

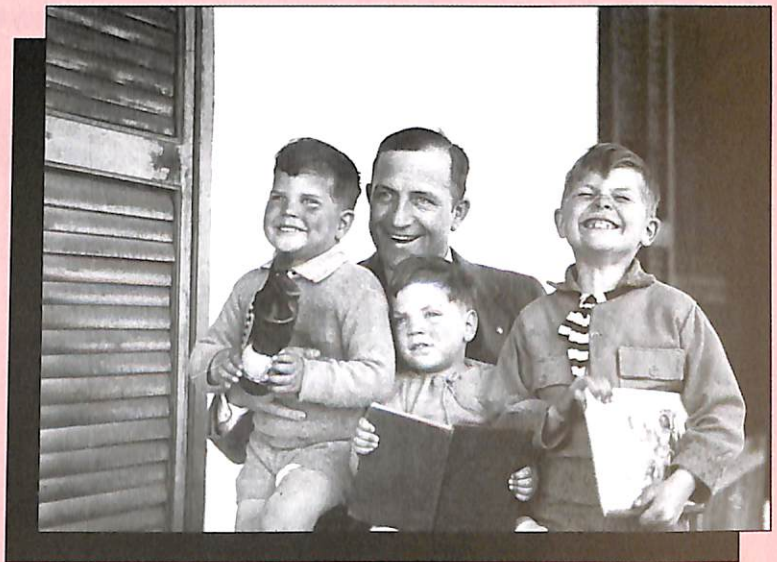
# **SR** The Sabbath RECORDER

September 2005

*News for and about Seventh Day Baptists*

## China Shards

Revisiting Liuhe and Shanghai



*The brothers Thorngate return to their roots*



## Who are Seventh Day Baptists?

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

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

### The seventh day

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

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

## Missing!

CDs and books from the Conference children's musical need to be returned to Charlotte Chroniger right away. (Another church needs them.)

Please send them to:

*Charlotte Chroniger*  
Box 145  
Shiloh NJ 08353



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

The annual meeting of the members of the Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education, Inc., will be held at the Edgar D. and Harriet Brown Van Horn building, 892 Route 244, Alfred Station, N.Y., on Sunday, October 23, 2005, at 10:00 a.m.

The purpose of this meeting shall be to hear and act upon the 2004 Annual Report of the Board of Directors, and to consider and act upon such matters that may properly come before said meeting.

Members of the member churches of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference USA & Canada, Ltd., are members of the Corporation. Accredited delegates attending the 2005 General Conference sessions in Holland, Mich., are entitled to vote at this annual meeting.

## 2006 SDB Historical Society Calendars are Now Available!



Remember all your appointments, along with important dates in SDB history, for only \$10 postpaid.

To order, send your address and payment (checks payable to the SDB Historical Society) to:

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



Establ. 1844

September 2005  
Volume 227, No. 9  
Whole No. 6,909

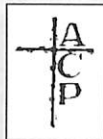


**A Seventh Day Baptist publication**

*The Sabbath Recorder* (ISSN 0036-214X) (USPS 474460) is published monthly (combined July & August) by the SDB General Conference's Tract and Communication Council, 3120 Kennedy Road, PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547-1678. This publication is distributed at no cost to members and friends of Seventh Day Baptist churches and is made possible by donations from its readers. Printed in Canada. Periodicals postage paid at Janesville, WI, and additional offices.

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to *The Sabbath Recorder*, 3120 Kennedy Road, PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547-1678

This is the 161st year of publication for *The Sabbath Recorder*. First issue published, June 13, 1844. Member of the Associated Church Press. The *Sabbath Recorder* does not necessarily endorse signed articles.



**Kevin Butler**  
Editor

**Leanne Lippincott**  
Assistant Editor

EC = Editor's Circle members

**Contributing Editors**

Rob Appel, Susan Bond, Andrew J. Camenga, Don Graffius, Gordon Lawton, Jenn Layton, G. Kirk Looper, Don A. Sanford, Morgan Shepard.

**WRITERS:** Please type manuscripts double spaced. Only manuscripts that include a stamped, addressed envelope can be returned. Unsolicited manuscripts are welcomed; however, they will be considered on a space available basis. No remuneration is given for any article that appears in this publication. Paid advertising is not accepted.

# Features

- China shards: revisiting Liuhe and Shanghai** ..... 4  
by Stephen and David Thorngate  
*SDB missionary kids—now pushing 80—return to their birthplace in China.*
- Exploring the Sabbath** ..... 7  
by Linda Greene  
*Jesus heals an invalid on the Sabbath (John 5).*
- Life after Conference** ..... 8  
by Teri Morgan  
*A Conference first-timer reflects on the learning curve.*
- ED Rob Appel reflects on first year** ..... 9  
by Aubrey Appel  
*Interview reveals past and hints of future.*
- It was so hot...** ..... 12  
by Jeanne Yurke  
*Attendees got a warm (very!) welcome.*

# Departments

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Women's Society</b> ..... 13<br><i>Women share the love</i>            | <b>Vision 2020</b> ..... 21<br><i>Why such a secret?</i>   |
| <b>Christian Education</b> ..... 14<br><i>Scripture Memory Verses</i>     | <b>Local news</b> ..... 22-23<br><i>Baptist World Congress</i> ..... 22<br><i>Battle Creek, MI</i> ..... 23<br><i>Stonefort, IL</i> ..... 23<br><i>Ft. Drum, NY</i> ..... 23 |
| <b>Pearls from the Past</b> ..... 16<br><i>An unforgettable character</i> | <b>Family flux</b> ..... 24-26<br><i>New members, births</i> ..... 24<br><i>Obituaries</i> ..... 25-26   |
| <b>The Beacon</b> ..... 18<br><i>Youth sing and act</i>                   | <b>Kevin's Korner</b> ..... 27<br><i>Scattered thoughts of organized Conference</i>  |
| <b>Reflections</b> ..... 19<br><i>Reaching new heights</i>                |  |
| <b>Focus</b> ..... 20<br><i>New works, good meetings</i>                  |  |

**Cover photos:** Top—Dr. George Thorngate, missionary to China, with sons (l. to r.) David, Stephen, and Brier (George IV). Bottom—Drs. David (l.) and Steve Thorngate returned to China to visit scenes of their childhood.

# China shards: revisiting Liuhe and Shanghai

## Brothers make long-awaited return to their birthplace

by Stephen and David Thorngate

Dave and I were born in Liuhe, Jian Su, China, in the 1920s, where our father (George Thorngate, M.D.) was an SDB medical missionary in a little hospital.

After a protracted sabbatical leave from 1932 to 1939, we returned to China. Since Liuhe had been destroyed by the Japanese, we lived at the Shanghai Seventh Day Baptist Mission—a church and Chinese middle school.

### Forced to leave in 1940

Late in 1940, the U.S. State Department directed us—all but Dad—to leave again. During that brief period, Dave and I attended the Shanghai American School (SAS) as teenagers.

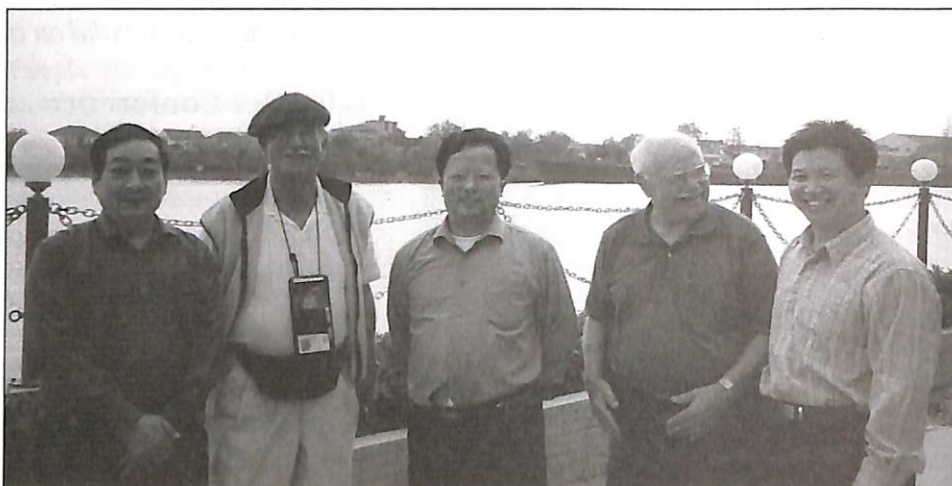
Except for the short time that I was stationed there in the U.S. Navy, neither of us had been back to China, although we often talked about returning. Now, pushing 80, we learned of an SAS alumni-sponsored trip to that country, and we snatched it up!

### Opportunity and expectations

Besides having the opportunity to enjoy the trip as tourists—while making new friends and perhaps meeting up with some old ones—Dave and I both wanted to personally investigate (as much as possible) some of our old “stomping grounds.”

The two of us knew four basic facts:

- 1) China, especially Shanghai, would be very, very different than it was 65 years ago;
- 2) the hospital in Liuhe had been liquidated;



Help came from (l. to r.) the mayor of Liuhe, Dr. David Thorngate, a hospital administrator, Dr. Steve Thorngate, and an interpreter located after much frustration. Under water behind them is the site of the “old” SDB hospital.

- 3) the Mission compound in Shanghai had been confiscated, and the old church badly damaged and probably destroyed; and
- 4) although Christianity is tolerated in The People’s Republic of China, Christian missionaries are looked upon with disfavor.

