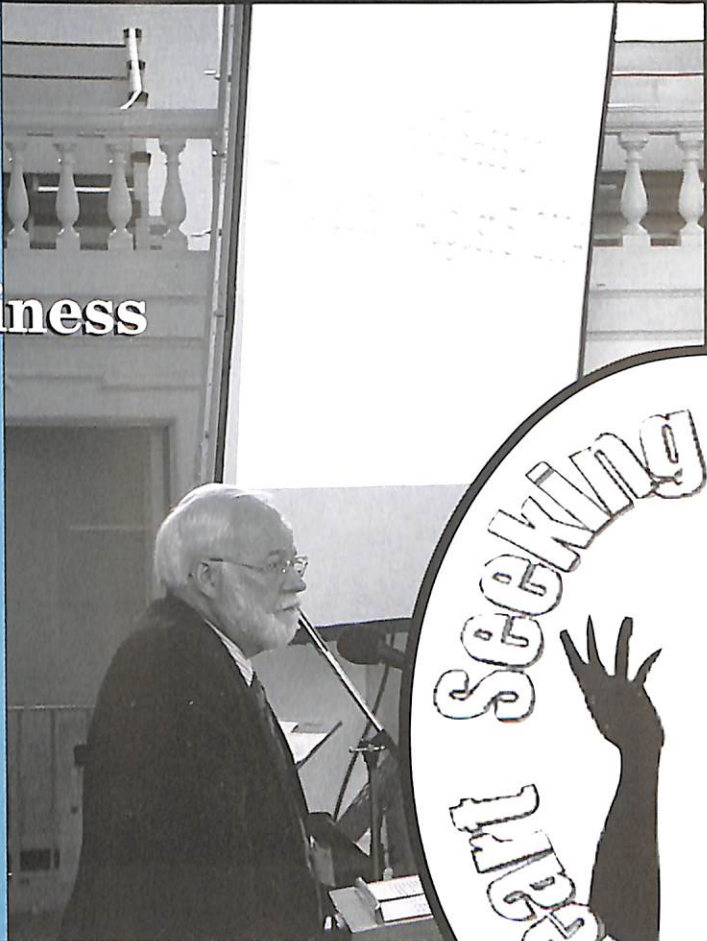


# The Sabbath RECORDER

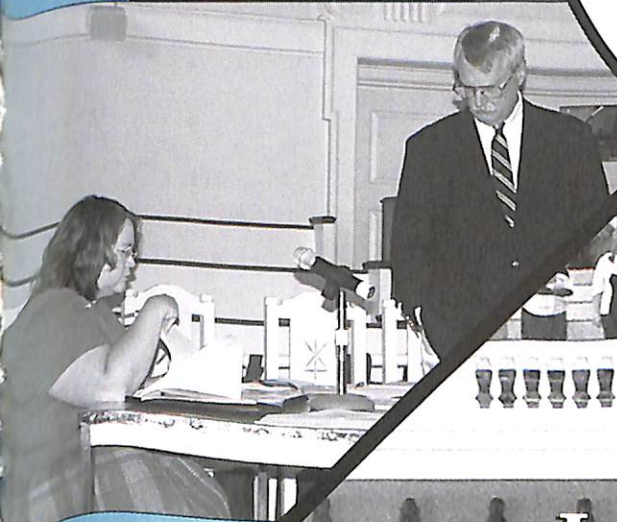
September 2004

*News for and about Seventh Day Baptists*

In our business



In our fellowship



In our worship





## Who are Seventh Day Baptists?

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

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

### The seventh day

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

For more information, write: The Seventh Day Baptist Center, 3120 Kennedy Road, PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547-1678. Phone (608) 752-5055; FAX (608) 752-7711; E-mail: [sdbgen@seventhdaybaptist.org](mailto:sdbgen@seventhdaybaptist.org) and the SDB Web site: [www.seventhdaybaptist.org](http://www.seventhdaybaptist.org)

## Church to dedicate new meetinghouse

The First Seventh Day Baptist Church of Genesee in Little Genesee, N.Y., will dedicate its new building on October 16, 2004. The dedication will be part of the 10:30 a.m. worship service at the fall meetings of the Allegheny Association in Little Genesee.

The church extends an open invitation to anyone wishing to attend. If you require housing, please contact Gordon and Wilma Sanford at (585) 928-1019 by September 15.

## A Home Mission Field

Thousands of souls are right here within minutes of an international airport, excellent National Blue Ribbon schools, beaches, palm trees, shopping malls, state parks, and jobs!

We have a small band of energetic, enthusiastic, diehard Seventh Day Baptists whom God is using to build a church on 3.3 acres of land on a main street in this neighborhood. Completion is estimated in December 2004.

Palm Beach County, Fla., is one of the fastest-growing counties in the United States. West Palm Beach is where the SDB church is being built with seating capacity of 230. We need missionaries with a passion for souls: teachers, nurses, musicians, deacons, ushers, greeters, custodians, encouragers, prayer warriors, etc.

For more information, contact Pastor Alcott Lynch or Sister Jasmine Lynch at (561) 684-2183, or send correspondence to 2725 Hawthorne Lane, West Palm Beach FL 33409.

## Annual Corporation Meeting Notice SDB Board of Christian Education, Inc.

The annual meeting of the members of the Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education, Inc., will be held at the Community Building of the First SDB Church of Hebron, Carley Hill Road, Coudersport, Pa., on Sunday, October 24, 2004, at 10:00 a.m. Directions to this location are available from the Board of Christian Education office upon request.

The purpose of this meeting shall be to elect directors, to hear and act upon the 2003 Annual Report of the Board of Directors, and to consider and act upon such matters that may properly come before said meeting.

Members of the member churches of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference USA & Canada, Ltd., are members of the Corporation. Accredited delegates attending the 2004 General Conference sessions in Buckhannon, W.Va., are entitled to vote at this annual meeting.



Establ. 1844



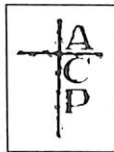
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**Kevin Butler**  
Editor

**Leanne Lippincott**  
Assistant Editor

Ⓔ = Editor's Circle members

**Contributing Editors**

Andrew J. Camenga, Gordon Lawton, G. Kirk Looper, Pete May, Laura Price, Don A. Sanford, Robyn Somers, Dale Thorngate.

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(Edited by Aubrey Appel)

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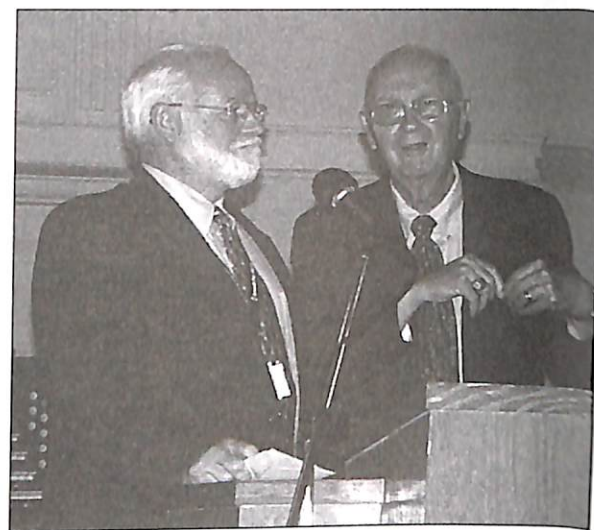
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# Seeking God—through a change of plans

by Justin and Karlene Hibbard  
*(From the Conference Crier)*



*The hard-working people of the Salem, W.Va., church also provided special music on Sunday evening and Wednesday morning.*



*President Dale Thorngate (left) honored Dr. Pete May for his years of Conference service.*

Conference plans were underway, and by September of last year, President Dale Thorngate had already begun traveling to promote Conference 2004 to be held at Kalamazoo, Mich. Then, just before October, the SDB Center learned that the anticipated site in Michigan would not be feasible.

"I was nervous," the president admitted.

Dedicated people such as General Services Administrator Calvin Babcock quickly called important contacts, trying to secure a site for Conference. Ultimately, West Virginia Wesleyan College graciously agreed to host the event.

"I was almost mad," Pastor Thorngate exclaimed. "I wanted my congregation at Salem to come and enjoy Conference, but instead they and Lost Creek had a lot of responsibility as the Host Committee."

Despite the site change, Pastor Dale's theme of "Seeking God with All Your Heart" continued as planned. At Sunday evening's worship service, he explained the reason for selecting this theme.

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***Despite the site change, Pastor Dale's theme of "Seeking God with All Your Heart" continued as planned.***

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His many years in the military led him to realize that life is fragile and uncertain. During that time, he tried to run away from God's plan for his life. When his military service ended, he knew the necessity of leaning on God's understanding.

"If I want my life to be in tune with Him, I have to be seeking that plan," Thorngate now declares. Jeremiah 29:11-14a seemed the perfect fit for his Conference theme, a passage that ensures God's perfect plan for everyone's life.

Along with each individual's quest to seek God's will, Pastor Thorngate spent the week addressing God's plan for Seventh Day Baptists as a whole. To reinforce his personal vision, he selected Conference speakers who shared their own visions for SDBs, founded on first seeking God with the entire heart.

Our Conference president was also excited to have guest lecturers William Brackney and Brent Walker share how SDBs have a voice and a place among other denominations. And during what seems a pivotal time in Seventh Day Baptist history, he shared his joy over new denominational leaders—Executive Director Rob Appel

and Financial Director Morgan Shepard.

With all the responsibilities that Conference president entails, there is an added challenge when he or she pastors a congregation.

"The Salem church family has been wonderful," Pastor Thorngate asserted. "They've made it possible for me to provide a year-long ministry to SDBs nationally."

His great help included Pastor Scott Smith, who was called to Salem to work with the youth. It was also understood that Scott would take on many of Dale's responsibilities as the senior pastor promoted and planned Conference.

Despite having to focus on Host Committee responsibilities, God continued to bless the Salem church's work, including an increase of children from 2 to 20.

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***Even while focusing on Host Committee responsibilities, God continued to bless the Salem church's work.***

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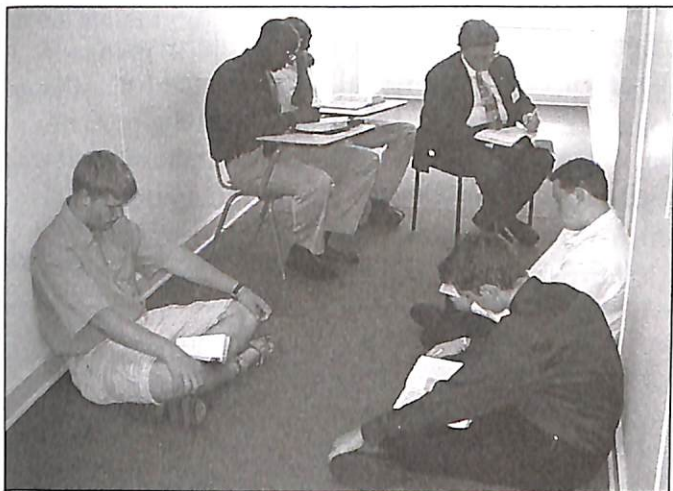
ch's work, including an increase of children from 2 to 20.

