom-noticed workers, I'm even more grateful for the directors and staff who have dedicated—and continue to dedicate—a week of their time to share the message of Jesus Christ with our SDB youth.

As the coordinator of the Camp Paul Hummel camping program, it's my responsibility to make sure that there are camp directors, cooks, and healthcare personnel.

In Colorado, as in many other states, SDB camps are governed by the rules of the Department of Human Services (DHS). This group's purpose is



Morning chapel at Camp Paul Hummel in Boulder.

to assure the safety and well-being of children while under the supervision of adults other than their parents.

Both our camp facility and program have to meet the standard rules spelled out in the CDHS handbook in order to maintain our “child care” license and continue providing camping experiences for our youth.

When I first began coordinating our program, I was overwhelmed by the amount of information that I had to learn, and by the quantity of paperwork that must be completed prior to the start of our camping season. When the CDHS inspects our

facility, they have the power and authority to close us down.

Roman 13:1 clearly states that we are to “submit... to the governing authorities” for they “have been established by God.”

In my early months coordinating camp, these words really annoyed me. It seemed that the CDHS was trying to “control” our camp!

I eventually realized that this agency was only looking out for the best interests of our children. Unfortunately, since these rules apply to both large, for-profit camps as well as small, non-profit ones, there are annual challenges just to develop a simple yet meaningful camping program.

Although I sometimes find myself questioning the CDHS's authority—even to the point of being tempted to bend or break their rules—I believe it's important that we, as Christians, maintain a high standard of integrity.

Since God teaches us to submit to those who govern us, I believe that He will continue to help me—and future camp coordinators—

to comply with state rules and regulations.

We can then undertake the more important task of sharing the message of Jesus Christ with young campers each summer. **SR**

***Although I
sometimes find myself
tempted to bend or break their
rules, I believe it's important that we, as
Christians, maintain a high standard of integrity.***

The origin of Jersey Oaks Camp



The main lodge at Jersey Oaks Camp, recently named "Charles Bond Lodge."

For many years prior to the building of Jersey Oaks Camp, the Shiloh, N.J., SDB Church had been active in a summer Christian camping program.

Often times, Shiloh cooperated with the New England SDB churches and sent campers, as well as staff members, to Lewis Camp near Ashaway, R.I. The church also used the Shiloh Deer Club's campsite near Tabernacle, N.J.

On May 3, 1959, B. Frank Harris gave the report of the Permanent Camp Committee. In it, land belonging to John Fogg was proposed as a site for the church's own camp. The 12.4-acre tract was located about seven miles from Shiloh, in an isolated area on the edge of Maskell's Mill Pond in Lower Alloway's Creek Township.

The deed for this tract of land was recorded in the name of the Shiloh church in Salem County on August 6, 1959. There was enthusiasm for building the camp but also concern. For several years, the church budget had been "in the red." There was no obvious source of new revenue to

reverse this trend, especially in light of this new financial burden.

In spite of these concerns, they drew up and approved a budget for the camp project. The annual church canvass for pledges of financial support for 1960 was taken in early December of '59. Besides the regular pledge forms for the local church budget and Our World Mission, they included a second card on which parishioners were asked to pledge their support—over a three-year period—for camp building projects.

The camp budget was over-subscribed, and the pledges to local and denominational work increased by almost \$3,000. Soon, the treasurer was giving reports written in black ink, even though the church's financial commitments were larger than ever!

An amazing fact about the Shiloh church was that its members were not only capable of wielding an axe, a mattock (grubbing hoe), a rake, and a tractor with a loader for brush-clearing, but it also had members with all of the other skills necessary to build the camp.

Pastor Bond's 1959 annual report read, in part, "Camp work-bees have been held every Sunday since September 26, 1959—14 consecutive Sundays—with from 20 to 40 men on the job. The people have had a mind to work, and God has richly blessed the project."

Women as well as men appeared at camp in the early days. Mid-morning and mid-afternoon, they provided moral support and the all-important food for break time.

Once the main lodge was completed, enthusiasm waned. The congregation intended to build two (\$1,000) frame barracks someday, but some thought tents would be acceptable for the first year. When enthusiasm later revived, they decided that since the building of the main lodge had gone so well, why not build the barracks in the same style of cement block with hip roof?

With Thurman Davis' prodding, the work crew again caught the vision, and both barracks were completed in time for the 1960 camping season.

After only nine months of hard work, the Shiloh church was ready to dedicate the camp on July 2-3, 1960. After running a "name the camp" contest, they voted to call the camp "Jersey Oaks." That name submitted by Jane Harris (now Jane Jernoske).

"It is estimated that more than 200 were present for the Spiritual Dedication on Sabbath, and more than 400 attended the Camp Fellowship Day on Sunday," Pastor Bond noted in his 1960 annual report. **SR**

This article was excerpted from "History: Seventh Day Baptist Church, Shiloh, New Jersey, 1737-1987," pages 193-202.



Cont. from page 8

fog hung over camp and holding vespers on the rock was questionable. We finally walked in the eerie quiet and climbed Vesper Rock, feeling our way as we went. Once on top, fog swirled around our feet as we viewed a magnificent sunset melting behind the mountains.

Within my campfire memories, it seems the skies were always clear, and the stars glistened in abundance. We would put on silly skits and play games, yet the snapping glow of the campfire would ultimately settle us into praise songs. On Friday night, the life-changing dedication service took place around the fire.

The most significant event of my life at camp occurred one day during "Alone Time."

I was sitting on *my* special rock, but not doing the task that had been assigned. It was more fun to watch and play with some of the ants crawling on my rock.

When I finally looked up and glanced to the west, I saw the mountain range, and my heart swelled with thankfulness for God's Creation. Suddenly, He spoke to me—not in audible words, but in overwhelming peace and assurance. I said something like, "I do believe in you, God. And I believe that Jesus is divine, and that the Holy Spirit is here, right now."

In my mind's eye, I can still see that mountain range peeking through the tree branches, and that rock—my rock.

Over the years, I have often sensed peace and assurance when I remember that place. I was baptized following that camp.

"...something happened to me when I gave my heart to Jesus..."

Years later, I returned to Camp Paul Hummel as a counselor, and last September I attended a women's retreat there.

The first-ever "official" water fight at Rocky Mountain Camp occurred in 1956. Pastors Mynor Soper, Ken Smith, and Dave Clarke—along with Ada Davis—were the instigators.

They used a hand-operated

fire extinguisher. The campers created a brigade of water buckets from the pump to the extinguisher. It doesn't take much to bring on sidesplitting laughter! This has become a tradition, and now every camp director plans a water fight.



One of Rocky Mountain Camp's first water fights. In the foreground is Grace White (Jean Jorgensen's mother) filming the action on an 8mm movie camera.