### Site of SDB Grace Hospital in Liuhe

On our day-trip to Liuhe—a town about 30 miles north of Shanghai on the estuary of the Yangtze River—no one was fluent in both Mandarin Chinese and English. This hampered our visit greatly! We discovered that, after 65 years, our limited and hesitant old country Shanghai dialect was useless.

We found that a large, fairly new hospital dominated the town. Identifying it as a hospital was easy, thanks to a prominent picture of a nurse and a red cross on the side of the building.



The “missionary kids” (Brier, Steve, and David) posed with Nettie West around 1930.

Ultimately, we made contact with what seemed to be an administrator. When he finally ascertained why we were there, he produced a document (in Chinese) for us to peruse. He also

*cont. on page 6*



*A rare snowfall in 1940. Steve believes that he took this photo of the mission staff.*



*Officials at the "new" hospital in Liuhe, People's Hospital, produced a historical sketch tracing its history back to "Grace Hospital," destroyed in 1943 and rebuilt after the war.*



*A street scene from modern Liuhe. Not much remained the same, yet the Thorngates found a shard of Seventh Day Baptist history in this village of their birth, 30 miles north of Shanghai.*



*Today's students appeared to be of middle-school age. The old SDB schools included boarding schools and four-day schools. About 1,400 students were enrolled in 1950 when Dr. George and Helen Thorngate were the last of our missionaries to leave China.*



*The Thorngates located the gate to what used to be the SDB mission compound on Xujiahui Lu (Street).*



*The Thorngates found all-new buildings facing a courtyard where the old mission schools and residences once stood.*

made some phone calls, which we later found out were used to summon the mayor of Liuhe and a young man who could speak a little English. Once they arrived, communication improved.

### Remembering the old, pride for the new

These men knew some of the hospital's history. It had begun in 1913 as Grace Hospital but had been destroyed by the Japanese (which we knew). After the war, a small replacement building was erected, but this was discontinued in 1949. (Which we also knew.) The new hospital was started in 1952 and has undergone many additions since then.

Our hosts knew of no one old enough to remember the old hospital, but they were proud of the new facility and its heritage. It seemed to me that Liuhe is something of a medical town within some very industrial environs, though not part of the sprawling Shanghai Municipal District.

---

---

### *While in Shanghai, we twice visited the area that had once been the Seventh Day Baptist mission compound.*

---

---

When asked whether we would like to see where the old hospital had been, we replied that that was the purpose of our visit! They led us to the edge of a large waterway, backed up by a dam. Beneath, was Dave's and my birthplace.

### School and church in the Shanghai mission compound

While in Shanghai, we twice visited the area that had once been the Seventh Day Baptist mission



*One physical object may be the same. An old sycamore tree appeared in early photos and in Helen Thorngate's 1940 sketch. But Steve Thorngate remarked, "It didn't seem to me to be in the right place or right size to be the old tree in front of Principal Chang's home."*

compound. The gate and gate house are new, but the gateway into the compound is in its pristine position, although little used now. The main gate to the school is now around the corner on Zhizaoju Lu.

The guard was reluctant to allow us in, but after some persistence, a young man—perhaps an administrator or teacher—appeared. He was cordial and spoke a little English, but he was also "cool" and not disposed to showing us around or telling us about the place. We explained as best we could who we were, and that we had lived there many years ago and were interested in what had developed there.

### School is new, old is gone

The facility is clearly a school and a very nice one. The students—boys and girls—seemed to be about 10 to 14 years old, and were more or less uniformly well-dressed.

All the old buildings are gone now. The ground has been leveled, covered with a concrete compound, and painted for games like an outdoor gymnasium. One tree is there in the middle, which may have been there 60 years ago—though the Chinese think nothing of transplanting full-grown trees.

We left some old pictures and material from the *Sabbath Recorder* with our host, including a copy of our mother's 1940 map/sketch of the compound. He seemed pleased to receive them, but he didn't give us any materials about the school.

### A church remains

On the second day, we concentrated on the Xuijahui Lu frontage. A little building that is definitely a Christian church stands where the old church had been.

It seems to be Protestant, but due to language difficulties, we never could establish any denominational affiliation or on what day it holds its main service. They had no brochures to give us.

So much has changed in the past few years! The reports by Paul Compagna in 1986 and "Tweet" (Mrs. George Thorngate IV) in 1994 showed that the school and church were being used just as they were 65 years ago when we lived there—albeit under government, not missionary, sponsorship.

We are pleased to know that although the buildings and dwellings have been replaced, they are still a functioning church and school. **SR**

# Exploring the Sabbath

by Linda Greene

## This month's passage: John 5:1-16

Some time later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for a feast of the Jews. Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. Here a great number of disabled people used to lie—the blind, the lame, the paralyzed.

One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, "Do you want to get well?"

"Sir," the invalid replied, "I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me."

Then Jesus said to him, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk." At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked.

The day on which this took place was a Sabbath, and so the Jews said to the man who had been healed, "It is the Sabbath; the law forbids you to carry your mat."

But he replied, "The man who made me well said to me, 'Pick up your mat and walk.'"

So they asked him, "Who is this fellow who told you to pick it up and walk?"

The man who was healed had no idea who it was, for Jesus had slipped away into the crowd that was there.

Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, "See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you." The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.

So, because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jews persecuted him.

## This month's commentary:

I know this is a really long text to print here, but there are several things that strike me. One is that when Jesus asked the man if he wanted to get well, the man didn't answer. I have always heard this Scripture taught as evidence that

ing past all of that to set us free anyhow. What an amazing picture of the grace and mercy of Jesus in this man's life, and in ours as well. I'm so glad this happened on Sabbath!

I realize this whole commentary has been centered on healing rather than on the Sabbath, but more and more, I see that the two are intertwined. I believe God intended the Sabbath to be a weekly reminder and picture of His miraculous provision and

---

***I believe  
God intended the Sabbath  
to be a weekly reminder and picture  
of His miraculous provision  
and intervention in our  
daily lives.***

---

we have to *want* to get well. But the man didn't answer "yes"—he started making excuses.

The man didn't even know who Jesus was when he was healed, so faith must not always be a prerequisite for being healed. Faith is important, but Jesus can move past our lack of faith.

Also, when Jesus saw the man later on, he told him to stop sinning or something worse would happen to him. Apparently, the man was doing something serious enough that Jesus warned him to quit or else! So, unconfessed sin must not necessarily be a block to our healing, either.

Now, don't get me wrong. I'm not suggesting that we be careless about our own lack of faith or unconfessed sin. I'm only suggesting that Jesus is very capable of mov-

intervention in our daily lives. And isn't that what healing is really all about?

One further comment: On this Sabbath day, Jesus was hanging out at a place where the sick, crippled, and lame gathered. He was associating with and reaching out to the helpless and hopeless.

Maybe visiting hospitals, group homes, and nursing homes is an acceptable and pleasing Sabbath-day activity to the Lord. I know that I need to find some way to reach out to the helpless and hopeless in *my* world.

Well, I never seem to get as far as I *think* I will in my writings about the Sabbath. Next month, we'll look at the last two Sabbath miracles recorded in John 7:14-24 and 9:1-41. **SR**

# Life after Conference

## Reflections of a first-timer

by Teri Morgan, North Loup, Neb.  
(From the Conference Crier)

CAST? Did someone break a leg? COM? Don't they mean .com?

HS? High school—what high school? NET? Again, don't they mean .net?

Pre-Con? Oh, come on now! A person *before* he (or she) becomes a convict? PROP? Oh, an airplane.

T&CC, T.I.M.E., SR, SCSC... all of this is so confusing! [\*See Key below.]

Add to that: lunch, a sidewalk sale (inside, no less), business sessions, seminars, interest committees, dinner, evening worship, displays, exhibits, coffee and cookies in the Haworth lobby, fellowship time, special music, luncheons, banquets, board and agency presentations, youth activities, young adult activities, choir, Bible study, town hall

meetings with the "Execs," and registration—which is like a big family reunion by itself. With all of these, you might have an idea of what my mind is trying to process.

During the week, I saw people riding on golf carts, but they must have been playing a new kind of golf because none of them had golf clubs. I also saw people with blue hair, a guy playing a flute (nice!), and more new faces than I could remember.

And names... Let's just say it'll be a while before the faces and the names are connected in my brain, let alone the family ties.

For the most part, I find myself walking around in a semi-daze, wondering if I'll ever be the same. But then, I believe I will leave Hol-

land, Mich., a better person than when I arrived; it'll just take a while to sink in.

The one thing I am sure of is that Jesus has surely assembled an awesome family for me to be a part of. Thank you to everyone in attendance at SDB Conference 2005 for making me feel so welcome! **SR**

\***CAST**: Contact and Support Training; **COM**: Council on Ministry; **HS**: Historical Society; **NET**: Natural Evangelism Training; **Pre-Con**: Pre (before) Conference camps and meetings; **PROP**: Pastors' Retirement Offering Project; **T&CC**: Tract and Communication Council; **T.I.M.E.**: Training in Ministry by Extension; **SR**: *Sabbath Recorder*; **SCSC**: Summer Christian Service Corps.



Members of the Shiloh, N.J., youth group presented a jar of coins to Andrew Camenga as a gift to the Board of Christian Education budget. The youth raised hundreds of dollars by asking their church (and Conference attendees) for loose change.



Left: President Don Graffius "hawked" mugs to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Lost Creek, W.Va., church. Below: Sisters Natasha, Ruth, and Paula Reynolds provided tight harmony for special music.





# ED Rob Appel reflects on first year

(With Conference Crier editor Aubrey Appel)



Rob Appel making his presentation at Conference '05.