The process of planning this an-

nual gathering was a long and ongoing job, culminating at the end of Conference week. On Sabbath night, the "changing of the guard" ushered in next year's Conference President, Donald Graffius of Salemville, Pa.

As we said goodbye to the 2004 Conference, our friends, and our wonderful president, we were reminded not to leave this year's theme behind. That needs to go with us—to our homes, to our churches, and to our hearts.

"If I could leave one thing with the Conference delegates and visitors," Pastor Thorngate said, "it would be to keep seeking God with all your heart." **SR**



*A "good" problem: this Sabbath School class overflowed into the hallway.*



*Ruth Bottoms of the Little Genesee, N.Y., church stands as she is announced as the Women's Society's Robe of Achievement recipient.*



*President Dale Thorngate welcomes the Vision Christian Fellowship of West-erly, R.I., as a member church of the Conference.*



*Owen Probasco (left) receives a handsome clock from Don Graffius in appreciation of his 30-plus years of faithful service on the SDB Memorial Board.*

# The Week in Review — August 1-7, 2004

at West Virginia Wesleyan College,  
Buckhannon, West Virginia

## Statistics

- 651 registered guests
- 750+ at worship on Sabbath
- 343 delegates representing 46 churches
- 50 ministers/pastors present
- 7 fraternal delegates and visitors from other SDB Conferences
- 56 at Youth Pre-Con, directed by Chris Mattison with 5 staff
- 48 at Young Adult, directed by Andrew Samuels with 5 staff
- Conference offering: \$17,500

## Elections

- President 2004-2005: Donald Graffius
- President-elect: Robert Van Horn
- General Council: David Davis, Robert Van Horn; Herlitz Condison (to 2006)
- Council on Ministry: Charlotte Chroniger, Dale Thorngate
- Faith and Order: Alan Crouch, Dale Rood
- Committee on Support and Retirement: Eric Rudert
- Tract and Communication Council: Linda Lawton, Gretchen Zwiebel
- Memorial Fund Trustees: Donald Graffius, L. Reid Mattison, Stephen Rogers
- Christian Social Action: Christina Cain, Vivian McNeme, John Pethtel, Jackie Sias; Beth Boyd (to 2005)

## Awards/Recognitions

- Pastor accredited: Jerry Johnson
- Women's Board Robe of Achievement: Ruth Bottoms, Little Genesee, N.Y.
- Sabbath School Teacher of the Year: Lucinda Snyder Torkaman, Alfred Station, N.Y.
- Mary G. Clare Scripture Memorization Bowl: Milton, Wis., church

## Business Action

- Approved 2005 budget of \$1,066,096 calls for \$483,253 to come from current giving

## Special Evening Events:

- Ice Cream Social honoring our pastors
- Retirement Reception for Pete and Nancy May
- 40th Anniversary party of Summer Christian Service Corps (SCSC)

## We Recommended:

- Confirmation of Rob Appel as Executive Director of the General Conference for a 3-year term effective immediately.
- Acceptance of the Vision Christian Fellowship, Westerly, R.I., as a member in full standing of the Conference.
- The First Seventh Day Baptist Church, Wichita Falls, Texas, be removed from the list of recognized churches.
- The Center on Ministry monitor when pastors are eligible for accreditation and to notify the church of their pastor's eligibility.
- In place of the year-end Youth Retreat, individual churches host smaller retreats throughout the year. We urge individual churches and Associations to host youth retreats, inviting a wider range of participants.
- The Board of Christian Education reexamine the possibility of 17-year-old high school graduates being allowed to attend Young Adult Pre-Con.

# Brackney presents guest lecture

by Ginny Burdick  
(From the Conference Crier)

During Conference week, Rev. Dr. William Brackney presented a message to inspire Seventh Day Baptists to step up to their place in the worldwide Baptist family.

Although Baptists are experiencing tremendous accomplishments worldwide, Dr. Brackney emphasized that multiple areas of concern still exist:

- An extreme form of congregationalism, resulting in non-interference and resistance of interaction
- Resurgent confessionalism, finding Baptists bound in discussions over written statements and trying to make everyone agree on a confessional statement
- Blending of social and political agendas
- An exodus of the youth because they find "excitement" elsewhere.

After presenting these areas of concern, Dr. Brackney suggested



Historian William Brackney teaches at Baylor University.

how to deal with them. His advice included renewing associational relationships between members of God's Kingdom (within and outside denominational boundaries); a better "reading" of our culture; learning anew what our Baptist distinctives

are and revising them if needed; and restoring our commitment to evangelism and working together to learn again how to act boldly.

For Seventh Day Baptists specifically, he suggested that we wake up to avoid the "quaintness syndrome" and thus escape being categorized as simply an historic site or known merely for our "recipe." Seventh Day Baptists have much to share and must not hide the blessing of the Sabbath, he noted. Everyone in Christ's kingdom has something to teach, he added, and the Sabbath blessing should be lifted up.

Rev. Brackney ended his Conference message with a passage from Luke 8.

SDBs should take Rev. Brackney's words—and Luke's words—to heart, being careful not to hide our light from the world. May we all share with others the gifts and blessings that Seventh Day Baptists enjoy. **SR**



Young Adult Pre-Connors posed in front of Wesley Chapel after leading worship on Tuesday morning. (That's Gabe Graffius with the John Wesley imitation below the statue.)



Rev. J. Brent Walker of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs also gave a lecture and led a seminar.



Rob Appel, Milton, Wis., was confirmed as the new Executive Director of the SDB Conference.

# Missions having impact

by Cheri Appel

(From the Conference Crier)

Kirk Looper, Executive Director of the SDB Missionary Society, opened their Tuesday morning Conference presentation with prayer. He then introduced Conference attendee Kwabena Opoku, who hails from the West African nation of Gambia.

Missionary Society President Gordon Kilts thanked those who have supported the Society with their prayers, goods, and finances.

Ron Elston, National Extension Minister, gave an overview on the Missionary Society's stateside activities. (More details are available in the Society's Six-Month Update report.)

Pastor Elston spoke of keeping very busy, traveling to branch churches and visiting new contacts across the country. He and Kirk have met and encouraged many individuals while trying to learn how the Missionary Society can help them and their organizations.

A continuing and exciting mission is the development and teaching that takes place at the annual Church Planters School, held in May at the SDB Center in Janesville, Wis. Pastor Ron said that some of the fruits of this training are becoming evident on the West Coast.

Pastor Justin Hibbard of the Central Maryland SDB Church spoke about exciting answers to specific



Justin Hibbard



Wayne North

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***Kirk admonished us to remember that there is a place for everyone in ministry and missions.***

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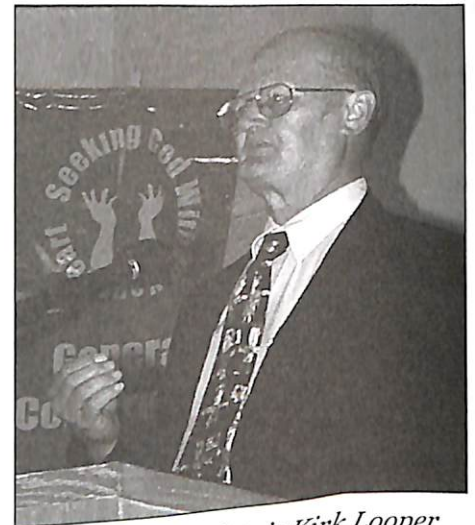
prayers this past year, including the establishment of a branch church in Alexandria, Va. Headed by Pastor Juan Amaya, this Spanish House of Worship has services in Spanish and is becoming a church home for many from Latin America.

Pastor Wayne North, interim pastor at the New Auburn, Wis., SDB Church, spoke about short-term missions, specifically the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. He encouraged missionary workers with little funding to consider this opportunity to reach out in Christ's love to Native Americans.

Children on the reservation have a look and feeling of hopelessness, Pastor Wayne explained, due to high rates of alcoholism, unemployment, child molestation, and death, and because of overcrowded living conditions.

For this particular mission, Pastor Chet Marks—leader of the New Life Fellowship Baptist Church 7<sup>th</sup> Day at Pine Ridge—provides orientation and training before the church bus picks up the children for outreach programs. Mission workers talk to the youngsters, get to know them, and then share the hope they have in their Savior.

Kirk admonished us to remember that there is a place for




Missionary Society's Kirk Looper

everyone in ministry and missions. We especially need to encourage our young adults to start their own Bible studies and churches, instead of joining another denomination.

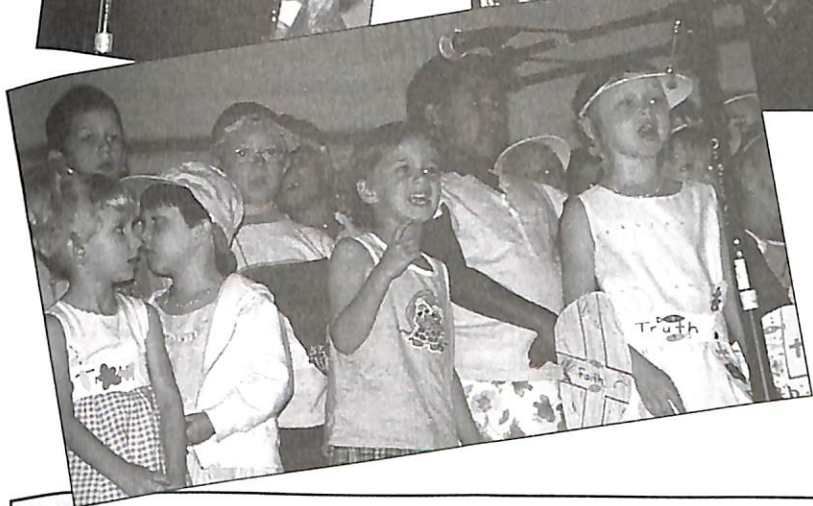
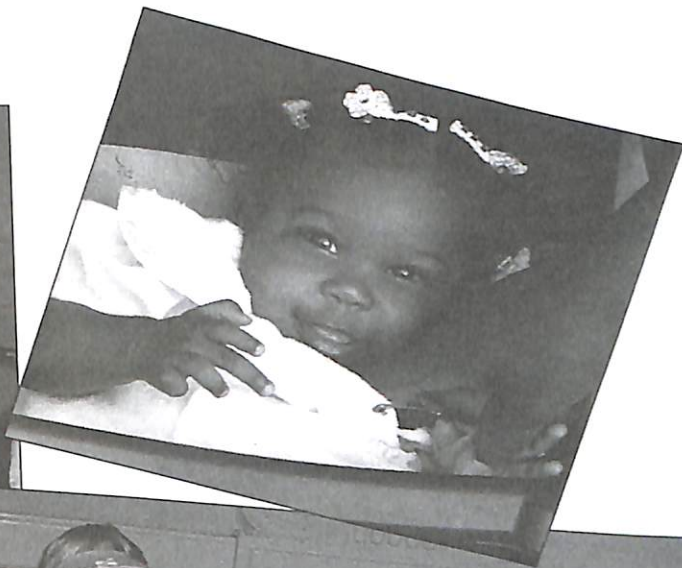
Kirk thanked Missionary David Pearson for his service and commended David's book about the Pearsons' experience in Malawi. Kirk also encouraged us to read Missionary Society articles in the *Sabbath Recorder*, mission bulletins, ".wow" bulletin inserts, and articles available through church keyworkers. Churches with no keyworkers should contact the Missionary Society to be included on its mailing list.