Things are different now...

We arrive in SUVs, vans, and cars; Old Rusty is disintegrating (I "helped" strip logs to build the addition); the cabins are still there but metal bunks have replaced the wooden ones; and the old corral is now a volleyball court. Vesper Rock is no longer used because of utility lines crisscrossing the view, and a neighbor's home cuts the silence.

There's a bathhouse now, and the lodge has a state-of-the-art kitchen. (State regulations are much more stringent nowadays.)

...things I loved before have passed away...

In spite of all the changes, peace and agape love still prevail.

My rock is still there, campers still have chores to do, there are "alone times" with God, and lifelong friendships continue to be born. Campers sing and perform skits, hold vespers, and enjoy fires in the lodge fireplace.

And on Friday nights, they still hold life-changing dedication services.

Bears and cougars still roam the land, giving the same sense of the magnitude of God's plan and Creation. New songs are indelibly ingrained in the minds of current campers, but some of the old songs remain. Campers still say, "I didn't want to leave."

...things I love far more have come to stay...

My camping experiences undergird the beginning of my relationship with Christ and will always be a place of treasured memories. Those memories have sustained me through troubled times, but I can't live in those memories.

Every moment of every day, Christ offers new memories and assurances of life with Him.

Things are different now, something happened that day when I gave my heart to Him. SR



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

SCSC needs your prayers

Become a Prayer Partner

Under the direction of the SDB Women's Board, Summer Christian Service Corps (SCSC) has been a vital part of our Seventh Day Baptist General Conference program for four decades. We have come to know, by witnessing the power of prayer in the lives of our young adults who serve, that prayer is the most vital part of their summer ministry.

Every year, we enlist prayer warriors to partner with individuals involved in SCSC (students, project directors, and staff) as they undergo training and then serve for the summer. These warriors can be a

man or a woman, or even a couple. All you have to do is be willing to pray daily for your SCSC partner. You are also invited to offer encouragement through personal contact via letters, etc.

Over the past 40 years, many people have been involved in SCSC—as students, project directors, staff, parents, and churches sending and receiving students.

We know how important prayer is to this program, and we encourage you to become a prayer partner in addition to providing financial support!

To volunteer, or to receive more information, contact:

June Kenyon
1000 Walker St. #320
Holly Hill, FL 32117
(386) 253-2841
dejunnie@myexcel.com



SCSC team members going through some song motions at the 2003 Conference. Please do more than "go through the motions" when it comes to praying for this vital ministry for Seventh Day Baptists. Become a prayer partner today!



Pearls from the Past by Don A. Sanford, historian

Four generations of Associational camping

Church camping has a long history among Seventh Day Baptists, stemming back to the mid-1920s. Leaders like A.J.C. Bond and Marjorie Burdick worked with young people, and Lewis Camp in Rhode Island was an outgrowth of their initiative.

In the mid-1930s, several camping experiences were offered on an inter-church basis in Allegany County in New York State and in Potter County in Pennsylvania. In 1937, the Little Genesee (N.Y.) SDB Church, under the leadership of Pastor Harley and Madge Sutton, sponsored a church camp at Eggleston Park on the Genesee River.

The success of this camp, along with the scouting background of Pastor Elmo Fitz Randolph, spurred the Western Association to begin an Association camping program.

Although the "Sanford boys" were involved in these camps, our family's four-generation heritage of SDB camping really began with Camp Harley Sutton in Alfred Station, N.Y.

Generation one

One of the sleeping cabins at Camp Harley Sutton was built in honor of my father, Mark Sanford, who was a prime mover in erecting that camp.

The camp's main lodge was the blacksmith shop that originally stood on the Alfred (N.Y.) University campus—a building in which my father, as a student in the AG Tech department 35 years earlier, had learned the blacksmith trade.

Dad and I helped dismantle and reassemble the building, which was called the Burdick Lodge. Harold Burdick was a biology professor at Alfred University who donated the land for Camp Harley. (Harold was my dad's brother-in-law, and thus an uncle to succeeding generations of Sanford campers.)

My father and brother served on the Camp Committee at Harley Sutton for many years.

Generation two

In 1951, I served as the first director of Camp Harley. At the time, I was a student at the Alfred University School of Theology and pastor of the Andover and Independence churches. Along with my brother, Gordon, I had attended the earlier Associational camps at Eggleston Park. Gordon had also been one of the campers at the first Pre-Con Retreat held at Battle Creek, Mich., in 1940.

After working four years as either director or business manager at Camp Harley, I moved to New Auburn, Wis. The task of building a new church there curtailed my camping experience.

A move to White Cloud, Mich., in 1968 allowed me to serve six years on the staff at Camp Holston, which was sponsored by the Battle Creek SDB Church and what was then called the Northern Association.

By this time, three members of third generation Sanfords—our daughter, Donna, and sons Douglas and Dean—were campers. In fact, both Doug and Dean were baptized in Cotton Lake at Camp Holston.

As a resident of Milton, Wis., I was involved in 18 more years of

church camping. Camp Wakonda served the Northern Association as well as the Milton congregation. I spent two of those years as camp director, and other years as the business manager, bus driver, and even lifeguard. (My mother-in-law, Cretora Miars, was the camp cook for a number of those years.)

Generation three

Our daughter, Deirdre, joined Doug, Dean, and Doreen as third generation campers at Camp Wakonda. Daughter Donna, who was now a student at Milton College, continued the family camping tradition during two years in SCSC (Summer Christian Service Corps), working at Lewis Camp in Rhode Island and at Camp Harley Sutton.

As a young mother, Donna was involved in the Jersey Oaks Camp in southern New Jersey. Her six years as president of the Women's Board had her supporting the SCSC program with many teams involved with camping.

Doreen's two years in SCSC extended to more years on the SCSC training staff at Camp Paul Hummel in Colorado, working to train SCSCers to help at Associational camps across the country.

Deirdre's three years in SCSC included helping with the Pacific Pines camping program.

Generation four

This generation of campers includes many of my grandchildren: Levi and Sylvia Bond, Tina Pierce, Kathleen Sanford, and Elizabeth and Tacy Camenga. I expect that even 5-year-old Duane Davis will become involved in SDB camping! **SR**



Pete's Prescriptions

from Dr. Pete May,
Executive Secretary

Never too old for camp, or Christ

Pete:

The camping programs of our various churches and Associations are perhaps the finest ministries that we have for young people. However, there are also benefits for those who volunteer as camp staffers.

**You're
never too old,
or too young, to
ask the Lord to
guide your life—
again, and again,
and again.**

Camps are a place of fellowship and service to the attending adults. The following is a summary of the way our family has been graced by being part of a camp staff.

Wife Nancy:

Growing up as a good Methodist, I thought I knew the Lord well. *Going to church every Sunday must make one a good disciple for sure*, I thought.