•What will you remember most about your first year as Executive Director of the SDB General Conference?

The excitement and enthusiasm of SDBs in their churches or at Associations has been wonderful! I am also thankful and blessed to have so many who have been

praying for my family and me this past year.

•What have you enjoyed most about your job?

The opportunity to be able to meet with over 2,400 individual SDBs around North America is such a blessing! I wish all SDBs would be able to experience this.

Although the travel can be a bit tiring, the encouragement from the visits is valuable. I enjoy working with the staff at “your” SDB Center. We are diligent in our work—as a family unit—and are united in the challenges of our jobs.

•Where has God “stretched” you to do something you weren’t sure you could handle?

Preaching and writing have been the biggest surprises thus far. I have often said, “My dad was the preacher and my wife the teacher.” I was

so surprised that someone wanted me to give the message.

I also was not counting on the fact that I would be asked to write on a regular basis. Kevin Butler was so “coy” when he mentioned he had saved a whole page for me every month in the *Sabbath Recorder*. (Note: By “coy,” I mean not subtle at all! Thanks, Kevin!)

•What Bible verse has God laid on your heart, or what verse has He used to speak to you this past year?

1 Peter 5:6-10 has been especially near to me.

•How has it affected your daily life?

It is encouraging to know that all things are left in God’s hands and in His due time. It is important to be aware of the enemy and to be on guard at all times. What a blessing it will be when God restores Seventh

*cont. on page 11*

## Strong, steady and enthusiastic at Hope College, Holland, Michigan, August 7-13, 2005

### Statistics

- 657 registered guests
- 700+ at worship on Sabbath
- 343 delegates representing 46 churches
- 55 ministers/pastors present
- 10 fraternal delegates from other SDB Conferences
- 51 at Youth Pre-Con, directed by Christina Thorngate with 5 staff
- 38 at Young Adult, directed by Matt Berg with 6 staff

### Elections

- President 2005-2006: Robert Van Horn
- President-elect: Ruth Burdick

- General Council: Ruth Burdick, Harold King
- Council on Ministry: Steven Crouch, Barbara Green
- Faith and Order: C. Justin Camenga, George Stillman
- Committee on Support and Retirement: Earl Hibbard
- Tract and Communication Council: Ralph Hays Jr., Steve Osborn
- Memorial Fund Trustees: George Cruzan, Douglas Mackintosh, Nellie Jo Brissey
- Christian Social Action: Jeanie Smith, Patricia Bancroft, Laura Modesitt, Don Shackelford

### Awards/Recognitions

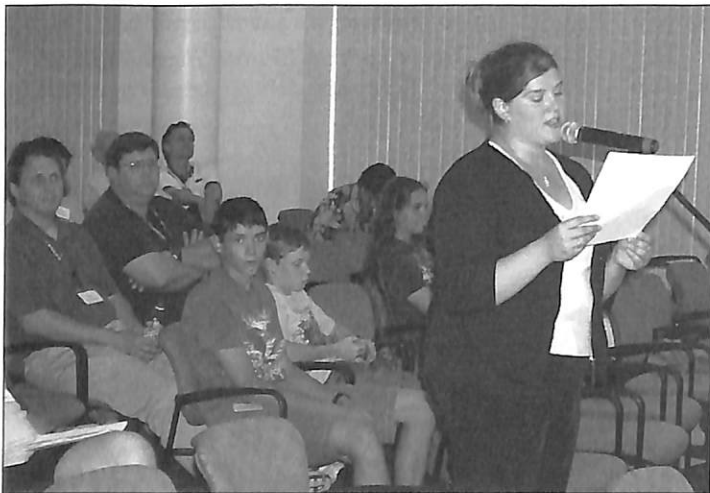
- Pastors accredited: Bernie Wethington, Nathan Crandall, Matthew Berg
- Women’s Board Robe of Achievement: Vivian Looper, Ashaway, R.I.
- Sabbath School Teacher of the Year: Jim Goodrich, North Loup, Neb.
- Mary G. Clare Scripture Memorization Bowl: Toronto, Ontario church
- Gold-headed Cane: Don Sanford 



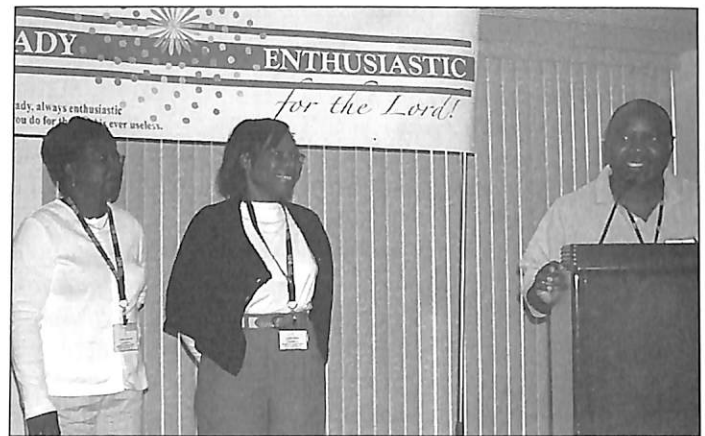
*Steve Graffius pulled out his "shades" to counteract the bright projection during the COM program. Other seminary students John Pethel, Nick Kersten, and Scott Smith were amused.*



*Althea Rood (left) was handed some flowers and a commemorative vase in honor of her decades of work with SCSC. Grace Crouch made the presentation.*



*Marissa Van Horn reads the report of the Interest Committee on National Missions, which she chaired.*



*Pastor Andy Samuels introduces two members of the newly-welcomed Fort Lauderdale, Fla., SDB Church: Thelma Maxwell and Cynthia Miller.*



*Special guest Roy Gearhart used a cowboy character to portray the story of Joseph. Looks like the children's conference enjoyed it...*



*... right, Crandall kids?*

## Rob Appel reflects, *cont. from page 9*

Day Baptists, making us strong, firm, steadfast, and oh yeah, enthusiastic!

*•What is your prayer for Seventh Day Baptists around the world?*

- 1) Seventh Day Baptists, never give up! It is time to grow.
- 2) It is time for Seventh Day Baptists to shout to the world Christ's message of salvation and grace.
- 3) We need to start feeling good about ourselves and the role that we play in the Kingdom of believers.
- 4) We need to tell everyone to call upon Jesus Christ so that He may be glorified and they may believe and accept Christ as their personal Savior.
- 5) We need to learn to **invite**, **include**, and **involve** all we have contact with, in and out of our churches.

*•Have you seen God working in your past to prepare you for this job?*

I was concerned when God had confirmed to me that I was to take this job. He opened every door and answered every fleece to my chagrin. I thought that others were more qualified, or at least had the right "pedigree."

I wasn't sure what role I was to play in the structure and new direction that SDBs would need in going forward. God has prepared me, through my business and marketing background, to approach things in a different way than we have traditionally done. Those who know me well will confirm that I like options.

I am always developing new ways to look at things. I try to think "outside the box" when approaching an opportunity.

*•What are you excited about in the year to come for the Conference?*

First, those of us who have been raised SDBs are looking beyond past hurts and the persecution that we have inherited from our history.

We are becoming enthusiastic in our approaches to our local church ministries, and we are becoming more comfortable with who we are in the Kingdom of Believers. We are working better with each other and working towards a common goal.

Secondly, I'm excited about new SDBs. A large number of people are coming to the Sabbath. They are reading their Bibles and finding very quickly—in Genesis 2:2-3—how God felt about the day He blessed and set

apart from the others. Because of this, we are receiving many contacts.

The internet has been a very helpful tool. Many people who have never heard of SDBs are finding us via the web. They are so thankful that there are Baptists who are Sabbathkeepers!

We need to do an even better job of letting the world know about Seventh Day Baptists. The world *wants* to know, and we need to *let* them know we are here—available, ready, and willing to serve.

*•Is there any other information you would like to communicate to the SDB General Conference?*

Get ready! We are going to grow, and that will hurt a little. In general, people are afraid of change. And we are getting ready for some major changes.

These will not come in the form of changes to our by-laws or Statement of Beliefs. Those are solid, and we do not want to diminish who we are. But changes will occur in our approach, communications, the number of new contacts, the synergies of working with other Baptist and Christian groups, and the "worldview" of SDBs.

Are you ready to rumble? **SR**

## Business Action from 2005

•The approved 2006 budget of \$1,144,010 calls for \$539,869 to come from current giving.

•Acceptance of the SDB Church of Fort Lauderdale (Fla.) as a member church in full standing of the Conference.

•The Santa Barbara (Calif.) SDB Church was removed from the list of recognized churches (per the church's request following their dissolution.)

•Accepted the following mission statement for the General Conference: The Seventh Day Baptist General Conference unites, encourages, and equips local Seventh Day Baptist churches in their endeavors to fulfill the Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20).

•The General Council will review the relationship of the General Conference to the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty (BJC) and bring a recommendation to next year's Conference about the continued representation of SDBs by the BJC.

•Various by-law changes were approved in their second reading. They included title changes for the executives of the Missionary Society and General Conference; the *ex-officio* status of the Conference's Executive Director to the General Council; procedure for removing a church from Conference membership; and changes to the Nominations Committee. (*Go to [www.seventhdaybaptist.org](http://www.seventhdaybaptist.org) for the complete list of changes.*) **SR**

# It was so hot...

by Jeanne Yurke

If you had an air-conditioned room, you missed a great deal of this year's "Conference experience." It was so hot... ("How hot was it?")