"Although it may appear that we are moving slowly on short-term missions, we want to carefully research and end up doing what the mission church wants done," Kirk noted. The Missionary Society is constantly looking for projects, so anyone with suggestions should contact Kirk, or Ron, or a Society member.

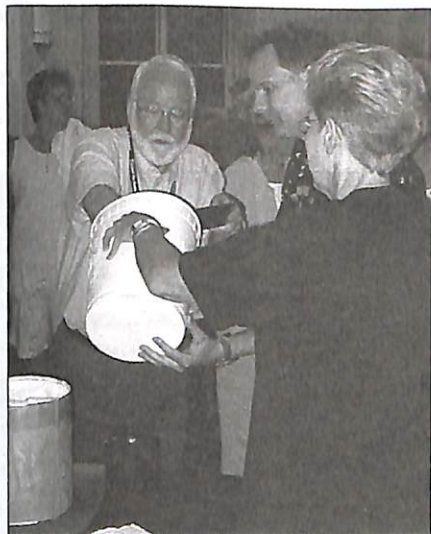
The Missionary Society is currently looking for a person to go to Rwanda, Africa, to teach English. Those who are willing to go—or know someone who might be interested—should contact Kirk at the Society's office in Westerly, R.I. 



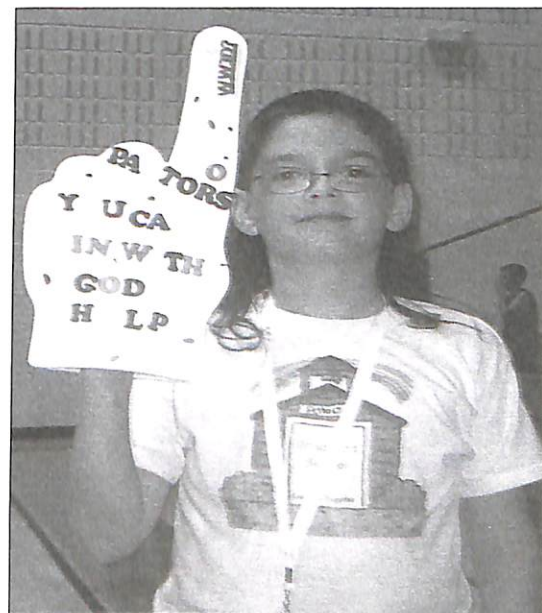
# Our future looks bright!



## What a sweet bunch!



A dining hall worker told Calvin Babcock that the college had enough ice cream on hand to go into the start of the school year. Well, once we SDBs (and a band camp and the football team) began scooping up the sweet stuff, the kitchen had to buy more by midweek! Holding an ice cream social to honor our pastors (above) only added to the emergency order.



*Tim Lawton of Westerly, R.I., crafted this "fan finger" at home and brought it to the Youth vs. Pastors basketball game. It reads: "Go Pastors! You can win with God's help!"*

# Health in the congregation

by Bethany Thompson-Gordon  
*(From the Conference Crier)*




*Barb Green, parish nurse, led a seminar on health in the congregation.*

Barbara Green, an RN and parish nurse, and Stephanie Sholtz, a licensed counselor, serve as part of the Milton (Wis.) SDB Church's health ministry team. They led the "Health in the Congregation" seminar during Conference week.

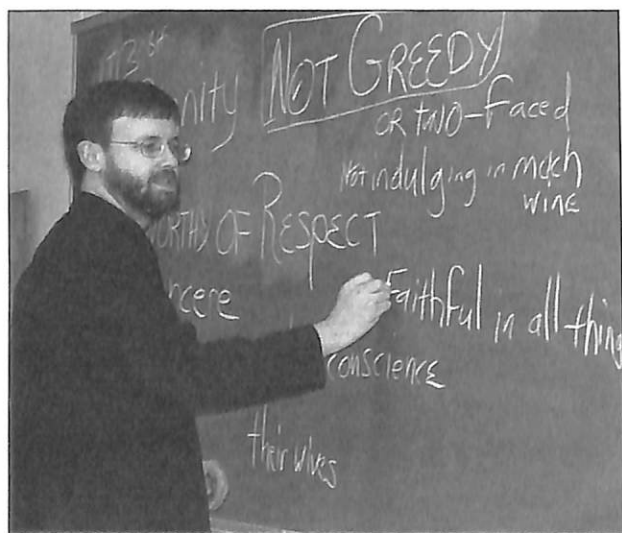
They covered a number of topics, including whether a church should even consider a health ministry. They gave a brief overview of the history of health in the Christian community, mentioned resources, discussed the possible ways of getting a health team in a church, and listed the various services that such a team could offer a church and its community.

Barb stressed that to be truly healthy, it's important that a health ministry balance mental, spiritual, and physical health. Many Scripture passages support the concept that God is concerned with our well-being. The "theme verse" for parish nurses, John 10:10, speaks of the abundant life Christ desires for us—physically, mentally, spiritually.

The Bible also tells us that God uses people as vehicles for healing and health.

Even if there are no medical professionals in your congregation, a health ministry team can show that the Body of Christ cares for those who are broken. If you believe that God is calling your church to such a ministry, you may contact Barb or Stephanie at the Milton church for additional guidance. 

## And more seminars...



*Andrew Camenga pointed to biblical requirements in his Diaconate seminar.*



*Amanda and Perry Barbee shared their short-term mission experience.*



*Michelle Crandall on Women's Resources.*



## A banquet of blessings

About 200 women gathered to be blessed by the fellowship around the tables at the Conference Women's Banquet.

The "buzz" ceased so we could enjoy the dulcimer duet played by Lydia Davis and Cynthia Brissey. Susan Bond read "AAADD" (selected by Gail Price), which seemed all too "fitting" for most of us.

Marie Ward, a Summer Christian Service Corps (SCSC) project director from the Daytona Beach church, shared her testimony. Jackie Cruzan, from White Cloud, Mich., added her insights as an SCSC team member at Salem, W.Va.

Our "First Lady," Janet Thorngate, shared her testimony of life, "A Child of God, a Disciple of Jesus Christ." It was an excellent example of seeking Christ with all your heart.

The Salem Women's Choir lifted our thoughts to the Lord with two musical numbers.

After the women joined hands and sang *God Be with You Till We Meet Again*, Linda Graffius, the "First Lady-to-be," gave the benediction. **SR**



*Left: Janet Thorngate shared her fascinating life testimony. Far left: Cynthia Brissey and Lydia Davis played a dulcimer duet.*



*Part of the Salem Women's Choir at the banquet.*

Our heartfelt thanks to Jan Bond, Madelyn Neher, and Leora Pinder for their prayerful consideration and listening ears as to God's will for this year's **Love Gift** recipients.

The distribution will be:

- Al and Marie Ward: Need of lung transplant \$500.00
- Tim and Jayme Osborn: Medical insurance \$500.00
- Miriam Lawton: Teaching trip to China through E.L.I./C \$200.00
- Philippines: Starting SCSC program \$300.00
- Australia: Printing costs and ministry needs \$150.00

The balance of the Love Gift will be divided as follows:

- 20% Medical supplies to Bangladesh and India.

- 20% Funds for leaders' wives to travel to the churches to teach the women.
- 20% Funds to develop the Women's Board in our sister Conferences and churches.
- 20% Funds to translate and print literature used in outreach in most of our foreign countries.
- 20% Funds for school supplies in the Gambia.

The Love Gift received at the Conference Women's Banquet was \$2,965.84. Donations can go to:

*Enid Nobles  
9 Little Pond Trail  
Ormond Beach, FL 32174*

Enid will accept donations to this year's Love Gift until September 30.

# For I know...

by June Kenyon, Daytona Beach, Fla.

When Pastor John Camenga asked what books of the Bible our study group wanted to examine, I had no idea that 1st and 2nd Timothy would have such an impact on my life.

First Timothy showed me that there were things in my life that I needed to deal with and receive God's forgiveness. My initial thought was to skip the class until we finished with that book, except that I was the one who had suggested we study it.

God had been dealing with me about some areas of my walk with Him, but in the daily rush of activities, I had told Him that I would take care of them "tomorrow." That tomorrow never came—until March 18.

While I had been a Christian since childhood, there were times when I didn't feel God's presence in my life. I thought He had abandoned me. When we got to verse 12 of 2 Timothy, my thinking changed.

Pastor John pointed out several words in this verse, which reads in part: "For I *know whom* I have believed and am persuaded that He is *able to keep* that *which I have committed* unto Him against that day." (I've italicized the words we were asked to ponder.)

## "Know"

The word "know" is not a belief, a thought, or a "maybe," Pastor John explained. It is the knowledge that God has saved us, and that settles it.

It doesn't matter if I'm not on the mountaintop all of the time. God is with me, even when the storms of life are so strong that I feel as if I'm going to drown. It doesn't matter *what* comes into my life—I have the assurance of salvation.

Satan can do a real hatchet job on people when storms are raging in their lives, and he was having a great time in mine. He knows when and

where our weakest points are, and he will go after them with full force. But, praise God, I know the One who can answer the door when Satan comes knocking!

## "Whom"

The next word is "whom." You've probably heard that if you want to get ahead in life, "It's not *what* you know, but *who* you know."

I have tried the "whos," and believe me, I didn't get ahead! Some of these people have caused heartaches and trials that have been difficult to endure.

It is a blessing to come to the "Who" that created this world and lay everything at His feet. There, I can find peace, joy, and the assurance that I am in His care. Why does it take so long for us to realize that God is always ready to take our concerns into His capable hands? He is much more able to deal with them than we are.

## "Able"

Let's look at the next word: "able." Its definition is "capable, worthy of being able to act upon or toward, tending, given or liable to."

Isn't that what God can do? He is all of these things: He is *able* to care for His flock. He is *worthy* of my praise. He is *able* to act upon my behalf. He loved me while I was still a sinner. He *tends* to my every need. He has *given* me life eternal. And He is *capable* in taking care of anything that comes into my life.

Ain't God good?!!

I have nothing to fear for I know Who is able to take care of me. He is able to keep me in His loving arms.

## "Keep"

Another word Pastor John asked us to ponder was "keep," often defined as, "to be faithful to." Webster's

Dictionary says, "To act fittingly in relation to [the Sabbath], to conform to in habits or conduct."

God can *keep* me from harm. He can *keep* me in His care. He can *keep* me in a loving relationship with my church family, my earthly family, and most importantly, with Him. And God is faithful in His Word. When I conform to His ways and teachings, He is able to *keep* me until the day of His return.

I have had difficulty "adjusting" in our Sabbath School class. But I know that God is able to help me adjust to His ways and teachings. There are habits and conducts in my life that need God's tender touch. I just need to commit my life to Him daily.