Then, at age 20, I fell in love and married a Seventh Day Baptist. Was that a shock? Well, yes! It took a few years of "Sabbath church," but I had always been a church attendee, so I fell in line.

By the time I was 30, I had quite a few children; consequently, I was teaching at the SDB church in River-

side (Calif.) and at Pacific Pines Camp. This was a plus in my life, because I've always needed to keep busy. My spiritual gift, according to tests, is administration and/or organization. (I'm still trying to organize Pete!)

God created all and then rested on the seventh day. Some years later as a camp counselor, I asked the Lord to come into my life and guide me every day. This happened at Pacific Pines Camp, at a chapel led by Pastor Rod Henry.

Rod got through the organization and administration of my life to show this older camper, plus the

young ones, what really matters in life. You're never too old, or too young, to ask the Lord to guide your life—again, and again, and again.

I love our camping program. Praise the Lord!

Pete:

It's important to think seriously about giving your time and service to building and maintaining a camping fellowship in each of our Associations.

Please respond positively to your Camp Committee's request for help in meeting the needs of your camp facility and program. **SR**

Nancy's Notes:

In May, Evelyn Haskell and I are sending one-time-use cameras to each of our SDB camps. Why??

At Conference in Buckingham, we plan to have a big display to promote our wonderful camping program. We'll show off photos from this year's camps — and more!

Want to help? Please bring along a memento,



small craft project, camp newspaper...

Let's show everyone just what camping means to Seventh Day Baptists!



Nominate a great teacher

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

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

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

- Is a member in good standing of the nominating church
- Exhibits the qualities of faith and teaching found in the life and teaching of Christ
- Currently serves as a Sabbath School teacher
- The church has not had a recipient of the award in the last three years
- Nomination is submitted by June 30, 2004, using the Board's nomination form

If you need a nomination form, please contact the Board of Christian Education office at P.O. Box 115, Alfred Station, NY 14803.

Phone: (607) 587-8527

Fax: (607) 587-9895

E-mail: sdbbce@educatingchristians.org

The following people have received the Crystal Apple award:

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

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

1988 **Margaret B. Allen**
Lost Creek, W.Va.

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

1990 **June Johnson**
Nortonville, Kan.

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

1992 **Dan Richards**
Texarkana, Ark.

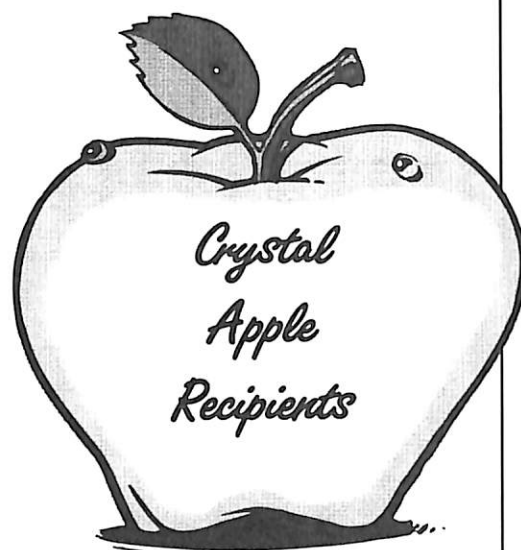
1993 **Dr. Lewis H.V. May**
Riverside, Calif.

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

1995 **Madeline Fitz Randolph**
Boulder, Colo.

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

1997 **Janis M. Bond**
Shiloh, N.J.



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

1999 **Marilyn Merchant**
Riverside, Calif.

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

2001 **Judy Parrish**
Battle Creek, Mich.

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

2003 **John W. Griffin**
Paint Rock, Ala.



FOCUS on Missions

Struggles and joys in Rwanda

by Kirk Looper

Visiting our SDB churches in Rwanda, Africa, is always a pleasure because they make one feel welcomed and comfortable.

As Pastor Eli Nduwayesu and I visited several churches, we took time to discuss SDB beliefs and polity. Representatives of each church talked about the work being done in their area and shared their needs.

Most of the church leaders said that their congregations needed cement to hold the bricks and stones of their buildings in place. Strong winds and mild quakes have damaged many of the churches which use mud for cement. They are grateful for the money they have received to buy metal roof sheeting and, in some cases, lots on which to construct their meetinghouses.

Most of the churches in Rwanda have outgrown their lots. Many requested additional funds to purchase adjacent lots so they can expand the size of their present church structures.

Of the 21 congregations registered in Rwanda, attendance ranges from 10 to 165. The churches are growing rapidly, and we look forward to the time when the smallest church will have more than 100 members.

The church women indicated that they would like to have pen pals in the United States and Canada. I voiced a concern that they would use this correspondence to get people to send funds to Rwanda and would end up annoying their pen pals. But they assured me that they would not solicit funds from anyone who is willing to write to them. They simply want to learn how women in other countries go about their business and what their families do.

If you want to be a pen pal, contact Pastor Nduwayesu, project coordinator. Send a description of the kind of person you would like to write to, and he will pass along your address. Pastor Nduwayesu's e-mail address is enduwayesu@hotmail.com.

The youth want a school where they can learn carpentry, sewing, plumbing, electricity, and other crafts and skills. They also need tools to learn these trades and gain an opportunity to earn their way. This would also benefit the Conference in Rwanda because they strongly believe in tithing.

It was an emotional time when they discussed the plight of the widows and orphans. Some are victims of war, others of HIV/AIDS.

Some of the "street orphans" have been banished from their homes because their parents can no longer support them. They wander the streets, begging or looking for work. Part of their "street education" is stealing and lying.

Most of the widows are victims of the genocide that occurred in 1994-95. All of them are very poor, and many starve to death or die of exposure.

The churches want to start nursery schools in their meetinghouses to teach reading, writing, and English. They need funds to buy books, pencils, paper, and teaching materials.

At each church I visited, the adults said that they hoped their children could learn these skills. Apparently, public school education isn't free in Rwanda, and most schools aren't close to home.

The church women have formed Associations to foster outreach and communication within the Conference. They ask that women in the U.S. send donations to purchase sewing machines, fabric, and supplies to help the widows and other women earn a living. In Rwanda, a sewing machine costs less than 100 U.S. dollars, and the supplies—such as buttons, zippers, etc.—cost very little. They also need travel funds to visit other church groups for teaching and counseling.

Conference needs range from a vehicle to haul workers to evangelism meetings, to further development of their center and college. Many of their pastors, deacons, and lay people need further education.

