



The Sabbath RECORDER

January 2006

News for and about Seventh Day Baptists



**“Go ye into all
the world...”**

2006 Missions Emphasis



Who are Seventh Day Baptists?

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

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

The seventh day

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

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

Moving Soon?

Please help us save money by alerting us to your address changes.

The Sabbath Recorder
PO Box 1678
Janesville WI 53547

or: editor@seventhdaybaptist.org

“Service Classifieds”

An idea of an “organized exchange of information” is now in place. Individuals wanting to serve in an outreach or church context, and churches desiring human resources, may now be connected.

Individuals (of all age groups) can send information to Mr. David Davis concerning their desire for service. This may include short-term or long-term missions, service projects, or relocation. A form will ask for detailed information about your gifts and time availability.

Churches can also submit their needs for workers.

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

Phone (425) 226-0102, or e-mail dave@davisplano.com.

SCSC

Summer Christian Service Corps

SCSC

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SCSC

SCSC



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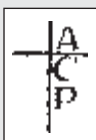


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Accusations, starvation— but they keep working for God

Leadership changes hands, challenges remain in Zambia

by Kirk Looper

Over the past couple of years, the mantle of leadership in the Zambian SDB Conference has moved from Rev. Edwin Mukumbo to one of the younger men, Quistin Chalwe.

Rev. Mukumbo has retired to his farm in the Solwezi area. He is partially supported by donations from the U.S., but he lives on a bare minimum budget. After losing his wife to a heart attack in June 2004, he settled on the farm but returned to the Zambian Conference office periodically. Finally, in 2005, the General Secretary office was turned over to Mr. Chalwe.

Much thanks to Rev. Mukumbo

We appreciate all of Rev. Mukumbo's work and especially his sacrifices. This includes imprisonment; humiliating false accusations of fraud and misuse of funds; and continuous attacks from other groups trying to stop the Conference's development.

It was during this episode of false accusations that Mrs. Mukumbo was verbally attacked and her heart problems began.

We are pleased to know Rev. Mukumbo has been given time to enjoy the ministries where he can be most influential, and still retain some comfort and pleasures. Praise God for him!

Conference Center getting close

Zambia has been working on a Conference Center in Kitwe (Buchi) for many years, and now the end is in sight. They still need to complete the fence and restrooms.

They are looking forward to setting into action the full spectrum of activities planned for the Center. A lot of sacrificial giving of time and money has gone into the project, and everyone is anxious for it to be completed.

Hunger hits hard

General Secretary Chalwe reports on praises and the many continued needs in Zambia. Hunger is still widespread, especially in rural areas of the country where most of the church members are based.

He recently received a message from the northwestern and Ndola districts where many members have been critically hit by the lack of food. It's quite a concern for the people. Most are being saved (physically as well as spiritually) by the churches they attend.

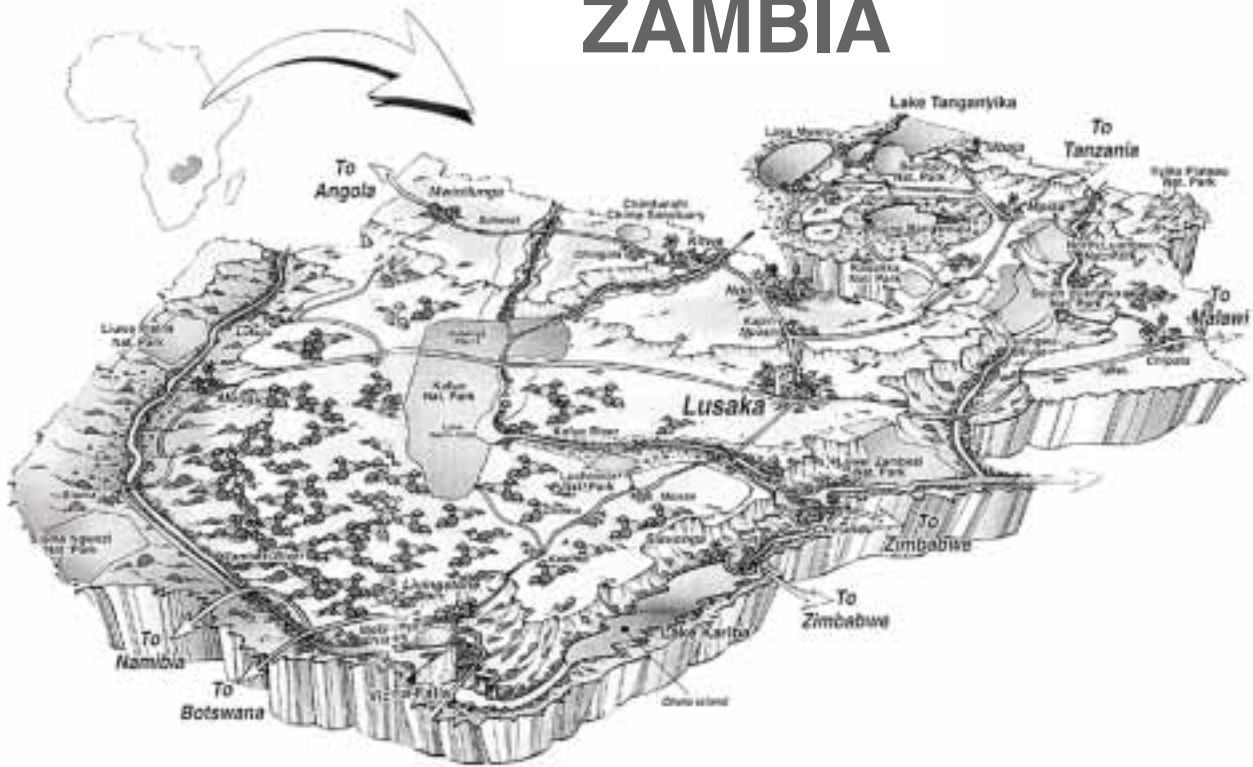
Mr. Chalwe has a national newspaper in which the President of Zambia declared that the hunger situation is a national disaster. Therefore, our brethren there are appealing to SDB members and friends in America to "help us feed the growing number of members in the SDB churches in Zambia during these trying moments."

