



The
Sabbath
RECORDER

October 2005

News for and about Seventh Day Baptists



**Comfy,
are we?**

Goodbye, comfort zone!

From the safe zone to the faith zone

How to give away over 3,000 bottles of water



Who are Seventh Day Baptists?

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

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

The seventh day

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

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

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Are you willing to serve with next year's Summer Christian Service Corps?

Does your church wish to host a team for service and outreach?

Applications for *Team Members* and *Church Projects* will be on a website or at your local church.

These applications will be on the Conference's website—www.seventhdaybaptist.org—for your convenience. We will also mail out member and project applications to each church, so contact your pastor or church office.

Please send the completed applications and other forms (for both Team Members and Church Projects) to: SCSC Committee, c/o Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church, 720 E. Madison Ave., Milton, WI 53563.

Team and church applications must be post-marked **no later than January 31, 2006**. There will be **NO** exceptions.

If you have any questions, please contact the Milton church at the above address, or e-mail the SCSC Committee at churchoffice@miltonsdb.org.

SCSC

SCSC



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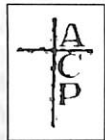


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From the safe zone to the faith zone

by Bernie Wethington, White Cloud, Mich.

This challenging message was given Monday night at Conference.

* * *

Do you want to be an impact player for Jesus Christ, or are you happy just to watch the “game”?

If you simply want to observe life, then sit back, relax, fold your hands, and snooze. We’ll wake you up when the Lord comes...

But if you want to make a difference—not only in your life but in the lives of those around you—there’s good news: Jesus Christ wants to transform you from who you are now into the person he wants you to be.

Your ideal life

Picture your ideal life. Mine is to be in a canoe, with my wife in the front, on a lake for at least 10,000 years before putting to shore. It will be 80 degrees where Patti is, because that’s the kind of weather she likes. But the temperature at the back of the canoe will be 65, because that’s what I like.

What’s *your* ideal life? What do *you* picture?

When you think about your ideal life, do you envision it filled with bliss? How about enough money to pay your bills? Or no more family arguments?

If you’re determined to live a good, peaceful life—your ideal life—here are some principles. I call them “Principles for Safe Zone Living.”

My zone is not your zone

First of all, you need to understand that my zone is not your zone. What I find to be fun, safe, and secure in life, you may not. In fact, you may find it boring.

Perhaps you’re one of those people who want to live on a motorcycle.

Motorcycling is the most dangerous way to get from one place to another. And did you know that walking is more dangerous than flying? Or that just being in bed is dangerous?

Over 300 people in America die every year by choking in bed or suffocating. You can’t even *stay in bed* anymore without being in danger!

I don’t know where it’s truly safe anymore, but I do know that my safe zone isn’t going to be yours. If I’m creating a safe zone around Bernie, you can’t come in. I like my zone. I created it, and I’ve gotten comfortable with it.

It’s all about me

Another thing about my safe zone is that it’s all about me. And when things are about me, I have a sense of control—I think I can take charge of my life.

One of the reasons I like my zone is because I know it. (I don’t like *all* the parts that I know, but it’s still about me.)

I often *think* I control my life, but does anybody here *know* they’re in control?

Make it right, it’ll last forever

Another principle about living in the safe zone is that if you make it right, it’ll last forever; at least, that’s what we think. So we build a safe little nest egg and look forward to retirement.



One of my friends got wiped out financially in one of the recent retirement fund scandals. How tragic! No one should be allowed to take someone else’s money like that. It’s sad when you work all your life creating a safe zone and then, just like that, it’s gone.

God wants you out of your safe zone

The reason—the ultimate, truthful reason your safe zone gets rocked—is because God wants you out of it. Your safe zone can keep you from becoming an impact player for Jesus Christ. It can become an idol that stands between you and the Lord.

As much as we want to hold on to our safe zones, we have to give them up before we can “get it on.” God wants us to move out of our safe zones, and He gave us a role model for doing just that: Moses. He’s our example of living in—and then leaving—the safe zone.

The first component of the “Moses Complex” is, “Why me?” *Why does God want me to leave my comfort zone, my safe zone?* Moses thought.

God came to his servant and said, “Moses, I want you to do something.” And Moses replied, “Why me?”

The second thing Moses said to God was, "I just don't know what to say."

I hear that phrase a lot, but I've never believed it. As soon as people say that, they continue talking. If you don't know what to say, shut up!

The third thing about this "Moses Complex" is the Jonah factor: "Lord, if I go over there and act like a fool for you, you're going to save them, and they're going to know I'm a fool."

Not only was Jonah put in the belly of a whale; he was bleached and stunk. Yet he preached to people who accepted the Lord God Almighty. Talk about being moved out of your comfort zone!

The fourth excuse Moses gave God was, "I don't talk too good." In a final effort to avoid God's directive, he added, "Just send somebody else."

False humility and indifference

I disdain false humility. When Moses asked, "Why me?" he's just like us. We often put on airs of false humility: "Oh, I can't do that; I'm not good enough." But in your heart, you know you *are* good enough.

God doesn't call losers. He calls people, redeemed by His Son, Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit. If God calls you, don't reply, "Why me?" He calls you because He *wants* you!

Are you so indifferent to a lost and dying world that you could look God in the face and say, "I'm too busy. I can't do this"?

Are you going to stand before the throne some day and say, "Hey, God, you know what? I really enjoyed my 54-inch, liquid plasma TV. And I enjoyed all those golf games, too."

God will reply, "And how many of My people died while you were enjoying your golf game?"

Pride and foolishness

The "Jonah Complex" is actually a fancy name for pride. "Lord, if I'm going to go out there and look foolish

for You, I'm not going to do it!"

Did Jesus look foolish for *you* on a cross—naked, bleeding to death, being separated from his Father for the only time in the history of the histories? Did Jesus pridefully say, "I'm not doing this. I'm getting down. These people aren't worth it"?

The "safe zone" is actually the "selfish zone." And it makes me think of myself.

Jesus stayed on the cross. He swallowed his pride, gulped, and said, "It is finished."

You and I sit in our comfort zones, enjoying the air-conditioning, enjoying the padded chairs in our homes. We never feel even one splinter from Jesus' cross.

When we say things to God like, "Well, I don't talk too good," we're actually exercising a critical spirit. We're saying to God, "You didn't make us good enough."

Spiritual laziness

When Moses concluded by telling God, "Let someone else do it," what he was *really* saying was, "I'm just too lazy."

That harkens back to the Garden of Gethsemane. Some of Jesus' disciples were trying to pray with him, but they kept falling asleep. How many of us have tried to pray for just *five minutes* and ended up dozing or wandering?

We are spiritually lazy because we've gotten too caught up in our comfort zones. We spend our lives only in safe zones, but God wants us out of those zones.

We live in our safe zones individually, but we also live in them corporately. We, as a spiritual body—as Seventh Day Baptists—have settled in a very comfortable place. As a people, we are happy to be just a few thousand in a nation of 280 million. Is this good?

We SDBs have gotten so comfortable in the pride of our history that we're willing to say, "We're Seventh Day Baptists," and then listen as people reply, "Who?" That question is followed by a litany of explanations, not so much about who we are as a denomination or what we believe, but why—after 350 years—we're so small.

I often reply with my favorite line: "God's people have always been a minority." That makes me feel self-righteous and pretty good.

Why do we exist?

Why *do* we exist? We SDBs have gotten so comfortable in our safe zones that we don't even know why we exist anymore. You can ask other Christians, "Why are you a believer?" "Why is your church here?" "What are you all about?" And they'll tell you.

I like to tell people the reason we're here is because Jesus Christ is coming again! We have a responsibility to prepare God's people for that return.

God tells us that, at the end of time, "my people" will be keeping His Commandments and holding to the testimony of Jesus. At the end of time, for a thousand generations, He will bless those who are faithful, who keep His Commandments, who love Him.

We're afraid to be extremists. But, you know what? *Jesus was an extremist.*

Are you going to be an impact player for the greatest extremist on earth? Or are you just going to settle down and watch life on TV?

We Seventh Day Baptists have lost our heritage. We're so proud

of the fact that we had colleges—that we *had* colleges. We're so proud that our parents and forefathers were part of the separatist movements. Yet, we would rather "talk the talk than walk the walk."

Let my people go

Let's be honest. Most of us enjoy coming to Conference and sitting here. Just don't ask us to *do* anything. That's when it gets tough. God is saying to us, "Get up! Get going!" What were those words in Exodus 5:1? "Let my people go."

The message that you and I can take into the world—to our friends and neighbors—is that Jesus Christ died to set man free from sin. Like so many things, racism is not a skin issue; it's a sin issue.

"Let my people go" means that all of us are free from sin—all sin. But are you comfortable, now that you're saved? Do you want to just have a seat and relax?

The "safe zone" is actually the "selfish zone." And it makes me think of myself. The safe zone is indulgent, because I want what I want. It's indifferent to the cries and hurts of others. It's a failed zone. Worst of all, the safe zone is anathema to the faith zone.

As long as I'm comfortable with my surroundings, that's what I'm looking at. I'm seeing possessions, I'm seeing family. But I'm not seeing Jesus.

How many of us are so comfortable with our families that we won't leave them to serve Christ? If you want to live in the faith zone, you have to get serious about the message of Jesus' sacrifice.

You need to say to God, "I'll go where You want me to go; I'll be what You want me to be; I'll do what You want me to do; I'll say what You want me to say. I'll walk on the water for You, or I'll walk through the fire. I'll even die for you, dear Lord."

But if you're in the safe zone, you don't think about that. You think about the "pretty things" of our faith. You don't think about

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ourselves
totally to
Jesus.**

the blood or the cost of the cross. Instead, you focus on what's comfortable.

Be an impact player

Maybe a new revival among Seventh Day Baptists can begin. We can say, one by one, that we want to be impact players for Jesus Christ because he has impacted *our* lives. You and I are among those who bow before him. We aren't simply "the audience," unless we stay stuck in the safe zone.