My trip to Rwanda was very valuable. I believe that they are ready to take the initiative to try to do more for themselves. Please join me in praying for the outreach in Rwanda, and that their needs are met. **SR**



*Conference Coordinator
Pastor Eli Nduwayesu.*



SDB Conference center in Rwanda.



the BEACON

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

April 2004

A fast food nation

by Robyn Somers

It seems like in today's society, everyone is on their cell phone or heading for the drive-thru. Nobody wants to take the time out of their day to slow down and be patient. Everyone wants everything right now!

People use ATM cards to get money out of the bank quickly while avoiding communication with tellers.

when we *do* have to stand in a long line for something, we get agitated. The ability to be patient is slowly being drained from us.

It's awesome to have everything you

It seems like in today's society, everyone is on their cell phone. Nobody wants to take the time out of their day to slow down and be patient.

At gas stations, you can use your credit card right at the pump so you barely have to leave your car.

I don't know anyone who doesn't have a cell phone these days. If you hear a funny joke that you want to tell your friends, you can simply whip out your phone and talk to them immediately.

I'm not arguing that these are "bad things" about society, but what are we losing in life by moving so fast?

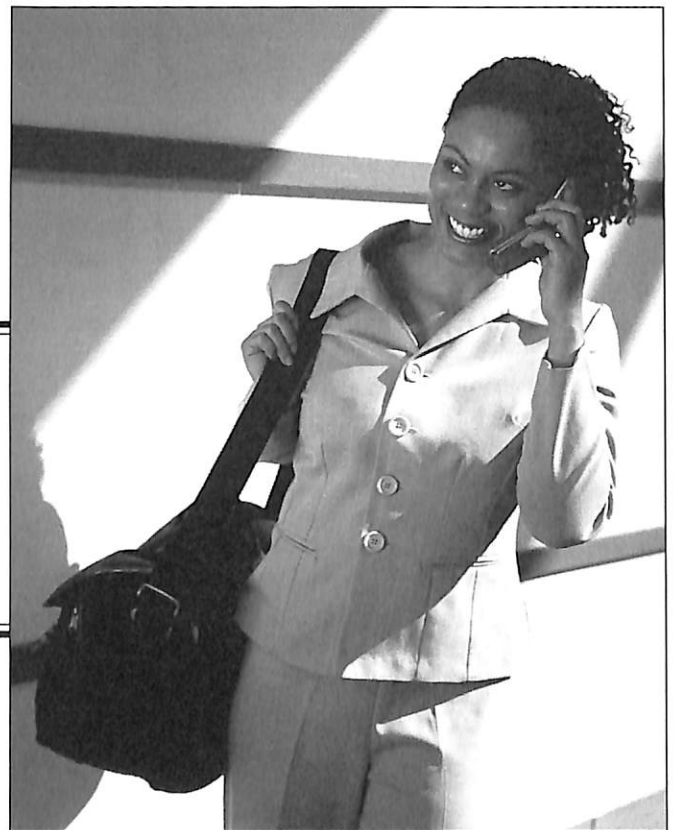
We are losing the ability to be patient.

Our society spoils us. We can buy dinner instead of preparing it and skip standing in line at banks. And

want, as soon as you want it. But when you can't, you just have to step back and be patient.

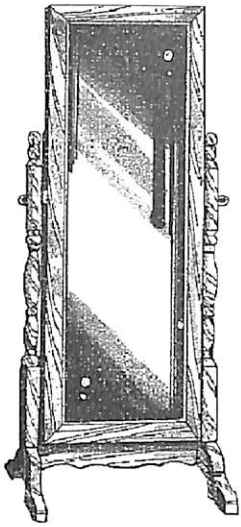
Patience is a gift that everyone has to work on. It's hard to sit in bumper-to-bumper traffic and not yell at the driver in front of you for cutting you off. But when you're able to sit there and be calm about everything, that's a true sign that you *can* be patient.

When we come to God and talk to Him, He is always patient with us. As God's children, we should mirror



Him and be patient when it comes to the things He has put in our lives. Patience is a virtue that everyone should strive to have.

"My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing" (James 1:2-4). SR



Reflections

by Leanne Lippincott

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

My hero list expands

Growing up, I played with dolls and other "girl stuff." But I was also a tomboy who loved playing football, "war," and Cowboys and Indians. Consequently, many of my childhood heroes were cowboy stars like Roy Rogers, Gene Autry, Hopalong Cassidy, and the Lone Ranger.

During my teen years, I became interested in politics, and my focus shifted to new heroes: Lincoln, Churchill, and Eisenhower.

In my 20s and 30s, I admired actors like Henry Fonda, Gregory Peck, and Charlton Heston. Jimmy Stewart, a heroic figure on and off the screen, was (and is) my all-time favorite.

Settling into middle age, the "types" of people on my hero worship list changed dramatically. Mother Teresa wasn't rich or glamorous, but I admired her for her ministry to the sick and destitute. I also had great respect for Albert Schweitzer.

This past February, while attending my monthly breast cancer support group meeting, my hero list expanded a fifth time.

Gazing around the room, my eyes fell on Sharon, our fearless leader. As usual, she was talking and laughing like a giddy teenager.

Sharon, a staunch Christian, had a mastectomy in 1993, followed by a bout with lung cancer. In 1997, she lost her other breast to non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. She now receives monthly IV treatments to keep bone cancer at bay.

Cindy used to be a school music teacher. For the past two years, she's been battling the cancer that has spread to her ovaries and liver. Her smile is as contagious as her positive attitude. "Whatever happens is God's will," she says.

Anita, one of the older women in our group, just learned that her breast cancer has spread to her liver. A Christian, she continues fighting the good fight in spite of multiple family tragedies. Her husband is currently contending with pancreatic cancer, and the day of his surgery, their daughter was found dead in her apartment.

None of these women would consider themselves heroic role models, but that's exactly what they are. They exhibit more courage, hope, faith, and humor than most of us—including myself—can ever dream of having.

I've often wondered how non-Christians cope with the harsh, gut-wrenching blows of life. Following my cancer surgery in October of 1999, I quickly learned the importance of the "Three Fs"—Faith, Family, and Friends.

Many times I have heard, "If your faith is strong enough, God will heal you."

I have come to a different understanding: As important as faith is, I believe that God heals in "common" as well as miraculous ways.

The Great Physician continues to bless us with well-trained and highly skilled doctors and nurses, dedicated medical research teams, and newer and better drugs. We should use these precious gifts, especially since

they often help to control—and even cure—many diseases that were once automatic death sentences.

Faith and prayer are powerful allies in battling disease, and I don't count it as a lack of faith to include the marvels of modern medicine.

When I think of those wonderful friends in my support group, my fellow "chemosabes," I'm especially touched by their courage.

In 2 Chronicles 32, Jerusalem is faced with an impending invasion. Following many physical preparations, King Hezekiah inspires his officers with these words—words that should speak to all of us as we struggle with life's adversities:

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged... for there is a greater power with us than with him [the king of Assyria]. With him is only the arm of flesh, but with us is the LORD our God to help us and to fight our battles." SR

During my teen years, my focus shifted to new heroes: Lincoln, Churchill, and Eisenhower.





