



The Sabbath RECORDER

June 2005

News for and about Seventh Day Baptists

SDB Youth Shine Forth



- **Three Flames of Love**
- **Penny Wars for Jesus**
- **FamineFest Feeds Multitude**



Who are SeventhDay 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

Ways to support the ongoing work

Your partnership with the SDB Memorial Fund can help to sustain our many outreach ministries. You will be able to:

- Create a new fund (for scholarships, training, publishing, etc.)

- Start an Annuity
- Leave a gift in your will

Please call (608) 752-5055 for more information, or see Calvin Babcock or any of the Memorial Fund trustees at Conference.



More quilts on the block for SCSC

Over 20 years ago, Rev. Alton and Ethel Wheeler were presented two matching quilts made by members of the Riverside, Calif., church. The family has decided to place the quilts up for auction (at Conference in Michigan), with the proceeds going toward the Summer Christian Service Corps ministry.

Each quilt is 62 x 84 inches. The background material contains green leaves and tiny red flowers. The squares are all unique, created by different church members.

So come to Conference ready to place a bid on these special keepsakes, and help support SCSC!

Buildin' a Pavilion

What to do, what to do... Conference will be over, the school year won't have started...

HAVE WE GOT A PROJECT FOR YOU!!



Head over to Harley 'cuz we're buildin' a pavilion!

The SDB Allegheny Association is planning to put up a pavilion at Camp Harley Sutton (in Alfred Station, N.Y.) this summer. Work is to begin on August 15 and continue through August 25.

We welcome any and all help we can get. Meals are furnished, so bring your camper or we can find a room for you. Join in for daily Bible study, fellowship, and fun as we work here in the lovely foothills of the Alleghenies.

For information, contact **Lyle Sutton**
4221 Dineen Rd., Friendship NY 14739
Call (585) 973-2081 or e-mail lbsutn@infoblvd.net.



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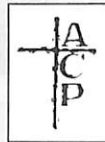


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Three flames of love

by Danielle and Tiffany Crowder, and Amberle Thorngate
Boulder, Colo.

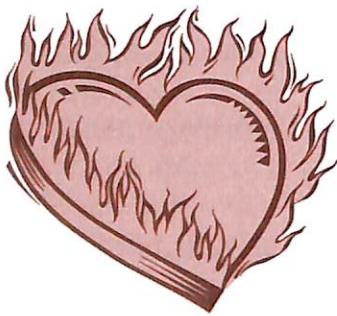


Love is such a strong word, but it's thrown around so easily by a world that doesn't fully understand its power. Even we Christians sometimes find ourselves using the same word to express our feelings toward material objects as well as future spouses. We may say, "I love you,"

and then later say, "I love your shoes."

Where does that leave us in a world where we tend to lose the true meaning of love?

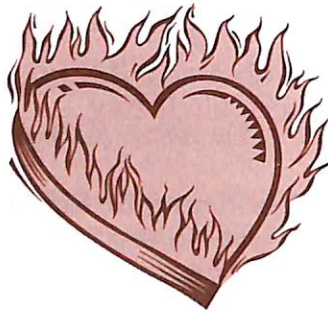
Love expresses many emotions, but its true meaning can be broken down into three "flames"—



Friendship

This flame is the foundation for a successful relationship. It bonds us to other human beings so we can support them. In return, we ourselves are supported.

In order to have a true relationship, we have to start with a simple friendship.



Commitment

This flame involves the will. We have to *choose* to continue our relationships even when it's difficult or when our bonds begin to fade. Commitment helps us form a closer and more serious relationship.




Unity

This flame is the most passionate because it combines our heart, mind, and soul. It brings a friendship into an intimate relationship with another person. It also combines our thoughts and souls into one idea through the Lord.

If these three flames are separated, we feel unfulfilled and unsatisfied. If we have one, it is necessary to acquire them all. Love burns brightest when joined into a single flame shining on the road ahead.

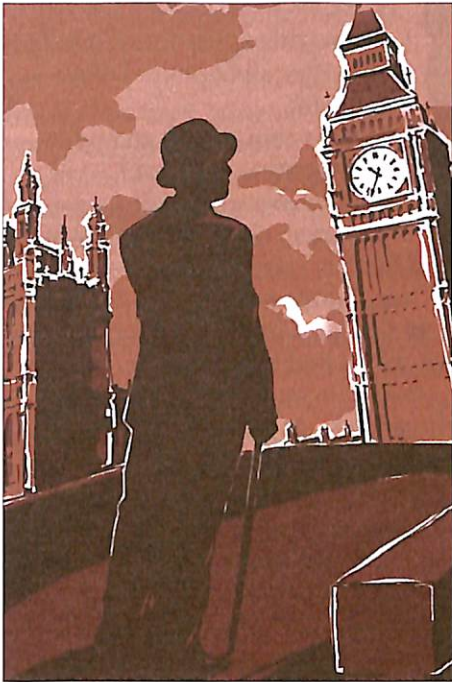
In the end, love is the key to a happier life with the ones we care about. It gives us hope for a brighter tomorrow and a future according to God's plan.

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does

not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away" (1 Corinthians 13:4-8, NIV). 

Helping our mother church with my father pastor

by Jenna Wethington
Ministering in London, England



Since I was a baby, I know I've been raised beautifully by my parents in a wonderful Christian home. This contributed to my love and desire to take part in mission trips from my church in White Cloud, Mich.

I've heard comments that I was probably forced to be a part of the church because my father is a pastor. This is not true at all. I love my Lord and Savior, and doing anything I can to add to his glorious Kingdom creates joy in my life.

A year or so ago—when I was on my third mission trip to Tampico, Mexico—I learned that I could take part in a “Christian Exchange Program” with the church down there. This excited me, and we immediately set up plans with my school and the sister church in Mexico.

Sadly, the whole thing was graciously declined, and I was faced with a whole half of a school year at home.

My father and I prayed that God would allow this window of opportunity to be of His will, and that prayer was answered.

We were invited to go to London, England, to help strengthen our declining mother church there. I was to work with the Mill Yard SDB Church in Tottenham for four months, helping their youth group with activities and evangelism.

My father and I stepped off our long journey to London's Heathrow Airport. I must admit my anxiousness, for my heart was truly unaware of all the great things God had planned for our time here.

As a young teenage girl preparing to be away from all I knew except my dad and my Savior, I quickly began to get acquainted with this new place.

At first, it was really hard to cope with the society's antisocial behavior. People rarely smile at you, talk with you, or greet you. It is just a big place full of strangers.

If you know my father, you know that he doesn't just “flow with the crowd.” His friendly heart was opened, and he began a long journey of talking to anyone in sight.

It's actually fun to analyze people's expressions as they question why you are standing there smiling at them.

The reason I went to Tottenham was to help the young people build a stronger youth group. To my surprise, a good number of youth were already attending. Unbelievably, six of them are sisters, and there are also two boys and another young girl.


In a short time, the youth pulled together, and they have set goals to accomplish good things in the future. We have already started meeting regularly. Every Friday, we have

our own Youth/Young Adult get-together—a fun evening full of feasting, praise, and Bible Study.

One goal we have set is to see if they can make it to our Conference in the States. Next on our agenda is to start ministering to the community, first singing in parks and then visiting nursing homes and hospitals. We are also organizing community events such as coffee houses, a kids' carnival, and a barbecue.

It truly is an awesome thing to watch the hand of God working daily.

I love all the wonderful experiences of witnessing and getting to know other SDB youth from around the world. My father and I agree that God has not only blessed the church congregation with His beautiful presence, but also our hearts with all the love we've received.

Coming to London has been a spiritually strengthening adventure, and I will never be able to thank God enough for this. As my time here is wrapping up, I just pray that the Spirit of God continues to move in all the wonderful work ahead. 



Jenna Wethington having fun in Mexico. She serves as this year's National YF president.

Buckeyes for Jesus

by Gavin Fox
Columbus, Ohio (The Buckeye State)

So much has been going on in the Columbus, Ohio, Seventh Day Baptist Church. We relocated recently and are still working out the kinks of owning our first church building.

Even our youth group has changed drastically. Organization was the group's first priority, and they elected Gavin Fox, president; Kyle Greene, vice president; Matthew Thomas, treasurer; and Damian Greene, secretary. With these officers heading things up, this rag-tag team of "Christian soldiers" can lead other lost souls to the Lord.

The ongoing problem is that our youth group really doesn't have any money, but this is being remedied. We held a car wash at the church the first weekend in May. It was free, but we accepted donations to fund future youth projects. Some will be spent for a little fun, but most "recreational funds" will probably come out of our pockets. *(Or their parents!—Editor.)*

Prior to the car wash, we decided to hold a "lock-in" at the church. This included playing games, watching movies, and holding a Bible study.

Another major project of our youth group is providing relief funds to our sister churches in Sri Lanka that survived the devastating tsunami in December.



Sri Lanka is an island nation off the coast of India. It was hit hard by the tsunami, all but wiping out our presence there. Our youth voted to send \$200. This sum may not seem like much, but it can provide food and water for many people who would otherwise have none.

Once again, we ran into the problem that we didn't have the money to do this. However, we took a unique approach to this dilemma and followed a creative idea that has already helped collect almost half of our target goal: a Penny War.

Basically, the different Sabbath School classes in our church compete to collect the highest amount of pennies. The "catch" is that each classroom can sabotage each other's total

by putting silver coins or bills into their opponents' collection jars.

This contest will go on for two months. At its end, we'll announce a winner and reveal the prize. Hopefully, this will help us raise the money that we want to send to Sri Lanka to aid them in rebuilding their churches and communities.

We've been up to one other thing lately. Most of our youth attend regional retreats in the spring and fall, involving the churches in this part of the Appalachian Association. This is also when the youth in the entire region hold a town hall-type meeting to see if we have any items to discuss.

Those meetings take up just a small portion of the weekend, which is used more for fellowship and fun.

