



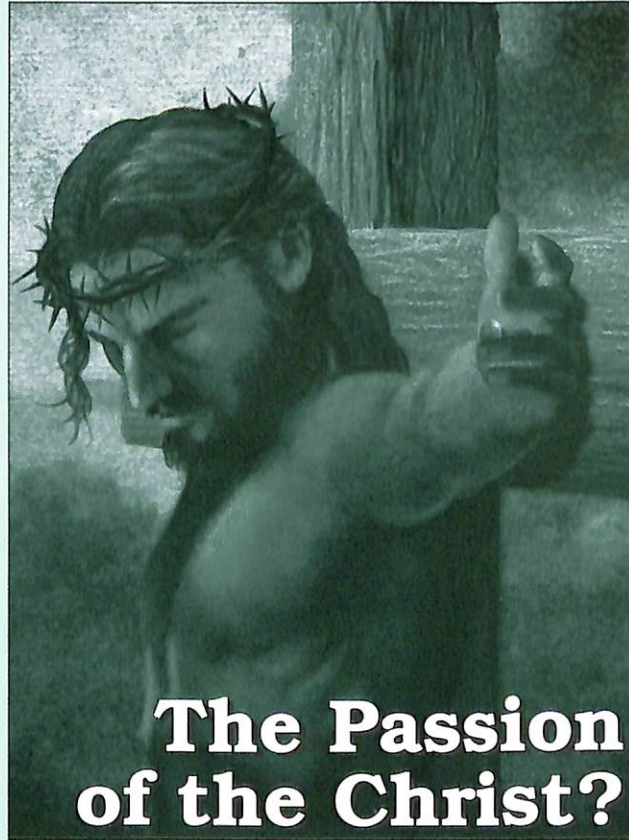
The Sabbath RECORDER

July-Aug. 2004

News for and about Seventh Day Baptists



Do we reflect



The Passion of the Christ?



2004

Youth Issue



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

Come to Conference!

August 1-7 in Buckhannon, West Virginia

•Need to register?

Check your May *SR* or go on-line at seventhdaybaptist.org

•Need directions?

Check page 26

•Need money?

Check with your rich uncle

•Need phone numbers?

WV Wesleyan College
Before Conference:

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During Conference:

(304) 473-8658 (college)

(304) 473-8702 (SDBs)

Host Committee Chair:

(304) 838-7212

SR's new look!

Unveiled last month for our 160th anniversary, the front cover sports a new masthead. It was designed by Milton, Wis., church member Ralph Hays.



Check out more of Ralph's award-winning graphic designs at www.geocities.com/lavelle55/promote-u.html

SCSC to celebrate anniversary at Conference

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Summer Christian Service Corps (SCSC) program.

At Conference in West Virginia, the Women's Society will host an *informal* social gathering one evening after the worship service. Anyone who has participated in the past dedicated service projects is welcome to attend. This includes the SCSCers, project directors, staff, or anyone who has helped to keep this service going through the years.

Please bring any pictures, old team letters, or scrapbooks you'd like to share at the gathering.

We've come a long way since our first teams in 1964. Come help us celebrate!

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:

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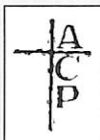


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*Looking at God's passion for us
and our passion to live for Him.*
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Passion for the Christ

by Jackie Cruzan
White Cloud, Mich.

As I sat in the movie theater, I wasn't sure what to expect. People had said so many different things about "The Passion of the Christ" that all I could do was lean back and watch.

I sat dumbfounded through the entire film because it looked so real. All the blood, all the pain, and all the persecution—this is what Jesus went through for *me*.

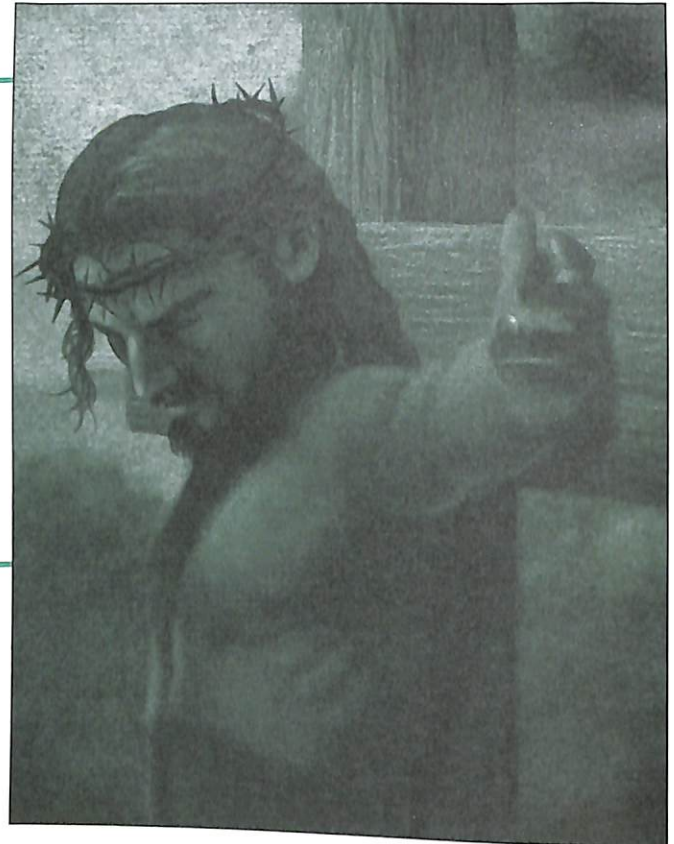
The most "real" part of the movie to me was when Jesus fell while carrying His cross. At my first year of Youth Pre-Con, we made crosses and carried them everywhere we went. I still remember how heavy mine was when we had to carry them by ourselves.

My experience at Pre-Con showed me that I had to pick up my cross and carry it for Jesus. But I never imagined what Christ really went through until I saw His suffering dramatized in this movie.

When the nails were driven through Jesus' hands, I had to turn away because the sound and sight made my heart ache.

Why did He do this for me? kept running through my mind.

I never imagined what Christ really went through until I saw His suffering dramatized in this movie.



ended, I stayed in my chair and cried. My body went numb as a jumble of feelings welled up in my heart. I had just witnessed Christ giving His life for me, a sinner.

As I exited the theater, many people leaving other movies were laughing and talking. I felt confused. I had

ed that God would work through me and forgive me for all of the pain I had caused Jesus. As soon as I finished, Psalm 118:8 popped into my head: "It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in man."

Since that day, I've tried to remember that having passion for the Lord means to trust in Him and to know that He loves me unconditionally. Christ died for me and *you*.

Having passion isn't just talking boldly *about* Christ; it's living boldly *for* Christ. Mel Gibson's movie changed my view on many things. I now know that pain is something that all of us have to endure in this world, but it's worth it because eternal life awaits those who believe. **SR**

Having passion isn't just talking boldly about Christ; it's living boldly for Christ.

Nothing you read about in the Bible compares to seeing it depicted on a movie theater wide-screen, enhanced with Surround Sound. Parts seemed almost unreal, but because He was the Christ, the suffering had to take place.

When "The Passion of the Christ"

just seen something horrific and true, and there they were, smiling and laughing. It showed me that people really are living just for themselves, and that Christ means very little to them.

I climbed into the van with everyone else and began praying. I pray-

Living for God

by Jessie Kandel
Alfred Station, N.Y.

Living for God means having a passion for Christ and making that passion part of your everyday life. But what is passion?

The halls of my high school overflow with passion. The week before prom, this passion is evident in every girl I pass. Senior Prom is the single most important event in many a girl's high school career.

Planning for prom starts the first day a girl enters high school. Most juniors already have magazine pictures of their favorite dresses, hairstyles, and potential dates (from back when we all loved *NSYNC).

By winter of senior year, the buying has begun. If you have never experienced a girl purchasing a prom dress, you are lucky. Not only must she be absolutely "in love" with the dress, she must also have the shoes, earrings, makeup, necklace, corsage, tiara, bracelets, nail polish, and date to match.



Living for God is living life passionately for Christ and allowing everything else to reflect that passion.

Once she owns that perfect dress, she begins her controlled eating and extreme exercising to fit into it. And this is only the beginning! Add to that the hair appointment, dinner, a limo (plus three other couples to fill the limo), pictures, and the post-prom party. The list goes on and on.

For at least three months, a young woman's life revolves around this one night. *That* is passion.

After hundreds of dollars and months of planning, the night quickly passes. The girl is left with a few good stories and a framed picture on a shelf. Her passion has produced little or nothing of lasting value.

What if this same passion had been applied to Christ? What if, instead of searching websites and bridal shops for the perfect dress, this girl had been searching the Scriptures?

What if, instead of trying to control her weight, she

had chosen to control her daily habits, her actions, her relationships?

What if, instead of searching for accessories to match her dress, she had worked to make every part of her life match the plan that God has for her?

This same girl would not have ended up with just a few pictures and an empty bank account. She would have had a passion for Christ.

Perhaps we can push this theory beyond one girl and apply it to other passions as well. How about the guy who wants to be a football star? He is constantly in weight training, practicing, and formulating plays in his head. Or how about the obsessive student who studies hours each night, reading far more than is required and memorizing the dictionary?

Then there is the loyal girlfriend—the one who dresses the way her boyfriend wants, calls him every night, and plans her life around his schedule.

I am not saying that prom, football, academics, or relationships are bad passions to have. But they should come second to a passion for Christ.

If Christ is your first passion, other activities and relationships in your life will only enhance your relationship with God. Living for God is living life passionately for Christ and allowing everything else to reflect that passion.

Live for Jesus and reflect Him! **SR**

Planning for prom starts the first day a girl enters high school.

Twitterpated*

by Josiah Thorngate
Boulder, Colo.

Have you ever had a passion for something, or someone? Something that you would give up anything for?

I have had a passion for basketball my whole life. But something has become more relevant to our age group: relationships with the opposite gender. Be careful—these connections can lead to passions for things of this world and not for the treasures that we can keep forever.

Two years ago, at Camp Joy in Berea, W.Va., I met a girl who immediately caught my interest. We hadn't met before, so I made a point of getting to know her by the end of the week. That entire week was glorious. The more I got to know her, the more I liked her.

However, this became a problem. I started having a stronger passion for her than I did for the camp—

a setting where I was to learn about Jesus Christ while fellowshiping with other Christians. I certainly didn't notice it then; I was too "twitterpated."