So join me in saying, "Lord, I give you my gifts. The spiritual gifts you gave me, I'm going to use them for you. I'm also going to give you my time."

I have a friend who went to his boss and said, "I'm not going to work on Sabbath anymore." He has a family to take care of, so that was a difficult thing to do. But, guess what? He now enjoys every Sabbath with God—*every* Sabbath.

I have another friend who said, "Lord, I'll give you my tithe." That was tough, too, because Christians aren't immune from financial struggles. But this person said, "My tithe, my God, will come first."

These two friends broke out of their safe zones and entered the faith zone. Both were willing to put God first in their lives.

All of us should be saying to God, "You can have my talents, my treasures. And, Father, I'm going to leave my safe zone. I'm going to live a purpose-driven life for You. You are go-

ing to be my reason for living, my reason for waking up. I'm going to make a difference through Jesus Christ."

Having said that, God may allow us to be in a car accident, like what happened to our friend and brother-in-Christ, Larry Adams. [See story on page 22.]

Larry is a quadriplegic. For seven years now, he has faithfully come to church in that wheelchair. He inspired us to put an elevator in the White Cloud church. God blessed us with the money to renovate, and L.G. is there every Sabbath.

God says, "I will *let* you be an impact player for me. I will get you out of your safe zone."

Larry now lives in the faith zone, and two weeks ago, he was baptized.

The only way we can leave the safe zone for the faith zone is to give ourselves totally to Jesus. "Take it Lord, take it." But a word of caution: Before you get proud, haughty, arrogant, and boastful by saying, "Lord, anything you want to do with me, you go ahead and do it," be careful. God is noted for answering that prayer!

Giving yourself totally over to God is a great way to live. It's called, "Coming out of the safe zone and living in the faith zone."

Jesus is so "solid" that we have nothing to fear by putting our hands, our hearts, and our lives in Him. **SR**



Bernie Wethington

Goodbye, comfort zone!

by Reneé Ochs, Milton, Wisconsin

Going to Guyana, South America, to do God's work this summer was truly life changing!

I had never been on a mission trip, nor had I considered myself as someone who would go on one. I'd always thought mission trips were only for those who were extremely spirit-filled, knew the Bible well, and were called to spread the Word of the Lord to non-believers. And I certainly did not fit *that* criteria!

I now have a very different view of missions.

I knew this was something I "needed" to do once I contacted the trip's organizer, Nate Crandall, pastor of the All Nations SDB Church in Grand Rapids, Mich.

This trip to Guyana was a perfect match for me. Our goal was to help build a dormitory at Camp Glory, and I love to build things. I also love physical labor.

There were 10 of us on "the American team," as we became known. Coming from all over the U.S., we met in New York City and flew from there to Guyana in July.

Once we arrived at Camp Glory, I realized how much work we had to do and that we had very few tools. Everything was done by hand—from bending rebar to pouring concrete, one bucket at a time. It was incredible what the workers could do with their bare hands, and the ingenious methods they used!

The camp had no source of water except what they collected off the roofs when it rained. They also had no electricity, except for a generator they ran a couple hours at night and again in the morning.

Because we were so close to the equator, the hours of daylight and darkness were about the same. It was dark by 6:30 p.m., and it didn't get light until 6:00 in the morning.

Our day started at 4:45, with devotions at 5:15 and work begun by 6:00.

They fed us well, and I ate many new things. My favorite was fried "bake" for breakfast, as well as all the fresh fruit they grew. Have you ever had cashew fruit or eaten gimpets?

Mealtimes were dictated by when the food was ready, not by the clock.

Work ended about 5:00 p.m. We were hot, dirty, and smelly, so we would head to the creek to bathe and wash clothes. Then it was back to camp for supper, which usually consisted of bread and porridge. Before heading to bed, we had a worship time and sang praise songs.

I feel that we made good progress on the dormitory. We poured footings and erected 18 eleven-foot concrete pillars. We also built walls out of cement block, carrying over 800 blocks more than 150 yards to get them to the building site.

We had hoped to get the roof on before we left, but we ran short of time. We left them with enough money to purchase materials, and their goal was to finish the roof before their August camping program

started. They were expecting about 100 young people this year.

Upon arriving in Guyana, my first thought was, "These people have nothing." (A typical American view.) But I quickly realized that they have so much more than I do. They begin and end each day with the Lord. Their lives are led by God.

This entire experience opened my eyes—and heart—to a better way of life.

There are many different kinds of missions. You just have to find the one that matches your gifts. Get out of your comfort zone and investigate a mission adventure! **SR**



A hand-dug trench for the dorm's foundation greeted the American work crew.



Before leaving, the crew posed in front of an eight-foot brick wall and concrete pillars. Reneé Ochs is kneeling in the front row, second from the left.

How to give away over 3,000 bottles of water

Or, How to get 130,000 people to look at your sign

by Gretchen Zwiebel

The Boulder, Colo., SDB Church participated in the Boulder Creek Festival over Memorial Day weekend, with the Boulder Race bringing in visitors from around the world. Over 130,000 people attend these yearly events, and this year we wanted to make sure that our Christian perspective was represented among Boulder's diverse culture.

To accomplish this, we rented booth space and handed out free water, citing John 4:14 (CEV): "But no one who drinks the water I give will ever be thirsty again. The water I give is like a flowing fountain that gives eternal life."

Besides water, we provided SDB tracts and information about the various ways of utilizing Camp Paul Hummel. We also had a DVD playing all the time with powerful Christian

We wanted to make sure that our Christian perspective was represented among Boulder's diverse culture.

messages. These "nooma" videos were 10 to 15 minutes long. Though few people sat down to watch, the audio portion lingered in the air as they passed. (For more video information, go to www.nooma.com).

The first day, we handed out 1,650 bottles of water. One of our members works at the Boulder Walgreen's store and asked the manager if they

would donate water. And they did! 1,500 bottles, free for the asking! (We noted their donation on a sign in the booth.)

The second and third days of the festival were much cooler, so our second round of 1,500 bottles lasted through both days.

Reactions of the festival attendees ranged from gratefulness—"What a great service!"—to suspicion. "What's the catch? You mean that I don't have to give you my name and phone number?"

Often, they would grab a bottle and then look up at the sign. We had the bottles of water sitting in an open cooler on the ground in front of the booth. That vantage point worked well for small children and others. Out of the corner of my eye, I saw a dog grab an ice cube. (I think that's the first time we've ever witnessed to another species!)

Those manning the booth had these comments about the overall experience:

•"What I liked about handing out water was that it really had no strings attached. We met a need without forcing anyone to hear about the Good News, though we were ready to respond if asked.

"I think that's the way Jesus treated people; healing, feeding, loving, whether they loved him back or not.... I think what I liked best was feeling that we were reaching out in God's name in a real way. Pastor



The Boulder SDB Church sponsored this fair booth and gave away free water.



Free water and a listening ear.

Dave [Thorngate] is always saying from the pulpit that we should do that. And last weekend, we did!"

•"I thought the weekend went very well. Being there all three days to closing, I have nothing but positive feedback. I believe our name was made known to many people simply by our kindness and cheery

attitudes.... All in all, I chalk this up to a good experience and see it being a recurring thing in the future.”

•“I enjoyed my time at the booth. I say ‘enjoy,’ because it wasn’t exactly what I thought it would be. I expected maybe a little more in the way of both a positive *and* negative response.

“Here are my recommendations for future years:

“I think three people at the booth is almost a necessity, especially if it’s hot. That way, one or two people can be refilling the coolers while maintaining a smiling personality as a ‘greeter-type.’

“To go along with this, I recommend that you have at least one

‘Type A’ personality at each shift. I tried, but I don’t think that I’m as successful at that as others might be. I just think you need that mix in order for it to be really successful.

“I know that stickers on the bottles are quite a pain, but I do think it would be nice if somehow the bottled water could have our church name/phone number on them.

“Thanks for asking me to be a part of this. I would gladly do it again next year.”

•“I think the festival was a hit. I think it was doing the work of Christ, as far as meeting people’s needs. I think that it got the ‘Seventh Day Baptist’ name out.... I saw one lady pick up the Message Bible. That is

always cool. And there was that other lady who was asking about the church service times and location.

“One suggestion for next year would be to set up some type of contest booth or something to draw in people. As they ‘play,’ they could hear the video in the background.”

Another suggestion for a future booth is to have wrap-around, church-information labels for the bottles. Our committee had talked about printing and attaching the labels ourselves, but we were concerned that the ink from a home printer would “bleed” if it got wet. Messy labels would have left a bad impression!

Many people helped behind the scenes. In addition to other tasks, we had to build a booth and a frame for the sign; pick up and deliver the water; set up and take down the booth; and we had to purchase lots of ice for the four coolers, sometimes quite quickly.

We wholeheartedly recommend this type of outreach, and we hope that our experience will spur other churches to become involved in similar events.

I remember retired pastor Elmo Fitz Randolph’s sage advice on how to reach out to a community: “Find a need and fill it.” *SR*



Passersby checked out...



...this attractive booth.



Refreshment for a man and his best friend.