It was so hot that ordinarily security-conscious folks began



*An empty shoe props open a door in a more-than-warm non-a/c dorm at Conference.*

taking drastic measures to stay cool. (The photo shows a creative way some Phelps Hall residents propped open their doors to the hallway.)

Of course, Sunday night participants will long remember wilting in Dimnent Chapel. In fact, many were physically unable to stay through the entire service, finding immediate relief outside where the temperature dropped from "oppressively hot" to "definitely warm"!

With sincere apologies to Conference Organist Brett Greene—since he had prepared all kinds of musical treats for us—evening worship services were moved to the air-conditioned (but organ-less) Conference Ball Room for the remainder of the week.

On Sabbath morning, we once again returned to the chapel, where

Brett favored us with a powerful organ recital before the worship service. **SR**



*Kyle Greene (left) turns pages for brother Brett during Sabbath morning pre-worship music.*



*Families sought the shade on those hot days.*



*Uh-oh, I can smell a pastor's punch line coming...*



*... and there it is. (Chris Mattison, Steve Moncrief, Phil Bond, and Jim Skaggs.)*



Women's Society page by Susan Bond  
www.sdbwboard.org

## Women share the love



*Gracing this year's head table at the Women's Banquet (l. to r.): Kay Maltby, Althea Rood, Jasmyn Gibbons, Marjorie Jacob, Gail Price, Denise Green, Jean Ritchie, and Lana Van Horn.*



*Denise Green played the part of Martha Saunders at the Wednesday night banquet.*



*Dave Davis, Herb Saunders, Paul Green, and Frank Green sang for the ladies.*

Photos by Nadia Simpson

The Women's Interest Committee wholeheartedly thanks Joyce Burdick, Marcy Kersten, Cathy Payne, and Karen Payne for being our Love Gift Sub-Committee. The members of the 2005 Women's Interest Committee voted to accept the Love Gift as outlined by the committee. The **Love Gift** will be:

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| •Sri Lanka: A grinding machine                            | \$800 |
| •Miriam Lawton: Teaching in China                         | \$200 |
| •Krejci Family: Expenses related to son's hospitalization | \$500 |
| •Tim and Jayme Osborn Family: Vehicle in Morocco          | \$500 |
| •Philippines: Sewing machines and Bible study materials   | \$500 |
| •Pastor Mike Burns' family: Medical expenses              | \$500 |

- The remainder to be distributed as follows:
- |     |   |
|-----|---|
| 50% | Malawi for food   |
| 25% | Sri Lanka for other needs; i.e. fishing gear, food, medical needs, etc. |
| 25% | Translating and printing costs where needed                             |

Donations to the Love Gift for this year may be sent to the SDB Women's Society Treasurer:

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

You may send donations for this year's Love Gift until September 30th.

# Scripture Memory

Theme: *"Making Christ's*

## Month

## Youth/Adult

The Scripture Memorization Program for the 2005-2006 Conference Year will focus on Conference President Rev. Robert Van Horn's theme, "Making Christ's Mission Our Mission."

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

A list of persons from each church who have completed this Scripture Memorization Program should be submitted to the Board of Christian Education office. The postmarked deadline is July 3, 2006. These people will be honored at General Conference.

Further information about the program is available on the Board of Christian Education Web site: [EducatingChristians.org](http://EducatingChristians.org)

---

*All Scripture quotations in this list are from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION® NIV® Copyright© 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society.*

- 
- October** The Spirit of the Lord is on me because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord. (Luke 4:18-19)
- 
- November** Now get up and stand on your feet. I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen of me and what I will show you. (Acts 26:16)
- 
- December** Then the King will say to those on his right, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me." (Matthew 25:34-36)
- 
- January** Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. (Galatians 6:10)
- 
- February** The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. (2 Corinthians 10:4-5)
- 
- March** When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." (Matthew 9:11-13)
- 
- April** Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. (Colossians 4:5-6)
- 
- May** Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. (Matthew 28:19-20)
- 
- June** Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me. (John 12:26)

# Verses—2005-2006

## *Mission Our Mission”*

### Junior

The Spirit of the Lord is on me because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. (Luke 4:19)

---

I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen of me and what I will show you. (Acts 26:16)

---

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. (Matthew 25:35-36)

---

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. (Galatians 6:10)

---

The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. (2 Corinthians 10:4)

---

It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.... For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners. (Matthew 9:12-13)

---

Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. (Colossians 4:6)

---

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19)

---

Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. (John 12:26)

### Primary

...He has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. (Luke 4:19)

---

Now get up and stand on your feet. (Acts 26:16)

---

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat. (Matthew 25:35)

---

Let us do good to all people. (Galatians 6:10)

---

The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. (2 Corinthians 10:4)

---

For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners. (Matthew 9:13)

---

Let your conversation be always full of grace. (Colossians 4:6)

---

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations. (Matthew 28:19)

---

Whoever serves me must follow me. (John 12:26)



## An unforgettable character

Someone phoned the SDB Historical Society recently and asked if we had any information on her uncle, D.N. Inglis, a former professor at Milton (Wis.) College.

Referred to as “Prof. Si,” I knew him personally. He was my French professor for two years, and I worked with him at the Milton SDB Church. I also roomed in the Inglis home for about three years.

Even though I could give the caller some biased information, I had to rely on the *Sabbath Recorder* files for the biographical information she was most interested in.

The oldest record I could find was in the June 18, 1900 issue of the *SR*. That contained the obituary of Prof. Si’s grandfather, William Inglis. He was born in Dunfermline, Scotland, on March 28, 1821, and died in Marquette, Wis., on May 13, 1900.

---

***He would take an unequivocal stand on an issue with a “yes” or “no” vote while supporting the will of the majority—if it did not conflict with his personal opinion or conscience.***

---

At age 13, William accompanied his parents to Canada, where he learned the blacksmith trade. He continued that work even after coming to Wisconsin 1850. He bought a small farm near Marquette in Green Lake County and married Augusta Elkins (a native of Vermont) on September 23, 1945. The couple had four

sons, the first one dying at age 3.

William was a Presbyterian, and his wife was a Congregationalist. Both became interested and identified with the religious interests of society. During a series of meetings conducted by Seventh-day Adventists in 1860, William and several others embraced the Sabbath. For the greater part of his subsequent years, he was a worthy member of the Marquette Seventh Day Baptist Church.<sup>1</sup>

One of William’s surviving sons was J. Andrew Inglis, the father of D. Nelson Inglis.

In a January, 1906 issue of the *SR*, Prof. Si reported, “The little church at Marquette, like many frontier churches, has been depleted in numbers by death and removal, until there are not enough members to support a pastor and hold regular services.

“Every Sabbath day, however, finds a group of Sabbath-keepers gathered at the home of J.A. Inglis to have Sabbath service. We have a song service and study the Sabbath

school lesson; after this, a sermon is read from *The Pulpit*. Often there are only three families represented, sickness keeping some at home, while extra work during the hunting season has kept others from attending.

“The prejudice against Seventh Day Baptists is dying away, and they



*Professor D.N. Inglis*

are even looked to with respect. We are trying to arouse interest in Milton College among the young people. Some here have been there to school, and now others are planning to go.

“During the summer, the society was encouraged by a visit from the Hutchinson, Hurley, Place, Stringer Quartet. They remained a few days, holding meetings and giving a concert. Professor Shaw of Milton College also delivered a sermon while officiating at the funeral of Miss Lucy Noble. There are no regular services in any church here except the Lutheran. The Methodists have occasional services but no pastor on the field. The *Sabbath Recorder* is eagerly looked for and we are cheered by its hopeful pages.”<sup>2</sup>

As a historian, Professor Inglis’ genealogical and religious background is interesting, but I remember him most from personal contacts as a student, church co-worker, and friend.

My first contact with Prof. Si was at General Conference in Alfred, N.Y. At the time, I didn’t know that he had been president of General Conference in 1936, and had twice



served on the General Conference Commission (1923-25 and 1936-37).

He had also served as president of the Sabbath School Board, sung in the Male Evangelistic Quartet for three years, and was on numerous civic, religious, and educational posts in Milton.

To get everyone's attention, he had a raucous clearing of the throat which might have jarred open a few pocketbooks. However, my initial reaction was, "Boy, I'd hate to have him for a teacher!" Three years later, that same clearing of the throat not only got my attention in his class, but the attention of students in *adjoining* classrooms at Milton College!

Prof. Si did not stress conversational French to the point that I could answer intelligently the questions he asked in French as I walked into class a little late. (His chuckle at my imperfect French affirmative made me wonder if I should have answered in the negative.) However, his understanding of the structure of language itself, and cultural differences, have been of inestimable benefit in my ministerial and writing career.

Another of Prof. Si's characteristics was to take an unequivocal stand on an issue with a "yes" or "no" vote

while supporting the will of the majority—if it did not conflict with his personal opinion or conscience.

A proposition was presented in the Milton church for a monthly Sacrifice Sabbath Dinner. A ballot was included in the bulletin labeled: Yes \_\_\_; No \_\_\_; and, if yes, \_\_\_ I will serve on a committee. Prof. Si checked "No," but he also agreed to serve on a committee.

As a student, he was active in numerous sports, even starting in the outfield on a baseball team that beat Milwaukee's Marquette University. As a faculty member at Milton, he was a strong supporter and advisor of the M Club.

In 1948, the school voted to put two concrete tennis courts on campus. Prof. Si voted against installing two courts since there was only enough money on hand to put in one. However, the majority's wishes prevailed, and they proceeded with the installation of two courts.