A lot of different reasons prompted me to move to Pennsylvania that year to live with my grandparents, and my new friend was one of them. We began dating by the end of the summer and actually put God at the center of our relationship. Or, we *thought* we had.

We considered doing a Bible study together, but that seemed like a waste of time when we could be talking on the phone about other things. So the Bible study never materialized.

After breaking up, I realized that I had been spending too much time trying to make everything in our

relationship "perfect" because I wanted it to last forever. God put me in my place on that one. I'd had too much passion for the relationship, and not for the girl and our joint relationship with God.

I'd had too much passion for the relationship, and not for the girl and our joint relationship with God.

I was given another chance with this relationship, and I have praised God every single day for His passion for me and His compassion on my human errors.

This girl and I are no longer "a couple," but she is now one of my best friends; someone I will always be able to go to for help. The important point is not whether we are together, but that we now have a lasting relationship through Jesus Christ.

I finally have passions that are worth keeping. I have a passion for relationships with others that go beyond this world, and a passion for my God. He may have had to "smack" me a few times for me to get the picture, but it worked. I am now a witness to His passion for us.

Take a step back and look at your life. Pick out any areas that you think are inducing a passion that doesn't seem to glorify God.

After you find them, look for a way to turn them into a witness of God's love, or just get rid of them! It might be hard to do, but I guarantee it is more than worth it, especially when God is there to help. **SR**



I had been spending too much time trying to make everything in our relationship "perfect" because I wanted it to last forever.

*The giddy, excited feeling you get when you think about or see the object of your affection.

Dancing with passion

by Sarah Tyson
Bay Area, Calif.

Passion flows in each and every person.

A passion that has consumed my mind, heart, and body is dance. My passion for dance flows and moves me. It's amazing to hear a song and immediately imagine a magnificent dance. It just all "happens"; no thought is needed.

There are so many things that dance has given me, but nothing comes without a price.

Picture yourself in a room filled with slender, graceful, and "perfect" girls. Every time you look at the mirrored wall, you see all of them. Then you notice one who doesn't quite fit in; one who looks larger, shorter, whatever. The heartbreaking reality is that she's *not* like the rest of them.

I spent so many nights upset with myself for not being like the others—skinny and beautiful. I wanted to have an eating disorder just so I could fit in with the rest of the dancers. But in good time, the Lord let people into my heart who showed me that dancing isn't about being the best or the most beautiful.

Shely, the owner of the dance studio, taught me many things that reflected that philosophy. Once I learned to put my thoughts of insecurity behind me, she let my knowledge and

passion for dance shine through me. This has taught me obedience, endurance, and how to achieve a different, deeper level of concentration.

Dance has carried me farther than any other sport I've ever participated

60s. I have learned much just by being around this environment.

Self-respect is a hard thing to find in a society where you're made to believe that you have to "fix" every flaw and get rid of any physical im-

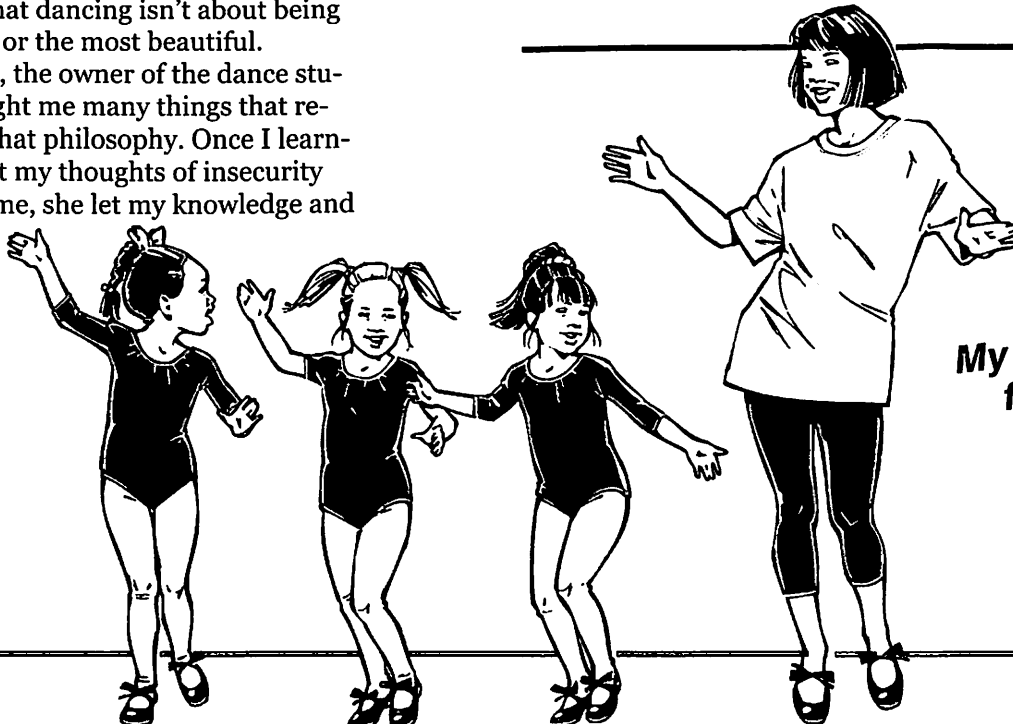
***The Lord
has gifted all
of us with a passion.
Whatever that "fire" may
be, we have it for a reason.***

in. I have crossed the country participating in competitions and meeting amazing people.

Now that other things are consuming more of my time, dance is becoming a smaller part of my life. Still, I love every moment in the studio, whether I'm working as an assistant, teaching children from ages 3 to 6, or instructing adults in their late 30s to

perfections. My passion for dance has taught me to respect my body as I use it as an instrument.

The Lord has gifted all of us with a passion. Whatever that "fire" may be, we have it for a reason, and we can—and should—use it in many different ways. Perhaps that passion will help change the world. Use it to show your thankfulness to the Lord. **SR**



***My passion
for dance flows
and moves me.***

So live!

by Mayola Warner

Do you remember those days when you were so anxious to “grow up”? I do.

When I *finally* reached my teens, I was appalled at the off-handed expression of a man who was trying to describe someone. He said, “Oh, they’re probably 12 or 14 years old.”

How could he possibly put those two numbers together? I thought. There’s a *huge* difference between 12 and 14!

Ah, life... time... It certainly moves on, doesn’t it? Infancy, childhood, youth, school days, love and marriage, family, work, more work, so much to do, more to do, ups and downs. Yet Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 says, “There’s a time for everything!”

When I was a teenager, my Mom said something to me that has been like a “life compass” ever since. She pointed out the worn terraces on our neighbor’s hilly pastureland and quoted a line from the picturesque writings of William Cullen Bryant.

“See,” she said, “those hills rock-ribbed and ancient as the sun?”

In that way, she introduced me to the beautiful poem, “Thanatopsis,” in which Bryant describes the wonder and beauty of the earth. In one sense, the world is a beautiful sepulcher [burial vault] for all people of all times. A place where one day all will rest—the rich and the poor, kings and slaves, old and young, Hollywood

stars and homeless people alike.

Then Bryant writes, “so live!”

Yes! “Carpe Diem!” “Seize the day!”

John Eldridge’s recent book, *Waking the Dead*, urges us to live the abundant life that Jesus came to give us. And, best of all, God tells us that He has a plan for each one of us, on a day-by-day basis.

Jeremiah 29:11-14 spells that out in no uncertain terms:

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come

and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you,’ declares the LORD.”

We would all do well if we would do more than—

Exist... *Live!*
 Touch... *Feel!*
 Look... *Observe!*
 Read... *Absorb!*
 Hear... *Listen!*

Yes, so live! **SR**

Mayola Warner is a deaconess at the Verona, N.Y., SDB Church.

Live the abundant life that Jesus came to give us. God tells us that He has a plan for each one of us, on a day-by-day basis.



Trading places / ʒəʊslq pɹɪbzɪT

by George Lawson

(This message was adapted from a sermon given by Ed Young, Senior Pastor of Fellowship Church in Grapevine, Texas, www.fellowshipchurch.com.)

We humans just love to trade things—cars, clothes, land, jokes. (For some reason, nobody will trade me for my George jokes!)

Sometimes we make good trades, sometimes not-so-good trades. But we always try to “trade up” to something better.

Many of us are still reaping the benefits of good trades and paying the consequences of trades that weren’t so good.

Speaking of trading, have you checked out the television series, “Trading Spaces”? It’s one of the most popular cable shows ever. The elements include a designer, “ordinary” people, a carpenter, and a budget. One couple trades spaces with another couple, and the designers, carpenters, and couples set out to redecorate each other’s rooms.

At the end of each makeover, the entire television audience watches as the couples move back into their original rooms and the “reveal” takes place. Sometimes the reactions are, “Oh my goodness!” Other times, people break out in tears. “Oh... my... goodness!”

When I first heard about the show, I thought that “trading spaces” was a unique idea. But after reflecting on the Resurrection, I changed my mind. “Trading spaces” was originally invented by God.

The original trade

The first trading spaces program premiered on a hill just outside Jerusalem. It was there that Jesus left his place and took up our place—on the cross.

Right up front, we have to understand that God is the Master Designer. He has drawn a perfect set of plans for all of us.

Every time you plan something, you have to have a purpose behind your plan. So what’s the motivation behind God’s plan?

He made us because of His irrational, unfathomable love. Love has to have an object. The Bible says that we are the objects of God’s love. That’s why He designed us; that’s why He made us.

God not only drew the plans, He also built the structure. After God had made everything else (Genesis 1), He said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

We have value, and sin

Let’s face it. Man is God’s MVP, His most valuable possession. We matter to God, but we have a problem. Our sin has trashed God’s design for us. Romans 3:23 says, “For all have sinned; everyone falls short of God’s glorious standard.”

God’s standards are perfect, but we are not. We miss the mark. We make bad choices and decisions, and commit sin day in and day out. And sin devastates. Sin demolishes. Sin destroys God’s ultimate design.

We have this tendency as human beings to look within ourselves for the answers to life’s problems. Sadly, I often look to George for my meaning and purpose. That’s what we all try to do. God does leave that option open for us. He says that if we live *perfect* lives, if we reflect righteousness 100% of the time, we can get to heaven.

If you study the major world reli-

gions other than Christianity, you’ll see that, basically, they are huge “human construction plans” reaching up to God. They all say that a man can look within himself and eventually build a structure that pleases God.