Reactions from workers at the booth:

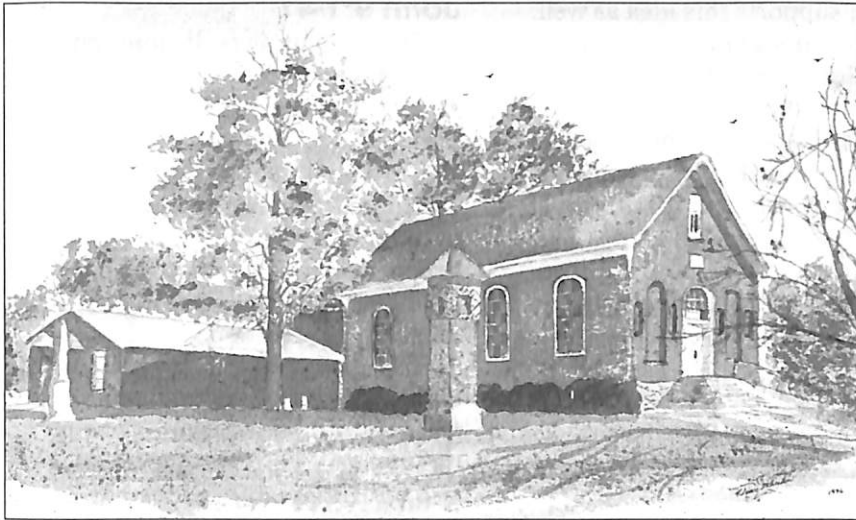
We met a need without forcing anyone to hear about the Good News, though we were ready to respond if asked.

I believe our name was made known to many people simply by our kindness and cheery attitudes.

I think it was doing the work of Christ, as far as meeting people’s needs.

The first 200 years

by Stanley Allen



Rev. Edgar Wheeler's watercolor rendering of the Lost Creek church.

You are invited to come to Lost Creek, W.Va., and help us celebrate 200 years of religious, social, political, and educational service to the north central region of West Virginia and the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference.

We have been celebrating our anniversary with a series of special evangelistic services, beginning in February. We also held services

The Lost Creek church can boast of producing men and women who have contributed greatly to their communities, churches, and the Conference.

in June, and will end with one more series, beginning on October 24 (*see box*).

Like many other SDB churches, Lost Creek has a rich heritage. It can boast of producing men and women

who have contributed greatly to their communities, churches, and the Conference. At least six individuals were not only outstanding in the Lost Creek church; they also served as General Conference presidents: Donald Graffius, Clayton Pinder, Ernest Bond, Leland Bond, Delmer Van Horn, and O.B. Bond.

The Lost Creek SDB Church was officially organized on October 27, 1805, and was admitted into Conference membership in 1808. During these 200 years, the congregation faced both good and bad times, with the bad strengthening members and making way for the good times.

Our first church building was a log structure, which burned a few years later. The church responded by uniting and constructing another log building.

On July 23, 1832, the congregation voted to move into Lost Creek and build a frame church. After some problems cropped up, the church split. About two years later, the two groups came together again, and an even stronger church developed.

Once again, the congregation felt the need for a new and more modern

church facility. They bought land and put up a brick building in December of 1872. At the time, it was considered "state of the art" and quite a show place. This structure still stands as our present church building. In 1988, we added an educational wing.

As a congregation, we pray that our 200th Anniversary Evangelistic Outreach will bring many souls to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ—and maybe a few new members into our church!

We invite as many as can come to participate in any or all of our special services. May the Good Lord continue to bless America and the Lost Creek Seventh Day Baptist Church. **SR**

Each service during the week of our October "crusade" will begin at 7:00 p.m.

- **Monday, Oct. 24**—
Rev. Andrew Samuels,
Miami, Fla., SDB Church
- **Tuesday, Oct. 25**—
Gospel music and sing
- **Wednesday, Oct. 26**—
Pastor Quint Pitts,
Horizon Church
- **Thursday, Oct. 27**—
Dr. Paul Davis, just returned from active duty in Iraq
- **Friday, Oct. 28**—
Rev. David Taylor, former pastor at Lost Creek

During the 9:30 a.m. worship service on **Sabbath, Oct. 29**, Judge Donald Graffius, past president of the SDB General Conference, will speak. Sabbath School will follow at 11:00, and dinner is scheduled for noon. At 1:30 p.m., Pastor Leland Bond will give an historical presentation.

Exploring the Sabbath

by Linda Greene

There's not a whole lot new in these last two Sabbath miracle passages, so we'll cover them fairly quickly.

John 7:14-24

"Has not Moses given you the law? Yet not one of you keeps the law. Why are you trying to kill me?"... Jesus said to them, "I did one miracle, and you are all astonished. Yet, because Moses gave you circumcision (though actually it did not come from Moses, but from the patriarchs), you circumcise a child on the Sabbath. Now if a child can be circumcised on the Sabbath so that the law of Moses may not be broken, why are you angry with me for healing the whole man on the Sabbath? Stop judging by mere appearances, and make a right judgment." (vv. 19-24)

I've chosen just a few verses from this passage to discuss.

First of all, in verse 19, Jesus tells this group of Jews that not one of them keeps the law. This discussion takes place during the Feast of Tabernacles, and they're in the temple on a Sabbath day. Thus you would think that these Jews would probably be a fairly devout group regarding Jewish law and tradition. Yet Jesus says *not one of them keeps the law*.

In God's eyes, the only person who keeps the law is the one who keeps it all and does so perfectly. So if we think we keep the law because we believe in and observe Sabbath, we are about as misguided as these people were.

We are incapable of keeping the law the way God expects us to, although I believe He is pleased with our heartfelt desire and attempts to do so. I really think Jesus has to be talking about more than outward actions, and what he says in

verse 24 supports this idea as well.

The text does not specifically tell us that Jesus healed anyone on this particular Sabbath day, although he may have. But his having done so at some time is evidently the subject of his discussion with this group of Jews in the temple.

He talks to them about the inconsistency of their objection to his healing on the Sabbath when they believe it is okay to circumcise a child on the Sabbath. Then he tells the crowd to "stop judging by mere appearances."

If we think we keep the law because we believe in and observe Sabbath, we are about as misguided as these people were.

I won't belabor this point, because I have discussed it in previous articles. But I think this reemphasizes for me the importance of the condition of my heart as I celebrate and observe Sabbath day.

The majority of the time, my attention may be focused on *my actions* and what I can and cannot do on the Sabbath. But God is looking at my heart and at *why* I am doing or not doing something. As 1 Samuel 16:7 says, "The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

We should allow some time for reflection on the Sabbath, don't you think? We really need time to get quiet before the Lord so He has the opportunity to speak to us about what He has found in our hearts—or anything else for that matter!

John 9:1-41

This passage is really long, so I won't quote it here, but I am so grateful that the miracles Jesus performed on Sabbath included giving a blind man his sight.

This is the most common type of miracle in the Bible, and it was prophesied that the Messiah would do this. It's also a wonderful picture of what happens to us at salvation.

The man was blind from birth, and we are born spiritually blind. We are lost in the darkness of sin, totally focused on our own needs and desires, unable to look beyond ourselves to the God of the universe Who is reaching out to us.

Then something happens—probably something a little different for each one of us—and Jesus comes into our lives. All of a sudden, we can see!

Our lives and the struggles we've had "make sense" for the first time, and we have hope for the future. Our lives have a purpose, and that horrible burden of sin and guilt is lifted.

"All I know is once I was blind, but now I see!"

It makes no sense to the natural mind whatsoever, but it's true!

The Pharisees tried to make this miracle such a complicated thing, because they were desperate to turn it into something horrible that Jesus had done. But it wasn't horrible or complicated at all.

I sometimes struggle with the simplicity of the Gospel. Don't you also? Something in me wants to make it complicated and involved, so that somehow I can feel—at least in part—that I deserve what Jesus did. "It just can't be that easy, can it?" But it is, thank God!

We'll discuss one more Scripture regarding Jesus and the Sabbath next month. Then we'll move on to the Resurrection. **SR**



Beavers are cute, but...

As a creature of the day, I don't like night much. But God is with me even then, and I trust it is He Who gave me the title for this month's page in the middle of the night.

Nancy Missler and her husband, Chuck, co-authored the book, *The Way of Agape*. In it, Nancy made a statement that, with one swoop, felled one of my mental-emotional-spiritual cobwebs: the misconception that I might actually someday get past myself.

"Self-life—our own thoughts, emotions, and desires that are contrary to God's—does not improve with age!" she wrote.

Huh! Okay, then. That's a relief. I need no longer berate myself for feeling pain of varying degrees and initially wanting to scream rather than sing.

Here's the "cool" part: Although my self-life does not improve, God's life within me remains and even grows as I yield to Him.

Amplifying John 12:24, Nancy writes, "Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone [it will have none of God's love]; but if it die [learns to yield itself], then it bringeth forth much fruit [God's love to others]."

"We can't change the circumstances we are in," she continues, "we can't change our past, and we can't make everything turn out the way we want. But we certainly can (1) Keep our eyes squarely focused on Jesus, (2) Yield ourselves totally to Him, and (3) Allow His love to flood our souls and overflow into all of our experiences today.

"If we are believers, we always have God's love and His life in our hearts. However, if God's Spirit in our hearts is quenched because of sin (any choice we have made that

is not of faith), then that love of God will not be able to flow out into our lives."

I picture my heart full of God's love but dammed up with mud and sticks, as if by an unseen beaver, when I let confused sin stay with me or pile up. But when I yield my heart to God and take time for the "washing of water by the Word," the power and force of His Word—evident from

the beginning of time (Genesis 1, John 1)—breaks through the dam. Once again, the River of Life is allowed to gush forth with praise. Hallelujah!

I like it that Emmanuel is not just a pretty word sung to celebrate the Nativity once a year. *God with us* is a reality, unbroken by any foe—even beavers and other creatures of the night. **SR**



Fund-raising ideas gleaned from women's reports at General Conference

From Dodge Center, MN

At periodic get-togethers, we make homemade fresh apple pies (in the fall). Canned blueberry, cherry, peach, or rhubarb brings \$5 per pie.

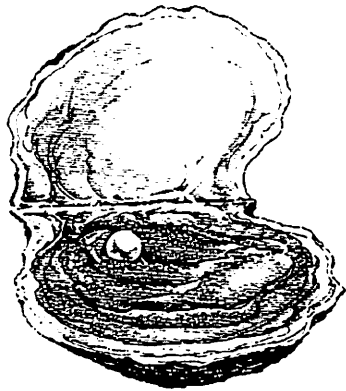
In March is the annual SCSC Soup/Crackers/Sandwich/Cake luncheon. This year, \$349 was raised thanks to early donations (in February) to take advantage of the SDB Memorial Board offer to match the giving.