## "Which I have committed"

The final four words we examined were, "which I have committed." I never really knew what these words meant until Pastor John explained them. I have read and sung verse 12 in its entirety for years, but I never really understood it. I do now.

Commit my soul. My *soul*? I am *committed* to my job, and I have *committed* my heart to my husband. I have *committed* a lot of things in my life, but my soul? I am amazed that I can commit my soul to God and that He will keep it until I see Him face-to-face.

A soul is a precious part of our bodies. It is defined as, "the spiritual principle embodied in human beings, a person's total self."

God, in His infinite wisdom, knew that His greatest creation—man—needed a "spiritual part" to be whole. Where would I be if I did not have a soul? What would my morals be?

I am eternally grateful to know that God can "keep that [soul] which I have committed unto Him." No one can take that away! **SR**

# Exploring the Sabbath

by Linda Greene

*This is the fourth in a series of articles looking at Biblical Sabbath references, providing insights and challenging questions for personal Sabbath observance. These shortened studies will appear in their entirety in a future booklet.—Editor*

## Exodus 31:12-18

Over and over, God says that the Sabbath is not only a day of rest, but also a sign or covenant—a reminder that He created all things, including us—and that only *He* can make us holy, not us or our activities.

It's all about God and His activity in our lives, and the Sabbath is an everlasting sign for all generations to come. The Sabbath is really a picture or shadow of things to come; or should I say, of *who* is to come! I believe that the Sabbath was—and is—a picture of Jesus, God's provision for our sin and our avenue to grace. This would seem to line up with Colossians 2:16-17.

It's interesting that the Sabbath was the last thing God spoke about on Mount Sinai before Moses descended the mountain. I wonder why?

If it's true that the Sabbath is a reminder of God's grace and provision in our lives, then maybe God wanted to emphasize His "symbol of grace" before sending Moses down with the Ten Commandments. It was God saying, "Here's the law, but whatever you do, don't forget grace! That's what the Sabbath is—a reminder of My grace and freedom for you. It's about *Me*, not you. Don't forget!"

Does my Sabbath-keeping focus on God's work in my life? Or am I so wrapped up in what I'm doing, or not doing, that I don't have time to think about that? Where is my focus?

Maybe God reemphasized the Sabbath right before Moses went back

because He wanted to stress one more time how important it is for me to keep the Sabbath, setting it aside for His work in my life. Not only is the Sabbath a sign of God's provision for making me holy, but it's also one of His primary opportunities to work on me—to have His way in my life to a greater degree than other days because there are fewer distractions.

On top of everything, breaking it was punishable by death! What does this mean for me? What is this a picture of in my life?

I certainly don't believe God wants me killed if I break the Sabbath, so then what? Maybe it's to show me how serious God is about my setting aside my own desires and focusing on His, laying down my work to let Him work on and in me.

God's saying that He doesn't want me to take His holiness lightly, or anything that He has made holy, including the Sabbath and me. For He has made me holy, too!

Sabbath may be "recess" when I lay down all my burdens and enter into intimacy and romance with Jesus, but God's not playing around in the value He places on my obedience to this command.

It's a matter of life or death for me to let Him have His way in my life, to grant Him access to my time, energy, and focus. If He doesn't have His way in my life, I'm doomed to misery, confusion, and heartache. I may even be doomed to hell itself if God never gains access to my heart and life.


If Sabbath is a picture of the freedom from sin I experience in the finished work of the cross (apart from what it represents—Jesus), death is the only other option, the inevitable future I face if I never receive Christ's salvation.

## Time for a few questions:

1) Do my Sabbath activities heighten

or detract from my awareness of God's provision and trustworthiness?

- 2) Do church activities add or detract from the restfulness and refreshment of Sabbath? They may sometimes detract, but they definitely help to keep my focus on God, and isn't that more important?
- 3) Why did God tell me not to work in the first place? To take the emphasis off what I do and my plans, and to place the emphasis back on Him, where it belongs. So, if I base all of my Sabbath-keeping traditions on what I am or am not allowed to do, have I taken the focus off God and put it right back on myself again?
- 4) The law was given to point out my need for God, not to give me the opportunity to prove myself. Its purpose is to remind me that I need God's mercy and grace in my life. Does my Sabbath-keeping focus on my need for God's grace and mercy, or on my own ability to somehow earn God's approval by obeying Him?
- 5) Is my attitude about Sabbath-keeping humble and fully aware of my own inability to do it right? Or is it full of self-praise and self-righteousness because I'm making the grade, and *I'm* the one who's *really* doing it right?
- 6) If I admit that I can't be "perfect" in my Sabbath-keeping, do I err on the side of too many restrictions or on the side of too many activities? Which one is more apt to take the focus off God and put it on me and the world?

I wish I had answers to all these questions, but I don't. We'll just have to keep studying and see what we come up with. See you in the coming months as we continue to explore the Sabbath together. 

# Scripture Memory

Theme: "Strong, Steady"

The Scripture Memorization Program for the 2004-2005 Conference Year will focus on Conference President Don Graffius' theme: "Strong, Steady, Enthusiastic... for the Lord."

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

A list of persons from each church who have completed this Scripture Memorization Program should be submitted to the Board of Christian Education Office. The postmarked deadline is June 30, 2005. These people will be honored at General Conference.

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*Scripture quotations marked NLT are from the HOLY BIBLE, New Living Translation, copyright© 1996. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers. Unless otherwise marked, all Scripture quotations in this list are from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION® NIV® COPYRIGHT© 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society.*

## Month

## Youth/Adult

- 
- October** So, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and steady, always enthusiastic about the Lord's work, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless. (1 Corinthians 15:58, NLT)
- 
- November** For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. (Romans 3:23-24)
- 
- December** But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:22-23)
- 
- January** But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)
- 
- February** For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." (Romans 10:12-13)
- 
- March** That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. (Romans 10:9)
- 
- April** Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. (Romans 12:1)
- 
- May** Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. (Romans 12:2)
- 
- June** And as for you, brothers, never tire of doing what is right. (2 Thessalonians 3:13)

# verses—2004-2005

## enthusiastic... for the Lord”

### Junior

Be strong and steady... about the Lord's work, for you know nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless. (1 Corinthians 15:58, NLT)

---

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace. (Romans 3:23-24)

---

The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23)

---

While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)

---

For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile... for “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” (Romans 10:12-13)

---

If you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” you will be saved. (Romans 10:9)

---

Offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God. (Romans 12:1)

---

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. (Romans 12:2)

---

And as for you, brothers, never tire of doing what is right. (2 Thessalonians 3:13)

### Primary

Be strong and steady... about the Lord's work. (1 Corinthians 15:58)

---

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23)

---

The gift of God is eternal life. (Romans 6:23).

---

Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)

---

“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” (Romans 10:13)

---

Confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord.” (Romans 10:9)

---

Offer your bodies as living sacrifices. (Romans 12:1)

---

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world. (Romans 12:2)

---

Never tire of doing what is right. (2 Thessalonians 3:13)



Pearls from the Past by Don A. Sanford, historian

## Natural vs. moral absolutes

Recently, a tract came across my desk that contrasted the realms of Natural Absolutes and Moral Absolutes.

Many phenomena are found in God's Creation that man accepts without question. These are considered Natural Absolutes, which are non-reversible by man.

For instance, the passing of time is non-reversible, as is the rotation of the earth on its axis and its orbit around the sun. All are beyond the control of man. Others include the force of gravity, the ability of water to float heavy objects, the saltiness of the ocean, the inability of humans to live in water.

The first chapter of Genesis is filled with the absolutes of Creation that God declared good. Man has learned to accept these absolutes and adapt his life to them. The thesis of that tract is based on this premise:

"Everyone in all the world, with all degrees of knowledge and all disciplines of study, ALL accept and believe in the truthfulness of these non-moral, or NATURAL Absolutes. They are accepted as GIVENS of the world we live in. They cannot be altered by anyone on earth!

"Seeing that nearly everyone already accepts these non-moral absolutes about our natural world, why do so many people today have a problem with MORAL Absolutes—such as the Ten Commandments? Would not accepting these be the perfectly consistent thing for us to do?

"Why does our post-modern world wish to reject Moral Absolutes? Why not recognize that the Author and

Originator of the one is likewise the Author of the other? Could it be they (or you) never thought about connecting the two sets of Absolutes as coming from the very same Source? Could it be that they (or you) do not recognize that it is really inconsistent to ignore, or reject, one list of Absolutes while accepting the other? Think it over, will you please?"

*"Fear God and give him glory... Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water"* (Rev. 14:7).<sup>1</sup>

The force of this inconsistency or "selective acceptance" of moral absolutes was well illustrated in a videotape series entitled, "The Bible Jesus Read." It is a well-documented work about the Old Testament that would have been a part of Jesus' teaching.

However, in bringing out the importance of the underlying lesson of the book of Job, the commentator stated that Jesus accepted and reinforced each of the Ten Commandments given in Exodus and Deuteronomy except one. The implication of that one exception was clearly the Fourth Commandment: "Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God."

An early example of justifying an application of Biblical absolutes to conform to common practice is found in "The Orthodox Creed or A Protestant Confession of Faith," published in 1678. Chapter XXII is entitled, *Of religious worship and the Sabbath-day*.

"1. The light of nature shows that there is a God, who hath lordship and sovereignty over all; is just, good, and doeth good unto all; and is therefore to be feared, loved, praised, called upon, trusted in and served with all

the heart, and all the soul and with all the might. But the acceptable way of worshipping the true God is instituted by himself and so limited by his own revealed will...."

Then, after describing some of the elements of abuse in the forms of worship found in the non-Protestant church—such as the worship of angels, saints, or any other creature—the creed specified:

"7. As it is the law of nature that in general a proportion of time by God's appointment be set apart for the worship of God, so by his word, in a positive, moral, and perpetual commandment, binding all men, in all ages, he hath particularly appointed one day in seven for a Sabbath (Exod. xx. 8) to be kept holy unto him, which from the beginning of the world to the resurrection of Christ was the last day of the week, and from the resurrection of Christ, was changed into the first day of the week, (1 Cor. xvi. 1-2; Acts xx. 7; Rev. i, 10) which is called the Lord's day; and to be continued to the end of the world, as the Christian sabbath; the observance of the last day of the week being abolished."<sup>2</sup>

Section 8 describes how the Sabbath is to be kept, alluding to Old Testament references in Isaiah 58:13 and Nehemiah 13:15-23, as well as to the New Testament application found in Matthew 12:1-13. **SR**

<sup>1</sup>Tract by Leroy Bass, 2004.

<sup>2</sup>A Confession of Faith from "Confession of Faith and other Public Documents, illustrative of the history of the Baptist Churches of England in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century," edited for the Hanserd Knollys Society by Edward Bean Underhill, (London; printed for the Society Ladden, Brothers, and Co., Castle Street, Finsbury, 1854).





## FOCUS on Missions

# Outreach in Indonesia

by Kirk Looper

Indonesia is one country where you must be a dedicated Christian, not easily intimidated or swayed. Even though Muslims, Buddhists, and Hindus have their differences, they appear to be united when it comes to persecuting Christians. Other denominations also cause problems, and Seventh Day Baptists are frequent targets.