A lot of sacrificial giving of time and money has gone into the Center project, and everyone is anxious for it to be completed.



The Conference Center in Zambia is nearing completion.

ZAMBIA



Even when they lose churches or members because of undeserved trouble, they are eager to regain what they have lost and continue to grow.

Need for roofs and wheels

Presently, they have four SDB churches without roofing sheets: in Kanchembwe, Kitikwe, Mwibale, and Mopopo. This is an urgent need because the rainy season has already begun in Zambia. Thirty iron sheets—at about \$17 each—are needed for each of these churches.

They continue to remind us that many of their Conference leaders need transportation. The distances stretch from the area around Ndola and then west to a region beyond Solwezi. When they have a

meeting, they are forced to either walk, take public transportation, or a taxi. These modes are either expensive or time consuming.

For over a year now, Zambia has experienced growth in converts, church membership, and church planting. The training that Pastor Rod Henry conducted has motivated many Zambian leaders to organize their churches. Now it is vital that these churches are monitored and visited to ensure their development.

The church desperately needs a light truck. Any donations to this project would be greatly appreciated.

The work goes on—the work is God's

We can feel grateful for the work that has been done—and is being done—in Zambia. They have taken the concepts of church organization and development to the next level. Even when they lose churches or members because of undeserved trouble, they are eager to regain what they have lost and continue to grow. Many of our Conferences could take a lesson from them!

It takes much hard work and endless hours to accomplish things for the Lord. We need to remember that we—and our Zambian brothers and sisters—are working for God, and that He wants *everyone* to enter His Kingdom. **SR**

Join us at the Rez Connection!

Short-term Missions Project Guidelines

by Kirk Looper, SDB Missionary Society

After having a fantastic time last year at the Rez Connection—a Seventh Day Baptist mission to Native Americans in South Dakota—we extend a warm welcome to those wishing to volunteer there in 2006.

The compound is located on Highway 18 at Batesland, about six miles from the Nebraska border. It's also about 29 miles from Pine Ridge, S.D., and 125 miles from Rapid City. Federal and county highways connect the compound with these cities.



A faith-based ministry

This is a faith-based ministry and, as such, relies on God—through you—to meet all of its needs. The goal of the ministry is to bring the Gospel to those living on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

Through loving them, praying for them, and discipling them into Christian maturity, the Rez Connection

hopes to restore Native American lives, and change families and neighborhoods. They envision leaders, teachers, and pastors being raised up from the reservation and then, in turn, ministering to another generation.

The area's topography is relatively flat, with the plains dissected by gul-

lies caused by erosion.

The compound itself is on a flat piece of land but is near some rises. It has been fenced in to protect the property and its residents.

The Rez Connection buses and trucks are kept within the fencing, which also surrounds the living quarters of the Chet Marks family. Other structures used in the ministry are nearby.

The Marks family

The Marks family consists of husband Chet, wife Barbara, and children (in birth order) Sabina Anne, Josiah Christian, Micah James, Susanne Michal, Hanna Marie, Tobijah, and Joanna Rachael. They were born about one year apart, with the oldest born in 1997 and Joanna born in June of 2005.

They are a close-knit family, working together in various ministries. They share in the tasks appropriate to age level and work well together.

Chet and Barbara's expectations are evident in the work done by the children, as well as in their interac-



Chet and Barbara Marks—with their seven children—are the driving force behind the Rez Connection, a ministry to Native Americans near Pine Ridge, South Dakota.