From Riverside, CA

A Fall Food Fest in November and a Spring Tea in April allow the ladies to contribute to the Women's Society Love Gift as well as to local efforts, such as favors for Chapman Convalescent Hospital.

From Shiloh, NJ

Members celebrating a birthday pay one cent per year of their age into their treasury.



Pearls from the Past by Don A. Sanford, historian emeritus

A living legacy from an SDB school

A historian's mind is often sent on a detour as one story leads to another.

My July-August *Pearls* about a 1927 male quartet trip to Arkansas reminded me of a trip made about five years later over some of the same terrain. While many of the details involved troubles on the road, the youngest member of that "quartet" of father, mother, and two young sons has only one clear memory: I recall when my dad rejoiced that we had driven over 300 miles one day without a single flat tire!

Our family was headed for Fouke, Ark., as delegates of the Eastern, Central, and Western Associations to the Southwestern Association meeting. It was also the 10th anniversary of my parents' "honeymoon year" as teachers at the Fouke Academy.

A photo album documenting their year in Fouke (1921-1922) is in the archives of the SDB Historical Society here in Janesville, Wis. Looking at those pictures still sends my mind back into denomination history.

It wasn't difficult to identify the entire faculty in the photos. Mother taught first, second, and third grades; Fucia Fitz Randolph taught fourth, fifth, and sixth, as well as serving as principal; and my dad taught seventh and eighth grade students. He also coached the local high school's basketball team and served as pastor of the Fouke Seventh Day Baptist Church.

Pictures of what was known as "The Hall" don't fully reveal the conveniences it provided its occupants. For example, Mother never had to

use a dust pan since the cracks in the floor made for easy disposal.

Garbage "pick up" consisted of free-ranging pigs that later contributed protein to the faculty's diet. And there was cross ventilation through the walls—both in summer and winter—with canvas panels giving some protection to the "sleeping porch."

A photo of a crowd at the railroad depot showed the number of people who regretted my parents leaving Fouke after only one year. The needs of the family farm in Little Genesee, N.Y., ended that one short chapter at

the *Young People's Rally Song* she composed: "We young folks are Seventh Day Baptists...")

The Fouke SDB Church, with its concern for education, preceded the founding of Fouke Academy by more than a decade. It began with the work of a Sabbath convert, James Franklin Shaw, who founded the Bampfield Academy in Fouke in 1891. (Various economic, social, and personal factors forced that school to close after about four years.)

Wayne R. Rood wrote a book, *The Lesson for Tomorrow—The Story*

Fouke demonstrated a united effort in leadership training as volunteers were recruited from across the denomination.

the Fouke Academy, but the legacy of Fouke has lived on through many years of denominational history.

A previous *Pearls from the Past* (July/Aug. 1989) was entitled, "Education—A Form of Revival." That column focused on the Fouke Academy's importance in the educational, religious, social, and economic life of the community.

From a historical perspective, Fouke demonstrated a united effort in leadership training as volunteers were recruited from across the denomination.

A list of those who taught at Fouke for at least one term (from 1901 to 1927) contains 29 different surnames. Six teachers bore the name Randolph, and six were named Davis. There were actually seven, if you count Elizabeth Fisher, who later married Luther Davis. (Elizabeth taught at the academy four years and is best remembered for

of Education Among Seventh Day Baptists. In it, he wrote that after the Bampfield Academy closed, "Fouke was desperately in need of an injection of new spirit. It was precisely at the right moment that the Missionary Board appointed Gideon Henry Fitz Randolph as missionary pastor to the southwestern churches. The Randolphs had recently returned from China in poor health but now they were rested and full of new enthusiasm. They were able to see the needs at Fouke as those who had been there for years were not able to see."¹

Initially, those needs were both economic and educational.

On the farm that they had secured, the Randolphs hired some of the students and taught them better farming practices.

Rev. Hurley S. Warren was one of those students who grew up in Fouke and attended the academy. He wrote

that the principal occupation during vacation and outside school hours was the production and care of food.

He also observed the revolutionary methods of farming that Randolph used to grow food. These included rotating and diversifying crops, using commercial fertilizer, draining soil, properly timing seedbed preparation, and the best way to care and store harvested crops.

Randolph's obituary appeared in the March 14, 1934 issue of the *SR*. That article summarized his work as being not only a good preacher and pastor, but also a pioneer in missionary methods.

"In Arkansas he opened the way for better farming, improved the cotton output, and laid foundations for better school privileges than were before unknown in the southwestern part of the state."²

But perhaps Randolph's greatest contribution was the influence he had on Seventh Day Baptists over subsequent years.

Of the 49 people listed as teachers in the Fouke school, 40 of them I've either personally known or I'm acquainted with their work and witness in other SDB churches.

Two of Gideon's sons, Wardner and John, both taught at the Fouke

Academy for a total of 10 years. And both entered the ministry.

Wardner served as a missionary in Jamaica from 1945 to 1956 and helped establish Crandall High School there, as well as doing work in British Guiana. John served churches in Nile and DeRuyter, N.Y.; Milton Junction, Wis.; and Berea, W.Va.

Others who taught in the school later served as pastors, including Angeline Allen (she served churches in Fouke and Edinburg, Texas); Paul Burdick, Clifford Beebe, and my father, Mark Sanford. Dad was licensed to preach and provided pulpit supply in a number of different churches.

Students at Fouke included future pastors Hurley Warren and Marion Van Horn.

Fouke Academy was primarily a joint project of the SDB Missionary Society and the local residents. But in many ways it was also a joint mission involving other SDB agencies and support from the denomination as a whole. It repaid these efforts by developing church leaders and key workers.

I detect a certain similarity in today's Summer Christian Service Corps (SCSC), which is sponsored by the Women's Board but has become a united mission among other agen-

cies. It has involved church leaders while providing services to many churches. Many have been involved in this current student outreach.

SCSC stems in part from Gideon Fitz Randolph's granddaughter, Carolyn (Randolph) Gray, the daughter of Rev. John Fitz Randolph. She served as president of the Women's Board when it was located in Milton, Wis., in 1966.

Two of the young people in that first "SCSC quartet"—Dale Rood and Alan Crouch—entered the ministry. A third member, Linda Bingham, married a minister.

I cannot *begin* to count the number of current SDB leaders who had their start because of those who saw a need and responded in dedicated service. Perhaps it's symbolic that the 1960s SCSC team also found its mission in the Southwestern Association. **SR**

¹Wayne Rood, *The Lesson for Tomorrow—The Story of Education Among Seventh Day Baptists*, M.R.E. Thesis from Hartford Seminary, 1948.

²Obituary, *Sabbath Recorder*, Vol. 116, No. 10, p. 233. Also in *SDB Yearbook*, 1934, p. 28.

Denominational Dateline

October

- 1 Adams Center, N.Y.—Kevin Butler
- 1 Foothill Seventh Day Baptist Church, Montrose, Calif.—Rob Appel
- 1 Alle-Kiski Valley SDB Fellowship, Freeport, Pa.—Gordon Lawton
- 1 225th Anniversary, Berlin, N.Y., SDB Church—Nick Kersten
- 3-4 Baptist Joint Committee Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.—Butler
- 7-9 Mid-Continent Association, Nortonville, Kan.—Kirk Looper
- 15 Pacific Coast Association, Riverside, Calif.—Appel
- 15-16 Memorial Fund Quarterly and Annual Board Meeting, Riverside—Calvin Babcock, Appel

- 15-16 Teacher Training, Salemville, Pa.—Andrew Camenga
- 22 Denver, Colo., SDB Church—Appel
- 23 Board of Christian Education Annual Corporation Meeting, Alfred Station, N.Y.—Camenga
- 23 SDB Missionary Society Board of Managers Meeting, Westerly, R.I.—Looper, Ron Elston, Babcock
- 29-30 Tract Council Annual Meeting, SDB Center, Janesville, Wis.—Butler

November

- 2-4 Coordinating Leadership Team, SDB Center
- 11-13 South Atlantic Association, Miami, Fla.—Lawton
- 19-20 Diaconate Workshop, Daytona Beach, Fla.—Camenga



2005 Scripture Memorization Program

The 2004-2005 Scripture Memory program featured the theme of Conference President Don Graffius: *Strong, Steady, Enthusiastic ...for the Lord*. Vision Christian Fellowship, Westerly, R.I., and the Central SDB Church, Mitchellville, Md., received recognition for meeting the requirements of the Scripture Memory Honor Roll. The Toronto, Ontario, Seventh Day Baptist Church was the recipient of the Mary G. Clare Scripture Memorization Bowl.