This pretty much sums up what is going on with the youth in the Columbus church. We send our prayers out to all of you and ask for some in return.

Thanks! **SR**

We relocated recently and are still working out the kinks of owning our first church building.



Let the games (and worship) begin!

by Ana Priest
White Cloud, Mich.

I'm from the Seventh Day Baptist church in White Cloud, Mich. Let me tell you about some of the fun and exciting things that our youth group does.

Once a month in the summer, we have 12-hour parties that go from 10 o'clock in the morning until 10 at night. We usually start these events with a devotional and then play games, especially Concentration.

One time we played a game that everyone should try. Putting a plastic garbage bag on one person, the rest of us rubbed peanut butter all over the bag. After coating it with as much peanut butter as we could, we started throwing pieces of bread. The winning team was the one that stuck the most pieces of bread to the bag.

When we're done playing games, we have two more devotions and then end the evening in worship.

Worship is definitely a big part of our youth group. We have a worship team that loves to play and sing for God. We also love to go to as many Christian concerts as possible. We've been to the "Mercy Me" concerts, and the "Kutless Sea of Faces" tour, which was a blast!

Other things we do include tubing down the Muskegon River, which is always fun. There's a rope down the river that we can swing on and jump off of. Also in the summer, we host an SCSC team, and they are always fun to hang out with.

In the winter, we have lots of fun skiing and snowboarding. Back at the church, we play games like Capture the Flag and have contests—like seeing who can build the biggest snowman and crazy things like that.

We are always busy doing fundraisers, often by collecting pop cans

We also help out in the community by raking yards and cleaning litter from highways.



and selling Krispy Kreme donuts. Yum! We also help out in the community by raking yards and cleaning litter from highways.

It's great to be in our youth group because all of us are a little crazy, and we love to have fun together. One thing I especially like is that we accept everyone. No matter who you are, you are always welcome.

In our free time, our group likes going to the movies and the beach. One time when our pastor's wife took us to Lake Michigan, it was raining by the time we got there. But we didn't care; we still went swimming and had lots of fun.


Sometimes we even put on plays and "make movies." (We played the Newlywed game and videotaped it!)

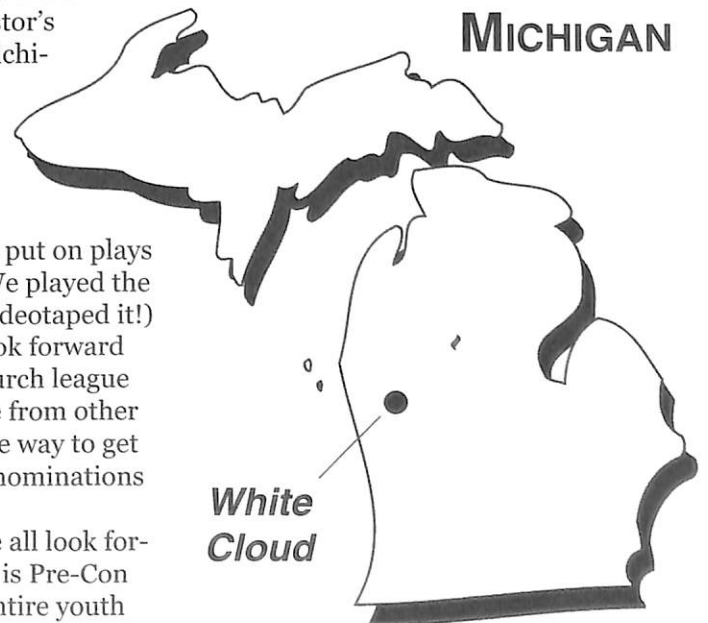
Another thing we look forward to in the summer is church league softball. Playing people from other churches is an awesome way to get involved with other denominations and have a good time.

The biggest thing we all look forward to in the summer is Pre-Con and Conference. Our entire youth

group has been giving input on what we should do, so be ready to have fun!

I hope that you have enjoyed learning about our youth group and what we do here in White Cloud. I hope to learn about your youth group, too. Do you know of any new, fun and exciting games?

God bless, and I hope to see everyone soon. 



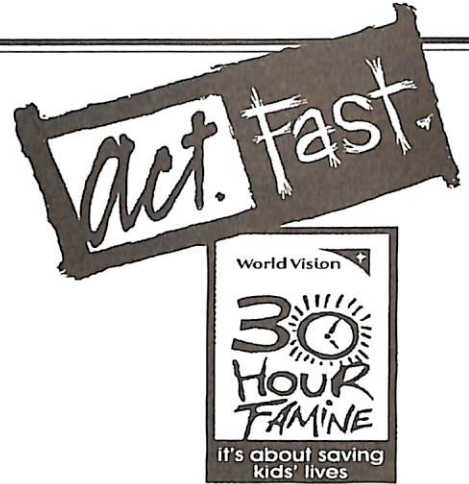
Fest or Famine... Why not both?

by Pastor Steve Osborn
Milton, Wis.

In April, youth from all over Milton, Wis., joined together for a common cause: to save the lives of starving children around the world.

The Milton SDBYF had been participating in "30-Hour Famines" for years, but decided to take it to another level. They made a big deal out of seeing how many others they could get to join them in a Famine to raise funds for World Vision, and a Festival to celebrate the opportunity to do something about world hunger. Thus

**Games
and lessons
helped us
understand
what it is like
to be poor and
hungry.**



FamineFest feeds multitude

by Jackson Butler, Milton, Wis.

*I want food!
So hungry!!
AAAHHHHHH!!!*

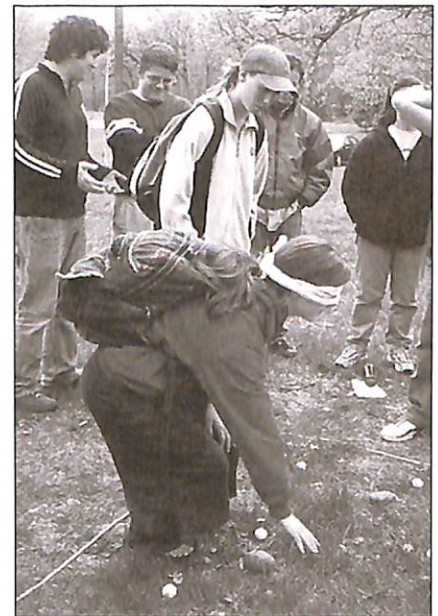
Those are just a few of the things that went through my mind after not eating for 30 hours.

It's amazing to think that kids around the world are forced to deal with that every day. Yet I had the luxury of knowing that after the 30 hours were up, I would get food. Children who live in poverty don't know when they're going to get their next meal.

That's why we did the Famine—to raise money so those starving kids could have something to eat.

We at the Milton church have been doing these famines for years. This year was different. All the money raised—an amazing \$12,000—went to World Vision. One really awesome thing was that our government gave World Vision a grant that would septuple everything they collected. So in essence, we raised \$84,000!

World Vision gave us a cool theme to keep our minds on the



In a FamineFest "game," guides had to direct blindfolded players to find potatoes, while avoiding the "land mines" (golf balls).

“FamineFest 2005” was born.

In all, over 70 youth and young adults from Milton Area and North Central Association youth groups took part in the 30-hour Famine. People were asked to sponsor the kids’ efforts to go without food for 30 hours with a pledge to World Vision.

Over half of the participants joined together at Camp Wakonda on April 29-30 to complete the Famine. They took part in games and lessons that helped them to understand what it is like to be poor and hungry.

At the conclusion of the Famine, they hosted a celebration concert (the Festival part). Over 300 people—mostly youth with a few brave adults mixed in—packed into Milton’s High School auditorium to hear three bands. Two local teenage bands from Milton and Janesville High Schools

***The concertgoers
not only ended up celebrating
together, but as a special
bonus, they heard the
Gospel as well.***

opened for “The Least of These,” a Christian band comprised mostly of Milton SDBs. As you can imagine, the concertgoers not only ended up celebrating together, but as a special bonus, they heard the Gospel as well.

When all was said and done, over \$12,000 had been raised for World Vision. This was more than *double* our original goal of raising enough money to feed 100 children for a year.

World Vision can receive government grants that will septuple (that’s times seven!) all money raised by the end of May 2005. That made our funds worth over \$84,000. At a dollar a day, that will feed 230 starving children for a full year! Praise the Lord for His wonderful hand which was obviously behind this entire event.

Start making your plans now to attend FamineFest 2006! **SR**



Josh Snyder’s team built this shelter against a leaning tree.

purpose of the weekend. Their program divided us into tribes, with each person getting a card with the name of a real person in Africa.

We also had to pretend to

have a certain disability during the games. For example, some people had missing limbs (from land mine explosions), and others, like myself, had AIDS. We played tribal games to earn food, water, and health cards.

One game was a spin-off of Musical Chairs, where the winner was the only one to survive an AIDS epidemic. Ironically, I was the winner, but I already “had” AIDS!

After we finished the famine out at Camp Wakonda, we took a bus

into Milton for a sure-to-be amazing concert.

Held at Milton High School, the concert featured my band, “UnderKurrent”; Tom Lima’s band, “Exmoor”; and the Christian group, “The Least of These.” SDB young adults Ben and Josh Calhoun, Sam Lima, and Neil Lubke—and college friend Ben Blascoe—rocked the house for Jesus! They drew in a huge crowd from Milton and the surrounding area, and the show was an awesome success.

FamineFest 2005 was a challenging experience that made us truly think about the misfortunes of others. **SR**

Berlin middle schoolers declare war!

by Ellen Olson

The Middle School Youth Group of the Berlin, N.Y., Seventh Day Baptist Church has spent the year studying character. In March, the lessons were on caring, and culminated in planning some service projects.

Our first service project was a “penny war” to raise money for Sri Lanka in cooperation with the National Youth Fellowship’s mission project.