Children sing songs with hand motions in a mobile home at the Rez Connection complex.

tions with their offspring. These expectations extend to the children attending their home school and other activities.

Focus on children

The main thrust of Rez Connection's ministry is children. The organization has a bus ministry that includes driving to reservation villages, parking on the streets, and inviting youngsters into the buses for two hours of Bible stories, Christian education classes, and refreshments.

They have regular attendees who meet with them every week.

On Sunday afternoons, the children are picked up and brought to their property to meet in the church. There, the children participate in games, listen to object lessons, memorize Bible verses, and hear a lesson. After about two hours, they are returned to their homes.

Outreach to White Clay

Another Rez Connection work is ministering to people in White Clay, Neb. Since alcoholic beverages aren't sold on the reservation, Native Americans travel to White Clay, where several taverns are located. (The town is about five miles south of Pine Ridge, bordering Nebraska.) It's believed that

other drugs can be purchased there as well.

On Saturday evening, many leave the reservation and travel to White Clay, where they party most of the night.

On Sunday morning, Chet and his family climb into a truck and drive to White Clay to minister to those on the street. They drive to a central point in town, lower the

side of their truck to form a stage, and preach to those who will listen.

Real ministry

After the message, they hand out bag lunches of sandwiches, chips, and some type of breakfast bar. Lemonade is also served.

During this time, Chet and Barbara fellowship with those who had been listening and offer counseling where needed. Many have been led from the pit of

despair through this ministry. Praise the Lord!

Church is held at 11:00 a.m. each Sabbath. Presently, about 10 people regularly attend. They have music, preaching, and fellowship. Some even stay for lunch, continuing the discussion and fellowship. Buses are used to pick up and return attendees—most of whom are teens—to Pine Ridge and Porcupine, S.D.

Volunteer programs

Volunteer programs at the Rez Connection consist of two types: Intern and Support. Each has a specific time expectation.

The Internship Program trains others to effectively minister through the Sanctuary Bus Ministry, specializing in evangelism, outreach projects, and visitation.

The Support Program focuses on supporting the work that is being done by the Marks family throughout the year.

Internship Program—

The idea behind the Internship

***The children participate
in games, listen to object lessons,
memorize Bible verses, and hear a lesson.
After about two hours, they are
returned to their homes.***

Program is to train people to use the same techniques to provide ministry to other Native American reservations. This will be an in-depth study of what Chet has done, and how to organize and develop a program to be taken to another area.

Chet hopes that this will be an ongoing program, and that those who wish to participate in the internship will be available for driving buses and trucks. A CDL license is required to drive the vehicles. They would be

***It is recommended
that a volunteer stay
on the compound at least
three weeks to get the best
experience and to learn the
minimum skills to work there.***



The 2005 Rez Connection short-term mission team (l. to r.): Courtney Uhland, Jean Ritchie, and Bethany Chroniger, all from Shiloh, N.J.

expected to lead worship at church as well as on the buses, and coordinate the various bus ministries.

Support Program—

The Support Program is open to any individual, regardless of age, who wants to work with Native Americans. This is similar to working on missions outside the U.S.

These volunteers would be expected to help with jobs related to presenting lessons. This could include drawing charts, placing memory verses on poster board, giving object lessons, teaching Bible lessons, and giving testimonies.

Other jobs that could be included in their responsibilities are yard work and maintenance, construction and repair, animal care, and—if qualified—mechanical work.

If you are able to function on a team and work under authority, you are welcome to apply. If you are under the age of 18, you will need an adult supervisor. It's recommended that a few older adults accompany every group so they can assist in counseling and oversee the work of volunteers.

Please let the Missionary Society know if you are interested in becoming involved in a project. They might be able to connect you with a group that is already scheduled to work.

Time and length of project

When does a project begin? That's a good question, since this isn't like other volunteer programs offered by the Conference.

The "beginning time" will vary, depending on the group or individuals involved. However, since the first few weeks are set aside for training, it would be best to coordinate a time that would benefit the most.

The minimum time for a project is two weeks, but a project may run for several months, depending upon what the group or individuals decide.

Pastor Chet requests that no projects start before June 1. Groups could be brought in every three or four weeks. He does the training, which is an ongoing process.

It is recommended that a volunteer stay on the compound at least three weeks to get the best experience and to learn the minimum skills to work there. A person volunteering for two weeks will have some good training, but won't be able to achieve the *maximum* skills and experiences.

Facilities

Sleeping and eating facilities will be in the building used for classes and some worship services. If the number of volunteers surpasses the available beds in the building, tents will be set up. Some tents and sleep-

ing bags will be available. There are restrooms available but don't expect luxury accommodations.

Cost

Expenses for the Rez Connection experience will vary, depending upon where you live. You will have to raise funds to pay for travel expenses to and from the compound, and you are responsible for your own travel to the project and back.