But how can we build a flawless structure with flawed materials? We can’t. God says that the moment we have one speck of sawdust in our structure, the moment we have one nick in the molding, the moment the bricks aren’t totally set perfect, then our human construction plan isn’t going to get us where we want to go.

Proverbs 14:12 says, “There is a way that seems right to man, but in the end it leads to death.”

God could have said, “Well, you know, I designed the perfect set of plans. I created the perfect structures. I built ’em, and you guys blew it. You destroyed it all, because you chose to rebel against me.”

Presenting the new plan

God could have left us to perish in our own misery, but He didn’t. Do you know what God *did* do? He presented us with a new plan way back in the beginning, and He challenges us to follow His plan today.

Genesis 3:15: says, “...you and the woman will be enemies, and your offspring and her offspring will be enemies. He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”

Here’s what God did: He had His Son, Jesus Christ, leave his place in order to take *our* place on the cross. And Jesus, by his death, burial, and resurrection, offers us his perfect life in place of ours. “The wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Romans 6:23).

It’s impossible to build a bridge from man to God, but God has already done the work for us. He

commissioned the Carpenter to do the work, to build that bridge. It's all about the Carpenter—and that's the Good News of the resurrection! Jesus gives us the power to have victory over sin and the grave.

In Romans 5:6, the Bible says this: "When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners."

Think about *God's* version of "Trading Spaces." You have the Designer; that's God. You also have the people—you and me. And you have the Carpenter, Jesus. And the cost? The precious blood of Jesus, shed voluntarily for my sins and yours.

What are you worth?

There's another factor to trading.

All four of my kids started collecting sports cards at an early age. They loved sorting them, cataloging them, and trading them. Unfortunately, they made some bad trades, often with each other. I would inevitably have to take one or more of my children aside and remind them that all of the cards have different values.

But that really didn't help. They were constantly asking me how much each card was worth! I tried to explain that something is only worth what someone will pay for it. Eventually, they got a Beckett book that tells the value of each card.

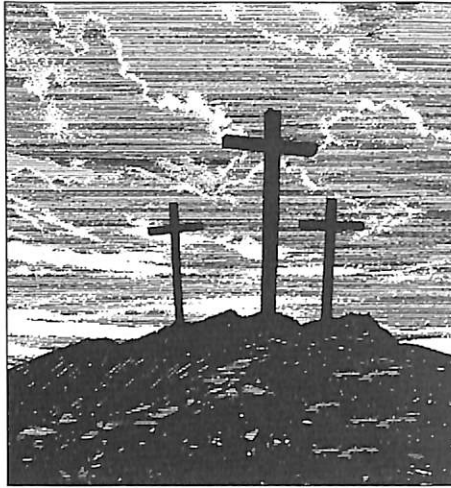
How much are *you* worth? How much am *I* worth? We, too, are worth as much as someone is willing to pay for us. And the Bible, not the Beckett book, says that you and I are worth the very blood of Jesus.

Jesus loved us so much that He died on the cross and rose again. If we accept that, we become new people. We have a purpose for living; we have victory over sin. We can know that our home—our "space" in heaven—is secure.

The perfect trade

But that's only half of it. Not only did Christ die on the cross for our sins; he lived a perfectly righteous life.

Jesus was 100% righteous. He met God's standard. If he had been only



The first trading spaces program premiered on a hill just outside Jerusalem.

75% righteous, he would not have met God's standard. Even if he had been 99.7% righteous, he still wouldn't have met God's standard.

Jesus was 100% righteous. And this is what Christ's death, burial, and resurrection is all about. On the cross, God treated sinless Jesus as if he were you or me. He did that so that He could turn around and treat us as if we were Jesus.

2 Corinthians 5:21 says it this way: "For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ."

Through His Son, we become 100% righteous before God. The resurrection gives ordinary, non-perfect people like you and me the opportunity to have victory over sin and the grave.

Do you know what happens the moment we say, "God, forgive me for the mess I've made of my life"? The moment we realize we can't possibly fix it on our own—the moment we abandon our own construction plan and say, "Jesus Christ, come into my life, I want to follow you"—a trading of spaces takes place.

I can trade my failures for forgiveness. I trade my guilt for God's grace. I trade my sin for a Savior. Now,

when God looks at you and me, He doesn't see George, the sinner. Or you, the sinner. He sees the righteousness of Christ.

What's your plan?

I have a simple question for you: What plan are *you* on?

Are you on the impossible human construction plan, trying to build your way to God? Or have you put down your tools and said, "God, I want to go with Your *grace* construction plan"?

In Revelation 3:20, Jesus says, "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in."

Christ wants to enter our lives and repair them. But here's the deal—*we control the doorknob*. We have a choice.

I challenge you to open the door of your life and let Christ in. Once he enters your heart, he can take a life that's messed up, a life that's full of "trash" and turn it into something beautiful.

God may be calling you to trust in Christ; not just believe in him, but trust your very being to him. His death and resurrection were for you.

The Bible says, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts." But how do we know if we're hearing God's voice?

As a youngster on my grandfather's farm, I would often fly a homemade kite with what seemed like an endless supply of string. I would let it out as far as I could; so far, in fact, that I couldn't even see the kite. But I knew it was there because I could still feel it tugging on the line.

When you hear God's voice, you'll know it, because He's pulling on the "strings" of your heart. When you experience a tugging of your heart-strings, please don't allow the moment to go by without saying "Yes!" to Jesus. **SR**

George Lawson is Director of Student Ministries at the Riverside, Calif., SDB Church.

Quilt 'on the block' again

by Chuck and Lorna Graffius

At our 1987 General Conference in Lindsborg, Kan., I was asked to teach a Bible study on, "What I Am in Christ."

The Holy Spirit brought to my mind things like "I am chosen" (Eph. 1:4), "I am adopted" (Eph. 1:5), "I am accepted" (Eph. 1:6). All of the things that I am "in Christ" began to be overwhelm me.

I selected 20 Bible references while realizing that there were many more. The big question was, *How can I make these verses come alive in the minds of the audience?*

Then it happened!

God's light showed me the "Confidence Quilt."

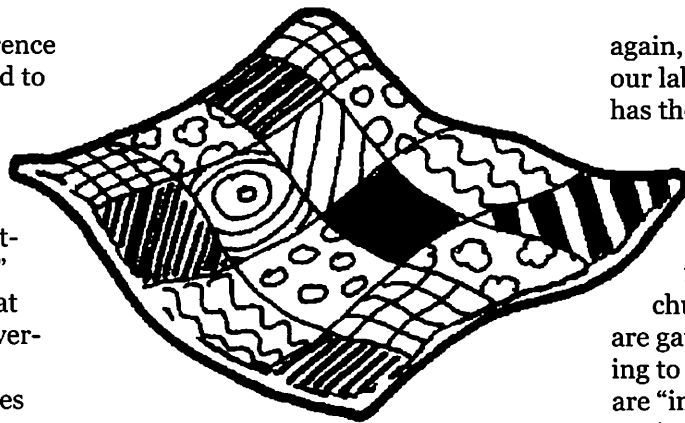
Yes! I thought. *Describe to the people a Confidence Quilt.* Jolt their imaginations, so that they can see their inheritance (Rom. 8:17) in the squares of the quilt; that they are holy and perfect (Heb. 10:14); that they are sealed by the Holy Spirit (Eph. 1:12); and that they have been given wisdom (Eph. 1:17).

Conference came, and I knew—because of Heb. 13:20—that I was equipped. The righteousness of God was in me (Phil. 3:9). I was confident that morning as I described God's Confidence Quilt and told of all of the things that we are in Christ.

God gave the vision of the Confidence Quilt to many that day, especially to the ladies. To help remind them of that message, God inspired them to make a *real* Confidence Quilt—one that we could see, and touch, and remember who we are in Christ.

Lorna reports:

During the Women's Interest Committee meeting that week, the SDB ladies agreed to make a Confi-



dence Quilt. The *Sabbath Recorder* carried a message about the quilting plans, plus each church received a similar notice.

June Johnson and I received the lovely blocks the following spring. The Johnsons and Norths arrived at my home in Dodge Center, Minn., ready for the next phase.

Shirley Stoeckel [a member at Dodge Center] was at the sewing machine, squaring and making the blocks all the same size. The rest of us pinned and cut the strips, finishing the top of the quilt in a day and a half.

With the help of our husbands, we hung the top from the drapes in a big window so we could take pictures. It was beautiful, and the Lord had accomplished His purpose.

Our project then went to Milton, Wis., where the ladies soon had it on quilting frames. They provided the "bat" and designed the pattern. Lucille Todd volunteered the group, and many gave of their time.

Within a few days, the quilt was returned to Dodge Center, where our local "quilting lady" used a machine to finish the edges.

What a joy it was to see the beautiful pieces—and the beautiful ladies who assembled the quilt!

The next year at Salem (W.Va.) College, it was Conference time

again, and there was the fruit of our labor. And, now, Pastor Chuck has the...

...Rest of the story

"It's beautiful!" I exclaimed as I saw the quilt for the first time. People and churches from across the country are gathered in this one quilt, shouting to all just exactly what we really are "in Christ." What a tremendous testimony!

Hmmm... Would it be possible that I could somehow have this quilt for my very own?

A fund-raiser?! They're going to sell it! My hopes were gone. No way could I bid enough to own this masterpiece. *But, then, it is a confidence quilt*, I thought. The still, small voice said, "My riches are everywhere; go for it."

After considerable soliciting, I received enough pledges to SCSC [Summer Christian Service Corps] to be the highest bidder and the very proud owner.

I was overwhelmed and thankful, and more confident than ever. I realized that I may be nothing to this world, but "in Christ," I am truly blessed.

God gave us the precious Confidence Quilt, and we wanted to share it, and our story, with you.

For sale again

We have given the quilt to the Women's Board to resell, with SCSC repeating as the beneficiary. It will be displayed at Conference in wild, wonderful West Virginia this summer.

In 1988, Pastor Chuck received gifts (made payable to SCSC) in the amount of \$1,500. Some individual or church should top this in 2004.

Where will the quilt hang next? In *your* home or church? **SR**

Exploring the Sabbath

by Linda Greene

This is the third in a series of Sabbath articles by Linda. Her study will look at most of the Scriptural references for the Sabbath, providing insights and challenging questions for our personal Sabbath observance. These shortened studies will appear in their entirety in a future booklet.—Editor

Exodus 20:8-11

Continuing our Sabbath study from last month, we now come to what is probably the most quoted Scripture regarding Sabbathkeeping—found in the Ten Commandments.