Because we have a community YF (run by SDBs but attended by un-churched kids and those from other churches), we decided to donate half of the money to the SDB Missionary Society and the other half to Franklin Graham’s “Samaritan’s Purse” ministry in Sri Lanka.

We established the rules for the “war” (pennies counted positively and all other money counted negatively), printed fliers, purchased buckets, and informed the other two groups of our plans.

The excitement really started two weeks later, when the Middle School Youth Group boldly stepped into the classrooms of the 3-4-5 Club (3rd through 5th grade YFers) and the High School Youth Group. They presented their challenge loudly and with the gusto that only a group of 15 middle schoolers could muster: “One, two, three, four... We declare a penny war. You’re goin’ down!” The war was on.

Over the next four weeks, the groups collected pennies for their own buckets and did a significant amount of “sabotaging”—putting other coins besides pennies, or dollar bills, into their competitors’ buckets.

The 3-4-5 Club collected money while doing a fair amount of sabo-

They presented their challenge loudly and with the gusto that only a group of 15 middle schoolers could muster: “One, two, three, four... We declare a penny war. You’re goin’ down!”



The Berlin, N.Y., youth fellowships.

taging, but the real competition ended up being between the middle schoolers and the high schoolers.


In their desire to win, the high school youth even put five and ten-dollar bills into the middle school bucket. The middle schoolers countered by putting all of the coins they could find (from their floors, cars, pockets, etc.) into the high school bucket.

One young man asked all of his school teachers for pennies, taking the penny-war flier along

so the teachers would know he was “above board.”

Youth and sheer numbers (the middle school church group is nearly three times the size of the high school group) prevailed, and the middle schoolers won despite being \$5.45 in the hole.

The high school youth raised the most money overall, and the 3-4-5 Club members received recognition for being the best sports.

All together, the Berlin church’s three youth groups raised over \$328. Way to go, guys! 

Website visibility

by Pastor Justin Hibbard
Central Maryland SDB Church

(Editor's note: I encourage you to read Justin's introductory article on websites in the May SR.)

Your church website is somewhere on the World Wide Web along with billions of other websites. What will ensure that someone will find your site? Search words.

Search words

When someone searches for the word *church* or *Seventh Day Baptists*, they will get a list of sites that matches their search criteria.

But if other sites have information about your site—along with links and specific key words known as “adwords”—that will increase your site’s visibility.

The “key” is to get your site at the very front of the list. There are two ways to do this.

Go to the front

First, you can create a bunch of free sites that all refer to and point to your site. This option takes time and is less effective than the second option, but it’s inexpensive.

The more effective (though costly) way is through adwords. The number one search engine, Google, makes their business by providing advertisement and site visibility from websites that bid to be seen.

When you do a search on Google, you will see two columns. On the left, websites are listed according to their relevance. However, on the right, Google lists a select few sites which have paid to be located there and brought up when you hit the site’s adwords.

With adwords, you choose what words trigger your site, and you bid to have your site more visible.

For example, if I wanted to make Central Seventh Day Baptist Church more visible on the web, I can pay to have words such as “Seventh Day Baptists,” “church,” “Maryland,” “Washington D.C.,” etc. trigger my site to come up on the right side. If I bid higher than other sites, my site could be listed at the very top.

Fortunately, Google allows you to determine how much you want to pay for each adword. If you put in the word “church,” millions of people will probably see your site listed, and each time they click on your site link, you will pay. You may have limited the amount you want to pay to \$2.00 a day. In that case, depending on how much you are willing to bid (5 cents is the minimum), you may run out of advertising in minutes.

Google’s adwords allow you to determine who you want to see your site. Their search engine is so high-tech that it can determine what state

and country people are in when they are doing a search.

If someone’s in California, I don’t want to pay for them to see my site because, chances are, they’re not looking for a specific church. They still are able to see my site in the column with all the other churches (depending on what search words they use), but it’s not worth paying for.

Gather information

The best way to determine the effectiveness of your website is to use site statistics to tell you who’s visiting your site, what internet address they’re coming from, what sites they are using to get to your location, and how long they’re staying at your website.


If you’re unsure about paying extra money for adwords, do a test: For the first month, don’t use adwords and see how many people are stopping at your site. For the second month, spend a little money for visibility and see if the difference is worth the money.

Using site statistics helps generate concrete information that can demonstrate a website’s effectiveness. It also allows you to present those details to the congregation.

Seeing the results

At Central SDB Church, we just revamped our website (www.central-sdbchurch.org) for about \$1,000. That may be expensive, but it allows us to have an attractive site where we can provide our newsletter and sermons on-line.

While I’m no expert, I have seen some immediate results by following these basic principles.

Applying this information will help SDBs share their existence and beliefs. Hopefully, this will lead others to our church doors. 

An important reminder from John and Joyce Conrod

Many SDB churches have “*forministries*” websites, and need only be responsible for updating them. They can also obtain domain names, as Justin suggested in his first article, then use the “*forministries*” website in a timely manner.

A list of websites that are already assigned and available is at:
www.geocities.com/sdbnet/fishnet/how.htm.

We pray that others will be encouraged to advance God’s Kingdom on the Internet.

Exploring the Sabbath

by Linda Greene

Let's continue now with the Sabbath in the life of Jesus, and with the second half of the passage we ended with last month. Jesus and his disciples have just been criticized for picking grain and eating it on the Sabbath, and they now continue on to the synagogue.

Matthew 12:9-14
(Also Mark 3:1-6; Luke 6:6-11)

“Going on from that place, he went into their synagogue, and a man with a shriveled hand was there. Looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, they asked him, ‘Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?’

“He said to them, ‘If any of you has a sheep and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will you not take hold of it and lift it out? How much more valuable is a man than a sheep! Therefore, it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.’

“Then he said to the man, ‘Stretch out your hand.’ So he stretched it out, and it was completely restored, just as sound as the other. But the Pharisees went out and plotted how they might kill Jesus” (Matthew 12:9-14).

I find the reactions of the Pharisees here very interesting. Matthew says they were “looking for a reason to accuse” Jesus. Mark’s version says that they “remained silent” and “watched him [Jesus] closely.” Luke tells us that Jesus “knew what they were thinking in their hearts,” and Mark tells us that he “looked at them in anger and was deeply distressed at their stubborn hearts.”

Luke goes on to say that Jesus had the man “stand up in front of everyone” before he healed him. Mark says that after this healing, the Pharisees “went out and began to plot how they might kill Jesus.”

What a struggle is taking place between the Pharisees and Jesus in this whole scene! Not just in the physical world, but in the spirit realm as well. The Sabbath is playing a key role in this struggle.

The struggle is actually between the letter of the law and the spirit of the law, between religious self-righteousness and God’s grace. What better platform for that struggle to be played out on than the Sabbath, which we discovered in recent months may very well have been God’s symbol of grace from the beginning of time.

When we come to Jesus with our hearts shriveled and destroyed by sin, Jesus completely restores us, if we allow him. Our old nature is put to death, and we are given a completely new spiritual nature that is “just as sound as the other” that God originally created, as related in Genesis.

We do have to “stretch out our hands,” though. In order to receive the healing that Jesus has for us, we have to be willing to let go of the things that we are hanging on to, including our illusions that we are, or can be, good enough on our own.

The man had a shriveled hand, and the Pharisees’ hearts were “shriveled” with self-righteousness and accusation.

The Pharisees pretended to have great zeal for the law, but they were really looking for an avenue to attack Jesus. The Sabbath was the focus of that attack.

You can bet this was not a coincidence, any more than the disappearance of the Sabbath from mainstream Christianity has been an accident. Satan had—and has—a distinct purpose in clouding mankind’s vision when it comes to the Sabbath. That whole “salvation by grace” thing really galls him!

This healing itself has some beautiful images for us as well. The man had a shriveled hand, and the Pharisees’ hearts were “shriveled” with self-righteousness and accusation. When the man “stretched out his hand,” it was “completely restored, just as sound as the other.”

Jesus says here that it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath. This gives me another question to ask myself about appropriate Sabbath activities: Am I doing good for someone else? God loves this kind of selfless activity, as we see clearly in so many of Jesus’ teachings and parables. Doing good is an important part of pleasing God on the Sabbath.

This section of the story also reinforces the fact that man’s needs are important, and meeting those needs is acceptable behavior on the Sabbath. Again, I have to emphasize that the word here is “needs,” not “wants.” We need to be honest with ourselves in this area. **SR**

Next month, we’ll take a look at Luke 13:10-17. Until then, be blessed!



Lessons from children

When my husband told me that he wanted to live in a gated community for 55-and-over citizens, my heart sank. I could not picture life without children. After moving to Bear Creek, I learned that there was a definite upside: I *became* the child, the “kid sister” for now.

I put on tap shoes for the first time, and I felt like I was in first grade again. I began dancing with seniors who, though older, have the same kindergartner gleam in their eyes when they dance.

Now I can answer that question our youngest **son, Chet**, asked long ago at the dinner table. His dad often closed his prayers with, “And bless this food to our body’s use and our lives to Thy service.” Young Chet would ask, “What are ‘body shoes?’ ”

Chet, they must be shoes that we put on that make us think we are younger than our bodies.

Now it’s Chet’s turn to answer questions. He and his wife, Tanya, have four little girls to delight their world with serendipitous inquiries.

As I reflected on this youth issue of the *Recorder*, my heart filled with thanksgiving for the children God has put in my life. I could write volumes, but I’ll share what I’ve learned from just a few of them.

•**Daughter Julie** at age 3 (she’s 34 now): “Praise the Lord!” she exclaimed as she got her rubber boots finally pulled on over her shoes.

The lesson? Children will do what you do. Best lessons are caught, not taught.

Influenced by Francis Hunter Gardner’s book, *Praise the Lord Anyway*, Merlin Carothers’ *From Prison to Praise*, and by some Methodist lay ministers who visited our church in Battle Creek (Mich.), I had begun

making my own “Praise the Lord” audible. What a treat to hear it come from the lips of my little girl!