The 2005-2006 memorization program was listed in last month's *SR*. Copies are available from the Board of Christian Education. (607) 587-8527; sdbbce@educatingchristians.org. The following people are recognized for completing the 2004-2005 Program:

Alfred Station SDB Church

Mae L. Bottoms
Elaine Brundage
Ivan Cherry
Nancy Cherry
Elianna Chroniger
Kenneth Chroniger
Peggy Chroniger
Jessamine Johnson
Brady Lewis
Kayle Lewis
Phyllis Mattison
Reid Mattison
Voni Mattison
Abigail Noel
Caleb Noel
Dorothy Noel
Melissa Noel
Eden Rao
Heather Chroniger Rao
Amanda Snyder
Joseph Torkaman
Sarah Torkaman
Amber Trudell
John Wood

Asheville SDB Fellowship

Kenneth Lance

Battle Creek SDB Church

Marilyn Discher
Caron George
Beth Jones
JoAnn Mitchell

Judy Parrish
Maryellen Wilkey
Connie Yafes

Bell SDB Church of Salemville

Bryan Baker
Debbie Kagarise

Central SDB Church

Pratt Chroniger
Rose Chroniger
Jean Cook
Cliff Gordon
Pam Gordon
Jeffrey Hazen
Ruth Hazen
Dianne Hibbard
Earl Hibbard
Justin Hibbard
Karlene Hibbard
Patrick Hibbard
Bobby Parrish
Brian Parrish
Barbara Ramsey
Paul Reingruber
Lydia Thompson

Daytona Beach SDB Church

Richard Bond
Susan D. Bond
Trisha Boyd
Margaret David
Everald Kelly
Linda McCall
Valerie McInnis

Sybil Vazquez
Marie Ward
Kay Wilks

Dodge Center SDB Church

Chet Bond
Jared Edwards
Jesse Edwards
Amanda Greene
Jordan Greene
Lance Greene
Micayla Neher
Dale Rood

First SDB Church of Columbus

Joel Thomas

First SDB Church of Genesee

Andrew J. Camenga
Kristin Rood
Camenga
Ben Cohen
Caleb Cohen
Priscilla Cohen

First SDB Church of Hopkinton

Vivian Looper
Thelma Tarbox

First SDB Church of Houston

George Stillman
Joyce Stillman
Linda Ziganay

First SDB Church of Toronto

Merlin Condison
Marva Edwards
Sharai Fyffe
Milton Griffith
Terrelle Jordan
Lewis-Vu
Tristan Lewis-Vu
Christine Lindo
Margaret London
Winston London
Andrea Lyons
Charlene Lyons
George Neville
Lyons
Jonathan Meshach
Lyons
Joshua Charles
Lyons
Rosemarie McFarlane
Lashai Mingo
Linnette Reynolds
Natasha Reynolds
Paula Reynolds
Ruth Reynolds
Lorna Samuels
Nadia Simpson
Festina Smith
Marcia Smith
Elain Sparks
Evelyn Taylor
Latonya Turner
Elton Williams
Temeka Williams

Hope SDB Church

Rolleesa Phillips

Lost Creek SDB Church

Clayton Pinder
Leora Pinder

Metro Atlanta SDB Church

Debbie Hargett
Rachel Hargett
Bettie Pearson

Milton SDB Church

Mary Adams
Autumn Bennett
Kurt Bennett
George Calhoun
Lannette Calhoun
Elizabeth Camenga
Tacy Camenga
Barbara Green
Liz Green
Jacob Gurney
Brian Hamm
Kevin Hamm
Marcy Kersten
Sandy Kutz
Jacob Lee
Luke Lee
Sarah Lima
Douglas Lubke
Gabi Osborn
Randy Osborn
Seth Osborn
Stephen Osborn
Tracy Porter
Anne Snyder
Becky Snyder
Shanny Snyder

cont. on page 24



FOCUS on Missions

Manipur State, India

by Kirk Looper

Several months ago, I traveled to Manipur State to meet with the Seventh Day Baptist congregations in that part of India. This allowed me to assess the work of their churches as they organize and develop.

Getting into Manipur State was not easy. Since it is a protected area, I needed a letter from the government stating that I was “safe” and should be allowed in.

Not knowing this bit of information prevented me from arriving at Lungshang Village on time. I was kept overnight and into the late afternoon of the following day. Authorities did allow me to stay in a hotel in Imphal, the capital of Manipur State. When I was finally “released,” it took three hours to get to Lungshang Village.

Arriving after 7:00 p.m., I went directly to the church’s meeting place, where I was to give greetings and discuss some of the beliefs and polity of Seventh Day Baptists. When I finished (after 9:00 p.m.), I went back to the hotel.

While at the meeting, they informed me that I would be participating in the ordination of two ministers in the morning. I was also expected to baptize eight youth and young adults at 6:00 a.m., so that they could get to school on time.

After a good night’s rest, I awoke at 5:00 a.m. and was taken to a local fish pond, where the eight baptismal candidates were waiting for me. The water was cold, but they were eager to be baptized because it meant their real work in the church was beginning.

Following the baptism, I changed into dry clothes and was escorted to the coordinator’s home for breakfast. While we ate, he asked more questions about SDB doctrine and polity. We discussed at length the beliefs



These young people from India were baptized early in the morning before going to school.

connected with Sabbath and how they differ from those of Seventh-day Adventists. We also talked about the food laws mentioned in the Bible, and other areas of concern.

Following breakfast, I attended a brief meeting and participated in the ordination of two ministers. While giving the charge to the candidates, I could see that these candidates considered their ordination an extraordinary honor. This pleased all of the church leaders and others who were present.

When the meeting concluded at 11:30 a.m., I returned to my hotel to pack and head back to the airport in Imphal.

The coordinator for this part of India is Pastor Thotchuishang Shimrah. He is 42, and he and his wife, Lenie Paypa, have five children. Although he lives in Ukhrul, Pastor Shimrah plans to expand his work to surrounding villages.

At the meetings I attended, members of other villages came to check out our doctrine and polity. Presently, one church convenes in the home of one of its members. They plan to build a worship center as soon as they have the necessary funds.

Their church is comprised of 60 members from several villages, but they average only 10 worshippers each Sabbath. One of the village “house churches” is a three-hour journey from the church headquarters.

We have already sent many of the study materials they requested. We continue to pray that funds will come into the Missionary Society to help them with translating, printing, and evangelism. It would be wonderful if we could also raise enough money to buy a computer, printer, and photocopier for their headquarter’s office.

The demand for supplies, rent, and evangelism are greater when a church is just beginning, so they are in need.

Although I had originally planned to be in Manipur State for four days, I did enjoy my almost two-day stay. The people were very friendly, and they made me feel right at home. I look forward to visiting them again within the next few years.

Please pray with us, that these brothers and sisters in India are successful in their work for the Lord through their Seventh Day Baptist churches. **SR**



the BEACON

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

October 2005

Patience, please

by Micayla Neher

"Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near" (James 5:7-8, NASB).

Most of you have probably heard the expression, "Patience is a virtue." Patience is virtuous, but what does it *really* mean?

As Christians, most of us believe that patience is more than just waiting for something to happen. It is also having the faith and heart to believe that the "something" we are waiting for *will* happen. But that doesn't mean that everything we want to happen will automatically occur.

God has a plan for what takes place in our lives. Even though we want certain things to occur, we can't expect them to always happen in *our* time. We have to be patient and trust God that He has a time and a place for everything.

This is easier said than done. We need to keep our focus, especially on Jesus' return, and remember that that time is coming soon.

Though we don't know how quickly God is going to make things happen, we need to have hope that He will still let the opportunities arise.

We also have to be open to the fact that God might want to wait before giving us what we want.

Sometimes I find myself wondering, "Has God forgotten my request?" After waiting a while, I eventually understand why He hesitated.

In spite of the waiting, don't think that God didn't answer your

**Patience
is more than
just waiting for
something to
happen.**

prayer. God *does* answer right away, but sometimes He says, "Not right now."

Not only do we have to be patient about the things we want to receive from God; we have to be patient with the people we have relationships with. 1 Corinthians 13:4 tells us, "Love is patient, love is kind..."

All of us teenagers have said, "Oh, man, I just wish that person would like me." Or, "Oh man, I just wish I could be with that person." Don't try to deny it. I know that all of us have thought that at one time or another. But let me tell you, *God hears those prayers.*

Sometimes, that person isn't the one God wants you to be with. So you need to be patient while He slowly reveals that "special someone" you've been longing for. And remember: Don't rush into a relationship when you aren't sure what the outcome will be.

School started recently, and with that comes the responsibility of making sure that all of your homework gets in on time. Sometimes the words for those term papers may not come, but remember, be patient.

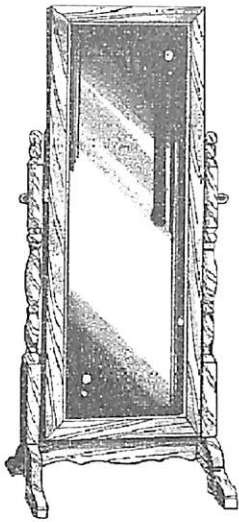
Even while I was working on this article, I had a huge "mind block." Then an old friend told me, "Be patient; it will come." I had to laugh at that!

When we think that God has forgotten our prayers—because what we asked for just won't come—have patience. God *will* allow it to happen when the time is right.

God bless, until next month. **SR**



*Micayla
singing at
Conference.*



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*

And I thought / got wet

I'm thankful I own a house, but it does have some drawbacks, especially in Wisconsin. We're among the highest taxed citizens in the nation—and I have the property tax bill to prove it!

Another frustration is house repairs. As soon as I get one thing fixed, something else breaks.

Sometimes I have water problems in my basement, especially when I forget to replace drain spouts after mowing. ("Stupid is as stupid does.")

Several years ago, my laundry room was especially vulnerable to flooding. During one cloudburst, the window well behind the washing machine produced a waterfall that rivaled Niagara. As water cascaded down the wall, a large toad floated in the window well like a green and black bobber.

This summer, water began appearing at the bottom of my basement steps. Each day, the carpet had new wet spots, but I couldn't figure out where all that moisture was coming from.

One morning, as I was about to leave for church, I discovered a miniature pond in my basement. The floor was swamped, and everything sitting on the rug was soaked.

It turned out that a well-hidden copper pipe had a hole in it. With the help of my brother and a friend, I spent the rest of the day removing the water with "wet vacs," repositioning floor fans, and emptying a dehumidifier. I also spent hours trying to

salvage "valuables" from limp, water-stained cardboard boxes.

"Why do these things always happen to me?" I groused as I surveyed the damage. I was disgusted and angry. Then Hurricane Katrina hit.

Forgive me, Lord, I thought. I complain about puddles, while tens of thousands of people have had an ocean of water destroy their homes, their dreams, their very lives.

A natural calamity is a great equalizer. A 50-year-old woman from Mississippi remarked, "We lost everything. Katrina didn't care if you were poor or rich; all the houses look the same now."