In re-reading the entire passage, these words from verse 2 struck me: “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.”

God started out by referring to Himself as the One who delivered the Children of Israel from slavery in Egypt. In Scripture, He often introduces Himself to the Israelites this way.

God knew that this identity would be the most meaningful for the Israelites to connect with. It is the role that I believe most accurately encompasses His character as revealed in the Old and New Testaments—our Deliverer and Redeemer.

God goes on to give the Ten Commandments, dividing them into two sections. The first governs our relationship with God, while the second governs our relationships with each other.

“Protected time”

The Sabbath commandment appears at the junction between these two divisions, and not by accident. Sabbath provides “protected time” every week, time to be used for com-

munion not only with God, but also with fellow believers at church and with family members at home.

Over and over, we hear family experts emphasize the importance of “quality time” spent together, communicating about the circumstances of our lives. Sabbath provides a wonderful opportunity for this important family time to take place.

When God comes to the Fourth Commandment, He starts out by

I am—your Creator, Deliverer, and Provider.”

God goes on to say that this “remembering” is done to commemorate Creation and the fact that all life—everything on earth—came from, and continues to come from, God.

Remember, and rest

Do the things we do on Sabbath cause us to forget that it’s Sabbath? Do they detract from our awareness of “blessed and holy time?” Do they

Do the things we do on Sabbath detract from our awareness of “blessed and holy time?” Do they take our attention off God and His role in our lives?

telling us to “remember.” Do you think He knew, even back then, that the Sabbath truth would be lost to the majority of Christendom for such a long period of time?

God doesn’t introduce the other nine commandments with “remember,” only the Sabbath. He knows our nature and that we tend to be forgetful. So whenever God says, “remember” in the Scriptures, we need to pay close attention to what’s coming next; it will be something that we’re inclined to lose track of.

“Remember the Sabbath by keeping it holy.” What would the Israelites be remembering? It would have to be what had taken place up to this time regarding Sabbath—the time of their own creation, God’s hand in their deliverance from slavery, and His provision for them in the Wilderness. “Remember who

take our attention off God and His role in our lives?

If so, then they have to go, because those are some of the reasons God gave us Sabbath in the first place. However, if our activities cause us to focus on and be reminded of God and who He is, then they are in line with Sabbath’s purpose.

God commanded us to rest from all our labors on Sabbath. What was His purpose in mandating that? His motive couldn’t have been only to provide physical rest, although that’s definitely part of it.

Jesus said in Matthew 12 that the priests labored on Sabbath by making sacrifices in the temple, and he implied that they were not desecrating the Sabbath by doing so. And it’s not just religious activity that’s okay; otherwise, rescuing sheep from a pit on Sabbath would

cont. on page 21



To reach her highest potential

"Purpose—to strengthen each woman to reach her highest potential as a Christian person..."

Does the above sound familiar? It should, for it is a sentence from the statement of purposes of our Women's Society.

The message is loaded with meaning and responsibility for each of us: *to strengthen... to reach... highest potential*. This is an overwhelming idea, but without this purpose, we are not subscribing to what we say we believe.

We are indeed out on the "firing line" when we hear expressions of disappointment from those around us regarding the spiritual life. "There is something wrong with me. I just don't get anything out of reading the Bible, and when I pray, I don't feel as if anyone is listening."

There are many "church people" who do not openly express this feeling, but it is a real factor in the lives of some of them. There is a lack of spirit in their participation in worship, a lack of "fire" in the Christian witness. Summed up in essence, a lack of faith!

Part of our problem is that we are an "instant"-oriented generation. We have instant communication, instant replay, instant onions and potatoes (add milk or water, and in 20 seconds you have something that looks like the "real" thing.)

We attend worship services, sit passively and wait for the Spirit to come, but we find that there is no such thing as "instant faith." Faith is developed through experience,



meditation, reading, and worship. It is not inherited from our parents, nor is it siphoned off from another person. It must be *grown!*

A certainty of life, amid myriad uncertainties, is that we must be *active* in developing our relationship with the Holy Spirit and prepare ourselves for becoming a "fit dwelling place."

What do we do when we have a friend or acquaintance who "doesn't feel anything" when reading the Bible or praying? We go back in our minds to research what we have learned:

"Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen..."

"By faith we understand that the world was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was made out of things which do not appear..."

Recently, I heard a speaker describe it this way: "Faith is the safety

net which gives us confidence, the trapeze we let go of to grasp another..."

Helping to strengthen, to reach her highest potential must certainly begin by helping that person to build a strong faith.

Christian love can bring about the nurture of faith, the planting, the cultivating, and the growth. To be involved in the life of one who "feels nothing" is to honestly care; to desire for that person the joy and peace which comes through union with the Holy Spirit.

Such caring cannot be simulated. It must be the real thing. When we are really concerned and "caring," we can lift that person up to God in our prayers. Then things will begin happen-

ing that will show the Spirit at work. (Perhaps the biggest change will be in our own attitude toward the one for whom we are concerned.)

From this point on, without pressure and with gentle caring, we can establish a partnership, a true friendship, where things of the Spirit are shared. To read and study the Bible, to discuss the wonder of God's love for all His children (all the while supplying the love of Christ, which is a real agape experience), is to open a new world for both yourself and your friend. There is real skill and patience to be learned while you work with Him by your side.

It's the growing season! **SR**

This article by Madeline Fitz Randolph appeared in the April, 1979 SR.



Preserving a precious heritage

While walking down Barney Street in Newport, R.I., 75 years ago, Mrs. R. Sherman Elliott noticed a small structure attached to the rear of the Newport Historical Society's main building. It seemed to stand out from all the other structures. She wrote:

"To the ordinary passer by, there is nothing more to see, but the curiosity of the lover of old Newport is naturally aroused by the hood that

hangs over the doorway to this little structure. Instead of walking around to the main entrance as the usual visitor would, let us peak through one of the windows.

"The first thing that attracts the eye is the pulpit, with the beautifully carved stairway leading to it. This must be a church or meeting house of some kind, although there is no indication of pews or slips, but rows of snowy white chairs.

"Attached to the wall and on the right of the pulpit is a bronze table on which is inscribed:

TO THE MEMORY OF

Wm. Hiscox, Stephen Mumford, Samuel Hubbard, Roger Baster, Sister Hubbard, Sister Mumford, Sister Rachel Langworthy, &c, who for greater freedom in the exercise of religious faith in the observance of God's Holy Sabbath—the Seventh day of the week—reluctantly severed their connection with the parent church, the first Baptist church of Newport; and "ENTERED INTO A CHURCH COVT. THE 23 DAY DEC. 1671" (OLD STYLE;—JANUARY 3, 1672 NEW STYLE), THEREBY ESTABLISHING THE SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST CHURCH OF NEWPORT, THE FIRST CHURCH OF THAT FAITH IN THE NEW WORLD IT WAS SOMETIMES CALLED THE THIRD BAPTIST CHURCH OF NEWPORT AND WAS THE SEVENTH BAPTIST CHURCH TO BE ORGANIZED IN AMERICA.

This house of worship was erected in 1729 under the direction of Jonathan Weeden and Henry Collins.

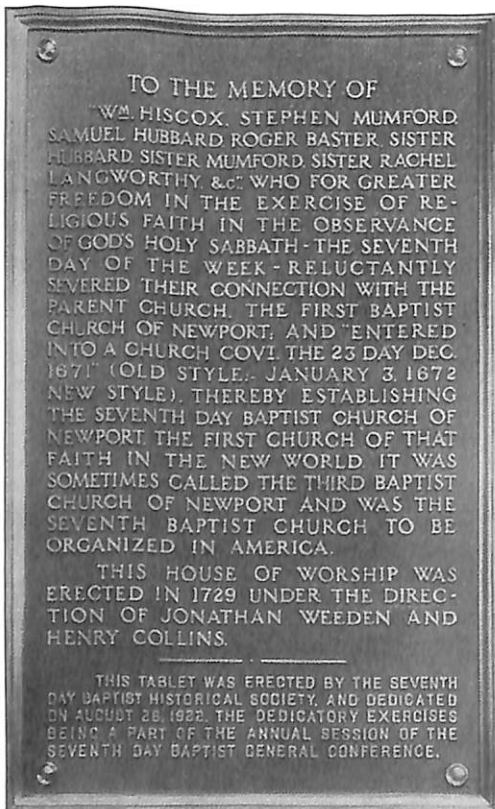
***This church
not only served
Seventh Day
Baptists; it displayed
a pattern of
ecumenicity.***

"This then must be the Seventh Day Baptist Meeting House, which this year, 1929, celebrates its two hundredth holiday. How could it have looked when it was new? Were there any pews in it, and if so how many; where was its original site; who was the builder; and what has taken place within its walls during these years? These are the thoughts that pass through our minds as we gaze from our perch by the window."¹

Now, 75 years later, we can answer some of Mrs. Elliott's questions by visiting that first stop on the Newport Historical Society's tour of historic Newport.

Our archives at the Seventh Day Baptist Historical Society here in Janesville, Wis.—on Kennedy Road between Newport and Plainfield Avenues—houses the original deed for its first location on Barney Street. We also have old pictures that show the box pews that used to occupy the main floor and the balcony.

The minutes of the church show that on November 9, 1729, it was voted that "Jonathan Weeden and Henry Collins be appointed a committee to undertake the whole affair of erecting said house and to raise the money by subscription, that



The inscription next to the pulpit at the Newport, R.I., SDB Meeting House.

a meeting house be built 36 feet in length and 26 feet in breadth.”

It was also voted to authorize these two men to sell the old meeting house built in 1707, presumably at the corner of Barney and Spring Streets. It is speculated that previous to this first building, the congregation may have met in the chapel at Green End. That building was jointly owned and maintained by several Baptist churches for baptismal services in the bay.

The new building was dedicated in 1730 and served the congregation for over 100 years. This church not only served Seventh Day Baptists; it displayed a pattern of ecumenicity. John Callendar, pastor of the First Baptist Church, wrote, “While our church is erecting a new and more convenient meeting house, we are kindly favored with the use of that belonging to the Sabbatarian Church.”

During the Revolutionary War, the British army occupied several of the other churches in town, using them as hospitals or barracks. Ezra Stiles, who later became president of Yale College, wrote in his diary:

“October 1, 1780. Attended & heard Mr. Hopkins in the Sabbatarian Baptist Meeting, who administered the Sacrament to about 30 Communicants.”