Although they encounter many obstacles, faithful SDBs in Indonesia

continue to meet every Sabbath in the village of Taman Luguna, Cibubur. Average attendance is over 50. In their latest report, they indicate that their congregation now consists of six families, "more or less 20 grown persons, more or less 12 children, and about 20 people from poor families."

It is great that they minister to one another and to those who come seeking food and clothing.

Once a month, they hold a clothing bank at their church, distributing food and clothes. They also spend a lot of their funds

*Left: Nani Yohana prepares to distribute bags of food and clothing. Below: Children of Indonesia enjoying Sabbath School.*



providing for others. They are working hard to develop a social ministry to serve the poor in their area.

This is amazing to me. When I last visited, I met many of their members and saw how destitute they are. Those in leadership—and some of the others—support the ministry almost completely on their own. Very few donations come from their sister Conferences and churches, yet they continue to do the work using their own money. They could increase their outreach if they had additional funds.

Occasionally, they do request money, but our Missionary Society has few funds that are undesignated. Most of the donations we receive are given for specific purposes.

Our brothers and sisters in Indonesia depend upon donations from others to carry on the business of supporting SDB churches and Conferences. It is a worthy cause.

Their ministry includes providing opportunities to learn new skills, as well as supplying desperately needed food and clothing. Many of their church members and attendees are unemployed since last year's wars and civil actions decimated the job market.

The leadership of Pastor Butje K. (advisor) and Nani Yohana (treasurer) has helped the ministry function more smoothly. Both hold down full-time jobs and minister after work and on weekends.

Others working in official positions are: Simon Jaya N., People's Link; Esther M., Secretary; and Dewi Fransisca M., Social Work.

Please continue to praise God for work being done in Indonesia, and pray that He will guide and protect those who continue to preach the Gospel and follow the *real* Ten Commandments. **SR**



# the BEACON

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

September 2004

## Interested youth

by Jenna Wethington and Anna Priest  
(From the Conference Crier)

The Conference Committee on Youth Interests discussed issues coming up for the next year. Committee Chair Marissa Van Horn led us as we reached many decisions. We talked about short-term missions, the Year-End Retreat, and activities for next year's Conference.

Concerning the lack of money for the traditional Year-End Retreat, we discussed holding more fundraisers to earn additional travel funds. We also decided to hold retreats at added sites to give more people a chance to attend at least one.

We discussed short-term missions,

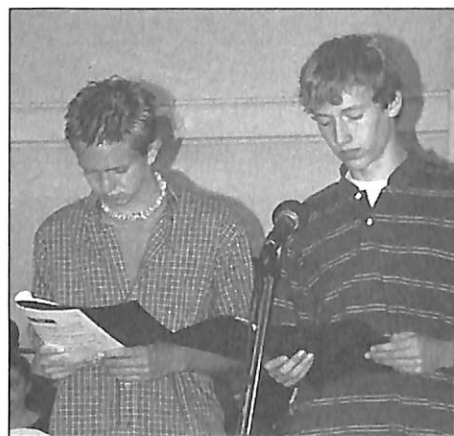
particularly the work at the Native American Reservation at Pine Ridge, S.D. While we didn't come to a specific conclusion, we thought it would be good to promote attendance at the missions seminar.

Jenn Layton from Shiloh, N.J., was elected our new *Beacon* editor for the coming year. **SR**

*Amberle Thorngate sang a solo.*



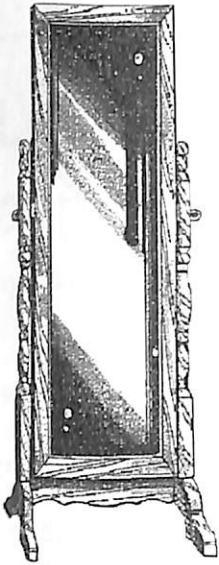
*Tim Thorngate and Jackson Butler await their lines during their Pre-Con skit at Conference.*



*Kyle Greene and Micah Van Horn adopted a cowboy theme for the Youth Banquet.*



*Christina Thorngate (left) directed the Youth Pre-Con musical, shared at Conference on Monday morning.*



# Reflections

by Leanne Lippincott

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

## A sentimental journey

In 1944, bandleader Les Brown and two other men wrote a song that Doris Day made famous. The first stanza goes:

"Gonna take a Sentimental Journey,  
Gonna set my heart at ease.  
Gonna make a Sentimental Journey  
To renew old memories."<sup>1</sup>

\*\*\*

Two months ago, I unintentionally made a "sentimental journey" of my own when I traveled to Dodge Center, Minn., for a family wedding.

My husband, Dennis, was killed in a plane crash in 1983. When we married in 1970, our first home was in Dodge Center. Shortly before our wedding, Denny purchased the old SDB parsonage on First Street for the exorbitant sum of \$5,000. Our monthly house payment was \$65, which nowadays would cover a cable TV bill.

I was working in Janesville, Wis., and living with my parents in Milton when Denny carted me off to the Minnesota wilderness. Almost 25, I was a naive, homesick newlywed who didn't know a soul in town.

I had grown up in a conservative, Sunday-keeping church so my contact with Seventh Day Baptists had been limited and often negative. The SDB kids in our high school band wouldn't march on Saturdays, much to the chagrin of the director and fel-

low band members. And some of our best basketball players refused to compete on Friday nights.

I thought I was a "pretty good" Christian when I married Denny, but a health crisis eventually caused me to delve even deeper into God's Word, and my faith grew.

I was raised in the Church but never experienced true Christian fellowship until I started worshiping in Dodge Center. Revs. John Camenga and Wayne Babcock served the church during our years there. The people were loving and supportive—something I had not experienced in my previous congregation.

In September of 1975, Pastor Wayne baptized me by immersion. I was almost seven months pregnant so I bobbed up like a cork. I "officially" joined the Dodge Center church after moving to Iowa. (I'm currently a member at Milton.)

On July 17, 2004, the day after the family wedding, a large contingent of present and former Lippincotts attended the Sabbath morning worship service at Dodge Center. Pastor Dale Rood, my classmate at Milton College, gave a wonderful sermon about "soaking in" Jesus.

As the service started, I slipped away from the "Lippincott section" and crossed the aisle to sit beside longtime friends, Phil and Diann Greene. Halfway through the first hymn, much to my embarrassment, I started crying. And the tears wouldn't stop.

Memories, good memories, flooded my mind. Through blurred eyes, I gazed at the stalwart souls who were still pillars of that church—Ida Babcock, Sheila and Arden

Crane, Bob and Maria Bonser, Lorna Zincke, Shirley Stoeckel, Alice Krohn, and all of the Greenes. The list could go on and on.

When we sat down, Diann smiled and handed me a fistful of Kleenexes. "I have a 'tissue ministry,'" she whispered.

Soon after I regained my composure, an aircraft buzzed the church. Everyone, including Pastor Dale, figured that the pilot had to be Brandon McNeilus, father of the new groom. But I had another thought: *That's something Denny would do!*

I tried hard not to laugh out loud and used up my last Kleenex.

"Seven, that's the time we leave, at seven.

I'll be waitin' up for heaven...  
Gotta take that Sentimental Journey,

Sentimental Journey home."<sup>2</sup> SR

<sup>1</sup>Copyright© 1944 by Morley Music Co., Inc., 31 West 34<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, N.Y. 10019. Copyright© renewed 1971.  
<sup>2</sup>Ibid.



*Give to those who gave so much.*

**PASTORS:**

Leroy C. Bass   C. Rex Burdick   David S. Clarke   John A. Conrod

Leland E. Davis   Elmo Fitz Randolph   Ralph L. Hays Sr.

Melvin G. Nida   David C. Pearson   Donald E. Richards

Don A. Sanford   Victor W. Skaggs   Trevah R. Sutton

Kenneth B. Van Horn   Edgar E. Wheeler

**OTHER RETIREES:**

Ida Babcock   Margaret S. Bond   Mabel Cruzan

Ethel D. Dickinson Clarke   Esther Lewis

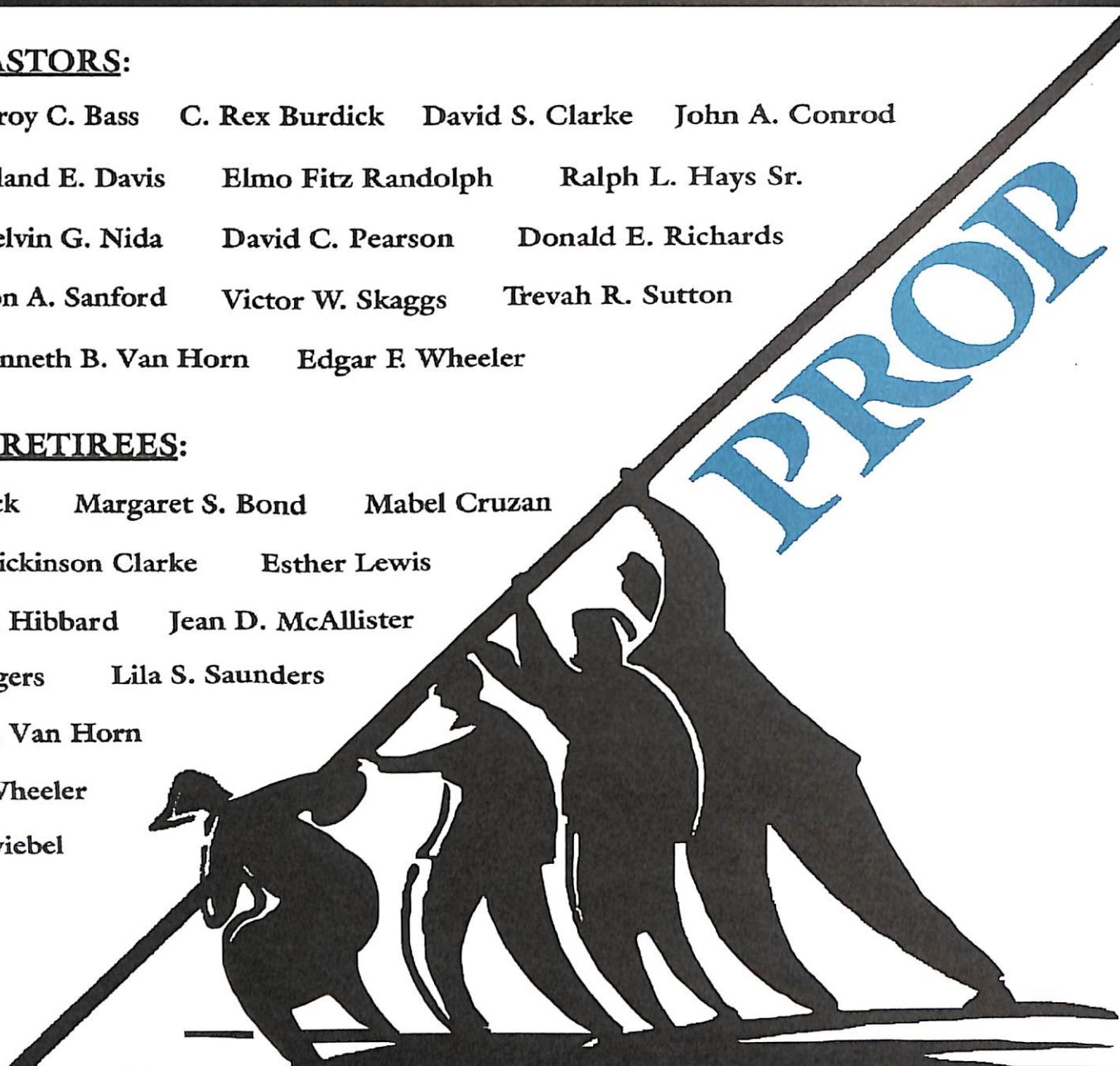
Beatrice D. Hibbard   Jean D. McAllister

Janette Rogers   Lila S. Saunders

Rowena R. Van Horn

Ethel M. Wheeler

Jaunita Zwiebel



**Pastors Retirement Offering Project**

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

**Please donate to PROP!**

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

# Lost Creek SDB Church approaches 200th anniversary

by Stanley Allen


Next year, the Lost Creek, W.Va., Seventh Day Baptist Church will celebrate its 200th anniversary of preaching and teaching God's Word. The church organized on October 27, 1805.