The President's Page

by Dale Thorngate

Studies, sermons, and seminars

Morning Bible studies

I want to share with you some of the activities of the week. Morning Bible studies will focus on seeking first God's kingdom. These are the Bible passages and leaders:

- Monday—"God's Kingdom Is Like..." Mark 4:10-12, 26-34; Rev. Dr. Paul Manuel
- Tuesday—"Being Prepared," Matthew 25:1-13; Rev. Steven James
- Thursday—"Teach These Things," 1 Timothy 4:1-16; Rev. George Calhoun
- Friday—"Children in the Kingdom," Mark 10:13-16; Rev. Andrew Samuels

Evening sermons

Evening sermons also deal with life in the kingdom:

- Sunday**—"God's Plan for You" (First Things First), Jeremiah 29:11-14a, Matthew 6:33
- Monday**—"God's Kingdom Is Within You," Luke 17:20-27
- Tuesday**—"Success in God's Kingdom," Matthew 25:14-30
- Wednesday**—"Living in God's Kingdom," Luke 14:25-33
- Thursday**—"Working in God's Kingdom," Deuteronomy 8:1-18
- Friday**—"Lord's Supper," 1 Corinthians 11:17-26
- Sabbath**—"Seeking God with All Your Heart," Isaiah 40:12-31, Psalm 63:1-8

I will be opening the Conference on Sunday evening. The outstanding evening preachers will include D. Scott Smith, Asst. Pastor, Salem, W.Va.; Rev. Herlitz Condison, Toronto, Ontario, Canada; and Rev. David Thorngate, Boulder, Colo.

On Friday, we will celebrate communion with Rev. Gordon Lawton, the new Director of Pastoral Services and Dean of the SDB Center on Ministry. His father, Rev. Leon Lawton, retired executive of the SDB Missionary Society, will also officiate.

Rev. Herbert Saunders, pastor of the Madison, Wis., SDB Church, will bring the Sabbath morning message.

Conference music

Denise Green of Milton, Wis., will direct the Conference choir. Barbara Saunders, also of Milton, will be the organist, and Keith James of Verona, N.Y., will be the pianist.

We will begin each day with a worship service of mostly music and praise.

Monday and Tuesday, it will be led by the Youth Pre-Con and Young Adult Pre-Con groups; Wednesday by the Salem church choir, under the direction of Rebecca Rogers; Thursday by the Summer Christian Service Corps; and Friday, the Conference Men's Choir, directed by Paul Green.

Christina Thorngate will coordinate special music presentations throughout the week (see box).

Two special guests

Next month, I will be saying more about the six workshops and semi-

nars offered Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, but I want to give you a "heads up" about two special guests that I have invited to speak to us during the week. (They will also provide seminars in the afternoons.) Both men are my good friends and significant public figures in their own fields.

Rev. Brent Walker, Executive Director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, will talk about religious liberty from a Baptist perspective. Dr. William Brackney, noted Baptist historian and professor at Baylor University, will speak on Seventh Day Baptists and their place in Baptist history.

I am particularly pleased to have these two men share part of our week with us. I know that they will experience some real SDB hospitality in West Virginia.

Next month's *SR* will include the registration forms.

Seventh Day Baptists are calling to you to come, seeking God with all your heart, in "almost heaven" West Virginia. *SR*

If you have special music to offer for the Conference program (solos, duets, ensembles), please contact:

Christina Thorngate
6710 Arapahoe Rd.
Boulder, CO 80303
(303) 544-5951
cthorgate@hotmail.com



Wild, wonderful welcome

by Terry Van Horn

WEST VIRGINIA WESLEYAN COLLEGE

Members of the Host Committee for Conference 2004 are well into their planning to welcome you to the West Virginia Wesleyan College campus in Buckhannon the first week of August, and they hope you are making your plans as well.

Drivers will find that Buckhannon is accessible by four-lane highways whether you're coming from the east, west, north, or south. And it is easy to get around in the friendly little town of Buckhannon, with parking plentiful and convenient. If you elect not to stay in a dorm room, off-campus housing is available in several nearby motels. (A partial list will be in the May *SR*.)

If you decide to fly to Conference, make reservations to the Harrison-Marion Regional Airport in Bridgeport, W.Va. (near Clarksburg). If requested on the registration forms, the Host Committee will provide transportation for the 35-mile drive from the airport to Buckhannon. Young people arriving by plane for Pre-Conference retreats should also come to Harrison-Marion (formerly known as the Benedum Airport).

As in recent Conferences held in West Virginia, the Young Adult Pre-Con will be held at WV Wesleyan, and the Youth will be at the Appalachian Association's Camp Joy in Berea, 50 miles west of Clarksburg.

Transportation from the airport to the Pre-Cons—and from Camp Joy to Conference—will be provided.

You can arrange bus transportation to Clarksburg and, again, the Host Committee will be happy to pick you up if you make arrangements ahead of time.

Plan to enjoy the beauty of the West Virginia hills during your visit.

Take a little time before or after Conference to explore some unique scenic attractions within easy driving distance.

Take a little time before or after Conference (or perhaps an afternoon hour or two during the week) to explore some unique scenic attractions within easy driving distance.

For instance, if you drive east on Highway 33 for about an hour, you get to Seneca Rocks. A brand-new visitor's center tells you all about the rock formations jutting hundreds of feet vertically above the rural valley. If you feel the need for vigorous exercise, you can climb the switchback trail through the forest to a breathtaking viewing platform at the top.

Or if you have never taken the time to go over to Audra State Park just east of Buckhannon, maybe this is the summer to do it. Take an hour or so walk along the boulder-strewn river on a path that leads you along cliffs and under overhanging rocks.

Even many West Virginians haven't been down to the little village of restored 19th century farmhouses at "Bulltown" at Burnsville Lake, less than an hour south of Buckhannon. The museum and educational displays vividly recount the daily lives of Native Americans and pioneers who inhabited the region.

A look at how early farmers made a living in the isolation of the Appalachians is also featured at a restored farm at Waters Smith State Park—another fairly short, scenic drive through the green West Virginia hills.

Each of these suggested activities are free and are just a few of the ways that you can combine the spiritual uplift of Conference with the restorative refreshment of enjoying God's beautiful world.

Many other suggestions can be found by calling 1-800-CALL WVA for the state's official Travel Guides and State Map, or by looking at West Virginia's tourism web site: www.callwva.com

Of course, the congregations of Lost Creek and Salem hope you will visit either or both of them. You are especially welcome on the Sabbath before Conference. Lost Creek is right off of Interstate 79, about a half-hour drive from Buckhannon, and Salem is a little further down the road on Rt. 50, about an hour north-west of the campus.