Although he was against the project, that didn't prevent Prof. Si from contributing to the labor. Even at age 65, he could be seen wheeling concrete during its construction.

About this same time, with the influx of World War II servicemen,

the issue of smoking in the basement social rooms of Main Hall was raised. Again, Prof. Si voiced his strong opposition, but he did not support the majority by lighting up a cigarette himself.

Sixteen years after graduating from Milton College, I returned and began working there myself. When our family brought our membership to the Milton church, I was honored when the first member of the congregation to welcome me was Professor Inglis. Though at the time 82, and 43 years my senior, he was the first to welcome me as "Elder Sanford." (That was the title used for ordained ministers not serving as the church pastor.)

Prof. Si's designation as a "Pillar of Milton College" could extend to his service to the town of Milton, to the Milton SDB Church, and to the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference. **SR**

<sup>1</sup>*Sabbath Recorder*, June 18, 1900, Vol. 56, #25, p. 397.

<sup>2</sup>*Sabbath Recorder*, January 15, 1906, Vol. 62, #3, p. 44.

## Denominational Dateline

### September

- 1-6 Mozambique, Africa—Kirk Looper
- 16-17 Crusade in Yakima, Wash.—Ron Elston
- 17 Lincoln, Neb., SDB group—Kevin Butler
- 17-18 *Sabbath Recorder* Committee, North Loup, Neb.—Butler
- 20-21 Grandview, Wash.—Elston
- 24 Shiloh, N.J.—Rob Appel
- 24 New England Yearly Meeting, Newport, R.I.—Looper, Nick Kersten, Robert Van Horn
- 24-25 Kalispell, Mont.—Elston
- 25-28 Evangelical Development Ministry Institute, Newport Beach, Calif.—Gordon Lawton, Appel

### October

- 1 Foothill SDB Church, Montrose, Calif.—Appel
- 1 225th Anniversary, Berlin, N.Y.—Kersten

- 3-4 BJC Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.—Butler
- 15 Pacific Coast Assoc., Riverside, Calif.—Appel
- 15-16 Memorial Fund Quarterly and Annual Board Meeting, Riverside—Calvin Babcock, Appel
- 22 Denver, Colo., SDB Church—Appel
- 23 SDB Board of Christian Ed. Annual Corporation Meeting, Alfred Station, N.Y.—Andrew Camenga
- 23 Missionary Society Board of Managers Meeting, Westerly, R.I.—Looper, Elston, Babcock
- 29-30 Tract Council Annual Meeting, SDB Center, Janesville, Wis.—Butler

### November

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



# the BEACON

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

September 2005

## Youth sing and act

(From the Conference Crier)

Fifty-one energetic, fun Youth Pre-Conners blessed us with music and skits Wednesday morning at Conference.

Christina Thorngate took time to thank and recognize her awesome staff of Perry and Amanda Barbee, Rachel Mackintosh, and Pastor David Thorngate.

The Youth Pre-Conners sang a collection of songs, including "God Is in Control," "Way Maker," "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms," and "The Great Divide." They also performed a skit about a bridge-tender who made sure the bridge was safe before letting people cross and guided them over it

during questionable weather.

When the bridge-tender discovered that part of the bridge had collapsed, the crossers—still trusting the structure—wouldn't heed his warnings to stop. Just as they were about to fall to their deaths, the bridge-tender used his own body to close the gap. Not only was he a guide, showing them the way; he *was* the Way.

The second skit took place at the PLU (People Like Us) Church, illustrating how rejecting and exclusive we can be of other people.

A third skit demonstrated how uneasy and questioning we can be when it comes to trusting God. **SR**



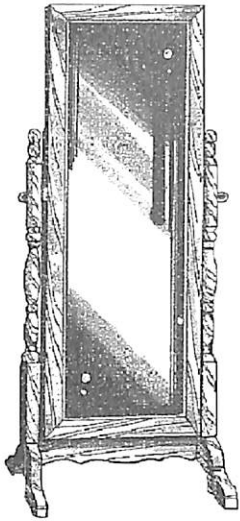
*The bridge-tender (Gavin Fox) sacrificed himself to help walkers across the damaged bridge during the first of three skits at the Youth Pre-Con program.*



*Jenna Wethington and Rachel Parrish shared a duet.*



*Youth Pre-Con camp director Christina Thorngate led the many willing singers during the Wednesday morning program.*



# 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*

## Reaching new heights

*"You [God] are resplendent with light, more majestic than mountains rich with game" (Psalm 76:4, NIV).*

\* \* \*

So far, I've lived in three states: Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa. (The "State of Confusion" doesn't count.)

The topography of these Midwestern states is pretty much the same—farm land, lakes, rivers, and woods.

When I was a youngster, I visited Rib Mountain just outside Wausau, Wis. It was thrilling to climb that collection of rocks, but anyone living out West—especially in the Rockies—would laugh at its "mountain" designation. (The ribbing would be unbearable.)

At 1,924 feet above sea level, Rib Mountain is actually the *second* highest point in Wisconsin. (Timm's Hill near Ogema in Price County is taller). But since it sits 700 feet above the surrounding plain, Rib Mountain is still deemed the tallest mountain in the Badger State.

Why all this talk about mountains?

This past June, I took a road trip that covered seven states: Wisconsin, Iowa, Kansas, Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota, and Minnesota. Without question, the high point of my vacation (no pun intended) was my trek through Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado.

Hillsides, forests, and meadows were alive with elk and deer, while

a wonderful assortment of God's smaller creatures made periodic, serendipitous appearances. (One afternoon, I discovered that the furry creature crawling around in the rocks a few feet below me was a marmot.)

On June 22, my 60<sup>th</sup> birthday, I walked through snow to a viewing area just off Trail Ridge Road, which crosses the park from east to west. The little girl from Wisconsin who was thrilled to see Rib Mountain was now standing 12,183 feet above sea level.


The panoramic view, plus the altitude, momentarily took my breath away. To the left, were majestic mountain vistas; straight ahead, a glacier; to the right, a winding road that seemed to reach towards heaven.

I felt as if I were standing in an open-air cathedral. Aside from exclaiming "Wow!" every few moments, I ended up whispering, "And some people say there is no God."

It was strange to look around at

the treeless earth and minimal vegetation. The mountain ridge where we were was above the tree line, and the ground was actually an "alpine tundra ecosystem." It reminded me of life itself—beautiful, yet fragile. (Numerous signs pleaded with visitors to "Please stay on the paths.")

Traveling the rest of the way up the ridge, I passed snowbanks that were dwarfed by thin wooden poles reaching 12 and more feet into the air. When the heavier snowfalls come, those poles will help the snowplows know where the road is. Hopefully, they'll also keep the drivers from plunging off the mountains.

I'm back in Wisconsin now, once again plugged into the routine of day-to-day living. But every once in a while, I think about my mountain-top experience in Colorado. Whenever I replay that scene in my mind, my appreciation of God's glorious Creation reaches new heights, like the Rocky Mountains themselves. 



*A breathtaking view of the Rockies. As I snapped this photograph, I muttered to myself, "Toto, we aren't in Wisconsin any more."*



## FOCUS on Missions

# New works, good meetings

by Ron Elston

The Lord continues to bless as exciting SDB works spring up around the country.

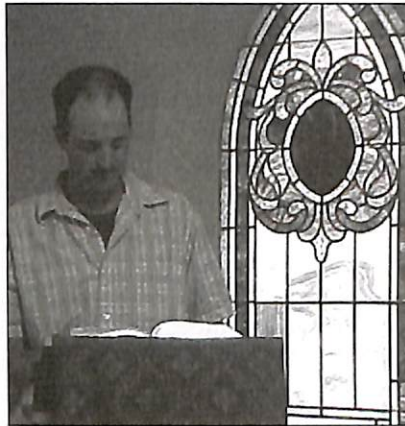
Rev. Ronald J. Elston Sr., National Extension Minister for the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Board, recently visited a new group in Lincoln, Neb. His message challenged the young church to step out of its comfort zone.

Pastor Elston shared about his missionary experiences in Africa, and he encouraged his listeners to reach out into their community with the Good News of the Gospel.

Sponsored by the North Loup, Neb., SDB Church, this new group

is currently renting a chapel that is part of the Havelock United

Methodist Church complex in Lincoln. **SR**



*Jody Looper leading worship for the new group in Lincoln, Neb.*



*The rented facility in Lincoln.*

## Association meets in Texas

The First SDB Church of Houston in Bellaire, Texas, hosted the 2005 meeting of the Southwestern Association June 10-12.

**Conference President Don Graffius gave a wonderful message of encouragement.**

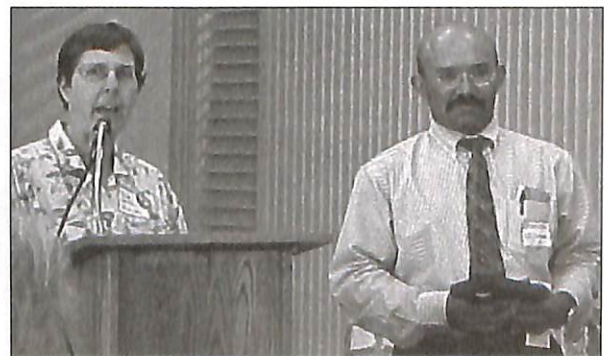
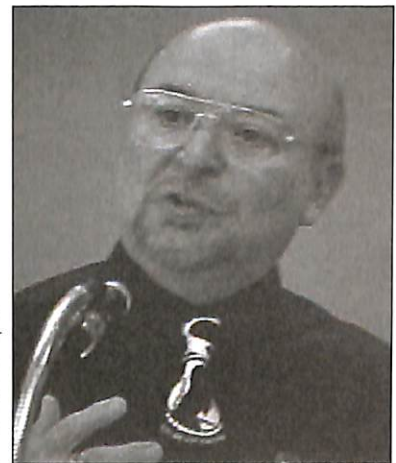
Paula Chaffin did an outstanding job presiding over the event, and Conference President Don Graffius gave a wonderful message of encouragement. Other sermons were presented by Jim Barclift, pastor of the Houston church; Tim Parsley from Mattoon, Ill.; and Bill Burks, the new pastor of the Remembrance SDB Church in Ft. Worth, Texas.