We recommend that groups travel together to cut down on the number of vehicles parked at the site.

Also, group fares are generally less expensive. For those flying, it will be more economical for us to pick up a group at the airport, rather than staggering arrival dates and/or times.

Because of the expense of feeding and housing volunteers, a base cost of \$200 is charged each participant, plus \$100 for each week. This means that the minimum charge is \$400 for two weeks.

For information about this South Dakota mission—or how to raise funds and what to expect in fund raising—please contact the SDB Missionary Society office at 119 Main St., Westerly, RI 02891.

Your application must be completed and sent to the Missionary Society before taking part in a project. **SR**

Evangelistic outreach in the Great Northwest

by Ron Elston

Evangelistic outreach meetings were held in the Pacific Northwest in mid-September of 2005. This outreach was a combined effort of the Ahtanum Community Church of Yakima, Wash., and His Word New Life Fellowship Seventh Day Baptist Church of Grandview, Wash.

Door-to-door ministry as well as various media advertisements preceded the outreach meetings. Local congregation members presented special music, and Pastors Tom Bales and

Stan Fox shared the worship leading.

The meetings were well attended, with support coming from several "missions" located throughout the community.

Pastor Ken Burdick of the Seattle Area SDB Church in Auburn, Wash., along with several members of his congregation attended as well. Others who attended and supported the outreach included Tom and Bonnie Mitchell from Centralia, Wash., and Mr. and Mrs. Marty Jackson and a guest from Kennewick, Wash.

A great time of revival and fellowship was enjoyed during the meetings, and lives were truly touched for the Lord. The visibility of Seventh Day Baptists and the work of the Kingdom were increased through the outreach.

Pastor Fox reported that the event brought many people closer to one another.

We praise the Lord for these dedicated churches, and we support people who do so much for the Kingdom. **SR**



Faces of revival: Local members and children provided music. Pastor Stan Fox (right).

Grandview sponsored by Seattle

by Ron Elston

His Word New Life Fellowship of Grandview, Wash., is now an officially sponsored branch of the Seattle Area SDB Church in Auburn, Wash.

The group has been meeting in Pastor Tom Bales' home for over a year. They have just started renting the local Grange Hall for their meetings. This provides ample space for Bible study, worship, and children's activities.



Pastor Tom and Barbara Bales.

This facility has good visibility and parking, and also has a playground for the children.

Pastor Bales has years of ministry experience, serving several churches

in Washington State and working as an overseas missionary.

Brother Tom continues to reach out into surrounding communities with the Gospel. He recently started a Bible study in the nearby community of Sunnyside.

We are blessed to welcome Pastor Tom and Barbara Bales to the Seventh Day Baptist family, and we look forward to hearing more about this exciting new work in the Pacific Northwest. **SR**

Utilizing our gifts for the Lord

by Ron Elston



Tom Stuart sets a truss in place for the new Bonanza Creek church building.

Conference President Robert Van Horn's theme is from Luke 4:18, "Making Christ's Mission Our Mission."

What was that mission? Building the Kingdom of God. Utilizing

our gifts for the Lord is so important as we work to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with a lost world.

Building churches for the Kingdom is an awesome responsibility and a lot of work. We should recog-

Building churches for the Kingdom is an awesome responsibility and a lot of work.

nize those who work behind the scenes to further God's Kingdom. Thomas R. Stuart is such a servant, utilizing his gifts for the Lord.

Brother Stuart was instrumental in the design and construction of the Faith Activities Center in Doniphan, Mo. He chaired the Building Committee and did much of the interior work himself.

He is currently assisting with the design and construction of the new Bonanza Creek Seventh Day Baptist Fellowship located in southeast Missouri. Tom and his daughter, Toma Lee, live near the Bonanza Creek facility.

Brother Stuart also serves Bonanza Creek as a trustee.

We are blessed to have the Stuarts as members and part of the Seventh Day Baptist family. **SR**



Tom and Toma Lee Stuart of Bonanza Creek.

New ministry with old-time values

by Ron Elston



Bonanza Creek under construction.

An exciting new church plant has developed in Fairdealing, Mo., serving northeast Arkansas and southeast Missouri with a strong Seventh Day Baptist witness. The group has taken the name, "Bonanza Creek Seventh Day Baptist Fellowship."

The Texarkana, Ark., SDB Church is sponsoring this group as an official branch church. The Southwestern Association of SDBs meeting in Houston, Tex., also selected the new group as an outreach project.

With a wealth of experience and leadership, the core group currently has 20 resident/nonresident members.

The group has been meeting in a rented building while their own church facility is being constructed. The new building will feature a rustic look inside and out.

Bonanza Creek's theme and vision is the "old country church," getting back to the basics.