The Host Committee wants to make Conference week as enjoyable and comfortable as possible. They hope that *you* are planning to make the whole "West Virginia Experience" the highlight of your summer! *SR*

Rejoice! A new branch has begun

by Gina Ford

History has again been made. The Ft. Lauderdale (Fla.) branch of the Miami Seventh Day Baptist church has been officially launched. It was a glorious event on the evening of November 22, 2003, with the new church's opening service based on the theme, "Going Forward in Faith."

The group held its first Sabbath service on August 1, 2003, at a rented facility about 28 miles north of their Miami "mother church." In November, this "official inaugural event" recognized the body as a new church.

The day began with an 11:00 a.m. worship service led by Pastors Gabe Bejjani and Ray Winborne. (Gabe is the outgoing Director of Pastoral Ser-

vices, and Ray leads the Low Country Christian Center SDB Church of N. Charleston, S.C.)

At 4:00 p.m., the dedication service began with Pastor Andrew Samuels of the Miami and Ft. Lauderdale churches giving the invocation. Pastor Winborne commissioned the new church officers, and Pastor Bejjani led the commissioning of the church. The Miami SDB youth choir and the Ft. Lauderdale choir provided the special music.

Rev. Joe Samuels, pastor of the Plainfield, N.J., SDB Church and president of the SDB World Federation, gave the sermon.

A host of representatives attended from other churches, including the

West Palm Beach and Daytona Beach SDB churches, the Ft. Lauderdale 7th Day Church of God, and the New Atonement Worship Center. Many other friends and supporters also attended. Special thanks go out to all who made this event possible.

This church inauguration was another great moment for the SDB record books, reminding us that God is awesome and that His work is never done. Please pray for this body of believers as they grow and minister to their community.

The task ahead is great, and the laborers are few. May the Lord continue to do His mighty work and, in everything, to God be the glory! **SR**



The Ft. Lauderdale SDB church choir with Bro. Oral Walters directing.



Pastors from nearby and far away took part in the inaugural event in Ft. Lauderdale.

Final tally is close!

Showing the weekly attendance increase beyond the base average, here are the final numbers in the church attendance contest (began in September 2003):

Alfred Station, NY	94
San Gabriel, CA	83

The numbers do not reflect the comradery and friendly competition that bonded these

churches and their pastors. The contest resulted in more people coming to church, and—more importantly—some coming to faith in Christ.

Pastor Ken Chroniger adds, "Let's pray that our Heavenly Father continues to provide our churches opportunity to grow spiritually and physically." Could an Association attendance contest be far behind?

Survivor!

Youth face challenges in Florida

“What’s a tent?”

That question and many more were answered at the first annual Survivor Youth Retreat held on December 26-29 in Interlachen, Fla.

First, Ted and Carol Haugstatter transformed 10 acres of woods behind their house into a primitive resort, featuring a cable ride, trampoline, volleyball, tether-ball, horseshoes, and a five-star “portapotty.” Then they invited the youth of the South Atlantic Coast Association to outwit and outlast near-freezing weather in tents. Who won? God did.

Nineteen middle school and high school-aged kids from Atlanta, Ga., and the Florida communities of Miami, Daytona Beach, and Carraway came to experience God and His creation firsthand. They cooked their own breakfasts and lunches over an open fire, then feasted on meals prepared for them for supper.

Keith McCall and Grace Crouch led provocative Bible studies that challenged the campers to build their character and improve their relationships with God.

Linda Camenga delivered the message on Sabbath Day and provided everyone with kits to help them survive in today’s society. Her husband, Pastor John Camenga, gave a lesson in ancient astronomy, and Aaron Price showed campers how to use palmettos for food, weapons, and shelter.

Other activities included canoeing, a hayride, Capture the Flag, and finding a “treasure” at night using a compass and flashlight.

Although the primitive setting took some kids out of their comfort zones, many went home with a better understanding of what is truly important in life—God and a warm bed! **SR**



Deacon Aaron Price teaches some survival skills using Florida palmettos.



Snoozing before the next drill.



Baking with aluminum foil.



SDB youth came from four southern churches.

Births

Jorgensen.—A son, Michael Ervin Jorgensen, was born to Lane and Juliana (Kolevi) Jorgensen of Kansas City, MO, on September 25, 2003.

Walter.—A daughter, Casey Jean Walter, was born to Cary and DeLynne (Jorgensen) Walter of Flagstaff, AZ, on January 2, 2004.

Falkenmeyer.—A son, Wyatt William Falkenmeyer, was born to Aaron and Kathryn Falkenmeyer of Sherrill, NY, on January 22, 2004.

Nadeau.—A daughter, Abigail Margaret Nadeau, was born to

Donald and Cindy (Hays) Nadeau Jr. of Pawcatuck, CT, on February 23, 2004

Marks.—A son, Tobijah Stephen Marks, was born to Chet and Barb Marks of Pine Ridge, SD, on February 29, 2004.

Marriage

Stephan – Skaggs.—Ed Stephan and Amy Skaggs were united in marriage on August 17, 2003, at the Boulder, CO, Seventh Day Baptist Church. Pastors Victor Skaggs and David Thorngate officiated.

New members

Fort Worth, TX

Earle S. Holston, pastor
Joined after testimony
Grace Drechsel
David Messerli

Little Rock, AR

Floyd Van Horn, assist. pastor
Joined after testimony
Raymond Tucker
Bill Smith
Darlene Smith