•**Granddaughter Reagan** at age 2 (now 6): “Do you love ‘holy,’ Grandma?”

I was at my wit’s end trying to get her settled into bed for the night when those words spilled from that cherubic face. Her sister Michaela’s worship tape was playing something about “holy.”

The lesson? Where my wit ends, God’s is only beginning, and He often displays it through His little ones.

Hallelujah! It’s always good to “love holy”; it’s always time to praise the Lord.

•**Son Keith** at age 11 (now 37): “Dear God, please help Mom at school tomorrow.”

Because I know God listens to His children, I was given the push I needed to walk out the door the next day, a David meeting her Goliath. I was still afraid to face the 11 high school students I had given detention to on my first day

as a student-teacher. I was sure I’d made enemies of each of them.

Two weeks later, I finally had the peace and confidence that David had, but the journey in the right direction began with my son’s heartfelt prayer.

•**Grandson Jordan** at age 2 (now 13): “C’mon Manir,” he called to me, motioning to his room where we could get away by ourselves to play.

While he was still in his mother’s womb, I pondered what name my grandchildren should call me. Would I be Granny, Grandma, Grammy, Nana...? Hmm—I liked “Mimi,” but Jordan already has an aunt by that name.

When he was old enough to talk, Jordan picked out his own way of saying grandma. I loved “Manir.”

The lesson? Whatever name your grandchild chooses for you is perfect.

•**Sabbath School student Becca** at age 6 (now 24): “Communion is when we put Christ’s broken body back together.” **SR**





'An Oasis in a Desert of Gloom' revisited

In researching last month's Pearls about abolitionist Gerrit Smith, the *Sabbath Recorder* index sent me to the July 20, 1893 issue. This issue also contained an article about the Colombian Exposition held in Chicago to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Columbus' discovery of America. I had used that story as the basis for a Pearls in 1993.

In that Pearls, the Seventh Day Baptist booth at the fair was described as "One Bright Spot" and "An Oasis in a Desert of Gloom." It had earned that description because it was open on Sunday when most of the other religious booths were closed.

The fair occurred at a time when there was an intensive drive to pass legislation termed the "Blair Sunday Law." This bill prescribed "that no person shall perform any secular work on the first day of the week in any territory, district, vessel or place subject to the jurisdiction of the United States."

Many of the churches that had booths at the Exposition supported Sunday closings, but Seventh Day Baptists used this as an opportunity for witness.

After people passed the closed booths, they found a warm welcome under the huge sign, "Why are we Seventh Day Baptists? Because the Seventh-day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God" (Exodus 20:16). "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved" (Mark 16:16).

A large "Chart of the Week," arranged by William Mead Jones,

hung above that sign. In nearly every one of 160 languages, the word for the seventh day contained the word "Sabbath" in some form. This showed that the Sabbath was an institution prior to the existence of the Jews.

Today, a duplicate of that sign hangs in the hallway of the SDB Center in Janesville, Wis. The preface to that chart describes it as "Showing the UNCHANGED ORDER of the Days and the true POSITION of the SABBATH, as proved by the combined testimony of Ancient and Modern Languages."¹

In any such exhibit, the most important aspect is not the visual signs but the personal witness of those who are present to explain the significance of the exhibit. In reality, the "One Bright Spot" at the Chicago SDB booth was the presence of those who could explain the full meaning and significance of the pictures and artifacts on display.

That 1893 *SR* article described one of the SDB booth witnesses, William C. Whitford, president of Milton (Wis.) College. "[He was] a kindly looking man with gray locks, and yet bearing the imprint of an extended youth and clear intellect. [He] took pleasure in speaking how its [our denomination's] lowly followers had labored in times past and present for the good of their fellows." Whitford noted:

"Here is a portrait of Gerrit Smith, the great philanthropist who died some years ago. Mr. Smith was a millionaire during the anti-slavery agitation, and spent his money lavishly as well as using his influence to promote the cause of slavery's abolition. He was a New Yorker and a Sabbath-keeper."

President Whitford was then able to move on to other portraits and show "that the Seventh Day Baptists in other days which required physical force to establish liberty, and later defend it, were among the foremost who put their shoulders to the wheel..."

"Our churchmen in all times have tried to exert an influence for good in every land they have occupied. From the strongholds they have sent missionaries to heathen lands to assist there in upholding of the true religion. A mission established in Shanghai has proved especially valuable, and the heathen gods have been displaced in many homes."

That *SR* article of 133 years ago ended with the statement, "Dr. Whitford's auditors were loath to leave the one bright spot in the religious exhibits, even after the entire collection had been explained to them. When they had finally departed, it was with an expression of gratitude for what they had seen."²

Though today we may use different techniques for visual and audio presentations, the most effective tool is still the personal witness that can give meaning to what the eye and ear sees and hears.

How well versed are you personally to explain what it means to be a Seventh Day Baptist? What can we contribute to society? Can we still be "An Oasis in a Desert of Gloom"? **SR**

¹The "Chart of the Week" at Stationer's Hall in England, and entered according to Act of Congress in the year 1886 by Rev. W.M. Jones D.D. in the office of the Librarian of Congress at Washington, D.C., USA.

²The *Sabbath Recorder*, Vol. 49, no. 26, p. 451 f., July 20, 1893.



Did you know...

that can of soda you drink every day is worth \$25,000, or that that daily cup of Starbucks coffee is worth \$50,000?!

Make a gift of whole life insurance to the SDB Memorial Fund designated as you wish. Premiums will be a charitable contribution.



Age	Male			Age	Female	
	Annual Premium	Cost per Day	Various Policy Values		Annual Premium	Cost per Day
25	\$ 108.00	\$ 0.30	\$ 10,000	25	\$ 101.00	\$ 0.28
35	\$ 600.00	\$ 1.64	\$ 50,000	35	\$ 539.00	\$ 1.48
45	\$ 478.00	\$ 1.31	\$ 25,000	45	\$ 433.00	\$ 1.19
55	\$ 703.00	\$ 1.93	\$ 25,000	55	\$ 626.00	\$ 1.72
65	\$ 504.00	\$ 1.38	\$ 25,000	65	\$ 424.00	\$ 1.16

(These sample Annual Premiums are based on healthy, non-smokers)
 Get more information at our booth at General Conference in Holland, Mich.!
 Staying Strong, Steady * Enthusiastic
 for the Lord!

Denominational Dateline

June

- 5/30 —
- 6/10 Summer Institute on Sabbath Theology, SDB Center, Janesville, Wis.—Gordon Lawton
- 1 Colombo, Sri Lanka—Kirk Looper
- 3-7 Washington, D.C., SDB Church; Spanish churches; Central SDB Church, Mitchellville, Md.—Rob Appel
- 5-9 Cebu City, Philippines—Looper
- 10-12 Southwestern Association, Houston, Tex.—Ron Elston
- 11 Pine Street Chapel, Middletown, Conn.—Looper
- 15-19 George Fox University, Newberg, Ore.; Seattle Area SDB Church—Appel
- 24-26 Appalachian Association, Paint Rock, Ala.—Appel
- 25 Verona, N.Y., SDB Church—Kevin Butler

July

- 2 Dodge Center, Minn.—Appel
- 9 North Loup, Neb., SDB Church—Looper
- 24 SDB Missionary Society Board of Managers Meeting, Westerly, R.I.—Looper
- 27-31 Baptist World Congress Centennial, Birmingham, England—Butler, Appel

August

- 3 Coordinating Leadership Team (CLT), Battle Creek, Mich.
- 3-5 General Council, Battle Creek
- 3-7 Pre-Cons—Pierson, Mich. (Youth); Holland, Mich. (Young Adult)
- 6-7 SDB Memorial Fund Quarterly Meeting, Holland—Morgan Shepard
- 7-13 General Conference, Holland, Mich.



Directions to Youth Pre-Con 2005 Brook Cherith Camp, Pierson, Mich.

From the North:

Take US 131 South to the Howard City/Newaygo exit (#118).
Turn right (west) off the ramp onto Highway 82.

Go 2.3 miles to *New Costa/West County Line Road and turn left (south).

The camp is 2.7 miles south on the left-hand (east) side of the road.

*West County Line and New Costa is the same road. Two counties come together on this road.

From the South:

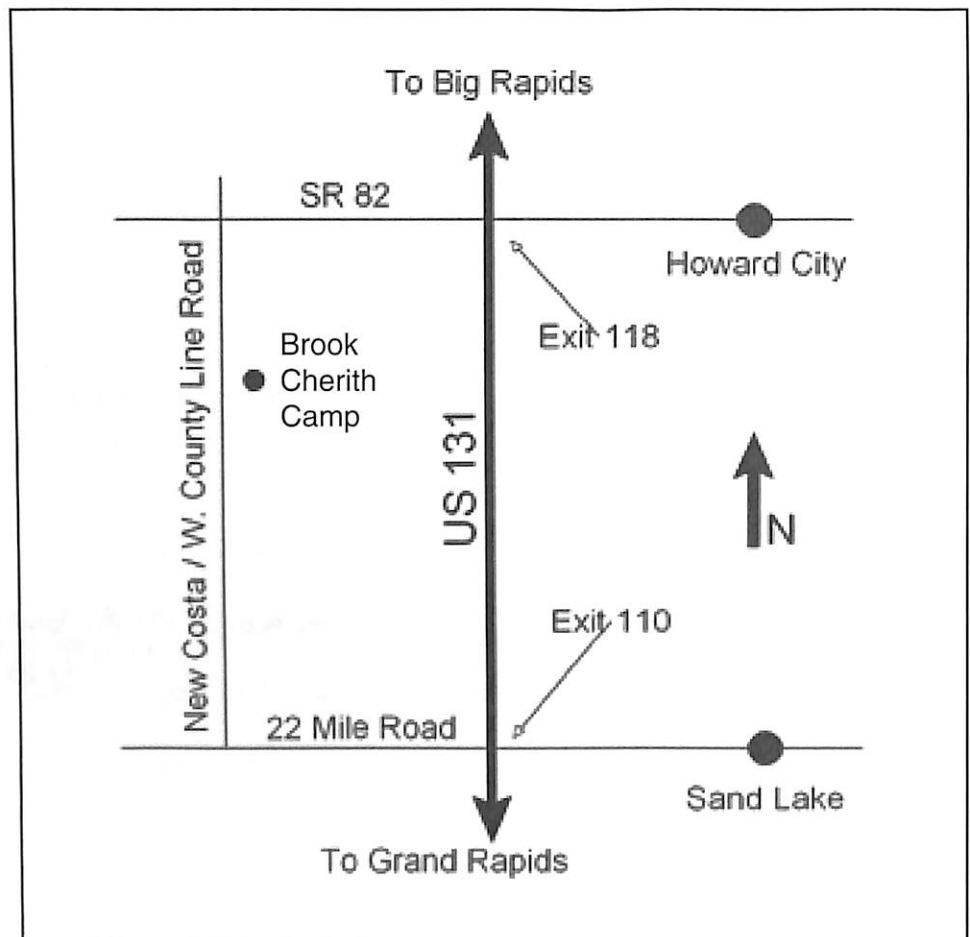
Take US 131 North to the Sand Lake exit (#110).