Located in a beautiful forest setting, the new facility will reach out into the two-state area with the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. There will be a strong emphasis on "A Baptist Church With a Difference," meaning the Sabbath.

Rev. Ron Elston Sr. and his daughter, Brittany, serve as Youth Ministers for Bonanza Creek. As National Extension Minister, Pastor Elston reports that the communities

to be served by Bonanza Creek are excited about this new ministry with old-time values. **SR**

New training in New Auburn

An Outreach Missions Training Center is being developed in New Auburn, Wis., as a mission of the New Auburn SDB Church and the Missionary Society. John 13:15 says, "I have set you an example, that you should do as I have done for you."

The new program is called POIEO (poy-eh'o) meaning "to Prepare," "to Do," "to Produce."

Their mission: Equipping Kingdom Builders through the instruction and the in-filling of God, producing the over-flowing of His Spirit into the world.

The goals of POIEO

- To develop personal relationships with Jesus Christ.
- Awaken the vision and passion within for the Kingdom of God.
- Ignite a unity within the Body of Christ, our denomination, and individual churches.
- Develop and implement projects and short-term missions that become contagious.

High school graduates of at least 18 years of age are welcome and encouraged to become Kingdom Builders. The school will provide hands-on application of instruction by having the students work in the local church, extended community, and in a designated national or international outreach.

For an application form or information, contact the Director of POIEO, Pastor Wayne North, at (715) 237-2778, or the New Auburn SDB Church at (715) 237-2616. **SR**

Pierson pastor at Bonanza Creek

by Ron Elston

During the June Southwest Association meetings in Houston, Tex., Ronald J. Pierson was called to pastor the Bonanza Creek Seventh Day Baptist Fellowship in Fairdealing, Mo.

Pastor and Mrs. Pierson had been long-time members of the Boulder, Colo., SDB Church, and had worked in church planting in that state.

Following their move to Missouri, the Piersons joined the Faith Church in Doniphan, Mo., where Brother Pierson assisted Pastor Ron Elston for several years.

Pastor Pierson works in the construction business and has



Pastor Ron and Charlie Pierson.

helped with erecting the Bonanza Creek building. Mrs. Pierson works in Home Health.

The primary goal of the Bonanza Creek church is to exhibit a strong Seventh Day Baptist witness that is based on family values.

Exploring the Sabbath

by Linda Greene

Colossians 2:16-17

“Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ” (Col. 2: 16-17, NIV).



Here it is! The Sabbath has been a shadow of Christ and his work on the cross from the beginning of time, a celebration of the coming freedom from sin that would be purchased for us by the blood of Jesus.

All of the laws foreshadowed Christ, who fulfilled them

The Sabbath has been a shadow of Christ and his work on the cross from the beginning of time.

by doing what the law couldn't do—make us holy.

Paul makes it clear here that we are *not* to judge each other's Sabbathkeeping. Attempting to obey the Ten Commandments protects me from attack by the evil one and helps me to grow, but it does not make me holy

and cannot be a basis for judgment.

If I judge another's Sabbathkeeping, then *I'm* one of those people who Paul was warning the

it should be our focus in observing it.

Once in heaven, I believe every day will be Sabbath—one long Sabbath rest. As Hebrews 4:9 says,

Sabbath is an appetizer for heaven—a little taste of what awaits us at the Wedding Feast that we look forward to attending.

Colossians about in the Scripture. We have to be so careful about this!

My fallen nature is very threatened when someone does not agree with me about something that is important to me. I immediately want to prove them wrong so that I can prove myself right.

My Sabbathkeeping has to be a humble offering of love made on my face before God. I can't be looking around to see what everyone else is offering so I can somehow feel good about myself in comparison.

The appropriate attitude is, “Lord, no one—including me—can ever keep your Law in a way that is pleasing to you. I'm so grateful, Jesus, that you removed that burden from me at the cross. Please accept my imperfect offering as an expression of my love and gratitude.”

Hebrews 4:1-11

Here we see the Sabbath from the time of Creation pictured as a foreshadowing of eternal rest from our labor and striving when we reach heaven. This was God's purpose in instituting the Sabbath, and

“There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God.”

We first “taste” it when we choose to follow Jesus as Lord and Savior; when we rest from our work of trying to be good enough to earn acceptance and approval from God and others. Instead, we receive the free gift of unconditional love that Jesus purchased for us by his death.

That Sabbath rest is fulfilled in heaven, then, when we enter fully into God's presence to spend the remainder of eternity loving Him and worshipping the Lamb of God who was slain on our behalf.

That's the full-time activity of heaven, and it should be the primary way we spend our Sabbaths here on earth. Everything else is “icing on the cake.”

Sabbath is an appetizer for heaven—a little taste of what awaits us at the Wedding Feast that we look forward to attending. Someday, we will see God face-to-face, and we will be changed into His likeness. **SR**

Next month: Summing up this study.