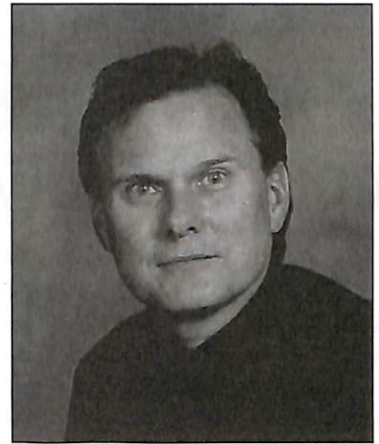
Dr. Abraham Stevens, a member at Houston, showed a video on mission work in Nicaragua. Rev. Ronald

J. Elston shared information about the new work on the SDB home mission field.

A special musical, "Written in Red," was performed by Pastor Mynor G. Soper and the choir of the SDB Church of Texarkana, Ark. **SR**

*Ron Elston (right) shared news from the home mission field. Below right: SW Association President Paula Chaffin (left) introduced Dr. Abraham Stevens, who spoke on missions in Nicaragua. Bottom left: Pastor Jim Barclift of Houston.*





by Executive Director  
Rob Appel

## Why such a secret?

*Adversity—A state of hardship or affliction; misfortune; a period marked by adversities, difficulty, or hardships.*

Do you get tired of defending yourself as a Seventh Day Baptist? I sometimes do. Yet I also enjoy the opportunity to tell others about Seventh Day Baptists even though I often get the standard question, “Don’t you mean Seventh Day Adventists?”

Many years ago, families in England fled the adversity directed at them because of their Sabbath observance and came to North America to start anew. But they found that same Sabbath adversity in their new land.

In fleeing this *new* adversity, they either went into a self-preservation, survival mode by starting SDB communities where they weren’t scorned for working on Sunday, or they focused on being quiet and unassuming.

Being quiet and unassuming has been a benchmark of Sabbathkeepers for generations.

We SDBs still find ourselves not wanting to “rock the boat.” We are such a “secret” to the rest of the world that we are even becoming a secret among other Christian denominations. But thank God for the internet!

The internet has become our ally, with many people coming to the Sab-

bath through their own research. They search—through the worldwide web—to see who out there believes like they do.

These individuals find groups that are Sabbathkeepers, but they also discover that the beliefs of some of these groups don’t match their own. Then they find Seventh Day Baptists, and they become

---

***Why shouldn’t we be bold when our salvation message is the same as theirs? We have the added “Sabbath bonus” with our message.***

---

excited. Sabbathkeepers who are Baptists! Who would have thought that such a thing even existed?!

There is something to be said for following God’s laws. For one thing, we will be blessed in God’s due time.

*“Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you” (1 Peter 5:6-7).*

We have to believe this! If it were not true, we would have disappeared

long ago. We don’t have to be in a “persecution mindset” because of our Sabbath observance. Instead, we can be bold about who we are and what we believe.

We Seventh Day Baptists are so similar to most Bible-believing denominations that our basic difference is only the Sabbath. For the most part, the Baptist brothers and sisters we associate with through Baptist World Alliance have the same beliefs and polity that SDBs do. Our major difference is the Sabbath.

Why shouldn’t we be bold when our salvation message is the same as theirs? We have the added “Sabbath bonus” with our message.

This past year, Conference President Don Graffius challenged us to be strong, steadfast, and enthusiastic. Are you being an active, dependable, and courageous Christian? Are you robust, immovable, and fearless? Are you tenacious, relentless, and zealous?

Our new Conference President, Robert Van Horn, is asking us to conform to Christ’s desires by “Making Christ’s Mission Our Mission.”

The 2006 Conference verse is from Luke 4:18: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me to preach Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the downtrodden will be freed from their oppressors.” **SR**

# Baptists celebrate World Alliance's 100th with diversity, togetherness

by Greg Warner, Associated Baptist Press

About 13,000 Baptist Christians from around the world celebrated a century of togetherness July 27-31 in Birmingham, England.

With vibrant music, vivid pageantry, and stirring stories of faith, the Baptist World Centenary Congress gathered believers from 100-plus countries, posing a stark contrast to the terror alerts that rattled the host country.

Returning to the land where it was formed in 1905, the BWA, now an international fellowship of 32 million believers from 200-plus unions, set about the hard work of building unity in a world where, leaders admitted, religion often divides.

A century ago when BWA first met in London, 85 percent of the world's Baptists were in Europe and North America, said Denton Lotz, general secretary of BWA. Now 65 percent of Baptists are in the Third World, Lotz told the delegates.

"This is the new paradigm shift," Lotz said as he asked delegates from Africa, Asia, and South America to stand. The Southern Hemisphere may lack money, political freedom, or clout, he said, but "they are going to re-evangelize the world."

The church in the Southern Hemisphere is "exploding with growth," said California pastor Rick Warren, author of the international best-selling book, *The Purpose Driven Life*.

"Africa, Asia, and Latin America will lead us in the 21st century," he said. "That's what God is doing."

Warren called for "a new reformation" to adapt to the 21st-century world. "The first Reformation was about belief; this one needs to be about behavior," he said. "Most of the time we're just talk," he lamented. Warren said the deeds of a new



*Kevin Butler, Rob Appel, and their wives represented SDBs at the Centenary meeting of the Baptist World Alliance in Birmingham, England. They were also privileged to preach at the Mill Yard and Birmingham SDB churches.*

reformation will require mobilizing Christians, multiplying churches, evangelizing the world, and eradicating global problems.

The Baptist World Centenary Congress, one of the largest Baptist meetings ever, was played out against the backdrop of terrorism and increased security in England. In the days leading up to the congress, London was struck by four suicide bombers and four attempted bombings in its transit system.

But delegates apparently swept aside any concern about terrorism. They endured heightened security measures and several days of England's famous rains to rejoice in their common bond in Jesus Christ.

"We prayed that you would come, despite the bombings and the terror alerts," said David Coffey, general secretary of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the hosts for the meeting. The high attendance was a sign of "visible solidarity" among Baptists, said Coffey, who was elected BWA president during the congress.

"Unity is a Gospel imperative, and disunity is always a major hindrance to evangelism," said Coffey.

"Too often, the world is more aware of what the church is against than what it is for, and this is no strategy for winning lost people to Jesus Christ," Coffey said. "We need to be more like Jesus, to earn the reputation of being friends to sinners and to give ourselves in sacrificial service for a broken world."

One of the world's most prominent Baptists, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, said the desire for oneness is a powerful force for global good among all Christians. "There is an intense hunger among Christians around the world for a healing of the differences that now separate us from one another," Carter, one of the keynote speakers, told reporters.

Those Christians "are looking for a single voice, a common understanding and friendship, and [want] to put aside the divisions that plague our faith," said Carter. **SR**



*The associate pastor in Battle Creek, Mich., became the Rev. Kory Geske on August 6, 2005. COM Director Gordon Lawton led in prayer during the laying on of hands. George Calhoun (Milton, Wis.) gave the charge to the candidate, and Battle Creek pastor Harold King presented the charge to the church.*

## Stonefort news

A great time of worship and fellowship was held on May 21, 2005, at the Old Stonefort Seventh Day Baptist Church in Southern Illinois. During this year's annual event, the church celebrated its 134th anniversary, with visitors attending from several states.

The Mills family and Janice McCormick extended greetings and provided special music.

Representing the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Board, National Extension Minister Rev. Ronald J. Elston Sr. presented the Sabbath message, concluding with a Communion service.

A wonderful meal and fellowship time followed worship. **SR**

## Preparing for Afghanistan

I send my greetings from Ft. Drum, N.Y., to all of my SDB friends! Thanks for your prayer support during a very difficult year of transition for our entire family.

For most of the month of June, my battalion went with the rest of the 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team to Ft. Polk, La., and the Joint Readiness Training Center. There we were given a "dry run" of what we can expect to find in Afghanistan.

I had the privilege of accompanying my commander to engagements with Afghan nationals, including mullahs, village elders, and U.N. representatives. Going with the soldiers taught me a great deal about this new kind of war.

From a ministry standpoint, I had the opportunity to do a full memorial ceremony, complete with the military protocol of taps, roll call, and firing of volleys.

Every night I would try to do rounds in some of the tents and barracks in order to pray with those who had needs and give "encouraging

words for the day." My senior ranking leaders tell me that when we get to Afghanistan, the soldiers will be clamoring for my services, with boredom and insecurity being big issues. All in all, it was a month of tremendous learning.

### Challenges

As I write this, I face several challenges. For one thing, my voice has been giving me problems. It is not just laryngitis, but a condition called spasmodic dysphonia. Singers and others who use their voice a lot call this condition "strangled voice syndrome." Treatment options are botox injections and speech therapy in order to get my muscles to relax.