In the face of such horrendous destruction, what's our response? Do we wring our hands in despair? Do we breathe a sigh of relief that the disaster "happened to someone else"? As Christians, our response is clear.

After killing Abel, Cain sarcastically asked God, "Am I my brother's keeper?" My answer is a resounding, "Yes!" Throughout His Word, God not only tells us to love; He *commands* us to love. "This is my command: Love each other" (John 15:17).

God tells us to love not only those who love us back, but also those who hate us. We're to love

strangers as well as our neighbors.

This love isn't supposed to be passive, living only in our minds. It's to be active, living in our hands and in our feet. We're to leave our comfort zones and venture into the unknown, confident that God will light our paths and direct our feet as we strive to share His love.





"If your enemy [or a disaster victim] is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink" (Romans 12:20, NIV).

It's wonderful that we sit in the comfort of our dry homes and pray for hurting people. It's wonderful that we write checks and send comforting, uplifting notes to people in need. But we need to challenge ourselves to step up and step out even more, putting our bodies where our words are. We need to stop *talk-ing* about doing "good deeds" and start *doing* them.

In the weeks and months ahead, I pray that God will prompt each one of us to *do* something to help alleviate the suffering of those left in the wake of Katrina. **SR**

***One morning,
I discovered a miniature
pond in my basement.
It turned out that a well-
hidden copper pipe
had a hole in it.***



		<p><i>Making Christ's Mission Our Mission</i></p> <p><i>Luke 4:18</i></p> <p>Houghton, N.Y. August 6-12, 2006</p>
		



The President's Page
by Robert Van Horn

Be aware of needs

In Luke 4:18-19, we find Jesus going to the synagogue and reading from Isaiah:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord."

When Jesus finished, he pointed out that "Today, this scripture is fulfilled..."

As I examined these words, a whole host of examples of these groups of people began to parade across my mind. People in need of healing, deliverance, sight, and liberty need the good news of the Gospel.

My father, Pastor Delmer Van Horn, brought me up to seek to help those in need.

I remembered Dad working with two alcoholics, bringing one of them into our home on several occasions.

We took the other man to "detox," Dad riding in the back, with me driving. I was a nervous new driver and managed to straddle a

cement center divider. I recall the alcoholic saying, "I thought I was the one who was drunk."

A few years later, while living in Lost Creek, W.Va., I met a foster child who was constantly running

needy people are. They may be our neighbor, friend, brother or sister, or the person who sits in the pew next to us. I want us to learn how to deliver the "Good News" in such a way as to bring

**My father,
Pastor Delmer Van Horn,
brought me up to seek to help
those in need.**

away. One day, he started attending our church's Junior High Youth Group, and we seemed to hit it off.

When I called the foster program to check on how to help, they asked, "Would you be willing to have him as a foster son?"

During the time he stayed with me, he found some friends who encouraged him to do drugs. I tried to keep him from those influences, but he decided that those friends and drugs were what he wanted. So he ran away. Sadly, several years later, I learned that he had died of AIDS.

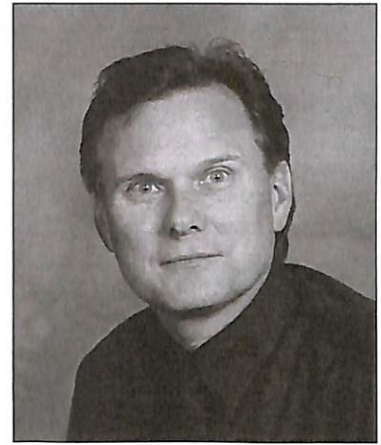
This year, I want us, as a Conference, to examine who these

the power of God to play in their lives.

As the praise chorus *The Power of Your Love* says, "Let my life be changed, renewed... by the power of your love."

I wrote a verse to more directly express the thoughts of the Luke 4 passage: "Lord, I pray each day, as I'm going on my way, that my eyes will see those in need around me. Let me recognize the poor and sore oppressed, my Lord; that can be set free—by the power of your love..."

Please join me this year in "Making Christ's Mission OUR Mission"! **SR**



by Executive Director
Rob Appel

“I Cubed”—It’s not about you

We have often heard the phrase, “There is no ‘I’ in TEAM.” In the case of “I Cubed,” there is no “I” (as in you or me) involved either.

The “I” is not about you, but rather what we can do for others. It is all about servanthood; about what we can do for those with spiritual, physical, and emotional needs.

In March, we learned that we need to Invite, Include, and Involve those coming into our churches. Is this an easy task? No. But should we be doing it? Yes!

Also in March, we learned that we Seventh Day Baptists are a people who encourage and equip Christians to take the next bold steps in their beliefs, maturity, and ministry. This makes us a “Next Step” people, specializing in calling others to belong—not just participate—in church.

However, we need ministry tools to build steps to Christian maturity and a sense of belonging. People don’t belong by just showing up, meeting after meeting. They need to be invited, included, and involved in the overall ministry of the church.

Let’s review the “I Cubed” for an update (*in italics*) of what we can do going forward.

Invite

The future growth of SDB churches depends on how we develop and implement new ministry opportunities to invite new people into our dynamic churches. The challenge will be to take a discovery assessment of

future church needs and then creatively meet those needs.

The MORE 2000 program, initialized in 1993, is in the process of being updated with pertinent changes that reflect the church in the 21st century. The “new & improved” version, “MORE 2020,” will be ready by next year for your church to use.

Include

We need to move beyond being friendly to each other and become CARING. That means getting out of our comfort zones to include others in our activities.

When someone new comes to your church, they are already un-



comfortable. They feel self-conscious about including themselves into already established relationships, and they feel alienated because they don’t belong to any group yet.

Have you ever met someone new at church and then not seen them again until you run into them at the

grocery store? You wonder, “Where have they been? Why didn’t they come back? Didn’t they feel at home or welcome at my church?”

The challenge for us is to move beyond being friendly to becoming CARING with each other! We must move beyond making people part of our Sabbath morning experience to making them part of our lives.

It would be very easy for them to not come back a second time if we do not take the first bold steps to making them feel a part of our church.

Involve

We need to involve *all* the people of the church in our activities to ensure a sense of belonging. This can be through new ministry programs.

When we focus on a particular goal, or group of people, we sometimes focus too much in that one area. We will need to be aware of ALL in the church, not just those who are new. This will ensure that individuals and people groups have a ministry focus and direction in their Christian maturity.

We must learn to work together as we develop our new ministry opportunities. New programs bring about change, and we must learn to be flexible, especially with each other.

New and different ways of worshiping can conflict with our traditions. Traditions and history are important, but they should not get in the way of dynamic change! Change is inevitable. **SR**

Special baptism in White Cloud

by Carol Cruzan



Pastor Bernie Wethington prepares L.G. Adams for his baptism. Sherry Adams is in the foreground.

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.”

—Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)



This is the Bible verse God leads us to when we think of L.G. (Larry)

and Sherry Adams here in White Cloud, Mich.

It was more than seven years ago when L.G. first asked to be baptized, but God had different plans for him.

L.G. was struck by a car and seriously injured while trying to repair his daughter’s vehicle. Some of the doctors didn’t expect him to live. He did, but he was left paralyzed from the neck down.

We don’t always understand God’s plan or purpose for our lives, but He had a definite path He wanted L.G. and his wife, Sherry, to take.

From the day of the accident until now, their faith has been strong. With God by their side, they have faced many challenges together. They have also been blessed many times over.

As a quadriplegic given little or no hope from his doctors, L.G. has some movement returning to his feet, toes, and a finger. This we know is one of God’s many miracles. Their faith and trust in God is strong!

One day, L.G. said, “It’s time! I want to be baptized.”

On July 23, 2005, his dream came true. With God by his side—and with help from a wonderful community of friends and his church family—L.G. was baptized, along with his loving wife.

L.G. and Sherry were there together, side-by-side in the baptistry, dying to their old selves and coming out of the water new in Christ.

All things are possible with God in your life and with Jesus as your Lord and Savior. Just ask L.G. and Sherry! **SR**



L.G. and Sherry Adams on their special day.

Camp pavilion completed

During the second half of August, 40 workers (sometimes 20 at a time) descended on Alfred Station, N.Y., to complete the construction of a new pavilion at Camp Harley Sutton.

Thanks go out to those who contributed money and time toward the project. Eleven people from outside the Allegheny Association showed up to lend a helping hand. Willing workers came from Texas, Virginia, West Virginia, New Jersey, Minnesota, Massachusetts, and northeastern New York. Those from within the Association worked one or more days—many of them *every* day.



Lyle Sutton coordinated the project, while his wife, Betty, served as head cook and made sure everyone was well fed.

Lyle reported that, “Seventh Day Baptists don’t need ‘team-building exercises’ before starting a project. They just jump

right in and do it—and they do it right.

“It was great to watch the talent and energy of all working together,” Sutton added. “Not only did we get the pavilion done, but we got a dorm painted, as well as completing several other tasks.”

After the roofing was installed on the 30 by 40-foot pavilion on August 21, it provided shelter for hungry workers at lunchtime.

The Association thanks all who donated time, efforts, and funds for the project. They look forward to continuing support for the next phase of camp improvements. **SR**

Central church commissions Hibbards for new work

by Ruth Hazen

Central Seventh Day Baptist Church in Mitchellville, Md., is one of those regional churches. It's located somewhere near the center of where its congregants live, and members drive in from all directions. Not one member lives in the neighborhoods close to our place of worship.

As longtime Seventh Day Baptists, most of us at Central accept a 30 to 50-minute drive in one direction as the price we pay for worshipping with other SDBs.

Since Central began meeting 27 years ago, Earl and Dianne Hibbard cheerfully drove 45 minutes each way to church, often making several trips a week.