Pray for our leaders

***Message from our Conference
President's wife, Lana Van Horn***

Listening to other pastors' wives during our luncheon at the 2003 Conference in Oregon, I became burdened with a revelation: Satan was creating havoc in the lives of God's children with physical illness and other troubles in an effort to keep us too weak to serve Christ.

I shared my concern with others, asking that we try to commit some time to prayer for all our pastors and families.

When I left that luncheon, I had a real conviction that I would be praying regularly for them. *These people are the leaders in our churches, I thought, and they, above all, need to be in good health when battling for the Lord.*

I remember sharing with my husband, Robert, that there was a great need for this kind of committed



Lana Van Horn

to remember my commitment. I could give you a lot of excuses, but the reality was that I simply drifted away from my prayer routine and never looked back.

A year passed, and I still didn't think about my former commitment—except when we got messages to pray for something specific.

***I could give you a lot of excuses,
but the reality was that I simply
drifted away from my prayer
routine and never
looked back.***

prayer. He agreed, and we started right away praying together for each of our pastors and their families.

A few weeks later, we were seeing improvements in our own lives regarding our health.

I had been having a lot of back pain and—praise the Lord—I was being delivered from it. Yes, prayer was going to be the answer to many of the problems facing other pastors' families as well. I had great expectations.

Soon, I headed back to school (I'm a teacher), and I let life get "too busy"

I would take a moment to pray and then "get back to my life."

Can you see a pattern here? How many of us agree to lift someone up in prayer and start out doing just that, but then we let it fall by the wayside?

I'm confessing my faults to you now, and asking our Heavenly Father—and you—to forgive me.

If you were at Conference at Hope College in Holland, Mich., last summer, you may have heard my husband share about some of the

trials we faced the preceding year.

It all started in December of 2004, with what was to be a two-hour routine surgical procedure. Five hours later, I was sent to the recovery room.

A few weeks passed, and I returned to work thinking I would be back to normal soon. However, while lying in bed, I started having spells where I passed out.

I went back to the hospital, this time for 12 days. I ended up with a pacemaker, and I'm not that old. (Yet!)

During *this* hospital stay, another problem became evident: a mass in my chest had to be removed by opening my rib cage. It was thought to be cancerous, so my doctor was greatly surprised when the lab reported it was benign. Praise the Lord!

All through these ordeals, Robert put me on the Pastors' Prayer Chain. (Thanks to all who faithfully prayed for me.)

I was recovering well when we received a phone call from a friend. He informed us that his young son had prayed for me the night before, as he had faithfully done for the past few months. Talk about "out of the mouths of babes"!

This child taught me a lesson that I hope to carry with me forever. He bore my burden and fulfilled the Law of Christ. (*See Galatians 6:2.*)

Isn't it ironic (God's lesson?) that the burden I let fall by the wayside was picked up by someone else who prayed for me?

I'm now trying to write down my prayers to recall them more easily. Will you join me in regular prayer for all of our Seventh Day Baptist pastors, their spouses, and their children? **SR**



A footnote to a biographical account of Elder William Satterlee in *The Seventh Day Baptist Memorial* of October 1852 states that he was once criticized by a fellow minister for his “dry logic.” Elder Satterlee replied, “Brother, if you take a piece of dry clay and impress your seal upon it, no legible character will be made. But moisten the clay with a little water, and a different result will follow.”¹

No mention is made of the nature of the criticism, but other accounts of William Satterlee indicate that he struggled with a speech impediment—stuttering.

One such account related that when some of his brethren encouraged him to “improve his gift,” Satterlee consented. He did it “not so much from considerations of duty, as his desire to satisfy his brethren

Moistening dry clay

pulpit accidentally hit his foot, when he turned around and in an inimitable droll and comical way stammered, ‘Do-do-don’t rap my boot.’”³

Following the death of the pastor of the Petersburg Seventh Day Baptist Church (now the Berlin, N.Y., church), the congregation turned to William Satterlee, who was then 39. The church sent a letter to General Conference requesting his ordination, but the request was denied.

The church then asked its “mother” church at Hopkinton, R.I., to send a delegation to assist in the local church ordination.

During Satterlee’s first years, 45 members were added to the church. By 1808, they listed 316 members, making it the second largest church in the denomination, only behind Hopkinton, which had 764 members.⁴

Pastor Satterlee’s first baptism of record was Hannah Lanphere, who is credited with bringing her husband, Richard Hull, into the Seventh Day Baptist ministry.

Rev. Hull was the first pastor of the Alfred, N.Y., SDB Church.



William Satterlee

1766 – 1862

“We don’t believe in the Christian religion which the ministers preach,” they declared, “and we wish to discuss the matter with you.”