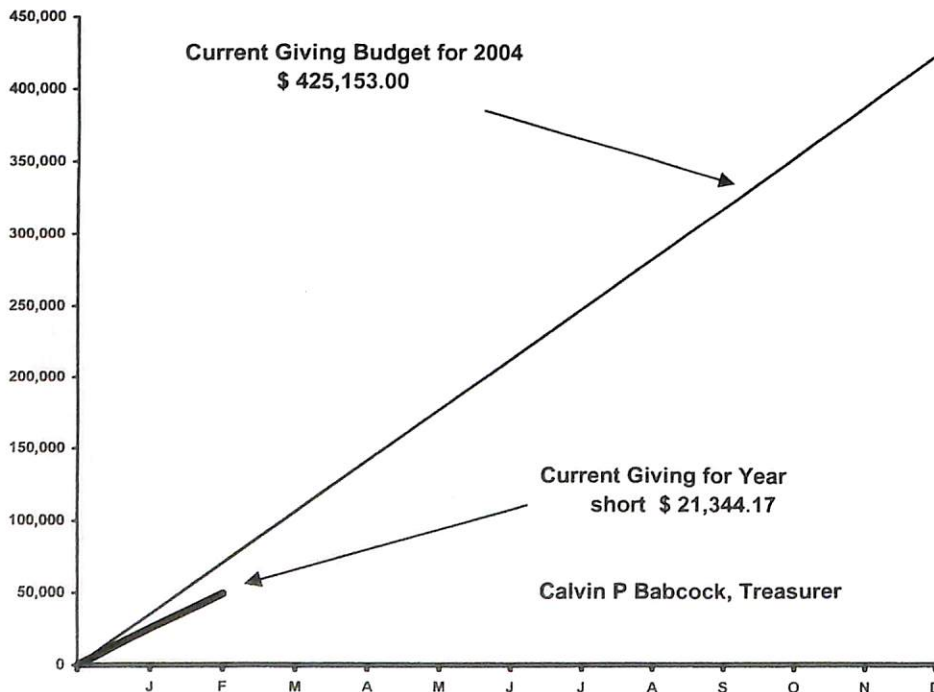
Paint Rock, AL

John D. Bevis, pastor
Joined after testimony
Christine Price

Verona, NY

Steven James, pastor
Joined after baptism
Donna Rutz
Harold Thompson
Joined after testimony
René Armstrong
Beverly Crawford
Mark Hunt
Alexandria Huntington-Ofner
Michelle Markowski
Tim Marsh
Doreen Marsh
Joan Self
Diana Self-Fiacco

Current Giving 2004



Help Wanted

Friends, our denominational giving is way down. Especially hurting are the Council on Ministry and the Tract Council.

Please send a generous gift to help fund our seminary students and publications. Thank you!

SDB Center
P.O. Box 1678
Janesville, WI 53547

Obituaries

Crandall.—Marjorie Evelyn Crandall, 83, died at Cedar Crest in Janesville, Wis., on January 13, 2004.

She was born on September 7, 1920, in Indianapolis, Ind., the daughter of George H. and Edna (Hurlbert) Crandall. She was a longtime resident of Milton and Madison, Wis.

Marjorie graduated from Milton College and continued post-graduate work at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she worked as a science research technician.

She was a member of the Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church.

Survivors include two sisters, Doris Haldiman of Janesville and Mary Anderson of Reno, Nev.; one brother, Dr. George H. Crandall Jr. of Lake Oswego, Ore.; and nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was held on January 27, 2004, in the Cedar Crest Chapel, with Pastor George Calhoun officiating.

Bonham.—Chester A. Bonham, 89, passed away on January 15, 2004, at S.J. Hospital, Bridgeton, N.J., after several years of failing health. He was a lifelong resident of Hopewell Township.

He was born in Hopewell Township, the son of Chester S. and Lottie (Sampson) Bonham, and farmed all his life. He was a grain and dairy farmer, and later became an egg farmer before retiring. For several years, he was a director of the Vineland Egg Auction.

Chester was a member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Shiloh, N.J., serving at one time as a trustee and usher. He was also an avid gardener who enjoyed fishing and reading.

Survivors include his wife of 63 years, Rachel (Dickinson) Bonham; two sons, James of Hopewell Township and Clifton of Mount Joy, Pa.;

one brother, John, of Hopewell Township, and one sister, Charlotte Lupton of Shiloh; four grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews. A sister, Mary VanLier, preceded him in death.

A memorial service was held on January 17, 2004, at the Shiloh SDB Church, with Pastor Don Chroniger officiating.

Wilson.—Wilna Van Horn (Bond) Wilson, 90, of Westerly, R.I., died on January 20, 2004, at the Westerly Nursing Home.

She was born on February 8, 1913, in Milton Junction, Wis., the daughter of the Rev. Ahva J.C. and Ora (Van Horn) Bond.

Wilna graduated from Salem (W.Va.) College and taught music in Ruggles, Ohio. She later worked as a telephone operator at Westerly Hospital, where she also volunteered. Along with her husband, Dwight E. Wilson, she operated the King Tom Farm Guest House in Charlestown, R.I., for 22 years.

Wilna was an active member of the Pawcatuck (R.I.) Seventh Day Baptist Church of Westerly, and the Hopkinton SDB church of Ashaway, R.I.

She was the founder and director of the Pawcatuck Valley Women's Chorus, and a member of the Westerly College Club, the Wednesday Bridge Club, and the town's garden and book clubs.

Besides her husband of 63 years, Dwight, she leaves one son, Paul, of Sarasota, Fla.; two daughters, Pamela Vader of Westerly and Nora Safford of Ashaway; nine grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren. Five sisters predeceased her—Elizabeth Percy, Virginia Spicer, Mary Lewis, Nellie Parry, and Ahvagene Clarke. One grandson, Jason Wilson, also preceded her in death.

A memorial service was held on January 24, 2004, in the First SDB

Church in Ashaway, with Rev. Edgar Wheeler and Rev. Leon R. Lawton officiating.

Burdick.—Margaret A. (Lowther) Smitley Burdick, 88, of Milton, Wis., died on January 27, 2004, at Cedar Crest in Janesville, Wis.

She was born on April 28, 1915, in Milton, the daughter of S. Norton and Lola Grace (Rood) Lowther. She graduated from Milton Union High School and Salem (W.Va.) College. She was a teacher before marrying her first husband, Chester J. Smitley, in 1942. He died in 1948.

Margaret worked for Milton College and then the Milton School system for many years. In 1968, she married Roger M. Burdick, who died in 1991.

She belonged to the Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church and its Women's Circle. She was also a member of the Milton Historical Society.

Survivors include three daughters, Carolyn Brown of Milton, Mary Ellen Steinke of Brodhead, Wis., and Ginny Otto of Stevens Point, Wis.; one sister, Virginia Clocker of St. Paul, Minn.; two stepchildren, Lynn Kalinowski of Lincoln, Calif., and Malcolm Burdick of Cedar Hill, Texas; 13 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, and two nieces. In addition to her husbands, one sister, Elizabeth Durkee, and a great-grandson preceded her in death.

Funeral services were held on January 30, 2004, at the Milton SDB Church, with Pastor George Calhoun officiating. Burial was in Milton Cemetery.

Grobb.—Dorothy "Dottie" Grobb, 79, of Noyes Manor, Sherrill, N.Y., died peacefully on January 27, 2004, at the Oneida (N.Y.) Healthcare Center.

She was born on July 29, 1924, in Starks Landing, N.Y., the daughter of

cont. on next page

John and Millicent (Stukey) Williams. She was a graduate of Oneida High School and attended SUNY at Canton.

In 1992, her husband, Frank, retired as Sherrill's Chief of Police, and the couple moved to Eutawville, S.C. She returned in Sherrill in 2002.

Dottie was a member of the Verona, N.Y., Seventh Day Baptist Church and was a talented seamstress who loved quilting. She also enjoyed playing bingo, fishing, listening to music, and working jigsaw puzzles, but she most loved spending time at home with her family and friends.