Turn left (west) off the ramp onto 22 Mile Road.

Go 1 mile to *West County Line/New Costa Road and turn right (north).

The camp is 4.2 miles north on the right-hand (east) side of the road.

*West County Line and New Costa is the same road. Two counties come together on this road.



Camp Address:

Brook Cherith Camp
4050 W. County Line Rd.
Pierson, MI 49339

Telephone:

(231) 937-5305

Additional information about Youth and Young Adult Pre-Con is available at www.EducatingChristians.org.



FOCUS on Missions

AIDS awareness in The Cameroon

by Kirk Looper

On March 22, 2005, medical experts held an SDB-sponsored seminar and workshop in The Cameroon in west central Africa. The workshop trained healthcare professionals to work with HIV/AIDS patients. They focused on areas of sensitization, education, and counseling.

The aim of the seminar was to determine the best way to bring awareness and understanding to that part of the country where the illness is pandemic. Most of the area's residents aren't as knowledgeable about AIDS as people in other parts of the world.

After educating the medical professionals on what the disease is and how it's transmitted, seminar leaders discussed the symptoms of infection. By working with trained counselors, infected individuals should be able to understand their prognosis and know where to look for additional medical help.

Workshop participants decided to use films to help illiterate people understand the condition of AIDS patients. These public showings illustrate how the disease is contracted and explain its outcome. Disease prevention is also mentioned in the films, emphasizing sexual abstinence and fidelity.

When presenting the film and visiting homes, healthcare workers should emphasize that this help is coming from Seventh Day Baptists. This will allow the workers to explain that Christians do not believe in infidelity, or in premarital or extramarital relationships. They will also stress the dangers of trusting condoms, explaining that their use to prevent infectious diseases promotes immorality, which is not in line with Biblical teaching.

Following the seminar and workshop, the workers undertook a door-to-door campaign, which proved highly effective.

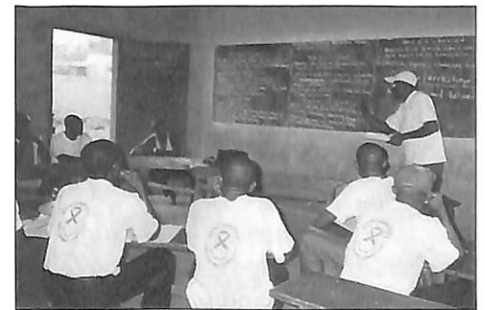
Moving from house to house, they met directly with HIV/AIDS infected individuals. Many of them had already lost hope and were expecting to die. Others had no food to eat, and very few had medicine. Some victims of the disease were being buried as the visits took place.

These people stand face-to-face with misery and agony on a daily basis. Healthcare workers give them medicine, and food like rice and bread, but their needs remain enormous.

Some areas of the Cameroon have communication problems, with messages not getting across because of language barriers. They plan to train some of the healthcare educators in various village dialects, so that they can speak to the citizens in their own terms.

Since no vaccine is yet available to immunize people against AIDS, sensitization leading to behavioral changes appears to be the best way to halt the spread of this dreaded disease. It will take a tremendous amount of financial support to sustain this campaign until a vaccine is found.

The task is enormous. The people of The Cameroon pray that the Lord, whom we all serve, will direct other Christians to respond positively and quickly to help meet their needs. **SR**



One of the training seminars.



SDBs in The Cameroon go door-to-door educating residents about the HIV/AIDS pandemic.



Trained workers in The Cameroon hold open-air film shows to teach the illiterate about AIDS.



the BEACON

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

June 2005

Proud to be SDBs in Shiloh

by Jenn Layton

We have a very active youth group here in Shiloh, N.J., with Bible Study every Friday night and Sabbath School on Sabbath. We plan our activities during these times and have done a lot over the past year.

We started off by accepting a challenge put forth to everyone at Conference. Don Graffius, president for 2005, encouraged everyone to give up a soda or coffee each day and donate the money to Conference. He said that if each person donated a dollar a day, we would have more money than needed to raise the denominational budget.

We youth took it upon ourselves to get the rest of our church involved in this project.

When we returned from Conference, we covered a large jar with soft drink labels and put it in the entryway leading into our church. We then encouraged members to "Do the Dew," the message from Mr. Graffius.

Our efforts were rewarded. We received many donations, which we sent in during the Memorial Fund's "Make Twice the Difference" drive. Our money was doubled! All of us were pleased with the response.

We also raised money to send to Belarus, in central Europe. Some missionaries came and talked about the work they do with the children there, risking their lives every day to share what they know about Jesus.

They said that any funds will help them to continue their work, so we sent in a donation as part of our White Christmas gift. We continue to collect money for this cause and plan to send another donation soon.

Shiloh sends a large group of youth to Conference every year. Currently, we're trying to raise enough

Box, board games, card games, pool, shuffleboard, and eating snacks.

We recently held a Coffee House, where we had good fellowship while watching some talented church folks perform. We also went to a Blue Rocks minor league baseball game.

The "big" event for us this year was youth week, when the young

***We youth
took it upon ourselves
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in this project.***

money to have everyone go to Pre-Con and Conference with all expenses paid.

One of our fund raisers is serving dinners to local Rotary Club members at the fire hall prior to their meetings. We do this once a month, five or six times a year.

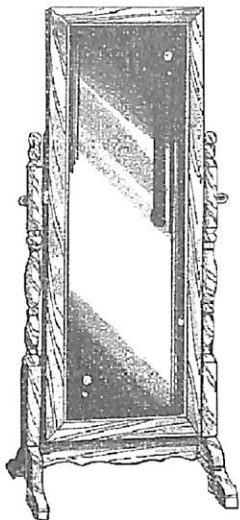
With such a large group of youth in our church, many things are geared to us. We hold a Prayer & Praise Service every Wednesday night, and also have a Youth Center in our church basement. This is open two nights a week—Tuesdays for 7th and 8th graders, and Thursdays for 9th-12 graders.

A variety of activities take place on these nights, including air hockey, X-

people in our church are honored. Each night of the week, we do a different activity. Many activities were planned for us this year, including a semi-formal dinner and a "lock-in."

Of course, we also enjoyed another Youth Sabbath. We're in charge of the service that day and spend a couple of weeks planning it. We did skits, sang, and generally had a great time of worship.

We youth have an awesome time together, no matter *what* we're doing—praising the Lord at church or simply hanging out. It's been great for all of us to grow up with friends who believe the same things. We are really proud to be SDBs! **SR**



Reflections

by Leanne Lippincott

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

Fringe (memory) benefits

Since I turn 60 this month, I thought I'd better write this before *the rest* of my brain cells depart. A wooden plaque perched on top of my computer here at the Center pretty much sums it up: "In my next life, I am going to have more memory installed."

Birthdays can be "downers." But they also have their redeeming aspects, and I've discovered that age 60 is overflowing with them.

Now that I'm entering my seventh decade, I can apply for a "widow's benefit" at the Social Security office. Of course, that means a lot of red tape, but I should be able to get at least a portion of my late husband's Social Security check instead of waiting until I qualify for my own payments. At this point in my life, *any* extra income is a tremendous blessing.

Turning 60 also means that I'll now qualify for additional restaurant discounts. (A few places consider 55 "old.") I'm a little bothered by the "Senior Citizen" designation, but that won't keep me from taking full advantage of it.

In just two more years, I'll be able to purchase movie tickets at a discount. Somewhere down the road, I think I'll even get a break on my fishing license. *Hmm... maybe this getting older thing ain't half bad!*

My upcoming birthday also means that I have a wonderful excuse to throw myself a party.

In 1995, I celebrated my 50th

birthday by taking 50 friends—including coworkers, and family and church members—out to eat. (I lived on bread and ketchup soup the next six months, but it was worth it.)

This year, God willing, I'm taking 60 guests out to dinner. (I've been saving my pennies for 10 years, so I'll probably have to live on bread and soup for only three months this time.)

Birthdays are a wonderful time to reflect on our lives and list our blessings. Someone once wrote, "Count your age by friends, not years; measure your life by smiles, not tears."

For centuries, our Wonderful Creator has bestowed innumerable blessings on His children. The greatest of these is life itself.

"The Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being" (Genesis 2:7, NIV).

Sadly, we often don't appreciate what we have until we're in danger of losing it. My 1999 cancer diagnosis is a case in point.

Soon after receiving the news, even the mundane became precious to me: a day without nausea, a card from a friend, the song of a chirping

cardinal, the gentle touch of the wind on my face, the sight of sunlight dancing across my kitchen floor.