Carrie also faces challenges of her own. She has been given a preliminary diagnosis of interstitial cystitis, in which she seems to have constant urinary tract infections. Please pray for her. Both of us have disorders that have no natural explanation for their onset, or real cures.

Satan has been attacking soldiers

by Chaplain Jerry Johnson, 4-25 FA



*Chaplain Jerry Johnson (with glasses, facing camera) went through some rigorous training in June to prepare for the conflict in Afghanistan.*

and their families in manifold ways—through drugs, domestic violence, nasty divorces—you name it. I expect things to get worse rather than better as we prepare for the "real" combat zone.

Our family appreciates your prayers. We are on a mission field. Soldiers and their families need to hear the message of salvation and hope through Jesus Christ now more than ever. **SR**

# New members

**Battle Creek, MI**  
*Harold King, pastor*  
 Joined after baptism  
 Linda Fick

**Dodge Center, MN**  
*Dale Rood, pastor*  
 Joined after baptism  
 Khalen Greene  
 Lance Greene  
 Joined after testimony  
 Bethany (McGarey) Osborn

**Nortonville, KS**  
*Stephan Saunders, pastor*  
 Joined by letter  
 Charlie Pierson  
 Ronald J. Pierson

**Washington, D.C.**  
*Paul Andries, pastor*

Joined after testimony  
 Georgette Dallas  
 Linda McKay  
 Ron Stephens  
 Ako Yamro

**White Cloud, MI**  
*Bernie Wethington, pastor*  
 Joined after baptism  
 Harold Deehan  
 Marianne Deehan  
 Sheryl Deehan  
 Dennis Nagle  
 Trish Nagle  
 Matt Priest  
 Laura Priest  
 Rick Roberts  
 Jenna Wethington  
 Joined by letter  
 Robert Gill  
 Margie Worley

# Births

**Bond.**—A daughter, Katia Noelle Bond, was born to Chet and Tanya (Bonser) Bond of Dodge Center, MN, on January 20, 2005.

**Noel.**—A son, Aiden Jeffrey Noel was born to Brad and Brandy Noel of Marshall, MI, on February 12, 2005.

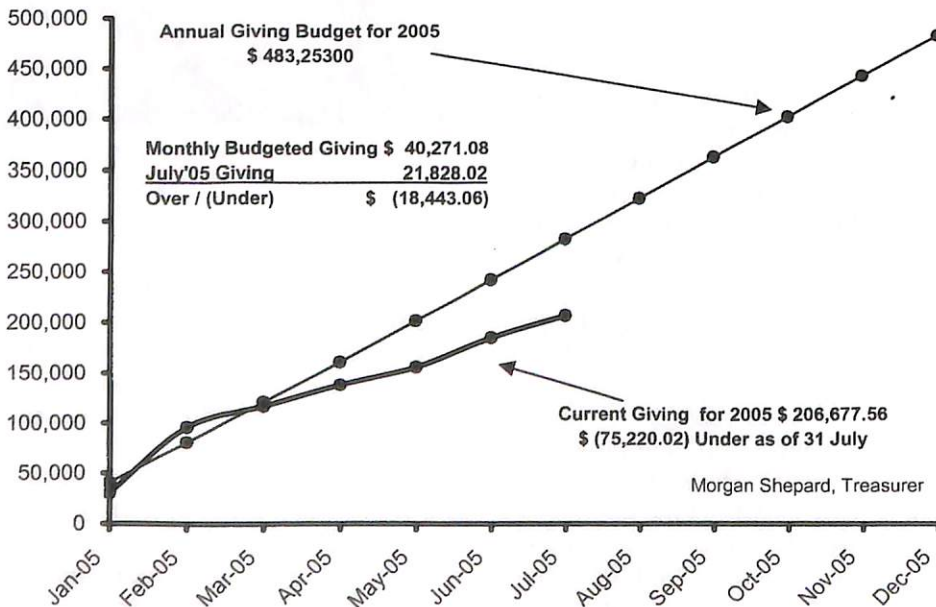
**Meyer.**—A son, David Peter Meyer, was born to David and Joy (Wallstrom) Meyer of Pine Island, MN, on March 30, 2005.

**Biermann.**—A daughter, Abigail Diann Biermann, was born to Mark and Lisa (Greene) Biermann of Spring Valley, MN, on March 31, 2005.

**Bowen.**—A daughter, Hannah Rosalie Bowen, was born to Bill and Laurie Bowen of Medina, ND, on May 16, 2005.

**Moore.**—A daughter, Kathlene Elizabeth Moore, was born to Timothy and Karina Moore of Battle Creek, MI, on May 19, 2005.

## Current Giving 2005



Make a Difference

Your gift to the Conference budget helps us to continue printing the *SR*, supports missions and seminary students, and funds the day-to-day costs that keep our agencies serving you.

Thank you for your faithful support.



# Obituaries

**Dudley.**—Altheia M. Dudley, 82, of Roulette, Pa., died on April 23, 2005, in the Long-Term Care Unit of Charles Cole Memorial Hospital, Coudersport, Pa.

She was born on May 15, 1922, in Coudersport, the daughter of Dayton and Edith Ingalls. She was a lifelong resident of Roulette, graduating from that town's high school.

On May 10, 1941, she married McClellan Charles Dudley in Roulette. He died on May 3, 1990.

Altheia had been a Sunday School teacher at the First Baptist Church in Roulette for 60 years, and an EMT with the Roulette Volunteer Fire Department. She also worked as a real estate agent for Strout Realty for many years.

Altheia was an associate member of the First SDB Church of Hebron, joining on July 20, 1991, following her testimony.

Survivors include one daughter, Eunice Hults of Coudersport; one son, Paul, of Cottonwood, Ariz.; one brother, Rev. Alwin Ingalls of Quincy, Ohio; four grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews. In addition to her husband, one daughter, Edith Hoppins, and one brother preceded Altheia in death.

Funeral services were held on April 28, 2005, at the Coudersport Christian and Missionary Alliance Church, with her brother, Pastor Ingalls, officiating. Burial was in the Five Corners Woodland Cemetery in Hebron.

**Claire.**—Wayne F. Claire, 80, of Campbell, Calif., entered into rest on May 1, 2005, in Campbell.

He was born on April 4, 1925, in Alfred Station, N.Y., the son of Leonard and Mabel (Niles) Claire. For 57 years, he was the beloved husband of Barbara (King) Claire.

Wayne served in Battery B of the 215th Field Artillery Battalion dur-

ing World War II and fought in the Battle of the Bulge. Following the war, he moved to Beacon, N.Y., where he was employed by the IBM Corporation.

He moved to California in the 1950s when IBM opened a new plant there, eventually retiring after a rewarding 37-year career in management.

Wayne treasured family time, especially when camping and fishing. He spent countless hours on his computer doing genealogy research. He was also an avid walker and enjoyed bowling.

He was a member of the Alfred Station Seventh Day Baptist Church.

Survivors include one daughter, Debbie Garrett of Oxnard, Calif.; two sons, Mark of Modesto, Calif., and Bruce of Camas, Wash.; one sister, Irene Post of Gowanda, N.Y.; six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by eight siblings: Elzora, Altana, Ruth, Charles, Walton, Pearl, Bertha, and Robert.

Graveside services were held on May 4, 2005, at the Los Gatos (Calif.) Memorial Park.

**Chester.**—Barbara V. (Hunt) Chester, 73, of Ashaway, R.I., died on May 29, 2005, at Rhode Island Hospital in Providence following a brief illness. She was the beloved wife for 51 years of Edmund S. Chester. She was born on April 15, 1932, in Alton, R.I., the daughter of Frederick A. and Grace (Church) Hunt Sr. Known as the "Fuller Brush Lady," she was employed in sales there for many years.

Barbara was a member of the First Seventh Day Baptist Church of Ashaway and its Ladies Aid Society.

A beloved mother, grandmother, and wife, she also belonged to the Ashaway Senior Homemakers, and the Family and Friends Scrabble Club. She made it a point to play Scrabble at least once a week for more than 35 consecutive years.

In addition to her husband, Edmund, she is survived by two

*cont. on next page*

## Death Notices

**Rev. John M. Peil**, 60, of Riverside, Calif., died on July 4, 2005. He had recently retired from the pastorate of the San Gabriel SDB Church of Faith because of ill health.

**Muriel (Polan) Baber**, 90, of Keeseville, N.Y., died on July 5, 2005. Muriel was the oldest daughter of deceased SDB pastor Rev. Herbert L. Polan.

**Rowena (Randolph) Van Horn**, 90, of Columbus, Ohio, widow of Rev. Delmer Van Horn, died on July 22, 2005.

**Mabel (Davis) Cruzan**, 87, of Milton, Wis., widow of Rev. Earl Cruzan, died on July 28, 2005.

**Rev. John A. Conrod**, 65, of Wheat Ridge, Colo., died on August 7, 2005. John was a former pastor and missionary to Malawi, and was the director of New Covenant Ministries.

daughters, Donna E. Fedors of North Stonington, Conn., and Lynda Galetta of Stonington, Conn; one sister, Evelyn Panciera of Westerly, R.I.; three grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews. Two brothers, Frederick and William Hunt; one sister, Hazel Pendleton; and two granddaughters predeceased her.

Funeral services were held on June 2, 2005, at the Gaffney-Dolan Funeral Home in Westerly. Burial was in Union Cemetery in North Stonington.

**Admave.**—Bernice M. Admave, 82, of Marion, Ill., died on June 30, 2005, at The Foun-

tains Nursing Home in Marion.