During that time, they served the Lord and Central faithfully and diligently. Earl ("Butch") served as a deacon, and taught the adult Sabbath School class for many years. He has also taught at church retreats, led



The commissioning service at the Central SDB Church. Front row (l. to r.): Rose Chroniger, Earl and Dianne Hibbard, Jean Cook. Second row: (l. to r.): Jeffrey Hazen, Pratt Chroniger, Ruth Hazen, Jonathan Hazen.

Bible studies, and served as church treasurer.

For many years, Dianne served as Sabbath School Superintendent. She also prepared our church bulletins and initiated a church newsletter.

While it's normal for longtime

Seventh Day Baptists to drive some distance to church, Butch and Dianne found that it was "too far" for the neighbors and co-workers they were witnessing to. They felt called to start a church in their home. Central responded by voting to commission the couple to begin a new ministry in Anne Arundel County, under the "shelter" of the Central Seventh Day Baptist Church.

A commissioning service was held on July 30, 2005. Ruth Hazen offered a tribute for the Hibbards' years of service, followed by a Scripture reading by Rose Chroniger and a statement from Butch and Dianne. The deacons and church officers then laid hands on the Hibbards as Jean Cook led in prayer.

Let all of us pray that God will bless this new work as Butch and Dianne reach out to others in response to the Great Commission. **SR**

Gracious servant honored

by Pastor John Bevis

Probably everyone who has visited the Paint Rock, Ala., SDB Church remembers a gracious lady with a beautiful smile who greets you with a hug. That's our "Sister Grace," loved and appreciated by all.

Grace Butler Rabatin has contributed much to the life of our church in her quiet and humble way. On July 2, 2005, the congregation honored her with special music, tributes, and a plaque:



*"Faithful Servant Deaconess Grace Butler Rabatin
In Appreciation
32 years Church Treasurer
Paint Rock Seventh Day Baptist Church 2005."*

We thank God for the blessing Sister Grace is to our church family and pray God's continued blessings on her. **SR**

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Scripture Memorization, *cont. from page 16*

Kecia Thompson-gordon
Taylor Tway

New York City SDB Church

Sylvia Clarke-Smith
Carol Cruckhank
Enid Edwards
Kathlene Gordon
Theona Gordon
Inez Gray
Una Jackson
Lisa Moore
Dannavette Morrison
Magon Morrison
Rashawn Morrison
Ronald Smith
Blanche Williams
Jean Wynter-Barrett

North Loup SDB Church

Ron Cargill
Shirley Cargill
Beth Dutcher
Jerry Kolbo
Sydney Looper

Becky Faith
Mattison
Teri Morgan
Frances VanHorn

Nortonville SDB Church

June Johnson
Jean Jorgensen

Palatka SDB Church

Caleb Crouch
Grace Crouch
Joshua Crouch
Rick Crouch
Bonnie Flint
J.P. Flint

Raritan Valley SDB Church

Jeanne W. Yurke

Riverside SDB Church

George Lawson
Jonathan Lawson

Salem SDB Church

Steve Rogers

Adelea Trudgeon
Cassandra Trudgeon

SDB Church of Boulder

Danielle Crowder
Nathan Crowder
Tiffany Crowder
Valerie Heath
Ana Petersen
Patty Peterson
Doris Rood
Cletus Severance
Kiana Severance
Shayla Severance
Mary Steele
Amberle
Thorngate
Christina
Thorngate
Levi Thorngate

SDB Church of Little Rock

Betty Seager
Irving Seager

SDB Church of Shiloh

Carla Burlingame

Nancy Davis
Lauren DuBois
Jennifer Layton
Megan Loew
Adam Muffley
Clara Mulford
Frank B.

Mulford
Bill Probasco
Holly Probasco
Valerie Probasco
Robyn Wendell

SDB Church of Texarkana

Amanda Brown
Jennifer Brown
Katie Brown
Juanita Buckley
Shannon Murphy
Tyler Richards

Seattle Area SDB Church

Daniel Borek
Annie Cairnes
Carlie Cairnes
Duane Davis
Carl Noyes
Melodie Noyes

Maude Posey
Katherine
Spreadborough
Robert
Spreadborough

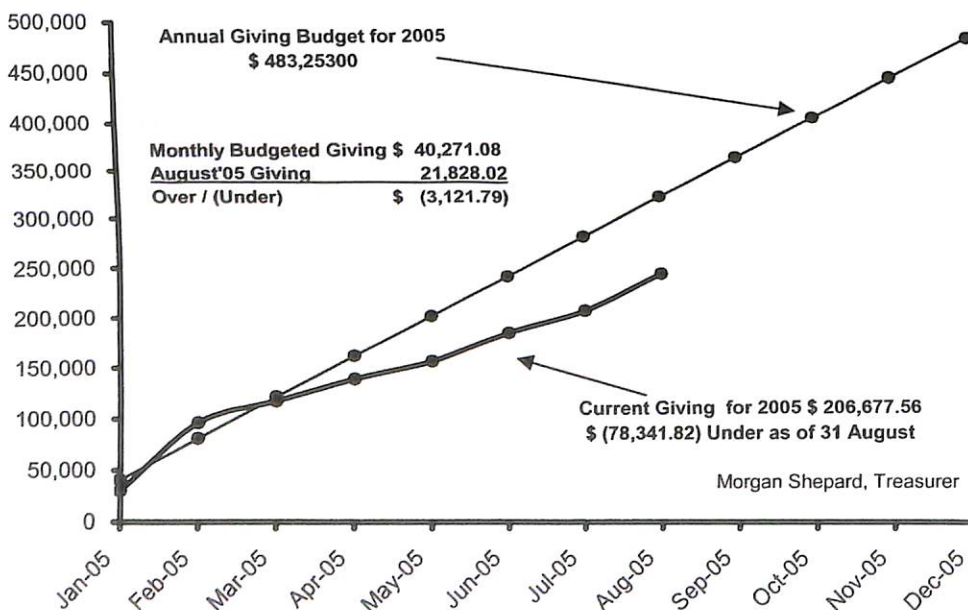
Verona SDB Church

Chelsea Brazie
Steven James
Amanda Marsh
April Marsh
Joan Self
Kenny Ray
Stover
Mayola Warner

Vision Christian Fellowship

Tatyana Boyce
Tia Boyce
Tiquan Boyce
Gary Chester
Cassandra Nadine
Lawton
Sarah Lawton
Timothy Lawton
Isaac Mills
Nathaniel Mills
Brandon Tassias
Brittany Jo
Tassias
David B. Taylor
David L. Taylor
Kyle Taylor
Margaret Taylor

Current Giving 2005



New members

Fort Worth, TX

Bill Burks, pastor
Joined by letter
Richard (Bill) Burks
Cynthia J. Burks

Texarkana, AR

Mynor G. Soper, pastor
Joined after testimony
Frances Harbison

Westerly, RI

Joined by letter
Rev. Edgar Wheeler
Xenia Lee Wheeler

Obituaries

Crane.—Sheila Adelaide Crane, 76, of Dodge Center, Minn., died at her home on July 9, 2005, after a brief illness.

She was born on November 29, 1928, in Dodge Center, the daughter of Lester and Helen (Matthews) Greene. She graduated from Dodge Center High School in 1946, and married Arden Crane on August 9, 1947.

Sheila worked at the Dodge Center Canning Factory, sold Bee-Line Clothing, was employed for 31 years as a lunchroom monitor and playground supervisor at the town's elementary school, and worked evenings and nights at a local convenience store for 19 years.

She also worked with the school census for 20 years, served as PTA president, and was an election judge for 40 years.

Sheila was a faithful, lifetime member of the Dodge Center Seventh Day Baptist Church. Her "special job" was taking church attendance.

She had been a member of the choir's alto section for years, and was active in Ladies Aid, serving in several church offices, including clerk.

Sheila took pleasure in spending holidays—especially Christmas—with her extended family. She also enjoyed needlepoint and family pets, reading devotional books, and dining out.

In addition to her husband, Arden, survivors include three sons, Barth of Rochester, Minn., Kevin of Spicewood, Texas, and Lance of Claremont, Minn.; one daughter, Valerie Lentz of Heron Lake, Minn.; two grandchildren, six step-grandchildren, and six step-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by one son, Terry, and one grandson, Geoff Johnson.

A funeral service was held on July 13, 2005, in the Dodge Center SDB

Church, with Pastor Dale Rood officiating. Interment was in Riverside Cemetery, Dodge Center.

Cruzan.—Mabel (Davis) Cruzan, 87, of Milton, Wis., died on July 28, 2005, at her home.

She was born on May 5, 1918, in Shiloh, N.J., the daughter of Thomas



and Elizabeth (Henderson) Davis. On June 30, 1936, she married Rev. Earl Cruzan in Marlboro, N.J.

Mabel dedicated her life to serving Seventh

Day Baptist churches in Waterford, Conn.; Boulder, Colo.; Dodge Center, Minn.; Adams Center, N.Y.; Westerly, R.I.; and Milton and Milwaukee, Wis. She had been a member of the Milton church since 1966.

Survivors include two daughters, Barbara Green of Janesville, Wis., and Nancy Lippert of Lansing, N.Y.; two sons, E. Wayne of Monterey, Calif., and Jon of Milton; 10 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews. Her husband and nine brothers and sisters predeceased her.

As a pastor's wife, Mabel not only supported her husband; she answered her own call to ministry.

In a talk she gave to a Boulder young people's group at a New Year's Youth Rally in 1945, she offered this challenge:

"There are many ways we can witness for Christ within our church. By our prayers, our kind deeds, our understanding and love of others, our patience. We can even witness by our inner-most thoughts, because so many times it is our thoughts that determines our actions."

At her memorial service, friends and family packed the Milton SDB Church to hear each of her children

pay tribute to these characteristics in her often unobserved understanding of and loving service to others.