It was as if I had been blind, and suddenly I could see. Life took on new meaning and doubled in preciousness. I quickly learned not to take *anything* for granted, including a beating heart.

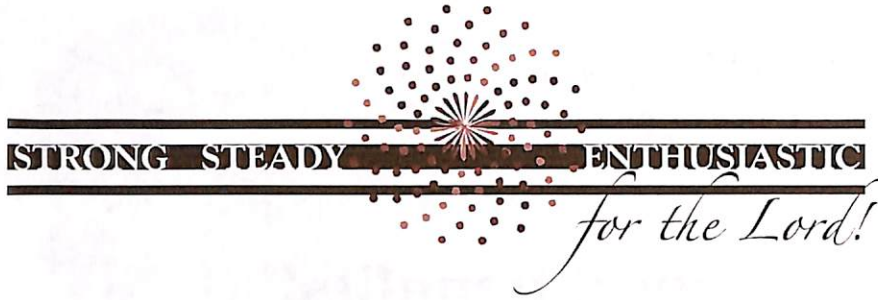
Christians and non-Christians alike can worry about life and death, but it's a waste of time and energy.

"Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?" (Matthew 6:27, NIV).

As believers, we need to remember that God will decide when it's time to call us Home. Meantime, we can honor Him by relishing each day He gives us. May all of us celebrate birthdays with joy and gratitude. **SR**



***Birthdays can be "downers."
But they also have their redeeming
aspects, and I've discovered that
age 60 is overflowing with them.***



The President's Page
by Don Graffius

Truisms from Dad

Dear Dad,

As you know, the Conference theme this year is *"Strong, Steady and Enthusiastic... for the Lord."*

Over the years, I learned a few lessons from you which have greatly influenced my life and helped me grow spiritually and professionally. So, as I write this note for Father's Day, I hope you don't mind if a few others read along.

1) Attitude determines altitude.

As a young boy, when assigned a task I thought would be difficult, I often protested with "I can't do that." You would always respond, "Can't never did anything!"

The lesson was that I would never accomplish great things if I was convinced before I started that I couldn't do it.

Sometimes we lived below the poverty level, but the Lord always met our financial needs. We never believed that our limited finances would prevent us from accomplishing our goals in life. After all, we all knew "Can't never did anything," so off I went to college, law school, into business, etc. Thanks for this important life lesson.

2) Thoughts and attitudes are influenced by those with whom you associate.

You always wanted to know who I was hanging out with at school and

where I was going. You understood better than I did that there are basically two groups of people in life—"doers" and "complainers."

Those who moan and complain usually do not accomplish much in life or for Christ. Thanks for ensuring that I associated with positive thinkers who modeled integrity.

3) Success is not determined by what you do, but by who you serve!

Serving Christ and your fellow man by using your spiritual and financial gifts has eternal consequences. You taught me that a dynamic janitor with a godly testimony is more "successful" than an ungodly, wealthy real estate mogul or movie star.

You've had many jobs in your life—electrician, janitor, radio announcer, Head Start administrator—but you always ministered to others by teaching and preaching. Even in your "retirement," you continue to minister as an assistant chaplain in your assisted living facility, and by teaching young adults in Sabbath School.

Last year, at age 76, you served as the camp pastor when your grandchildren got their feet wet as directors at Camp Joy in West Virginia. And I can't forget the hours of teaching and construction on Senior Saint projects.

Thanks for demonstrating service to others and for Christ.

4) Demonstrate your love for your spouse!

In this day and age, many children grow up in broken families. From a Biblical perspective, you knew that husbands who were not faithful to their wives negatively impacted their children. (King David comes to mind.)

You were faithful to Mother, and treated her with dignity and respect until she went to be with the Lord. Your grandchildren and I continue to observe this behavior since your marriage to Lorna.

I have been doubly blessed in this regard with in-laws, Leland and Lettie Bond, who have modeled this same godly behavior.

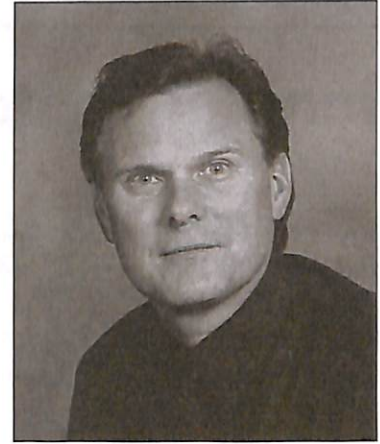
If children are to grow up strong, steady, and enthusiastic for the Lord, they need to have faithful, godly fathers who are committed to their mothers and treat them with gentleness and respect.

Thanks for being a faithful, godly father.

So Dad, **thank you** for being *"Strong, Steady and Enthusiastic... for the Lord"* over the years! I also want to thank God for giving you to me.

Have a great Father's Day.

Love, Don



by Executive Director
Rob Appel

Summertime, and the living is...

Some of you will remember “Summertime,” the George Gershwin song from the musical *Porgy and Bess*. The lyrics go:

*Summertime,
And the livin’ is easy.
Fish are jumpin’
And the cotton is high.*

These days, summer is anything *but* easy! We often find our schedules so cluttered with “things” we must do, that we don’t have time to do the “things” we want to do.

Does this sound familiar?

Our time is a limited resource. It requires us to manage our days, months, and summers so that they don’t pass us by too quickly. I know; that’s easier said than done. However, it is as crucial to budget our time as it is to budget our money.

If you manage time successfully, you will have time to do some of the “selfish” things you want to do as well as the spiritual things you need to do to keep your sanity. Here are some ways to help you control your time:

1) Make a list.

Make a “to-do” list. When you finish something, scratch it off. This will give you a sense of accomplishment since you’ll have one less thing to do.

After you decide what the most important task on your list is, “just do it!”

2) Do jobs during “prime time.”

Prime time is the period during the day when your energy and concentration are highest. This will be different for everybody.

In my house, I’m the only “morning person.” This is when I get things done. On the other hand, don’t ask me to be on top of things at 8 p.m. I am there in body, but the mind is elsewhere.

During the prime time, it is possible for you to get twice as much done in half the time, with half the effort.

3) Multi-task.

Are there things that you can do at the same time to cut down on the amount of time it takes to do them separately? Can you pull weeds and talk on the phone at the same time? Can you prepare for the Sabbath School lesson while you wait for dinner to finish cooking?

To free up time, you have to make every minute in your day count. If you do two jobs in the same time it would take to do one, you have cut your busy time in half!

4) Use your “down time” wisely.

When someone puts you on hold while talking on the phone, make the most of the time by doing something else. Sort through your mail or unclutter your desk. Remember to include those tasks on your to-do list.

5) Delegate, delegate, delegate!

We often take on too much when trying to run a household. Like in business, we need to assign more tasks to others at home. You cannot do everything and still have the “you” time you require.

Not all tasks need your special attention. Remember, when you delegate, don’t expect the job to be done as well as you could do it. Be willing to accept a “less than perfect” job.

If you can cut one or more tasks out of your schedule by assigning them to someone else, you will find that there are more tasks that you might be willing to let go of.

6) Give yourself a break.

A break relieves you of the monotony of constantly working for hours on end. Rest is important, too, and it helps you to recharge your mental batteries so you are once again up to the tasks ahead. (Remember the Sabbath!)

We don’t want to get too busy that we don’t spend time with God. Our children, spouses, and parents still need us, and God requires us to be there for them.

Free up some of that busy time, prioritize your “to-do” list, and make time to be better stewards of what God gave you. You will be a better person for it and so will those around you. *SR*

Biennial Pastors' Conference held

by Linda Lawton

Seventh Day Baptist pastors from around the United States and Canada gathered April 19-23, 2005, at the Alfred Station, N.Y., SDB Church for a time of worship, learning, and fellowship.

The prevailing question—"What is Room 15?"—turned out to be the beautifully renovated new room at the Christian Education Building. It was used for registration and displays, and the pastors' spouses held their sessions there.

Many of the pastors took a great deal of interest in this room, gathering ideas for possible renovations in their own churches.



Over 50 leaders and spouses attended this year's Pastors' Conference.

***Pastors had time to confer—
fellowshipping, encouraging
one another, and praying
for each other.***

One would never know it, but Room 15 used to be the garage of the old parsonage. It now has its own heating system and is beautifully decorated.


There were also opportunities to investigate the uses of space in other Allegheny Association churches following evening worship services. These included the Alfred and Little Genesee, N.Y., churches, and our church in Hebron, Pa. The pastors enjoyed meeting and worshipping with members of these congregations.

Each day was filled with worship, Bible study, and discussing the work of the Conference through the various boards and agencies.

Other scheduled discussions included assessing the facility needs of the various congregations. Pas-

tors also had time to confer with one another in private sessions—fellowshipping, encouraging one another, and praying for each other.

The final evening was devoted to a "variety show," with pastors and church members sharing their various talents. During this time, four baskets were available to make donations to the Board of Christian Education, the American Sabbath Tract and Communication Council, the Center on Ministry, and the General Conference.

At the end of the evening, the representative of the board that had received the most donations was "gifted" with a whipped cream pie—"above the neck"! (Rev. Gordon Lawton of the Center on Ministry got the "gift.") 



COM Director Gordon Lawton (l.) receives last-minute instructions from host Pastor Ken Chroniger, the instigator of the pie-throwing fund raiser.



George Calhoun wipes away part of the entire can of whipped cream he used to make the "pie." Kate Shepard got the throwing honor.