She was born on September 4, 1922, in Newton, Kan., the daughter of Jacob "J.B." and Mary (Reimer) Loewen. She married Forrest Scruggs Sr. on July 12, 1942, in Boulder, Colo. He preceded her in death in 1977. On March 2, 1979, she married Joseph Admave. He died on April 21, 1993.

Bernice was a homemaker who enjoyed crossword puzzles and listening to Christian music. She joined the Old Stonefort (Ill.) Seventh Day Baptist Church in 1996, and was a faithful member until ill health kept her from attending regularly.

"Bernie" always had a ready smile, a warm hug, and a joke to

share. She leaves her family and many dear friends to cherish her memory.

Survivors include one son, Forrest "Woody" Scruggs Jr. of Ozark, Ill; one daughter, Dianna Wagner of Black Hawk, Colo; three sisters, Elma Snyder, Linda Henry, and Blondina Hartmann; one brother, Marvin; three grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. In addition to her husbands, she was predeceased by one brother, Orlando "Orlie" Loewen, and two sisters, Hilda Brown and Luella Reed.

A memorial service was held on July 8, 2005, at the Bailey Funeral Home in Vienna, Ill., with Rev. Scott Johnson officiating. Burial was in the Greenwood Cemetery in Newton.

## Pastor of eight different SDB churches, dies at 90

Kenneth Bernard Van Horn of Lonoke, Ark., passed away on June 12, 2005, at the age of 90.

He was born on September 18, 1914, in North Loup, Neb., the son of Holdridge and Cora May (Davis) Van Horn. He grew up on the family homestead, was baptized at the age of 12, and graduated from North Loup High School.

He met his future wife, Doris Wilna Langworthy, while attending Salem College in Salem, W.Va. They married on April 10, 1939, in Verona, N.Y.

He graduated from Salem College with a BA degree in 1941, and then attended Alfred Theological Seminary in Alfred, N.Y., graduating with a Master of Divinity degree in 1944.

Ken was ordained to the ministry by the Albion, Wis., Seventh Day Baptist Church on November 5, 1944. He served pastorates in Albion and Milton Junction, Wis.; Dodge



**Rev. Kenneth Van Horn**  
1914-2005

Center, Minn.; New Auburn, Wis.; Little Rock, Ark.; Hebron, Pa.; Little Genesee, N.Y.; and Daytona Beach, Fla.

Pastor Van Horn retired from the Daytona church in 1987 and returned to Little Rock, continuing active service to that church as Pastor Emeritus. He served as a trustee, treasurer, groundskeeper, janitor, and Sabbath School Superintendent, and also preached the Word!

Survivors include his wife, Doris, of Lonoke; two sons, Rodney of Spencerport, N.Y., and Floyd of North Little Rock; one daughter, Arlouene Edwards of Eaton, Colo.; eight grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by two brothers, Paul and Nile; and two sisters, Blenn Parker and Elsie Lane Ewing.

A "Home Going Celebration" service was held at the SDB Church of Little Rock on June 25, 2005. A service of interment was held on July 16, 2005, at the Alfred Rural Cemetery. *SR*

# KEVIN'S

## ORNER

### Scattered thoughts of organized Conference

According to Jeanne Yurke (page 12), I must have gotten the “full” Conference experience this year. Wanting to save the Tract Council some bucks, I booked our room in a non-air-conditioned dorm. It was toasty!

Not content with using a mere shoe to prop open our door for more ventilation, I rigged one of my belts to connect the room door and the closet doorknob. “Funny” how Janet’s belt wouldn’t reach, but mine would...

Even though it cost the Conference more to rent the cool campus ballroom for the evening worship services, it added smiles to many a wilting face.

Despite getting publicly picked on numerous times by the Conference president, I’ll turn the other cheek and tell the world that Don Graffius did an excellent job in planning and conducting this year’s meetings.

I felt a powerful spirit of unity and cooperation on the Hope College campus. Didn’t that happen in ‘99 as well? Must be the “lake effect.”

As usual, we heard excellent music and preaching. Praise the Lord for His servants.

Dr. Paul Manuel conducted superb Bible studies each morning, and did an equally superb job in hamming it up during the TCC program (even though his personal *preference* is not to eat pork—or peas).

We seemed to have a good number of first-time attendees this year, and I heard many of them say that

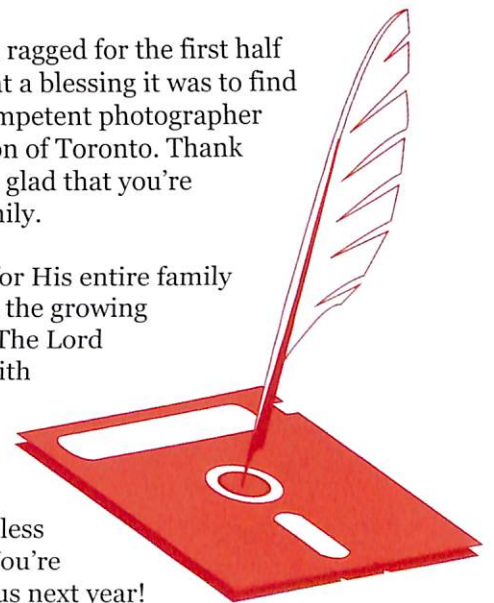
they’re planning to come again in 2006. “Where will it be” you ask? We’re heading back to Houghton (N.Y.) College, August 6-12.

Our president Robert Van Horn will kick off his theme, “Making Christ’s Mission Our Mission,” in next month’s *SR*.

Hats off to our fantastic Host Committee headed up by Bernie and Patti Wethington. To the White Cloud, Battle Creek, and Grand Rapids church members: Well done, and THANK YOU!! And you probably had *way* too much fun with those golf carts. (But seriously, you were quite handy when I needed to get to the next photo shoot.)

After running ragged for the first half of the week, what a blessing it was to find a willing and competent photographer in Nadia Simpson of Toronto. Thank you, Nadia!! I’m glad that you’re a part of our family.

I praise God for His entire family of believers, and the growing family of SDBs. The Lord has blessed us with a powerful connection of love that gets recharged every summer—regardless of the weather. You’re welcome to join us next year!



## More Conference tidbits

### Did you enjoy the video announcements and presentations this year?

If you have questions about the techniques and tools used by the media team at Conference, contact [jko.mediaguy@gmail.com](mailto:jko.mediaguy@gmail.com).

### SCSC heads north

The Summer Christian Service Corps committee and training has moved to Milton, Wis. We thank the Florida ladies for all their hard work, and look forward to exciting changes from the new committee.

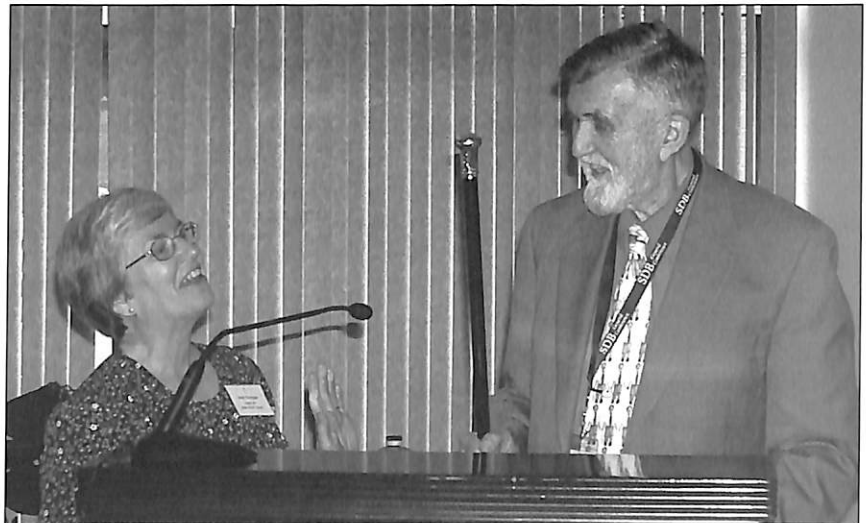
### Missing luggage

Looks like someone picked up an extra suitcase belonging to June Kenyon. Her nametag was on the bag.

If you find it, please call 386-253-2841.



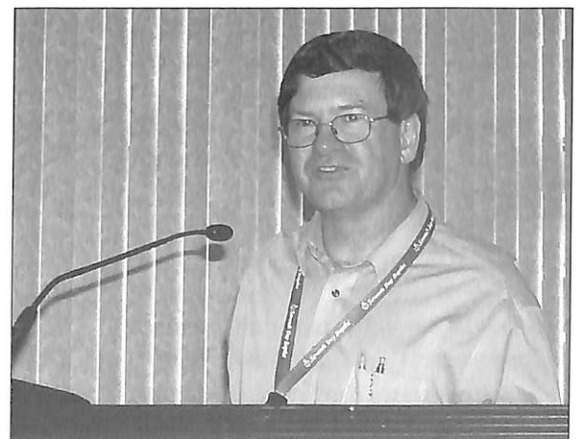
*Susan Bond and Margie Jacob share the joy as Vivian Looper receives the Women's Society's Robe of Achievement.*



*Historical Society president Janet Thorngate was pleased to honor Historian Emeritus Don Sanford with the Gold-headed Cane award.*



*Andrew Camenga (left) hands Pastor Herlitz Condison the Scripture Memory bowl. The Toronto, Ontario, church had the most program participants.*



*Jim Goodrich of North Loup, Neb., was named Sabbath School Teacher of the Year.*