(Mr. Hopkins was pastor of the First Congregational Church.)

The following week, Stiles added, “I preached in the Sabbatarian Meeting to my dear Newport flock, my meeting house and three others taken up for hospitals.”²

We can speculate that the presence of the two tablets containing the Ten Commandments over the pulpit—or possibly that the decoration on the underside of the pulpit sounding board resembled the British Union Jack—may have spared the Meeting House from desecration.

In 1840, the Fourth Baptist Church rented the Sabbatarian Meeting

House for a short while. It was during this time that the “quaint little box pews” were made into larger pews or “slips.” From 1864 to 1869, the Shiloh Baptists used the meeting house. Supports were placed under the balcony, possibly to compensate for a more lively style of worship by the black congregation.

By 1872, when the Newport church officially disbanded, the Meeting House had fallen into considerable disrepair. However, in 1884, the

Recognizing the importance of this historic landmark to Seventh Day Baptists, our SDB Historical Society has already sent \$10,750 to cover the estimated cost of prepping and painting the interior. The Society’s Board of Directors voted to challenge others to contribute toward the \$5,200 needed to repair the plaster vaulted ceiling.

Here’s some incentive: A reprinting of the *Newport Seventh Day*

The Newport Historical Society was looking for a place to hold its meetings and exhibit a few relics. The old Meeting House seemed a logical solution, thus preserving one of the most historic sites in the city while serving the Society’s needs.

Newport Historical Society was looking for a place to hold its meetings and exhibit a few relics. The old Meeting House seemed a logical solution, thus preserving one of the most historic sites in the city while serving the Society’s needs. Considerable repair was made and the building was moved to a more suitable location.

In 1993, a thorough “Historic and Architectural Analysis of Building Condition and Assessment” was prepared by Preservation Cooperative, Ltd., to determine how to preserve what is now considered an architectural gem of the age.

The projected cost of the renovations was \$75,600. A grant of \$23,000 was recently received from the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission to begin the much-needed work, leaving \$52,600 from matching funds.

Baptist Trilogy, compiled by my wife, Ilou, and I, has been ordered from Heritage Books Inc. This 107-page paperback includes not only the history of the Newport church, but also of the three generations of the descendants of the most prominent founding family, Samuel and Tacy Hubbard.

A complimentary copy of *Trilogy* will be sent upon request to anyone contributing \$30 or more toward the Newport restoration. Donations may be sent to:

SDB Historical Society
PO Box 1678
Janesville WI 53547-1678 **SR**

¹*Mrs. Sherman Elliott, Newport History—Bulletin of the Newport Historical Society, no. 158, Spring 1975, Vol. 48, Part 2, p. 265.*

²*Ibid, p. 274.*



Answering some “age-old” Conference conundrums

General Conference is a time when you can enjoy connecting and reconnecting with brothers and sisters in Christ who have, or will, become friends and extended family. It is also a time when Seventh Day Baptists gather to discern God’s direction and plan for our united work in the world.

In the midst of interest committees, business sessions, and board and agency reports, there are Bible studies, worship services, and opportunities to pray, share with, and learn from others.

Along with the Conference program scheduled for adults, there are programs and opportunities for children, youth, and young adults.

Children and Youth Conferences

Morning and afternoon activities are planned for pre-school through high school students. The Board of Christian Education divides these students into Conferences based on the child’s completed grade.

Although the division between classes occasionally has to be changed (based on attendance at a particular Conference session), the determining factor for inclusion in a certain class is the most recently completed grade. In general, our division is:

- Pre-School: 4 and 5-year-olds who have not attended kindergarten

- K-1: Completed kindergarten or 1st grade
- Primary: Completed 2nd or 3rd grades
- Junior: Completed 4th, 5th, or 6th grades
- Junior High: Completed 7th or 8th grades (optional for 9th graders)
- Senior High: Completed 9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th grades

Please note these additional policies:

- Only children participating in morning Children Conferences will be able to participate in afternoon recreation.

- Afternoon recreation involving off-campus activities will include children kindergarten through 6th grade. A separate recreation time for pre-schoolers will be offered on campus. If a parent wants the pre-schooler to participate in the off-campus activity, a parent or designated adult (other than the recreation staff) must accompany the child.

When state law requires a child seat for the transportation of a child, a parent or designated adult must provide transportation for that child and stay with them for the duration of the activity.

Youth Fellowship

The Seventh Day Baptist Youth Fellowship of USA and Canada organizes most of the evening youth activities. Inclusion in Youth Fellow-

ship activities is determined by age.

While the Board of Christian Education supervises and supports this group, the Youth Fellowship has its own constitutional organization. By the rules established in this constitution, voting members of the Youth Fellowship are SDB youth, ages 12-19. Only voting members of the YF can participate in the evening activities.

Sample situations

The following common and not-so-common examples help illustrate how these inclusion standards apply:

If you are 11 and have completed 8th grade, you are in the Junior High Associated Conference but are not eligible for Youth Fellowship activities. If you are 12 and have completed 6th grade, you are in the Junior Associated Conference and may attend Youth Fellowship activities.

Business sessions

Finally, to all those children and youth who want to attend the business and committee meetings of the General Conference: If you are so inclined, attend these meetings (with your sponsor’s permission).

If a member church of the Conference appointed you as a delegate, you may vote at these meetings. Should you choose to attend the business sessions, you will usually be able to find someone at the meeting willing to help you understand the process and its significance. *SR*



FOCUS on Missions

Guyana's always changing scene

by Kirk Looper

While visiting the Guyana Seventh Day Baptist Conference in South America this spring, we witnessed many changes.

Accompanied by Joe Samuels, President of World Federation, we visited the work on the church and property in Kitty, Georgetown, and at Camp Glory on the highway between Georgetown and Linden.

On March 12, we toured the General Conference Center at Kitty. We were impressed, both with the work that had been done and with the vision of its completion.

Our brethren there are having difficulty receiving supplies because the government had undertaken a large construction project demanding many materials.

One of our mission volunteers, Val Bennett, thought that the shortage occurred when they couldn't get enough lumber and cement to relieve the pressure of so many demands.

They began to bring in building materials from other areas and countries. However, while the shortage existed, the cost of the supplies rose rapidly. The concrete companies could not guarantee delivery dates to the work places because the providers would allow very little to leave their warehouses. As a result, the roof on the extension to the church building was at a standstill.

While investigating the old Conference building, looking for weak

spots caused by termites and rot, Brother Val determined that much of the structure was beyond repair. This required extensive repairs and redevelopment of weight-bearing walls. The walls must be torn down and rebuilt.

Two or three pastors are also working on the Center. Pastor Cliff

***We appreciate
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beds, bedding, and
building repairs.***

Evans is the contractor for the project and is doing a great job. And we certainly appreciate all that Val is doing to help with the project.

About 20 percent of the repairs and new construction still need to be completed. We have spent over \$75,000 on the compound of the Conference Center. This includes repairs and modifications to the manse as well as work on the church and fence. The good lumber removed

from the church was taken to Camp Glory to be used in the construction there. The extra cement blocks will also be used at the camp.

Camp Glory continues to be a new field for the Guyana Conference. They have finally found someone—Pastor Sherlock Caesar—to reside on the compound and be the property's caretaker. He will be a watchman as well as work the land.

Previously, whole pineapple crops were stolen and coconut trees were burned, probably on purpose. Their bee project is gone, and the two remaining hives are now located off the premises.

Pastor Sherlock has planted cherry trees, pineapples, corn, and squash on the property, and is in the process of clearing and redeveloping the land for agricultural purposes. The government gave land to the Conference on the condition that they develop it for agriculture.

The camping program at Camp Glory continues to be a limited endeavor, but they are looking forward to a successful summer camp season. The building program planned for earlier this year has been put on hold as workers continue to have trouble completing the Conference Center in Kitty. I would expect them to be ready to try again this fall.

We appreciate the work and energy that the youth in the United States expended to provide funds to help with the camp in the form of beds, bedding, and building repairs. With the youth's help, we were able to send several thousand dollars to support their camping program.

We look forward to the day they complete the project and are able to house all of the youth attending camp. Please pray for them as they continue to work to get funds to help them complete their camp. **SR**



Work is progressing on the Kitty SDB Church in Guyana, South America.



the BEACON

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

July-Aug. 2004

So you want to go to college?

by Jonathan Somers

When my favorite little sister asked me to write an article for this year's youth issue, at first I didn't think I was qualified. Since I've been a young adult for a few years now and will soon be a senior in college, I was worried that I might have lost touch with my youthful brethren (and sister... en).

I've heard that there are quite a few youth stepping into college this fall, so I felt that a little advice might be helpful.

As a student who has taken classes in almost every subject, and has switched majors from computer science and engineering to history, I've learned the hard way how to adjust to the rigors of the college experience.

Below are a few quick and easy tips for all you college-bound youth. Hopefully, you won't hit the same speed bumps that I ran over in *my* early years!

- First and foremost, **Take your Time.**

College is a long process, and your first couple of years are really about finding your niche and getting used to a new system. It's very easy to try and rush things your first year by making a four-year plan and loading up on difficult classes. Resist this urge at all costs!

Take things slowly your first year, especially your first quarter.

If you can afford it—and your parents will let you—take one less class than normal. College is different than high school, and it's better to ease your way into things than to jump in head-first.

- Secondly, **Take it Easy.**

Look for classes that you think would be interesting or easy or have good professors. Don't worry if it's completely unrelated to your field of study; credits from any class count towards graduation.

One of the best classes I ever took was Botany 11, Plants and Human Affairs. The professor was one of the nicest I've ever had, lectures included guest

speakers who talked about all kinds of topics, and the only assignment I can remember was a five-page paper about eggplants. Will I ever use the information from that class? Well, ask me about eggplant some time!