Directions to Hope College campus

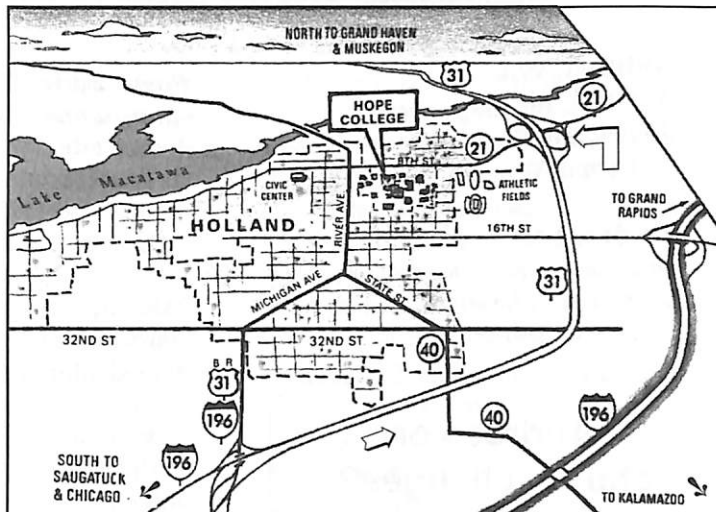
The Conference Host Committee hopes you are planning to come to Hope College in Holland, Mich., for Conference. The time is almost here!

All those flying to Holland must make reservations through Grand Rapids/Kent County International Airport (GRR). Then the Host Committee can transport you to the Hope campus. Greyhound bus service and Amtrak train service is direct to Holland. The Committee will also take you to the college.

If you are driving to Holland from I-94 in southern Michigan (just north of Benton Harbor), take I-196/US 31 North. Continue to Holland, staying on US 31 when I-196 splits off just south of the city. Drive past the Business I-196/US 31 exits as well.

Stay on US 31 to 8th Street, then turn west. Go one mile and take College Street south for two blocks to arrive at the Hope college campus. The registration area will be marked.

Please join us August 7-13, 2005, in the Water Wonderland State for a wonderful, family-friendly vacation and Conference! **SR**



A source for worshipful choruses

Since graduating from the Eastern Nazarene College music department 37 years ago, Steven Rudolph has had the opportunity to serve numerous choirs and congregations, most recently the First SDB Church of Hopkinton, R.I. (He is married to the former Cindy Rogers, daughter of the late Rev. Albert and Janette Rogers.)

Steve has found that contemporary worship music can enhance almost any traditional service, "if presented in a judicious and sensitive manner." He points to thousands of churches around the world that have successfully provided "blended" services for years.

"In some cases, it's a matter of choosing the right presentation," Rudolph points out. He knows that not every church is comfortable projecting words onto a screen. But many traditional groups are photocopying contemporary choruses that they like (with the appropriate C.C.L.I. licensing), and then compiling them into booklets.

"While some congregations may not accept the use of electric guitars and drums in the service," he comments, "many worship choruses sound perfectly fine with piano or organ accompaniment."

For Rudolph, the song selection is extremely important. Since there is a wide variety of styles of contemporary music, he feels that there is "new music" that will fit into almost any service.

He admits that, "There are certain choruses we wouldn't want to sing at all, but there are some *hymns* we wouldn't care to sing, either!"

The worship leader holds the key. He or she needs to know how to select the right music and present it in a way that will edify a particular congregation.

Steven has a number of praise and worship choruses on his website (www.christianhillpublishing.com) that you can copy and use for free. You may also e-mail him at steve@christianhillpublishing.com. **SR**

Kersten named Librarian-Historian

Nicholas J. Kersten has accepted the position of Librarian-Historian for the Seventh Day Baptist Historical Society. He will begin work in mid-June at the SDB Center in Janesville.

"We are truly happy to make this announcement," said Society President Janet Thorngate when introducing Kersten at the annual meeting on May 15.

"Nick has the research and communication skills needed for our historian, and the computer savvy necessary for the library automation project.

"Perhaps more important," Thorngate said, "is his reverent appreciation for our rich heritage and a passion to bring it to bear on the future of Seventh Day Baptist work."

Kersten is a member of the Milton, Wis., SDB Church. He has a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, with certification as a teacher. He has completed two years at Denver Seminary toward a Master of Divinity degree. **SR**

New members

Auburn, WA

Kenneth Burdick, pastor
Joined after baptism
Tarnah Wright

Berlin, NY

Matthew Olson, pastor
Joined after baptism
Diane Gentner

Fort Lauderdale, FL

Andy Samuels, pastor
Joined after baptism
Tashani Fung-Chung
Joined after testimony
Kathleen Durrant

Miami, FL

Andy Samuels, pastor
Joined after baptism
Sylvie Francois
Wymore Richards
Colleen Saunders
Joined after testimony
Robert Hall
Karen Hall

Paint Rock, AL

John Bevis, pastor
Joined after testimony
Joyce Vance

Westerly, RI

Joined by letter
Brian L. Cavanaugh Jr.

Births & Adoption

Foster.—A son, John Russell Foster IV, was born to John and Kim (Johnson) Foster of Hornell, NY, on September 25, 2004.

Trudell.—A daughter, Morgan Page Trudell, was born to Lance and Rachel (Chroniger) Trudell of Hornell, NY, on December 31, 2004.

Severance.—Trenton Jacob Severance was adopted by Shane and Jennifer Severance of Thornton, CO, on January 5, 2005. He was born on August 19, 2003.

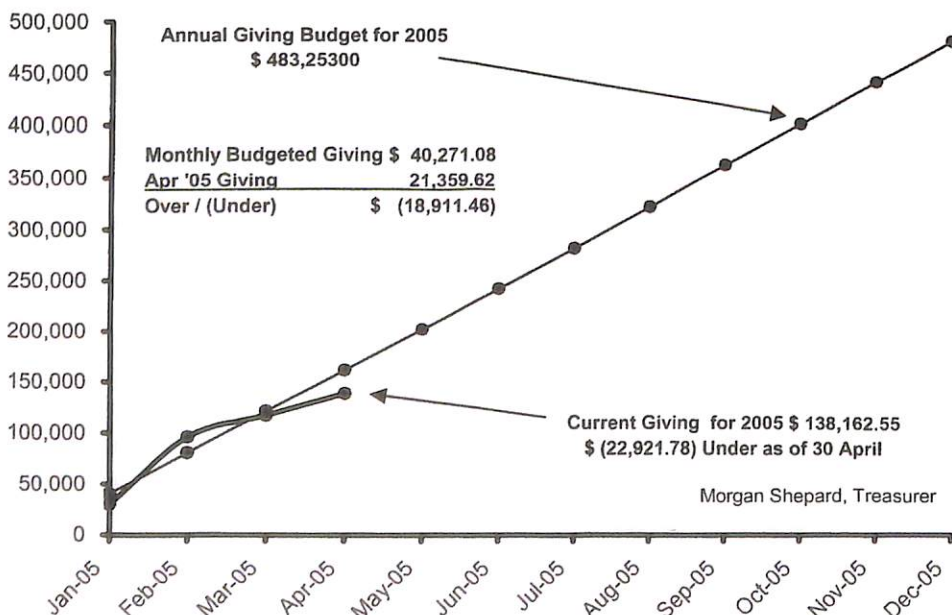
Stall.—A daughter, Loreli Elece Stall, was born to David and Jen Stall of Petersburg, NY, on February 17, 2005.

Address or church changes?

Send your updates to us at:
Sabbath Recorder
SDB Center
PO Box 1678
Janesville WI 53547

Our e-mail is:
editor@
seventhdaybaptist.org

Current Giving 2005



DO YOU KNOW what percentage of these budgets are raised by Designated and Undesignated Giving?

- Total Conference Budget— 45%
- Center on Ministry— 21%
- Missionary Society— 26%
- Tract Council— 37%
- Board of Christian Education— 54%
- General Services— **75%**

Your giving *Makes a Difference* in spreading God's message and the work of SDBs around the world.

Keep Making a Difference!

Obituaries

Posey.—Alan M. Posey, 82, of Edmonds, Wash., died on June 1, 2004, after suffering a stroke at the Foss Home in Seattle, Wash.

He was born on November 2, 1921, in Pasco, Wash., the son of Ira and Belle Posey. He married Maude Thomas on September 29, 1950, in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. They lived in Pasco until moving to Edmonds in 1963.

Al was a World War II veteran, serving in the Army in Europe. After accepting Christ as his personal Savior in 1978, he was baptized and joined the Seattle Area SDB Church.

Besides his wife, survivors include three sons, Ellwyn "Duke" Snider, West Seattle, Wash., Keith Snider of Edmonds, and Bob Posey of Bothell, Wash.; one daughter, Susan Gibbons of Oceanside, Calif.; six grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held on June 9, 2004, at Beck's Funeral Home in Edmonds. Pastors Ken Burdick and Gary Hemminger officiated. Interment was in Desert Lawn Memorial Park, Kennewick, Wash.

Hauber.—Evelyn K. Hauber, 63, of Coudersport, Pa., died on February 28, 2005, at Charles Cole Hospital in Coudersport.

She was born on May 7, 1941, in Erie, Pa., the daughter of Benjamin Earl and Rachel (Carey) Kenyon. On January 27, 1962, she married David W. Hauber in Coudersport.

Evelyn was a 1959 graduate of Coudersport High School. She later graduated from the Franklin Institute of Technology in Philadelphia, Pa., and the New Penn Beauty School in Olean, N.Y. For a brief time, she worked as a lab technician in Kane, Pa., and was a teacher's aide in Coudersport schools for several years.

Evelyn was a member and deaconess of the First SDB Church of Hebron, joining after baptism in 1954.

Over the years, she served the church in many capacities, includ-

ing Sabbath School teacher and officer, VBS instructor, and secretary/treasurer of the Women's Study and Serve Society. She was also active in the Allegheny Association of SDB Churches, and enjoyed helping at Camp Harley Sutton.

Evelyn attended General Conference in the past, and had attended consecutive Conferences since 1999. At the time of her death, she was serving on the Board of Directors of the SDB Board of Christian Education.