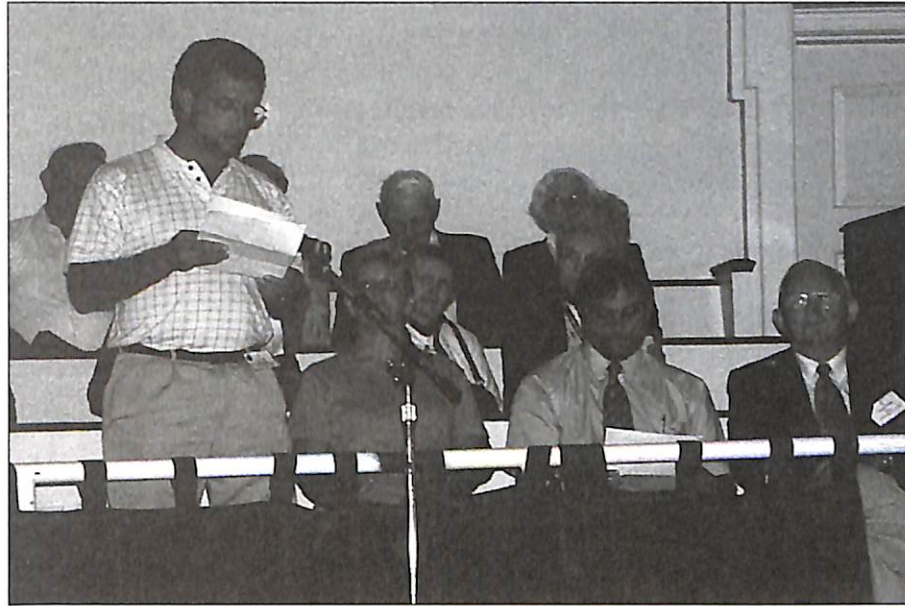
A committee has planned a program that began last month during General Conference in Buckhannon, W.Va. The overall celebration will include several programs during 2005, ending with a week-long series of events scheduled for October 25-29, featuring prominent speakers, Gospel hymnsings, and more.

Church members are planning extensive advertising using billboards, radio, television, newspapers, and mailings. This advertising will be expensive, but nothing is too good for God! To help ensure the financial success of our 200th anniversary, mail your checks to Dennis Bond, Treasurer, Lost Creek SDB Church, Box 241, Lost Creek, WV 26385.

The committee would like photos, stories, and information about the church sent to Stanley K. Allen, Rt. 2, Box 226, Jane Lew, WV 26378.

Pictures or sketches of the log church, frame church, and the brick church from the late 1800s or early 1900s are needed, along with pictures of prominent church members. Pictures will not be damaged when copied for inclusion in the book, *The First 200 Years, A History of the Lost Creek SDB Church*. We will return the pictures upon request.

As plans are firmed up, exact times and dates will be published so you can make travel arrangements. See you in Lost Creek! 



*Dennis Bond presents charges against a wayward church member in a Conference skit based on old records from the Lost Creek church.*



*This is the fourth SDB church structure in Lost Creek, with the addition of the education wing.*

# Special times in Portland

by Jerry G. Vaught

The Portland (Ore.) Area Seventh Day Baptist Church marked three special occasions this year.

## New branch church

On March 13, the church voted to accept the Medford, Ore., Fellowship as a branch church. It is now officially known as the Medford Seventh Day Baptist Church.

The Medford group, which had formed some months earlier, approached the Portland church about sponsoring them as a branch. Their leaders, Dennis and Susan Spiva, had learned of SDBs through the denomination's web site prior to contacting and visiting the Portland church.

The Spivas are already fellowshiping with a number of people and have a good outreach program. With the help of National Extension Minister Ron Elston, Portland members researched, planned, and set guidelines for both the Portland and Medford groups.

With a few exceptions, various members of the Portland church have managed to make the 10-hour,

roundtrip drive to Medford at least once a month.

## Northwest Day and Silver Anniversary

On May 15, Portland hosted Northwest Day and also observed their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a church. Some Medford members joined in the celebration.

Northwest Day is held twice a year, usually in May and November, with SDB churches taking turns hosting. Sometimes the event is simply for fellowship, others times to mark special occasions.

Several Northwest churches took part in Portland's celebration, with attendance bolstered by good weather that facilitated travel.

The theme of the anniversary was, "25 Years of Service to the Lord." Pastor Mel Neighbours of the Christ's Baptist Church Sev-

As the day ended, everyone involved felt that it had been a good celebration and a good Sabbath!

The Portland church wants to thank everyone who contributed to the day's success. They are especially grateful to the SDB Missionary Society and the Pacific Coast Association for their help in founding and establishing their church.

## "In His Service"— Time of recognition

On June 26, during its morning worship service, the Portland Area SDB Church honored those who have helped make the church what it is today.

The message was entitled, "Essentials for a Growing Church" and focused on three essentials—Prayer, Fellowship, and God's Word. Afterwards, a number of people were

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***On March 13,  
the church voted  
to accept the Medford,  
Ore., Fellowship as a  
branch church.***

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## Share the news!

We're always happy  
to share your local church  
news events.

You may e-mail us at:

*editor@  
seventhdaybaptist.org*

Or  
mail us at the address  
on page 3.

enth Day in Centralia, Wash., gave a message entitled, "Silver and Gold."

During the service, Levi Bond was honored for graduating from Multnomah School of the Bible with a degree in pastoral ministries. The church also gave him a Charge.

A two-fold program followed lunch. "Historical tidbits" were shared by members of the diaconate; by Rev. Justin Camenga, the founding pastor of the Portland church; and by Jerry G. Vaught, current pastor. A special plaque was unveiled which honored former and current members of the diaconate. Then several young adults led a musical praise time.

singled out for their part in the church's ministry. The theme for this special time was "In His Service," bolstered by the bulletin title, "Lest We Forget."

Following a brief prayer, Pastor Vaught handed out Certificates of Appreciation and other awards, with some individuals receiving more than one. As intended, most selected for recognition were taken by surprise. Some individuals even received extra comments or compliments, above and beyond what was written on their certificates.

It turned out to be a "special" Sabbath for everyone who attended. **SR**

# New England Yearly Meeting holds annual picnic

by David Taylor

The New England Yearly Meeting consists of six Seventh Day Baptist Churches: First Hopkinton, Ashaway, R.I.; Pawcatuck and Vision Christian Fellowship, both Westerly, R.I.; Pine Street Gospel Chapel, Middletown, Conn.; Rockville, R.I.; and Waterford, Conn.

Every September, members gather at one of the churches for a Sabbath of worship and fellowship. This year, they will meet on September 25 at the Rockville SDB Church, with Conference President Donald Graffius as guest speaker.

Next year, participants will gather at the SDB Meeting House in Newport, R.I.

Another special event is the annual New England Yearly Meeting picnic, held at Charlie and Marylin Greene's house in Hopkinton. This year, 51 people came on July 18 to swim, play horseshoes and badminton, or simply visit.

A wonderful smorgasbord of meats and salads was served, followed by a hymnsing led by Dennis Sousa of the Rockville church and Pastor David Taylor of the Vision Christian Fellowship (see photos).

It was a great day for everyone! *SR*



## Denominational Dateline

### September

- 1-15 New York State—Calvin Babcock
- 12 Meeting with contacts, Lincoln, Neb.—  
Ron Elston
- 18 Yakima, Wash.—Elston
- 19-24 EDM Major Donor Seminar, Dallas, Texas—  
Rob Appel
- 25 New England Yearly Meeting, Rockville,  
R.I.—Kirk Looper
- 25-26 MOST (Muriel Osborn Seminar for  
Teachers) Alfred Station, N.Y.—Andrew  
Camenga
- 27-28 Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs,  
Washington, D.C.—Kevin Butler

- 22-23 Central New York Fall Association, Verona,  
N.Y.—Appel
- 23-24 *Sabbath Recorder* Committee, Nortonville,  
Kan.—Butler
- 23-24 Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society  
Board of Directors, Westerly, R.I.—  
Looper, Elston
- 23-24 SDB Memorial Fund Annual & Quarterly  
Meeting, Columbus, Ohio, Seventh Day  
Baptist Church—Babcock
- 24 SDB Board of Christian Education Annual  
Corporation Meeting, Coudersport, Pa.—  
Camenga
- 30 Diaconate Workshop, Riverside—Camenga

### October

- 8-10 North Central Association, Dodge Center,  
Minn.— Don Graffius, Gordon Lawton
- 8-10 Mid-Continent Association, Boulder,  
Colo.—Appel
- 15-17 Pacific Coast Association, Riverside, Calif.—  
Appel
- 15-17 Allegheny Fall Association, Little Genesee,  
N.Y., and dedication of new church building—  
Graffius, Lawton, Looper, Don Sanford

### November

- 4-5 CLT at Seventh Day Baptist Center, Janes-  
ville, Wis.
- 7-8 General Council, SDB Center
- 12-14 South Atlantic Association, Daytona Beach,  
Fla.
- 13-14 TCC Annual Meeting, SDB Center  
Battle Creek, Mich., Centennial Celebra-  
tion—Lawton

# Births

**Bond.**—A daughter, Isabella Rose Bond, was born to Chet and Tanya (Bonsler) Bond of Dodge Center, MN, on January 9, 2003.

**Meyer.**—A son, Nathan Meyer, was born to David and Joy (Wallstrom) Meyer of Pine Island, MN, on August 17, 2003.

**Robinson.**—A son, Josiah Saylor Robinson, was born to Shane and Jacinta Robinson of Dodge Center, MN, on February 11, 2004.

**White.**—A daughter, Aleya Grace White, was born to Andy and Jessie (Cowden) White of Mantorville, MN, on April 9, 2004.

**Stover.**—A daughter, Arianna Kay Stover, was born to Ken and Rebecca Stover of Vernon, NY, on April 12, 2004.

**Randall.**—A son, Owen Bradley Randall, was born to Brad and Lisa (Call) Randall of Cottage Grove, MN, on June 1, 2004.