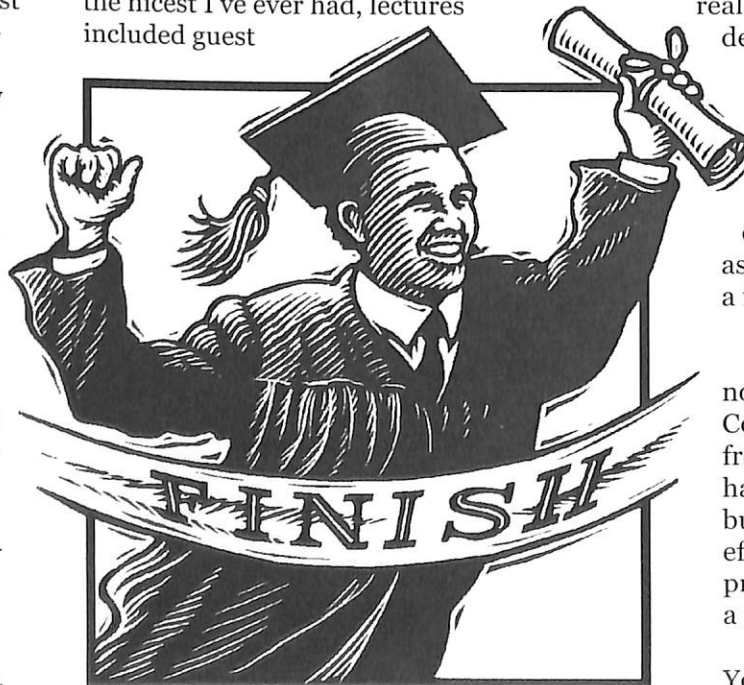
- Which brings me to my final point: **Have Fun.**

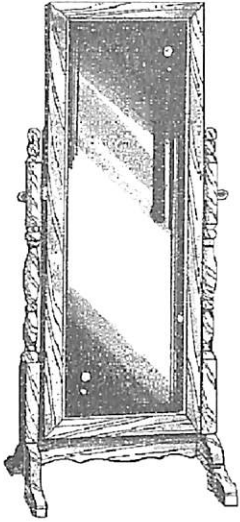
Take classes that you think you will enjoy. Get involved in clubs and activities you are interested in. Make friends, especially with people in your major or field of study since you'll probably have to take the same classes.

Go talk to your professors. They really enjoy talking to students and give excellent advice about classes to take, ways to get involved, and about life in general. Plus they tend to grade easier when they can associate papers with a face.

So, basically, try not to worry too much. College is a big step from the comfortable halls of high school, but it won't take much effort to adjust to the pressures and pace of a new place.

Just relax and enjoy. You'll be there a while. **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*

Facing 'the long goodbye'

Life can be grand and beautiful, brimming with joy and wonderment.

Recently, I took my 2-year-old granddaughter for a walk near her home. For a few fleeting moments, I saw life through the eyes of a child. Even the most innocuous aspects of God's handiwork stirred excitement.

"Look, Nanee!" Jordan exclaimed, picking up a small stone. She cradled the rock in her chubby hands like it was the Hope Diamond, then carefully placed it in a pouch in her sister's stroller.

By the time our safari ended, "Jo-Jo" had a canvas treasure chest full of precious pebbles, assorted twigs, and probably an ant or two.

My own childhood is long gone, along with my rose-colored glasses. I'm now aware that life can also be ugly, brimming with sadness and heartache. The list of woes is almost endless—death, disease, war, bigotry, poverty, unforgiveness, etc.

When I reflect on the cruelties of life, I especially think of Alzheimer's disease—the devastating malady that former President Ronald Reagan so eloquently described as "the long goodbye."

I can think of nothing more heart wrenching than to stand by helplessly as loved ones slowly become shadows of their former selves.

When my husband died at 38, it was difficult, but he was still Denny. There were no haunting memories of watching him fade into oblivion;

no anguished hearts as he struggled to remember my face or the names of our children.

I'm becoming more and more forgetful as I grow older, but I've always been "spacey." A few years ago my son pointed out, "Mom, if you ever do get Alzheimer's, no one will know the difference!"

Of course, dementia is no laughing matter. But sometimes humor can be



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selves.***

a good coping mechanism, releasing pent-up emotions while helping to allay fears. Whether intentional or not, humor can flow from the mouths of patients as well as caretakers.

My cousin, Richard Edwardson, contracted Alzheimer's in his early 50s and died last year following a

fall at a long-term care facility. He was 61.

While he was still able to travel, his wife, Judy, took him to their fishing resort in Canada. One day, as he was relaxing on their deck, a large flock of geese passed overhead. Another cousin, who was seated next to Dick, bent his fingers into an imaginary pistol and "blasted away" at the birds. Without skipping a beat, Dick turned and said, "Missed again."

Dick's sister, Susie, smiles as she relates this story. She finds comfort in recalling this and other "light times" that were woven into her brother's long, burdensome illness.

Most of us know someone who has struggled with Alzheimer's in the past or is currently battling this disease. The sad truth is that no one, no mind, is safe from its ravages.

Medical science is making great strides in combating many forms of dementia, and new medications to slow their progress are now available or on the horizon. But the greatest weapons to cope with this on-going battle are ones that have always been around; twin weapons that have been proven effective time and time again: Prayer and Faith.

May God bless all of those who suffer from Alzheimer's and similar illnesses. And may He extend an extra portion of peace and love to caregivers who need to care for themselves as well.

For those who trust in the Lord, "the long goodbye" isn't "goodbye" at all. Joyous reunions await us in Heaven—a marvelous place where minds as well as bodies will be restored to wholeness. **SR**



As we move rapidly toward General Conference in August, I find myself more concerned about the ongoing work of the Conference boards and agencies.

As a pastor, I am aware every week of the financial needs of our local church and the impact it has on the work of ministry when there is a budget shortfall. It is important for us to support the work of the Conference financially.

Leadership support

Conference sessions give us opportunity to hear the reports of our officers and agencies and—through the committees—to have direct input into their plans for the future.

The Conference helps us do what we can't do as individual churches: train our pastors; provide us with outreach and study materials; create many communication links, including the monthly *Sabbath Recorder*; and sustain a myriad of missionary efforts around the world.

Conference's Sabbath offering provides an opportunity for us to make up some of the budget shortfall. However, if we go home and forget to support our leaders in what we have encouraged them to do, what can we expect?

Our General Council has stepped out in faith to provide the Conference with some new leadership, appointing Rob Appel as Executive Director for the General Conference. A new

The President's Page

by Dale Thorngate

Supporting our leaders

Financial Manager, Morgan Shepard, will come on board in September, and earlier this year, the Council on Ministry hired Rev. Gordon Lawton as Director of Pastoral Services.

It is my desire that we show our support for this new leadership and the potential that we have through the work of all the boards and agencies.

Commitment and motivation are linked

Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matthew 6:21). Jesus used this principle to emphasize that we should be concerned about heavenly things rather than earthly, but it shows that he understood human nature very well. The way we spend our money shows where our priorities are and to what we are committed.

Commitment is an agreement or pledge to do something. It is that state of mind in which we feel obligated or emotionally impelled. I have found in my reading that this idea of commitment is directly tied to what motivates me.

In his book, *Competent to Lead*, Kenneth O. Gangel states that motivation is what incites an individual to action, sustains that action, and gives direction once the individual has been initially awakened.

Gangel also gives motivation another dimension, calling it a dissatisfaction with the status quo. We are not pleased with the way things are now and are motivated to do something about it. The action we take over a period of time is our commitment to bring about change. SDBs dissatisfied with the status quo will make things happen.

Preparing to change, grow

As a Christian leader, I have to ask myself about my commitment and the commitment of Seventh Day Baptists around the country and the world. What is it that our leaders can do to better communicate the vision or better coordinate our activities to reach out to others?

Paul M. Dietterich, in *Making It Possible for People to Give Generously*, says that 25 percent of the people in the church give 75 percent of the income. The generous 25 percent are involved and committed to the work of the church. The other 75 percent have their involvement and commitment elsewhere.

Your denominational leadership is committed to making your boards and agencies work for you. They are committed to making the denominational budget a means of helping you share the love of Jesus Christ where you are. But they must have your involvement and input.

If you do not feel motivated by the vision of your leaders, they need to hear from you. We need a united commitment if the work of God through Seventh Day Baptists is to be successful.

As we prepare to move into a new era, hear this prayer of David recorded in 1 Chronicles 29:14— "Now our God, we give you thanks and praise your glorious name. But, who am I, and who are my people that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you and we have given you only what comes from your hand."

May God richly bless all of us as we "seek Him with all our hearts" and as we commit our time, talents, and money to the work of His kingdom. Amen. **SR**

have been wrong—an action that Jesus condoned in the same chapter of Matthew.

Is all physical work wrong?

If I believed that *all* physical work is wrong on the Sabbath, I couldn't wash dishes or cook. I couldn't walk or take a shower or even make my bed in the morning. And how far would I be expected to take this idea of resting from physical labor? I would have to sit on my couch all day and do nothing—or never get out of bed in the first place.

The Pharisees went to similarly ridiculous extremes, and Jesus scolded them for it. He tried to show them how far off-base they had gotten from what Sabbath is *supposed* to be. Where or when did they cross the line into error? Somehow, they missed the whole point of Sabbath, even though they were meticulous in obeying the rules.

Where draw the line?

So, how do I know where to draw the line? I don't want to get so wrapped up in rules that I miss the whole point of Sabbath. Somehow, I want the decisions I make concerning what to do and not to do on Sabbath based on the principles and purposes God had in mind when He created Sabbath in the first place.

That's really harder than obeying rules. It takes a lot of soul-searching and an almost brutal honesty with myself and with God. It means repeatedly asking myself, and God, "Why am I making this choice to 'do or don't' on Sabbath? What are my motives and the condition of my heart? Is it only because it's a tradition I've been taught? Does it have any meaning to me other than it's what my family did?"

If not, then I'm more concerned about what my parents and grandparents felt was appropriate than I am about what pleases God in my Sabbath activities—and that is *simply*, pure and simple.

Why not labor?

So, let's go back to the whole labor issue. Why would God say *not* to labor on Sabbath? There must be deeper reasons.

It goes back to Creation; taking the focus off myself and my efforts to handle my own life, and refocusing my attention on God. By not working on Sabbath, I eliminate the distractions of my daily life for six days a week, providing "special" time on the seventh day with God.

The Sabbath is holy, divine, a spiritual recess. Work is suspended, and we get to "go outside and play" with God.

It was like God was saying, "Lay aside everything you feel compelled to do during the rest of the week, things about which you normally have no choice—like your efforts to support yourself and earn a living, all your busyness and business.

"You're free from that bondage and enslavement; you don't have to do that today. It's Sabbath, and you're free from all of that; free to love Me, free to spend time with Me, free to focus on Me. It's about *Me*, not you!

"And don't put that burden on anyone else in your household. If *you're* free, then so are they!"

Everyone gets a spiritual recess

God specifically included everyone in the Israelites' community in the Fourth Commandment.