Satterlee replied, “I am a peace man, and I don’t want any controversy with you. I am very sorry to hear that you reject religion, which so many good people accept and love. I always thought you were too sensible to do this.”

His main antagonist replied: “You dare not talk in defense of religion; you fear that you cannot sustain an argument against us.”

Rev. Satterlee accepted the challenge, but insisted that they have some regulations to guide them.

“Ah,” said the young man. “You mean you wish to introduce the Bible to prove your side. We do not believe in it, either.”

The aged minister answered, “I don’t wish to refer to the Bible in this discussion, but since you object to my using it, I am not willing that you should quote Thomas Paine.”

The question Satterlee proposed was, “You are a horse, now prove you ain’t.”

The challenge was accepted, and the young man anticipated an easy victory. “Why,” said he,

***He continually embellished his discourse,
offering pleasure to his hearers,
and at the same time fastening instruction
upon their minds in such a way that
they could never forget it.***

of the unfitness for the duty; but his stammering tongue seemed changed with the gift of the Spirit.”²

An incident in the biographical sketch of Eli Bailey records the incident when “Elder W. Satterlee (who was of stammering speech) was preaching, someone in the

All four of his sons—Nathan, Hamilton, Varnum, and Oliver Perry—became pastors. A daughter, Martha, also served in the ministry.

The Sabbath Recorder in January 1889 recorded an incident when some Berlin youth challenged Elder Satterlee to a debate.

“a horse walks on four legs, but I walk on two.”

“But I’ve seen horses stand and walk on only their hind ones,” was Satterlee’s response. “And when you were very small, I noticed you crawled round on your four limbs. A horse doesn’t reason, and I do. But that animal shows wonderful ingenuity in getting its food, and in keeping out of danger,” Satterlee said.

Seeing the ground giving way under his position, the leader blurted, “The Bible makes a difference between a horse and a man, and you know it!”

“That book has nothing to do with this controversy,” was the rejoinder.⁵

Not only was William Satterlee effective in ministering to the local parish, but he was also a leader in the denomination. He preached the opening sermon at the 1811 session of General Conference and served as its moderator in 1814, 1815, and 1817. He was also instrumental in the organization and accreditation of the Alfred church in 1813, and he visited many of the other churches in the area.

The 1821 Conference minutes reveals Satterlee’s tolerance regarding different opinions: “A question proposed by Brother William Satterlee, *viz.*, ‘Is it gospel wise to deal with and discipline a brother out of the church on account of his belonging to a Masonic Institution, provided his moral character in other respects is irreproachable?’ The question was answered in the negative.”⁶

In 1847, at age 81, Satterlee wrote, “My labors in the church are fast closing up. Old age and decrepitude, and failure of memory, unfit me to take the lead in the church.”

In a summary of his ministry, it was noted that he had baptized about 400 people, performed between 300 and 400 marriages, and preached around 400 funeral sermons.

Satterlee’s biographer, Eli S. Bailey, concluded that “his qualifications for administering to the bereaved and mourning were quite

remarkable. For when it is remembered that there were ministers of various denominations always at hand to attend to such calls—and that added to the natural disadvantage of an impediment of his speech, he must overcome the circumscribing tendency of being closely identified with a people so few in number—there can be no other explanation given to the fact that he was so frequently, and for so many years, called on to officiate on funeral occasions by the families of other denominations, than that there was something in his talents peculiarly suited to the exigencies of such cases, which was highly appreciated by the afflicted who knew him.

“Among the most prominent of the gifts thus inherited was the power of comparison, which with him frequently became complete or finished allegory. This joined with a strong social temperament, fine sensibilities, and a natural inclination to amuse, gave a sprightly air and liveliness both to his every day life and his social intercourse with persons generally, and continually embellished his discourse, offering pleasure to his

hearers, and at the same time fastening instruction upon their minds in such a way that they could never forget it. He was not naturally inclined to controversy, through from time to time he found it unavoidable in his circumstances. When he did engage in debate, his native reserve, tact, and ingenuity gave a great advantage over his opponent.”⁷

Twenty years after William Satterlee’s death in 1862, *The Sabbath Recorder* printed a poetic tribute (in box below) to this stuttering preacher who moistened dry logic with a loving spirit. **SR**

¹*Seventh Day Baptist Memorial*, Vol. 1, No. 4, p. 170, October 1852.

²*Ibid.*, p. 169.

³*Biographical Sketch*, Eli S. Bailey, (S. Bailey & Co., Toledo, OH 1871), p. 53.

⁴*Seventh Day Baptist Yearbook*, 1808.

⁵*Sabbath Recorder*, Vol. XLV, No. 4, January 24, 1889, p. 54.

⁶*SDB Yearbook*, 1821, p. 5.

⁷*Seventh Day Baptist Memorial*, January 1853, Vol. 2, No. 1, pp. 3-4.