# New members

**Dodge Center, MN**  
*Dale Rood, pastor*  
Joined after testimony  
Sheila Edwards

**Medford, OR**  
*(Branch of Portland)*  
Joined after testimony  
Dennis Spiva  
Susan Spiva

**Salemville (Bell)**  
**New Enterprise, PA**  
*Edward Sutton, pastor*  
Joined after testimony  
Susan Jane  
Robinette

**Little Rock, AR**  
Joined after testimony  
William Smith  
Darlene Smith  
Raymond Tucker

**Portland, OR**  
*Jerry Vaught, pastor*  
Joined after testimony  
B.J. Bruce  
Joined after baptism  
Melody Vaught

**Salem WV**  
*Dale Thorngate, pastor*  
Joined after testimony  
John Richmond

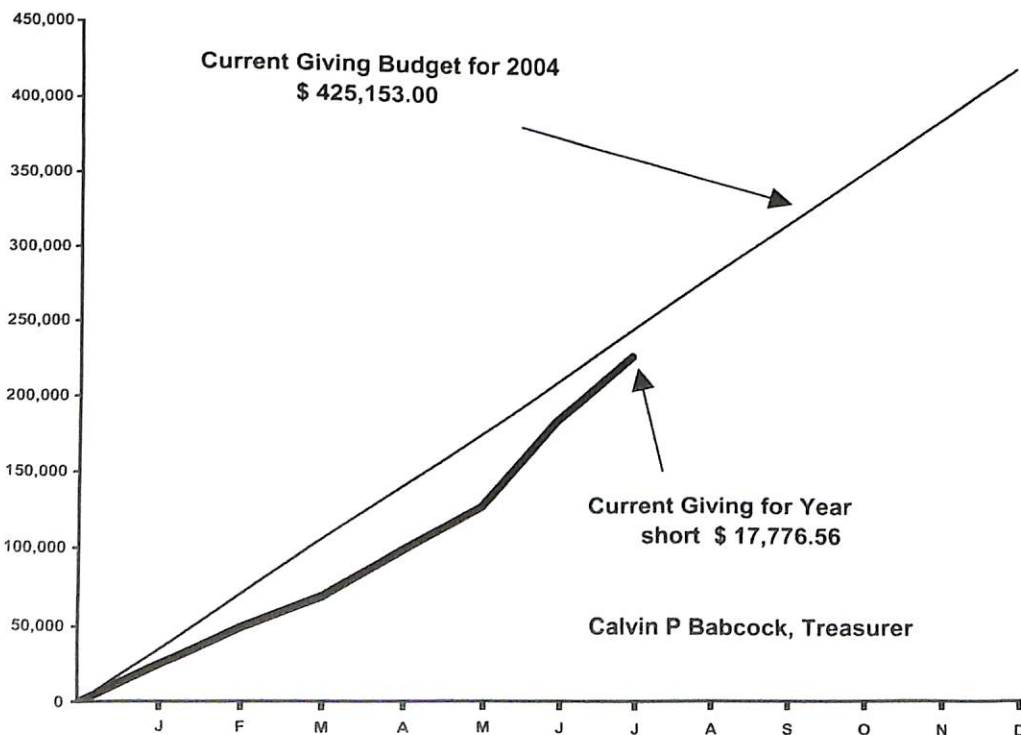
# Marriages

**Bruce - Sanderman.**—Scott Bruce and Lisa Sanderman were united in marriage on September 6, 2003, at the Leach Botanical Garden in Portland, OR, with Rev. Jerry Vaught officiating.

**Bruce - Vaught.**—Robert ("BJ") Bruce Jr. and Abigail Vaught were united in marriage on May 22, 2004, at the Lake Grove Presbyterian Church in Lake Oswego, OR. The bride's father, Rev. Jerry G. Vaught, officiated, assisted by Rev. Matthew W. Hilgaertner.

**Fletcher - Grassmeyer.**—Rory Fletcher and Nancy Ann (Miller) Grassmeyer were united in marriage on July 24, 2004, at the Salemville (Bell) Seventh Day Baptist Church in New Enterprise, PA. Rev. Edward Sutton officiated.

# Current Giving 2004





# Obituaries

**Bowen.**—Kenneth Bowen, 75, of Portland, Ore., went to sleep in the Lord on August 17, 2002.

He was born on December 7, 1927, and grew up on a farm in Yankton, S.D. At age 15, he moved to Oregon to work with his dad in the shipyards, to help raise enough money to move the rest of the family there.

Ken later worked at a Fred Meyer store, not knowing that his future wife, Grace, worked at a Meyer's store at another location. After Marine boot camp, he and Grace married. He was 17 at the time.

Ken's military service included the occupation of China near the end of World War II.

Following his stint in the Marines, Ken went to work for Portland General Electric, retiring 43 years later as Service Inspector.

He accepted the Lord at age 23, and was a deacon and member of the Portland Area Seventh Day Baptist Church. He was active in children's ministry, especially the church's puppet program.

He loved woodworking and built the family home "from scratch."

In addition to his wife, survivors include one son, two daughters, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

A funeral service was held at the Portland Area SDB Church on August 21, 2002, with Pastor Jerry Vaught officiating. A civilian and military graveside service and burial was held at the Willamette National Cemetery in Portland.

**Mann.**—Howard Irving Mann, 72, of Rome, N.Y., died at his home on August 23, 2003, after a long illness.

He was born on July 27, 1931, in Stow, Mass., the son of Walter and Vera (Ulman) Mann. He was a graduate of Smith Vocational High School in Northampton, Mass.

He owned and operated Howard's

Tractor Service for over 35 years, retiring in 2001. He served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War and was a member of the Verona, N.Y., Seventh Day Baptist Church.

Survivors include three daughters, Diane Adair of Amherst, Mass., Catherine Minkley of Irving, Texas, and Tricia Mazur of Mansfield, Texas; five sons, Howard Jr. of Belchertown, Mass., James of Rome, and Jeffrey, Anthony, and David, all of New Smyrna Beach, Fla.; one sister, Mildred Rollins of Hudson, Mass.; two brothers, Walter of New Smyrna Beach and Douglas of Edgewater, Fla.; 12 grandchildren, and several nieces, nephews, and cousins. One sister, Barbara Beukoski, predeceased him.

Burial took place on August 29, 2003, at Lake Vale Cemetery in Belchertown, Mass. Pastors Russ Johnson and Steven James had a time of remembrance for Howard during the September 6, 2003, Sabbath worship service in Verona.

**Owens.**—Robert E. Owens, 84, of Charlestown, R.I., died on March 26, 2004, after a valiant battle with Parkinson's disease. He was born on July 1, 1919, in Shelton, Conn., the son of Joseph and Hazel (Barnes) Owens. He married Honor S. Whitford in 1940.

Robert was in the U.S. Navy during World War II, stationed at Sampson, N.Y. He was a long-time employee of Harris Graphics (formerly the Cottrell Co.) of Pawcatuck, Conn., retiring as an electrician foreman.

He was a former member of the Westerly Singers, performing at various churches and at many weddings. He was especially proud to have sung in operas.

In addition to music, Robert enjoyed hiking through the woods, photography, fishing, and any opportunity to use his witty sense of humor.

In addition to his wife, he will be sadly missed by three daughters, Julia Buchanan of Hopkinton, R.I., Heather Owens of Perryville, R.I., and Shirley Boyd of Green Hill, R.I.; and one son, Thomas, of Charlestown. He is also survived by two brothers, Raymond of Perryville and Douglas of Nova Scotia. One daughter, Pamela, and one brother, Harry, preceded him in death.

A funeral service was held on March 30, 2004, at the Buckler-Johnston Funeral Home in Westerly, with Rev. David Taylor officiating.

**Reid.**—Berwyn H. Reid, 79, of Almond, N.Y., died on April 23, 2004, at St. James Mercy Hospital in Hornell, N.Y., following an extended illness.

He was born on May 8, 1924, in Meadville, Pa., the son of Dana and Lois (Holmes) Reid. Following graduation from Meadville High School in 1942, he became an U.S. Army Air Corps airplane mechanic, ultimately achieving the rank of sergeant and hanger chief.

After his discharge in 1946, he moved to Alfred, N.Y., enrolling at Alfred-Almond Central School, where he met his future wife, Mary Jane Ormsby. They married on July 17, 1949.

Berwyn attended Alfred University from 1947 to 1949. In 1950, he began a long career with the U.S. Postal Service. Following retirement in 1979, he worked as a bank teller until 1985. He also worked as a mail clerk for Alfred State College from 1986-87.

Berwyn was a member of the Alfred Seventh Day Baptist Church from 1949 until 1983. He then joined the Alfred Station church, where he served as a deacon and in other capacities.

Through the years, he was involved with many scouting and

*cont. on next page*

## Obituaries, cont. from page 26

American Legion activities.

An avid sportsman, he especially enjoyed bowling, swimming, and skiing. He rolled a perfect 300 game in 1990, and was a member of the U.S. Senior Olympics Masters Swim Team. He also competed in New York's Empire State Games, winning numerous awards.

Survivors include one daughter, Audrey Ordway of Hornell; four sons, D. Scott of Felton, Del., Douglas of Almond, and Gary and Darren, both of Alfred; one brother, Roderic, of Whittier, Calif.; four grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and a niece and nephew.

A memorial service was held on May 15, 2004, at the Alfred Station SDB Church, with Pastor Kenneth Chroniger officiating.

**Harris.**—Lois Marie Harris, 53, of Little Rock, Ark., was called "home" on May 5, 2004.

She was born on December 17, 1950, in Lonoke, Ark., the daughter of Samuel and Eula Houston. She worked for Southwestern Bell and served in the Arkansas National Guard.

Lois was a faithful and loving member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Little Rock. Her joy for living was in the sharing of God's Word, which was an inspiration to many. She also was involved with helping the blind and visiting nursing homes.

Survivors include one son, Orion Harris; two brothers, and two sisters. One sister, Deborah Houston, preceded her in death.

Funeral services to celebrate her life were held at the First Baptist Church Highland Park in Little Rock. Interment was in the Arkansas Memorial Cemetery.

**Hibbard.**—Beatrice DeRivero Hibbard, beloved and devoted mother and wife, died on May 22, 2004, in Santa Cruz, Calif. She was 88.

Beatrice, who was born in Oahu,

Hawaii, on October 28, 1915, was the last surviving child of Ovid and Tomasa Velez DeRivero of Castille, Spain. She married on March 9, 1936, becoming the wife and love of the Rev. Theodore James Hibbard.

Survivors include seven children—Lewis, Dr. Pearl Hibbard, Estrellita Earney, Earl, Faith Hibbard Kerns, Shawn, and Forrest.

Beatrice leaves her offspring with lessons of a life well lived, the unconditional love of an adoring mother, and a model of love and devotion to God's purpose for us on this earth.

A private Memorial Service will be held at a later date.

**Barrar.**—Rev. Edward Francis Barrar, 101, of Christchurch, New Zealand, died peacefully on June 11, 2004, with his son Daniel, daughter Dorothy, and granddaughter at his side.

He was born on January 31, 1903, in a village north of Timaru, on South Island, New Zealand.