The Sabbath is holy, divine, a spiritual recess. Work is suspended, and we get to "go outside and play"

with God. Everyone is invited, with no exceptions. Even the "aliens" are welcome.

This is unbelievable grace, astonishing in its scope. There are no exceptions from this opportunity to be free from labor on Sabbath. Even animals are included!

Although grace found its ultimate fulfillment in Jesus, it was not a new element first introduced in the New Testament. I am awed by the amount of grace that God displayed in the Old Testament. He has been "the God of Grace" from the very beginning.

A day of intimacy with our Lord

Sabbath is meant to be a day of "sitting on God's lap" and having "cheek-to-cheek" intimacy with Jesus. I need to desire to get that close. So close that I can hear and feel God's heart beat on Sabbath; so close that I'm breathing the very breath that He is exhaling.

Sabbath is my weekly "date" with Jesus. We're courting each other in preparation for our wedding in heaven.

Does thinking of Sabbath as "recess" and "sitting on God's lap" or as a "date" make you feel uncomfortable? If so, ask yourself, "Why?" We are intended to be that close to God—Jesus died to make that possible.

If that's *not* the problem, and you just don't like the idea of Sabbath being such a "frivolous" experience, maybe you have gotten caught up in legalism. Maybe you really *want* it to be a burden so you can feel good about having made the sacrifices necessary to keep it.

I'm not saying that it isn't a sacrifice at times, but Sabbath is primarily meant to be a delight (Isaiah 58:13). Ask God to open your heart and mind to a new appreciation of His gift of the Sabbath. He is so unbelievably good to us! **SR**

SDB Center has busy spring

Historical Society April 25

At the annual meeting of the SDB Historical Society in April, the directors announced that Rev. Don A. Sanford will be named *Historian Emeritus* upon his retirement in February 2005 after 18 years in the historian position. He will continue with some writing and research for the Society.

One priority for the next phase of the Society's work will be to computerize the library's index and archives. Thus, the directors will probably be seeking to employ someone



At the annual meeting (seated): Directors Chris Mattison, Ruth Burdick and Norma Rudert. Standing: Historian Don Sanford, Ron Davis (member), Janet Thorngate (president), Paul Green (treas.), and members Wayne Maxson and Dale Thorngate.

with library and computer skills. Highlights of the year's work included progress on their cooperative

project with the Brazil SDB Conference which translated *Conscience Taken Captive: A Short History of Seventh Day Baptists* into Portuguese.

Upon the directors' recommendation, the Society voted to participate in the Newport Historical Society's current project to restore the Newport SDB Meeting House (see *Historian Sanford's "Pearls,"* p. 15).

Current officers of the Society were re-elected by the members present and the 63 proxies from members across the country. **SR**

Missionary Society's Church Planters School

Then came the 2004 Church Planters School, May 24-29. Seated: instructors Ron Elston, Vivian Looper, and Davy Bell. Middle row: Justin Hibbard, Rose and Rod Riley, Jenn and Glenn Robin, Andrew Camenga, Nick Kersten, and Juan Amaya. Back row: Kirk Looper and Gordon Lawton.



Center on Ministry's Summer Institute

Followed by Summer Institute (History and Polity), June 7-18. Seated: Andrew Camenga, Nick Kersten, Steve Graffius, and Pat Bancroft. Standing: Jim Daniel; instructors Gordon Lawton, Don Sanford, and Janet Thorngate; and George Lawson.



Youth Missions Weekend in Kansas

by Kristi Drinkard

Sabbath Day, May 1, 2004, found the Nortonville, Kan., Youth Fellowship involved in the SDB Youth Missions Weekend.

We led the worship service which included many Spanish-related topics, songs, Bible verses, and a missions report on the church in Mexico. We decided on the theme because Robert Colvin (from our group) was to join the June trip to Madero, Mexico. Later that afternoon, the youth prepared the “fiesta” that they were putting on for their church family that night.

After a successful Mexican dinner, we had our gigantic sundae

at 6:00 p.m. (Other SDB youth across the U.S. were eating their own huge sundaes at the same time.)

Trying to beat last’s year record of eating our sundae in 18 minutes, we finished it in seven minutes flat—thanks to the adults who helped us out!

Then it was time to break our sombrero-shaped piñata. But first, we had to empty it of its money. Our church family had been putting their change and contributions for our Mexican mission trip into the piñata. The sombrero raised \$750! Our church treasurer,

Charles Wheeler, was the first to try to break open the now candy-filled piñata. We really enjoy our church family!

After cleaning the kitchen, we spent the night at the old church parsonage. We woke up very early on Sunday to eat, then cleaned the churchyard and the old parsonage. After we finished, some of us flew kites while others worked on the church scrapbook.

After everyone played on the park equipment for a while, we finally went our separate ways home until *next* Sabbath. **SR**



The Nortonville YF prepares to dig into their super-sized sundae. L. to r.: Katie Myers, Kristi Drinkard, Amanda Colvin, Karleigh August, Robert Colvin, Haylea August, Elizabeth Beck, and Sam Pluff.



First the coins, then the paper donations come out of the fundraising sombrero. The project raised \$750 toward a mission trip to help SDBs in Mexico.

A special invitation

Travelers heading to General Conference (U.S.A. and Canada) are invited to attend Sabbath services on July 31 at one of our West Virginia churches.

Worship begins at 9:30 a.m. in Lost Creek and at 10:00 a.m. in Salem. Both churches plan a fellowship dinner that day, with special invitations


to out-of-town guests.

The Lost Creek church is located within sight of Exit 110 off of I-79, eight miles south of Clarksburg (25 miles from the Conference site in Buckhannon).

Salem is 15 miles west of Clarksburg, just off of U.S. Rt. 50. Take any Salem exit to 171 E. Main St.

THANK YOU ALL!

We thank *everyone* who has responded to our annual request for SR donations. Each one of those gifts (and givers) and so very special.

Members of the new SR “Editor’s Circle” are designated with .

New members

Bay Area, CA

Steven Crouch, pastor

Joined after baptism

Andre Mackintosh

Sarah Tyson

Montrose, CA

Scott Hausrath, pastor

Joined after testimony

Loretta James

New York City, NY

Joined after baptism

Chenille Cooper

Oliver Francis

Krystle Hawthorne

Carol Johnson

Errol May

Carmen May

Donavette Morrison

Kimberly Patterson

Ayana Rickards

Sherifa Shorter

Kurt Walsh-Loney

Births

Williams.—

A daughter, Nikia Marie Williams, was born to Levi and Amber Williams of Lincoln, NE, on April 28, 2004.

Looper.—

A daughter, Molly Lucile Looper, was born to Jody and Heather Looper of Lincoln, NE, on May 14, 2004.

Crandall.—

A son, Owen Sheldon Crandall, was born to Paul and Bess (Miller) Crandall of Tucson, AZ, on May 19, 2004.

Mullen.—

A daughter, Genevieve Lenore Mullen, was born to Rick and Angie (Gilmore) Mullen of Milton, WI, on May 22, 2004.

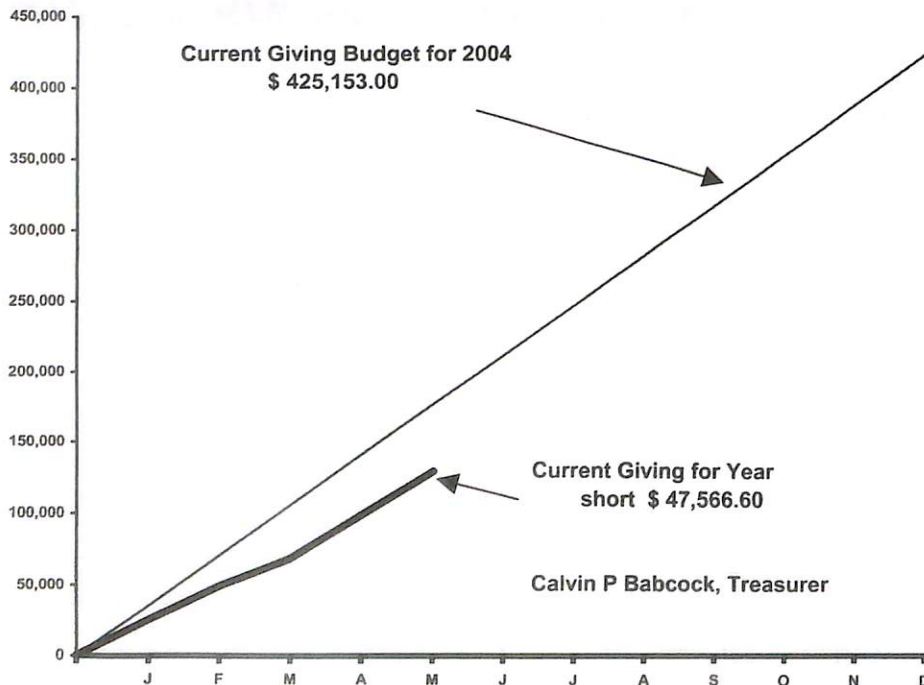
Better exposure



After 20 years of severe Wisconsin weather, the old sign in front of the Center had to go. This spring, a new and larger sign was installed and placed perpendicular to Kennedy Road for improved visibility. At night, the words light up in a deep red color.

Costs for the sign were shared between the Building Operations Fund and the Historical Society. Your gifts to the Denominational Budget serve to help with such improvements.

Current Giving 2004



E-mail changes at the SDB Center

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Obituaries

Sholtz.—Elmina “Miney” Warner Sholtz, 101, died on June 10, 2003, at the Oneida (N.Y.) Healthcare Extended Care Facility where she had been a resident since November of 1999.

She was born on April 26, 1902, in Brookfield, N.Y., the daughter of Claude and Florence (Clarke) Camenga. She graduated from Brookfield High School and attended Alfred (N.Y.) University the following year.

“Miney” taught at Columbus Quarter one-room school for two years, and later worked at VVS Middle School cafeteria. She married Stanley Warner on December 26, 1921, and moved to Verona, N.Y. The couple had five sons and operated the family dairy farm.

Stanley died in 1973 after a long illness. On April 24, 1976, she married Floyd Sholtz. He died in February of 2000.

Elmina was a longtime member and deaconess of the Verona Seventh Day Baptist Church, where she served in many capacities, including pianist and Sabbath School teacher. She was also a member of the church’s Ladies Benevolent Society and was a much-loved friend of many in the community. Her family was always her foremost concern, and she will be greatly missed.