For the past several years, Evelyn was active in the Ladies Auxiliary of the local volunteer fire department. She was treasurer of the Hebron Cemetery Association and a supporter of the Twin Tiers Pregnancy Care Center in Bradford, Pa.

Most recently, she helped her husband at Hauber's Jewelry Store in Coudersport.

In addition to her husband, survivors include her mother Rachel Kenyon of Coudersport; two sons, Allen of Bradford and Benjamin of Coudersport; and many aunts, uncles, and cousins. Her brother, Paul, preceded her in death in 1969.

Funeral services were held on March 4, 2005, at the Hebron SDB Church, with Pastors JoAnne Kandel and Kenneth Chroniger officiating. Burial was in the Hebron Cemetery next to the church.

Burdick.—Winifred C. Burdick, 89, a longtime resident of Alfred Station, N.Y., passed away on March 8, 2005, at Highland Healthcare Center in Wellsville, N.Y.

She was born on January 25, 1916, in Alfred Station to Harry and Calla (Green) Cook. She was a 1934 graduate of Alfred High School and later graduated from Geneseo (N.Y.) Normal School.

Winifred taught five years at Withey School near Belmont, N.Y.,

and at the Alfred-Almond (N.Y.) Central School. On July 3, 1943, she married Clinton Burdick in Alfred Station. He died in 2000.

Winifred was a devoted wife and homemaker, and a member of the Alfred Station Seventh Day Baptist Church and its women's group, the Union Industrial Society.

Survivors include one brother, Calvin Cook of Wellsville; seven nieces; and several grandnieces and nephews. In addition to her husband, one brother, Weldon Cook, and a half-brother, Richard Hooker, preceded her in death.

A memorial service was held on March 19, 2005, at the Alfred Station SDB Church, with Pastor Kenneth Chroniger officiating. A private burial was held at the Alfred Rural Cemetery.

Rogers.—Janette (Loofboro)

Rogers, 93, of Alfred Station, N.Y., died on April 5, 2005, at the Jones Memorial Hospital in Wellsville, N.Y., after a brief illness.

She was born on June 18, 1911, in Riverside, Calif., the first child of Rev. Eli and Mary Alice (St. John) Loofboro. Her father pastored the Seventh Day Baptist church there.

Janette's childhood and young adulthood were spent at her father's pastorates in Little Genesee, N.Y.; Shiloh, N.J.; and Lost Creek, W.Va. In 1933, she graduated from Milton (Wis.) College. It was there that she met her future husband, Albert N. Rogers, who predeceased her in 2000.

In 1943, the couple was married by the bride's father in Lost Creek. They began their life together in Connecticut, where Al served the Waterford SDB Church and



attended Yale Divinity School.

After serving the New York City SDB Church during World War II, they accepted a call to Alfred Station. They served there from January of 1945 until 1956, when Al was appointed dean of the Alfred (N.Y.) University School of Theology.

When the seminary closed in 1963, the pair accepted the call of the Denver church. Five years later, Al became the SDB historian, and they returned East.

In 1975, when Rev. Rogers became interim minister of Alfred's Union University Church, they moved back to Alfred Station, and Janette resumed the role of pastor's wife.

The SDB Women's Society awarded Janette its Robe of Achievement in 1976, recognizing her dedicated participation in the spiritual and social life of her husband's pastorates, and her other denominational work.

In addition to taking part in various community groups, Janette served as a deaconess of the First SDB Church of Alfred, where she was active in its Women's Society.

Janette considered the role of hostess a key responsibility for a pastor's wife, and she excelled at it. She loved music and was occasionally called upon to play the organ or piano for church services or to accompany singers. Her favor-

ite leisure activity was sewing, and her inventory of fabrics and sewing ideas was legendary.

Survivors include two sons, Keith of Alfred Station and Brian of Mystic, Conn.; one daughter, Cynthia Rudolph, of Norwood, Mass.; seven grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren. Besides her husband, she was preceded in death by three sisters and three brothers.

A memorial service was held on May 29, 2005, at the Alfred church, with Pastor Pat Bancroft officiating. Committal was at the Alfred Rural Cemetery beside her husband of 66 years.

Rev. Trevah Sutton dies at 97

Rev. Trevah Randolph Sutton, 97, of Aztec, N.M., died on April 1, 2005.

He was born on December 15, 1907, in Rockville, R.I., the son of Rev. Erlo E. and Elsie Blanche (Fitz Randolph) Sutton. In 1939, he married Mary Catherine Burdick. In 1945, they adopted a daughter whom they named Judith Lorraine. Mary died in 1989.

Trevah's early life was centered around the churches his father served in Andover and Little Genesee, N.Y.; Shiloh, N.J.; and Milton Junction, Wis.

After graduating from Milton (Wis.) College in 1931, he became a "printer's devil" at the printing shop in the Seventh Day Baptist Building in Plainfield, N.J. He did multiple tasks, including wrapping packages, melting lead, and proof-reading copy. Years later, it was said that whenever he sent something to be printed in the *Recorder*, it was always "letter perfect."

In 1935, Trevah received a Bachelor of Divinity degree from the Alfred (N.Y.) University School of Theology. In January of 1936, he received a call from the Carlton SDB Church in Garwin, Iowa. He began ministering in Piscataway, N.J., in December of 1936,



Trevah R. Sutton
1907-2005

where he served four years.

Trevah was called to serve the SDB church in Rockville in April of 1942. Returning to his place of birth, he also pastored the Second Hopkinton church.

His next pastorate was at Salemville, Pa., where the position also entailed janitorial work, such as shoveling snow off the church steps, sidewalk, and parking area. He later resigned and moved back to Milton, working in several secular jobs.

Trevah often said that he received his best Christmas present in 1948, when he was called to serve the SDB church in Jackson Center, Ohio. His wife, Mary, entered Ohio Northern University at Ada, which later en-

abled her to help with family finances.

In April of 1952, the Fouke, Ark., SDB Church called Pastor Sutton, and he ministered there for two years. During part of this time, he worked as a substitute teacher. With additional education, he also worked in the Audio-Visual Department of the El Paso, Texas, school system, retiring in 1973. Meanwhile, Mary had gotten her Bachelor's degree and eventually became the school system's head librarian.

While in El Paso, Trevah became affiliated with the Methodist church while still maintaining his membership in the Milton SDB Church. He continued allegiance with the General Conference and, as health permitted, frequently attended Conference sessions.

Survivors include one daughter, Judy B. Young of Aitkin, Minn.; one sister, Gladys Randolph of Englewood, Col.; three grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandson.

A celebration of Trevah's life was held on April 6, 2005, at the First United Methodist Church in Aztec, with Pastor Bill Ivins officiating. Burial was in Memory Gardens Cemetery, Farmington, N.M. **SR**

KEVIN'S

ORNER

Warmth and romance (?)

"But the writing on the box said..."

"I don't care what the box said—this isn't working!!"

That was the heated discussion bouncing back-and-forth inside my brain as I battled the stifling smoke pouring out of our brand new fire pit.

For two years I contemplated getting one of these symbols of "the great outdoors comes to suburbia." Janet and I made the decision to shop for a backyard fire pit with a metal base and protective screen cover.

Do you know how many stores in Janesville stock these things? Too many!

After making the circuit, we wound up coming back to the first place we started looking. The design was a bit different from the others, but I was convinced that this purchase would help us experience exactly what the box promised: "Enjoy the warmth and romance of a backyard fireplace."

On that first day, about the only thing I could trust from the printing on the box was, "Some assembly required." Several screws turned here, a number of nuts tightened there, many muscles strained all over, and the pit was completed. We carried it to the "perfect" spot on the stones outside our back patio door.

I couldn't wait to enjoy the soothing, crackling flames and the smell of burning timber.

Yeah, right.

With all the squatting in trying to light the stupid thing, my legs were burning more than the wood.

We didn't have as much kindling as I thought, so I figured I would "help" the fire get going by using some cardboard from the box and a few rolled up newspapers.

The scrap tree branches finally "caught," and we leaned back to relax in our patio swing. That's when the cardboard and the paper "caught" even more. Thick gray smoke barreled out of the pit! A light breeze (that we didn't really notice before) pushed the smoke right at eye level toward the swing.

"But the writing on the box said..." Grrr...

We scrambled to find cushions for two patio chairs and placed them on the opposite side of the pit. The smoke continued to pour out.

I yelled, "With all this smoke, someone's going to call 9-1-1!!"

I was tired, sore, and smelled worse than the smoking section at a bar and grill.

"We've got to put this out," I declared.

Grabbing the garden hose and turning on the water, I sprayed the flames. The smoke instantly tripled. So much for warmth and romance.

Well, I guess you could say that I was pretty warm (with frustration). And as far as romance, we reeked of smoke and could barely stand ourselves, let alone get close to each other.

Have you ever looked forward to something for a long time, and then when it finally happens, it turns out to be a big disappointment?

Kind of like planning a special getaway and it rains every day until the day you have to come back home?

I'm happy to report that our fire pit experiences have improved since that fateful night. I bought a box of specially treated fire-starter blocks, and a friend from church supplies me with leftover lumber pieces.

Now, I can sit in front of a controlled fire and truly relax. It has become therapeutic. As I shared with Jan just the other day, "This is good for my mental health."

But it took a time of learning and experience to get to that point. This whole thing made me think of people coming to church for the first time. Getting comfortable with attending church may take some education; maybe even a "trial by fire."

We need to help our visitors by realizing that they might not know anything about our church, or *any* church.

I understand that it's hard to do, but picture your church the way newcomers might approach it. Then, help them. Let's lead our visitors to the point where it's good for their spiritual health.



Conference 2005 Host Committee

Hope College, Holland, Michigan

August 7 – 13, 2005

“Strong, Steady and Enthusiastic... for the Lord”

Conference President, The Honorable Donald Graffius

Your Host Committee members—people from the White Cloud, Grand Rapids, and Battle Creek churches—hope to welcome you personally this August. Let us know if you have special needs.

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