Edward lived an active life. Before he was 20, he had achieved much, even starting a bicycle business in Wanganui. He was also in the Navy and was saved after his clipper broke up in a storm. He was the runner-up featherweight boxer of New Zealand and ran to build up his body.

Convicted by God in his early years, Edward focused on Biblical and theological studies at the Melbourne College of Divinity. About this time, he joined with Seventh Day Baptists and was instrumental in establishing SDB churches in his country. When a fire destroyed the sanctuary in Christchurch, Edward, at age 80, was the driving force in rebuilding the church.

He was also a great supporter of the work in Malawi, Africa.

While in his 90s and with failing eyesight, Rev. Barrar wrote a book entitled, *A Critical Examination of the Modern Versions of the Bible*.

Edward was a generous man of God and a faithful witness for Christ. Although not one to share personal

feelings, he prayed fervently for all he knew. He will be missed by many.

**Burdick.**—Virginia N. Burdick, 86, of Galesburg, Ill., died on June 21, 2004, in Galesburg Cottage Hospital. She had lived in Galesburg since 2001.

She was born on June 10, 1918, in Parkersburg, W.Va., the daughter of Opha K. and Gertrude (Bush) Norman. She graduated from Parkersburg High School. After attending one year at Salem (W.Va.) College, she transferred to Capital University in Columbus, Ohio, and graduated with a Bachelor's degree.

On June 29, 1943, she married Dr. H. Laurence Burdick in Milton, Wis. He preceded her in death on May 24, 1998.

Virginia was a state and regional officer for the General Federation of Women's Clubs for many years in Wisconsin and cherished her memories of that time.

For most of her life, she was a member of the Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church. She held several positions there through the years, including church president and clerk. She served as publicity chairman for their annual turkey supper.

Virginia also served in many capacities on Milton's School Board.

She lived most of her life in Milton, but in recent years failing health led her to live with her children. After Larry's death, she joined the First SDB Church of Genesee in Little Genesee, N.Y. She was a member there at the time of her passing.

Survivors include two sons, Dr. Norman Burdick of Galesburg and Rev. Kenneth Burdick of Auburn, Wash.; one daughter, Linda Lawton of Milton; nine grandchildren, and several nieces, nephews, grandnieces, and grandnephews. One sister predeceased her.

Memorial services were held on July 23, 2004, at the Milton SDB Church, with Pastor Herb Saunders officiating. Interment was next to her husband in the Milton Cemetery.

# KEVIN'S

## ORNER

While our Tract Council program at Conference outlined the many new things we've done in the past year, something else caught the eye of fellow Mac computer aficionado, Matthew Olson.

Pastor Matt offered this entry in the *Conference Crier*, under the headline, "Kevin's Komputer":

It has come to my attention that Kevin Butler's laptop, used for the work of the Tract and Communication Council, is old. How old is it?

It is so old that it would be sporting a mullet hairstyle if it were human.

It is so old, if it were a song, it would be the "Macarena."

It is so old that if it were a car, there would be a four-cylinder turbo.

In other words, the T&CC laptop is *so* '90s.

As Rafiki (the wise old baboon in the movie "Lion King") would say, "It is time." Time for a new laptop, that is. Recently, the TCC was able to upgrade the office computers to take advantage of the latest in processors and programs. Unfortunately, a laptop was not in the budget. Hey, if you can't afford a case of SDB-logo baseball caps, how can you buy a new G4?

Fortunately, I have a plan, but I'll need your help to get it done.

My Mustang is finally "complete." Pretty much. Almost. And I happen to have a few spare parts kicking around (a set of headers, a complete fuel-injected 5.0 engine, two doors, five sets of wiring... you know, a few spare parts).

I'm going to auction these parts on e-Bay or sell them locally. If you have some neat spare parts lying around—a husband who won't do yardwork, perhaps—would you consider auctioning them off as well?

The goal is to raise around \$2,000 to get a new laptop komputer for Kevin. If you want to help out, let me know...

Together, we can help Kevin let go of the '90s. Now if we could just do something about his clothes. Oh well, one decade at a time.

Okay, I was "with" Matt up to that last statement. So what if my attire is of the same vintage as his '76 Mustang?

Actually, I'm "with" Matt all the way. In fact, we just set up a PayPal account named "The Sabbath Recorder" (editor@seventhdaybaptist.org), where you can send your auction proceeds, or simply make donations. Every dollar helps in this techno upgrade.

Thanks, Matt. And thank you all!

## Council strikes again with "Court TCC"



*The "honorable" Jim Skaggs modeled a new style in judicial apparel.*



*Plaintiff Steve Osborn (left) emphasizes his point during "Court TCC." Defendant Kevin Butler is unimpressed.*



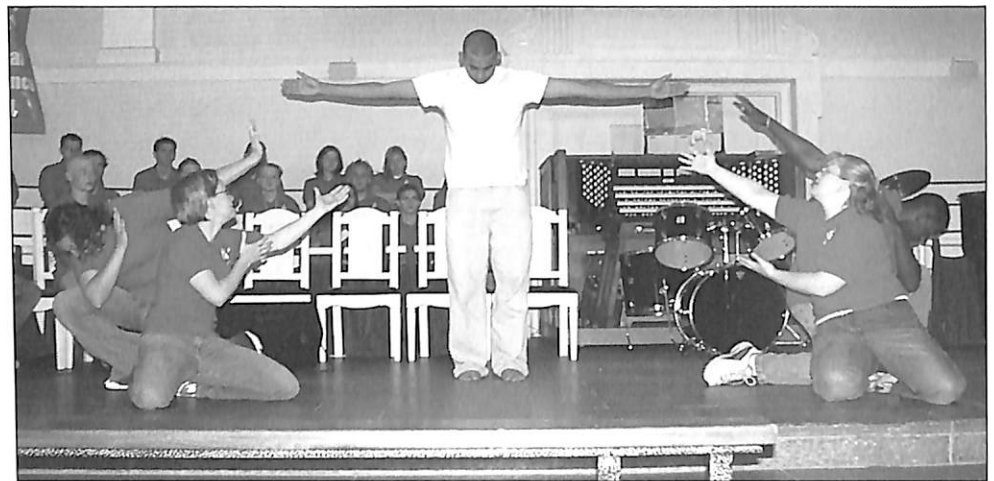
*Bailiff Paul Manuel holds a stack of Sabbath Recorders to swear in witness Luan Ellis.*



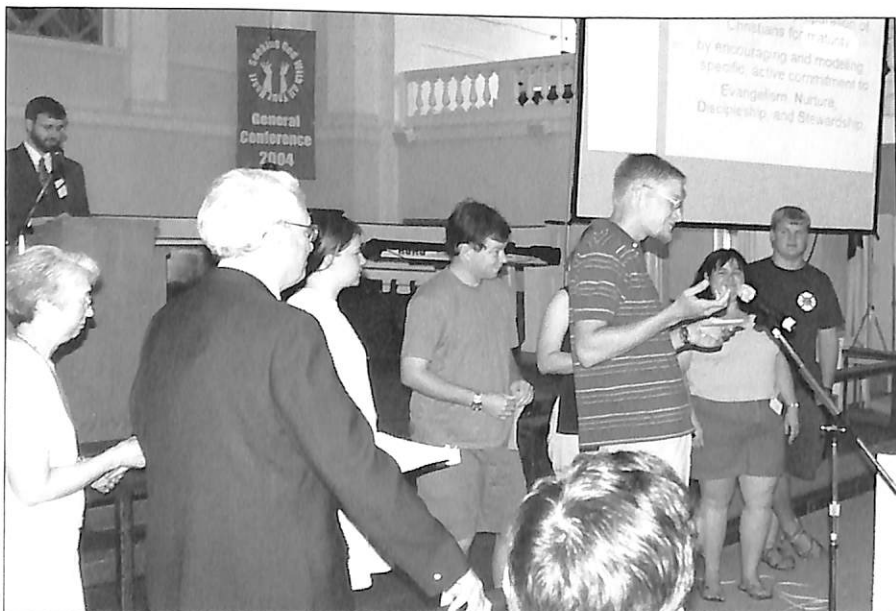
*Announcing the new website design with a fanfare of kazoos (l.to r.): Paul Manuel, Justin Hibbard (with much-needed piano accompaniment), Editor Butler, and Linda Lawton.*



*New President Don Graffius encouraged us to give up a soda or coffee each day and donate that money to the Conference. If each SDB gave a dollar a day, we would oversubscribe the denominational budget.*



*In dramatic fashion, these Summer Christian Service Corps (SCSC) members depicted how people reject or accept Jesus as Savior.*



*Josh Michaels takes his turn "analyzing" his spiritual gifts in a Board of Christian Education skit.*



*Associate Pastor Steve Osborn (right) accepts the Scripture Memory Bowl for the Milton, Wis., church. Andrew Camenga made the presentation.*

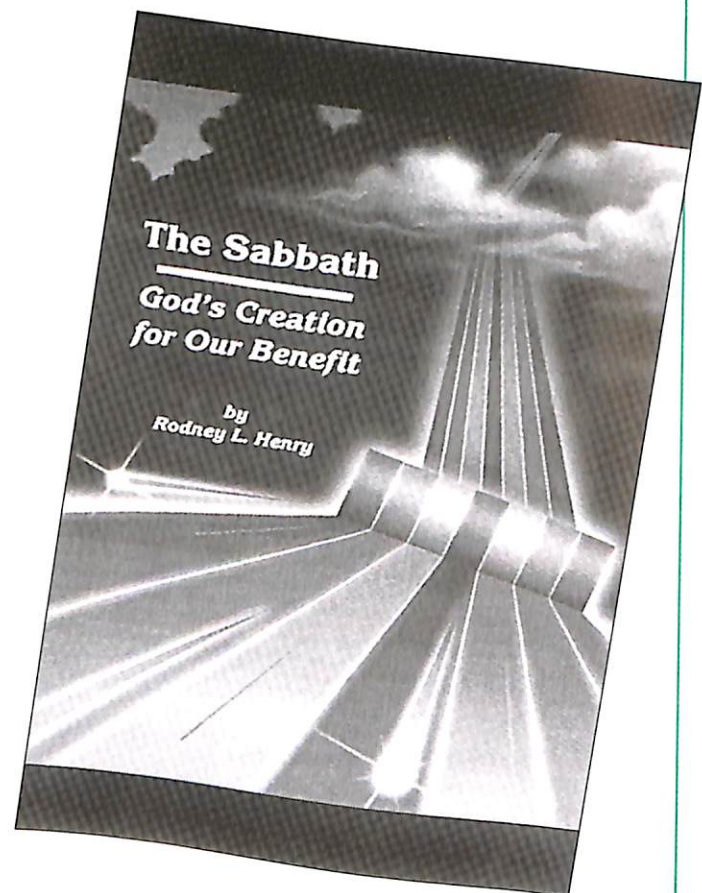
## Sabbath study still available!

### ***The Sabbath: God's Creation for Our Benefit***

by Rodney L. Henry

This 64-page book includes study and discussion questions for each chapter. Topics relate the Sabbath to Creation, manna, the Ten Commandments, Jesus, and more. Promotes the good news about the Sabbath and timeless Sabbathkeeping principles.

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