Survivors include one son, Stephen, of Glenburn, Maine; one daughter, Nora Evans of Barrington, Ill.; one sister Mayola Warner of Oneida; one brother, David, of Louisiana; four grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews. Her husband predeceased her.

A memorial service was held on February 28, 2004, at Noyes Manor, with Pastor Kurt Johnson officiating.

Johnson.—Edwin Lewis Johnson, 89, of Nortonville, Kan., died on February 7, 2004, at St. Francis Hospital in Topeka, Kan.

He was born on November 27, 1914, in North Loup, Neb., the son of Glen and Ava (Clement) Johnson. He graduated from high school in North Loup and attended Milton (Wis.) College.

On March 20, 1942, Edwin married June Babcock in Fresno, Calif. He was stationed there with the Air Force, doing submarine patrol flights over the Pacific. When they later moved to the East Coast, he did the same work in the Cape Hatteras area.

In August of 1945, they were sent to England, where Edwin's squadron flew supplies and personnel to the underground for two years. After leaving the service, he remained in the National Guard until November of 1951.

Mr. Johnson worked for Trans World Airlines for 31 years. He retired in November of 1976 and then

took a job with Mechni-Arts in the Kansas City area, working there until 1981.

In 1985, Edwin and June moved to her hometown of Nortonville, where they joined the local Seventh Day Baptist Church. Ed was active in the church and served as an ordained deacon.

From 1991-1994, the couple volunteered with the Senior Saints, doing repair work at various churches and church camps. In 1998, Edwin was diagnosed with Alzheimer's and was admitted in October of 2001 to Village Villa nursing home in Nortonville, spending his last years there.

In addition to his wife, June, survivors include two sons, Russell of Durhamville, N.Y., and James; three daughters, Becky Greife of Lee's Summit, Mo., Georgeanna of Santa Ana, Calif., and Kelly of Parsons, Kan.; five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. A daughter, Gayle, preceded in him death at age 18. One brother and two sisters also predeceased him.

Private funeral services will be held at a later date.

VanDyke.—Jerome Gerald VanDyke, 78, of Grand Junction, Colo., passed away at his home on February 14, 2004. He was a devoted family man who loved Jesus and his church family. "Van" was born on April 18, 1925, to Nicholas John and Ida Gertrude (German) VanDyke in Burlington, Colo., where he spent his childhood.

He graduated from West High School in Denver, Colo. During World War II, he served with the Navy in the Asiatic Pacific and European Africa theaters. On October 24, 1946, he married Geraldine "Gerry" Thorngate in Denver.

Van was a retired Public Service Company shift supervisor. He and Gerry were members of the Denver Seventh Day Baptist Church before moving to Grand Junction 11 years ago. While a member at Denver, he served for many years as a trustee of Camp Paul Hummel.

Survivors include his wife and

In Memoriam

In the big world of communications, sometimes the "signals get crossed." The same can happen at the local church level.

We present an older obituary that did not get sent to us. Mistakes do happen, then time marches on. Please clearly designate who in your church is to correspond with us so we can pass along the information to family and friends. Thank you.

Norris Edwin Wheeler, 85, died on October 16, 2000.

He was born on October 17, 1914, the son of Edwin and Mabel (Allen) Wheeler. After graduating from Nortonville (Kan.) High School in 1932, he spent two years at Salem College (W.Va.) before returning to help at his father's farm.

On May 14, 1943, Norris married Darlene Smith. They lived on a farm near Lawrence, Kan., but later returned to the family farm near Nortonville.

Norris was an active member of that town's SDB church.

Surviving are his wife; sons Phillip, Warren, and Dale; a daughter, Martha Nieder; one brother, Winston, and a sister, Norma Smith; eight grandchildren, and several great-grandchildren. Burial was in the Nortonville Cemetery.

one son, Nicholas, both of Grand Junction; two daughters, Catherine Erwin of Hayden, Colo., and Cynthia Halstead of Las Vegas, Nev.; one sister, Leota Orange of Littleton, Colo.; eight grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren. Five siblings preceded him in death.

Funeral services were held on February 18, 2004, at Martin Mortuary Chapel with Pastor Jeff Johnson officiating. Burial was at the Veterans Memorial Cemetery of Western Colorado.

KEVIN'S

ORNER

During my early years as editor, the *Sabbath Recorder* Committee consisted of members from the Denver and Boulder, Colo., churches. (This was before the days of the Colorado Springs group.)

One of my joys—besides working with very creative and supportive people—was the opportunity to hold our meetings in a weekend retreat setting.

And *what* a setting!

We had the awesome privilege of meeting at Camp Paul Hummel

overlooking Boulder.

Convening in the spring or fall, the weather was as beautiful as it was unpredictable. Whether waking up to several inches of wet snow (gone by the next day), or viewing the indescribable colors of a sunset, or marveling at the limitless number of stars, Camp Paul Hummel holds special memories for me.

Oh yeah, we got good work done, too.

One reason we got so much done was thanks to committee member and super camper, Elmo Fitz Randolph.

“Pastor Randy” has left his mark on Seventh Day Baptist camping programs across the country. After his Boy Scout executive days in Maine, he helped start SDB “camping fever” in Allegany County, N.Y. (see this month’s “Pearls”). He now lives at “Trail’s End,” his beautiful home adjacent to Camp Paul Hummel.

In-between, Randy poured his heart and soul, blood and sweat, into another Seventh Day Baptist camp setting outside of Milton, Wis.

Even though part of his dream was once dubbed “Randy’s Folly” by some early naysayers, Camp Wakonda has been going strong for over 50 years, changing numerous lives for God’s Kingdom.

I’ll never forget a special Sabbath at Wakonda in July of 1992.

Randy had flown from Colorado to Wisconsin, expecting to help dedicate a new cross erected at the camp. After hearing Randy preach and reminisce during the outdoor worship service, everyone was herded toward the lodge. The preacher got the shock of his life when many of his family members—kept hidden inside for the morning—poured out the front doors!

And they were not the only surprise. They proceeded to climb up some ladders to fasten a new wooden sign above the doorframe: “Elmo Fitz Randolph Lodge.”

The aging camper crumpled to his knees with tears of joy. Randy had dedicated so much of himself to reaching young people for Christ through camping, and now this camping lodge was dedicated to him.

Who among our next generation will have the kind of determination and dedication to lead our camps?

Please say “yes” if God calls you to help with camp. It could change a youngster—or yourself—for eternity.



One happy camper supported by his wife, Madeline, and Brandon Crandall.



Overwhelmed by the surprise, Randy dropped to his knees.



Periodicals postage paid
at Janesville, WI
and additional offices



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*Camp
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*Camp Paul
Hummel*

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