The reading of some of her daily meditations demonstrated her devotion to God. But only her family was *fully* aware of her sacrificial service to church visitors on Sabbath days. Mabel often converted planned chicken dinners to chicken and biscuit meals to accommodate last-minute guests. The abundant produce from Pastor Earl's garden was also shared, since the couple considered "waste" a sin when others were in need.

In 1994, the SDB Women's Board honored Mabel with its Robe of Achievement. As a member of the Women's Board for six years, she was instrumental in helping start the Summer Christian Service Corps (SCSC) program for youth, and often chaired the Women's Interest Committee at Conference.

Mabel's understanding of the pastor's role in a church made her a valuable member of the Council on Ministry for nine years. In that capacity, she helped formulate policy for the education and training of SDB ministers, and worked on the Certificate Pastor Training Program, the forerunner of the Training In Ministry by Extension (T.I.M.E.) program.

The closing words of Mabel's Robe of Achievement presentation summed up her life: "Mabel's enthusiasm, energy, and love for the Lord are evident in everything she does. This extends to her personal family, her church family, and to the denomination."

Funeral services were held at the Milton church on August 4, 2005, with Pastor George Calhoun officiating. Burial was in the Milton Cemetery.

Duryea.—Thomas ("Tommy") Randolph Duryea, 56, of Piscataway, N.J., died on August 14,

2005, at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Philadelphia, Pa.

He was born on October 2, 1948, in Piscataway, the seventh generation Fitz-Randolph to be born in the house in which he lived most of his life. He was the son of Wilbur and Jeannette (Randolph) Duryea.

He graduated from Piscataway High School and then served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. After returning home, he worked for Halecrest Construction Company for a brief time before beginning his own business, T. Duryea Trucking.

Tommy was an active member and leader in both the VFW (Post 7504) and the American Legion (Post 261). He enjoyed driving, detailing his truck cab with Disney characters, watching NASCAR races and John Wayne movies, being with his family and friends, and making people laugh. Although he came to know God's grace in the last weeks of his life, he was grateful for the peace God gave him to move ahead into eternity.

He is survived by his mother, Jeannette, of Piscataway; one daughter, Mary Elizabeth Reagan of Rutledge, Tenn.; one brother, Guy, and one sister, Antoinette, both of Piscataway; one granddaughter, two nieces, two nephews, one grandniece, two grandnephews, and many friends.

A funeral service was held on August 18, 2005, at the Piscataway Funeral Home, with Pastor Jeanne Yurke officiating. A committal service—with military honors—took place at the Lake Nelson Memorial Park in Piscataway.

Bowden.—Florence B. Bowden, 105, of Shiloh, N.J., died peacefully on August 18, 2005, at Millville Center-Genesis Elder Care in Millville, N.J.

She was born on April 21, 1900, in Shiloh, the daughter of Joseph C. and Annabelle (Gillespie) Bowden. She earned a Bachelor's degree in Education from Alfred (N.Y.) Uni-

versity in 1922, and her Masters in Education from Columbia University in 1929.

Florence immediately became an English teacher at Bridgeton (N.J.) High School, working there until 1939. During that time, she was the supervisor of English for the Bridgeton school system. In 1939, she was appointed as Cumberland County Helping Teacher, which included many hours of counseling and traveling.

In 1946, Florence and Dr. Thomas C. Pollock, vice president of New York University, began writing *The Pollock-Bowden English Text Book* series, published by MacMillan Company in 1953.

She was president of the Helping Teachers Association and the New Jersey English Teachers Association, and was a member of the Summer School Extension Teaching Staff at Glassboro State College (now Rowan University). She also taught one summer at New York University, served on the National Council of English Teachers, and was a member of the National Retired Teachers Association.

Other memberships included the Soroptimist International of Cumberland County, the Shiloh Commu-

nity Senior Citizens, and the Shiloh Women's Christian Temperance Union.

Florence joined the Shiloh Seventh Day Baptist Church in 1909 and continued her faithful membership for 96 years. She taught Bible School for many years, was a member of the Benevolent Society and the Pastoral Relations Committee, sang in the church choir, and served as church historian.

Florence was also involved with the SDB church on a national level. She helped train church school leaders, Summer Christian Service Corps members, and incoming ministers and their wives on their responsibilities within the church.

The Seventh Day Baptist Women's Society honored Miss Bowden with its Robe of Achievement in 1972. In 1997, the SDB Historical Society awarded her its Gold-Headed Cane.

She is survived by one cousin, Ethel Dickinson Clarke, of Fort Mill, S.C.

Funeral services were held on August 23, 2005, at the Shiloh SDB Church, with Rev. Donald L. Chroniger officiating. A graveside service took place on August 24 at the SDB Church Cemetery in Shiloh.

“Service Classifieds”

In recent years, our Young Adults have desired to get involved in the denomination, especially through service.

With the help of the CLT and the Missionary Society, an idea of an “organized exchange of information” is taking shape. Individuals wanting to serve, and churches desiring human resources, may now be connected.

Individuals (of all age groups) can send information to a contact person concerning their desire for service. A form will ask for detailed information about the individual's gifts and time availability.

Churches can also submit their needs for workers.

Please Note: The contact person does not finalize matching projects but only assists churches and individuals in finding each other to meet their needs.

Mr. David Davis, Seattle Area church, has been designated as the contact for this new opportunity. You may phone Dave at (425) 226-0102, or e-mail dave@davisplano.com.

A full description of this service will appear in next month's *SR*, or check out our website at www.seventhdaybaptist.org. **SR**

KEVIN'S

ORNER

A cleansing perspective

Just prior to Conference this year, Janet and I enjoyed an awesome visit to England to attend meetings of the Baptist World Congress.

And I mean *just* prior to Conference. The night we returned home, we got to bed at 1:30 a.m.; Rob Appel and I took off for General Council in Michigan that afternoon.

Our trip to Europe included tours of London and Paris; meeting our SDB brethren at the Birmingham and Mill Yard churches; and worshipping with 12,000 Baptist believers of the Baptist World Alliance.

One “downer” of our stay was the glaring absence of Janet’s luggage. Her stuff never caught up with us in spite of our many pleading phone calls and the airline’s promises. The reported near-misses of their delivery attempts only served to frustrate us more.

Fortunately, Jan had a couple of outfits tucked into my suitcase—which did not arrive until our second night in Paris. (I had foolishly packed the good camera in my checked bag. That meant that we visited the Louvre museum and took photos of the Mona Lisa with a disposable camera! I shuddered every time it shuttered...)

Janet’s prodigal suitcase finally returned to our home in Janesville six weeks to the day since we had last seen it in Chicago.

She was thrilled to get her clothes and accessories back. I was also happy to have some of my items that we never expected to see again.

But our celebration was somewhat short-lived as we heard reports later that same day of the devastation of Hurricane Katrina.

Thousands of Americans in the Gulf Coast region lost much more than a single suitcase. They fled from—and eventually lost—all of their earthly possessions. Many lost their lives.

Perspective.

The little that we had lost temporarily could never compare with what was lost permanently.

Perspective.

During our month-and-a-half ordeal, Janet could hold onto the hope that her bag was simply lost “in the system.” So many people down south have no hope of retrieving their items lost in the flooding.

Perspective.

Our perspective got realigned and our faith grew as we learned about the positive perspective of so many of the hurricane survivors. They were thankful and grateful to God for sparing their lives—even though the accumulated “stuff” of their lives was washed away.

Perspective.

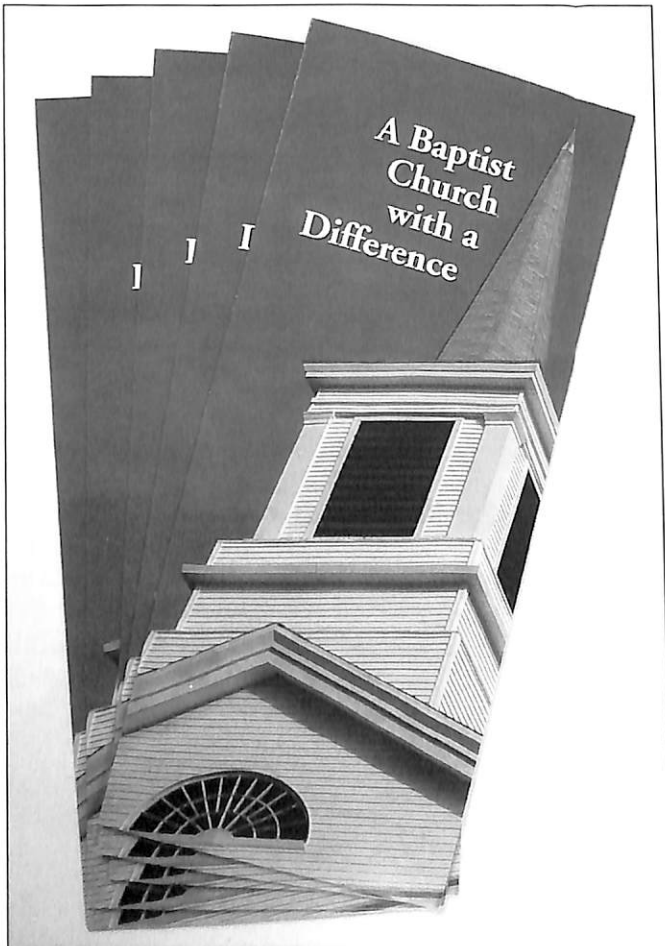
And could you believe those insensitive (and “deeply theological”) comments declaring that Katrina was some sort of “pay-back” from God due to the decadence and sin in the Delta area? Please explain that to the numerous believers and churches who have been ministering there in Jesus’ name. Please explain that to the beautiful Christian couple I married last year who are working toward their medical degrees through New Orleans’ Tulane University.

Perspective.

May the Lord gently cleanse our perspective as we learn to trust in the Creator, and not the things of *our* creation.



New tract reprint ready!



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Our best-selling tract, "A Baptist Church that's a little different" has become "A Baptist Church with a Difference."

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