Survivors include four sons, Garth Warner of Oneida, Maurice and Richard Warner, both of Verona, and Glen Warner of Ashtabula, Ohio; one stepdaughter, Joyce Burdick of Sherrill, N.Y.; two stepsons, Robert Sholtz of El Cerrito, Calif., and Louis Sholtz of Oneida; 16 grandchildren, 32 great-grandchildren, one great-great-grandson, and numerous step-grandchildren. One son, Alva Warner, predeceased her in 2000.

Burial was in New Union Cemetery, Verona.

Mendenhall.—Walter E. Mendenhall, 80, of Bradenton,

Fla., died on May 4, 2004, in Bradenton.

He was born on June 26, 1923, in Burbank, Calif., the son of Edwin Rhodes Mendenhall and Clara Elizabeth (Pajak) Mendenhall. He was raised in Grants Pass, Ore. On May 1, 1948, he married Evelyn Lorraine Reynolds (nee Fitzgerald) in West-erly, R.I.

Walter was a World War II veteran, serving in England, North Africa, and in the Hawaiian Islands with the U.S. Navy. Following six years active duty, he worked 14 years for the Navy as a civilian at Quonset Point, R.I. He spent another 20 years as a maintenance/repairman for the State of Rhode Island at the University of R.I. at Kingston, retiring in 1988.

He and Evelyn then moved to Florida and subsequently joined the Bradenton Branch of the Daytona Beach SDB Church. He served faithfully as a deacon and usher until poor health curtailed his activities. He was dearly loved and will be missed by his church family.

Walter and “Ev” were fond of traveling and particularly enjoyed adventures to Alaska, visiting “their glacier” on several occasions.

In addition to his wife, survivors include one stepdaughter, Lorraine Geraldine of British Columbia; one brother, Harold, of Oregon; three grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews. A beloved daughter, Barbara Evelyn, preceded him in death, as well as one sister and two brothers.

A memorial service was held on May 10, 2004, in Ellenton, Fla., Rev. Ken Davis, officiating. Burial was in Mansion Memorial Park, Ellenton.

Condinio.—Salvatore Condinio, 91, of Waterford, Conn., died on May 21, 2004, at Fountainview Care Center in Waterford.

He was born on December 22, 1913, in Hoboken, N.J., the son of Philomena and Salvatore Anthony Condinio. He married Mildred Brooks on November 28, 1954, in Lynbrook, N.Y.

“Sal” owned and operated his own roofing and sheet metal business on Long Island for many years. In 1970, he and his business partner constructed the roofs on the World Trade Center’s twin towers.

A veteran of World War II, he served under General George Patton in the 778th Army Tank Battalion. He was badly burned when his tank exploded during the Battle of the Bulge. He received a number of medals, including two Purple Hearts, two Bronze Stars, and two French Medals.

He was a member and deacon of the Waterford Seventh Day Baptist Church, where he designed and constructed their Christian Education building.

In addition to his wife, survivors include one daughter, Sally A. Wallace, and one son, Bruce E. Klug, both of Waterford; five sisters, two brothers, eight grandchildren, and six great-grandsons. Six brothers and a daughter predeceased him.

Funeral services were held on May 25, 2004, at the Waterford SDB Church, with Pastor Leon R. Lawton and Rev. Alan Scott officiating. Burial, with military honors, was in West Neck Cemetery, Waterford.

Babcock.—Zella Blenn Babcock, 89, of Nortonville, Kan., died on May 23, 2004, at St. Francis Hospital in Topeka, Kan.

She was born on September 30, 1914, on a farm north of Nortonville, the daughter of Herman C. and Lenna (Bond) Babcock. She graduated from Nortonville High School in 1933. In 1938, she graduated from

cont. on next page

Obituaries, cont. from page 25

Salem (W.Va.) College with a degree in homemaking and English.

Zella worked for Salem College for three years and then taught high school near McConnelsville, Ohio, for one year.

In 1943, she returned to Nortonville to be near her parents and took a teaching position at Winchester High School. She taught there until 1948. From 1948-1955, she taught in Logan, Kan., and

from 1955 until her retirement in 1980, she taught at Holton (Kan.) High School.

Zella was a member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church in Nortonville, serving as church clerk for 28 years and organist for 31 years. She also taught Sabbath School classes and worked with youth groups for many years.

She enjoyed embroidery, reading, and playing the organ and piano.

Survivors include one brother, Paul Babcock, of Shelton, Wash; and three sisters, Evelyn Weber of Ashville, N.C., Ruby August of Atchison, Kan., and June Johnson of Nortonville. One brother, Osmond, and one sister, Vera McWilliams, predeceased her.

Funeral services were held on May 26, 2004, at the Nortonville SDB Church, followed by burial in the Nortonville Cemetery.

Denominational Dateline

July

- 18 Board of Christian Education Executive Committee Meeting, Alfred Station, N.Y.—Andrew Camenga
- 25 Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society Board of Managers Quarterly Meeting, Westerly, R.I.—Kirk Looper
- 28-30 General Council, Wesleyan College, Buckhannon, W.Va.
- 28 – 8/1 Youth and Young Adult Pre-Cons, West Virginia

August

- 1-7 “Seeking God with All Your Heart” General Conference at Wesleyan College, Buckhannon

September

- 25-26 MOST (Muriel Osborn Seminar for Teachers) Alfred Station—Camenga
- 27-28 Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C.—Kevin Butler

How to get to West Virginia Wesleyan College

General Conference is August 1-7

Buckhannon is just over two hours south of Pittsburgh, Pa., and just under two hours north of Charleston, W.Va.

The best way to get there is to take I-79 to Exit 99, then east on U.S. 33. (It's possible to come into Buckhannon from other directions, if you have time to admire the scenery from two-lane mountain roads.)

Exit U.S. 33 at Rt. 20 South, and follow Rt. 20 through the

first stoplight. Continue to the stoplight at McDonald's, then turn left onto College Avenue.

Make a right at the second four-way stop onto Meade Street. Continue on Meade to the stop sign, then turn left onto Camden Avenue.

Follow Camden until you see SDB Conference Registration signs guiding you left off Camden to the Benedum Campus Community Center.

The closest airport is the Harri-

son-Marion Regional Airport in Bridgeport, W.Va. (formerly known as Benedum Airport). U.S. Air serves it from Pittsburgh and Washington National. If you give arrival and departure information on your registration forms, the Conference Host Committee can provide transportation the 30 miles to Buckhannon.

Greyhound Bus service is available in Clarksburg, W.Va.

KEVIN'S

CORNER

Even though it was four months premature, Janet and I celebrated our silver anniversary by escaping to the paradise-like 50th state.

Part of that fantastic week-long adventure was at Hawaii's Volcanoes National Park on the big island. Walking through the park's "lava tube" was like exploring a huge oil pipeline, except that this was made out of years of hardened lava.

The first section of the walk had low-power electric lighting, giving our rocky surroundings an eerie glow. When we reached a certain point, it was "Lights out, baby!" No more lighting.

Fortunately, Janet had read about the tube—and the eventual blackness—so we were prepared (somewhat) with a little AA-battery flashlight. We advanced into the void.

A small group of kids from Canada eventually caught up with us. Some of them had rented miner-type hard hats with powerful built-in bulbs. (Yes, I was jealous.) With youth and nimbleness on their side, they were ready for the next challenge: a drop-off into a bigger cave area.

Knowing there was much more of the park to see, we didn't feel like forging ahead. I announced that the two of us were going to turn back.

The young group was determined to press on, along with *half* of another couple. The guy had made up his mind to keep going on this "fun" adventure, and he seemed quite willing to leave his wife behind(!). But there was a problem: her flashlight had stopped working! She wisely declined to go forward in this more rugged part of the tube without adequate light.

The husband dictated, "Just go back with *them!*" as he flashed his light our way.

So, there we were, with *one* tiny flashlight for the

three of us. Remember, we're surrounded by total darkness.

"Let's try to fix her light," I suggested. The abandoned woman took her batteries out as I popped open a packet of new ones from my camera bag.

Still no good.

We huddled close, and this "trio of one" proceeded to make a very slow but safe return with my little light.

As Christians, we are called to be the Light of the world. We are to cast God's light into this sometimes dark existence.

Others may enjoy that light, and even see the Lord in it. They can follow us on a straight path and be pointed toward a safe place.

But there's no way I can infuse someone else with the Light of the Lord. I can't *impose* it on another person; it really is a "God thing." *He* is the only One Who can fix their "receptor" and cause His light to shine through them.

Churches and denominations can have great programs with all the right elements and Spirit behind them. But ultimately, church growth and expansion is a "GOD thing"! *He* has to pave the way and make others open to receive and truly want His power and growth.

I pray that God would continue to have His light shine and work through His special people known as Seventh Day Baptists.



A camera flash captures the editor peering into the darkness of the Thurston Lava Tube in Hawaii.



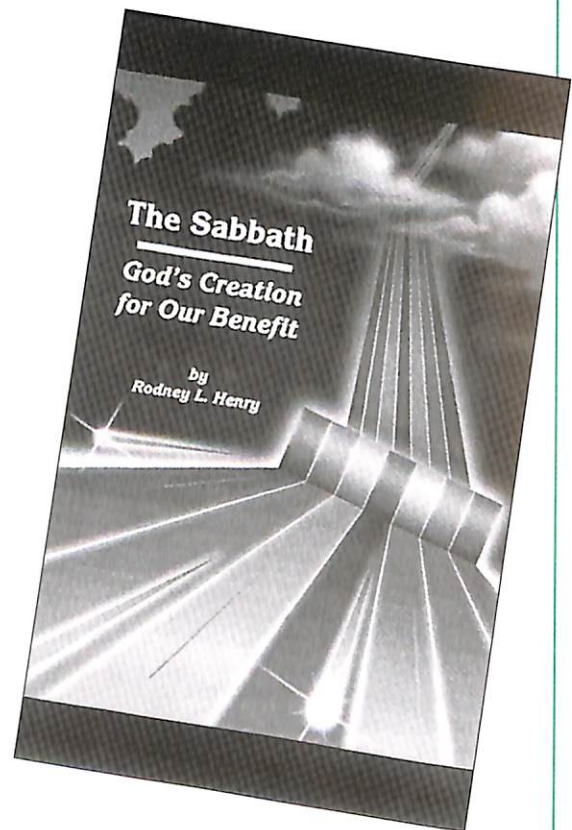
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The Sabbath: God's Creation for Our Benefit

by Rodney L. Henry

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