⁸*Sabbath Recorder*, Vol. 46, No. 3, January 16, 1890, p. 41.

In Memoriam

Elder William Satterlee

A plainly dressed old man,
of stammering speech

But in the Gospel so
profoundly taught
And with such affluence
of sacred thought.

It was a charm always to
hear him preach.

I heard him once, a boy,
at Conference

In Hopkinton; and I re-
member well

The melting power with
which the message fell
From his rapt lips of fervid
eloquence.

As I recall him, from that
distant time

He seemed endued with
special light and power,
Transfigured by the
service of the hour.

His furrowed face aflame,
his words sublime;

Uneducated, yet a “polished
shaft,”

A prophet of the old rank
“file and draft.”

—A.G. Palmer⁸



CALLED in phases

From before the moment you felt the tugging of the Holy Spirit on your life, you were called. You were called to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Your testimony and baptism proclaim that nothing can now separate you from the love of God. God calls you to provoke your spiritual siblings to love and good deeds. God gives you special abilities to make sure that you can do just that.

Yet, you may not be sure how to use your abilities. Are you concerned about where you fit in the life of your church? Do you see yourself as someone God can use to lead others?

The **CALLED** program (Church Administered Lay-Leadership Education) provides a leadership opportunity for you. When you participate in this program, you learn and you change. With the assistance of a teacher in your church, each learning module in the program is designed to help you understand your role in the church and how you can provide helpful, effective leadership.

Training begins with an *Introduction to Seventh Day Baptist Church Life* that shows how being the people of God and the Body of Christ instructs the way Seventh Day Baptists organize. This module will help you understand our life together as a covenant people. Then, you learn about Biblical themes and historical trends that have shaped *Seventh Day Baptist Distinctives*.

Moving into the middle phase of your training focuses on *Practical Theology and Ministry*. Biblical doctrines that express the Christian faith

really do influence how you think and live. This set of lessons exposes you to the power God allows words to carry.

With that knowledge, the crucial importance of handling the Word of Truth correctly becomes clear. You will have the opportunity to learn the art and science of *Biblical Interpretation*.

The final phase of the training takes all that comes before and moves it into the realm where

more effectively in their local church.

If you would like to learn more about the program from someone who is using it, I'm sure the pastors of the Berlin, N.Y., and Battle Creek, Mich., churches would be glad to tell you about their experience. Both are using the program as part of their leadership training.

Interested? To participate in the CALLED program, there are several requirements:

***These lesson modules
are not for the faint of heart.
Each consists of a self-paced course
that includes six weeks of lessons.***

you have an intentional impact on the lives of other people. You learn how to lead others in *Small Group Bible Study*. The lessons you have learned then lead naturally into the last module which explores your *Teaching in the Church*.

These lesson modules are not for the faint of heart. Each consists of a self-paced course that includes six weeks of lessons. Each week has five one-hour lessons that include daily learning goals, and writing and/or reading assignments.

In order to best benefit from this program, you will need to spend at least 30 hours per module. But this time is time well spent. People who have completed the training appreciate what they have learned and function

- You need to be a member of a Seventh Day Baptist Church.
- You need to be at least 19 years old.
- You need a teacher in your local church. (Usually, this is the pastor, but it can be another member of the church.)
- Your church must agree to pay for the program. You can work out arrangements with your church to cover the cost, but we will bill the local church.
- You will need to complete and turn in an enrollment form. Forms are available on-line at EducatingChristians.org, or you can request one from the Board of Christian Ed. office, PO Box 115, Alfred Station, NY 14803, or phone (607) 587-8527. **SR**



FOCUS

on Missions

Meeting challenges in Indonesia

by Kirk Looper

Over the past five years, we have seen much progress in the SDB ministries in Indonesia. It is exciting to see that the leaders there are able to continue meeting on a weekly basis, even though they have changed the location of their meeting house several times.

It is through the grace of God that they have not been mortally wounded or become discouraged to the point that they have discontinued meeting. We praise God for their dedication and commitment!

They continue to support groups on many of the other islands. Most of the funds for this aid come from church members who have reliable jobs. Many are giving much of what they earn to keep the denomination and their neighbors afloat. They have responded to many crises around the islands.

The 2004 tsunami greatly affected one of the islands (Nias) where they minister. Denomination mem-

The 2004 tsunami greatly affected one of the islands (Nias) where they minister.

bers need to continually buy and deliver vital items to these islanders—food and milk, used clothing, medicines, and other necessities of life.

As SDBs travel to various islands with these supplies, other needy people approach them. This gives them the opportunity to explain the work of Seventh Day Baptists in Indonesia. We here at the Missionary Society office have managed to send them some funds to help counter the devastation caused by the tsunami.

One challenge that the churches in Indonesia face is the disturbance caused by those who stand against them. This is the main reason why Conference leaders have had to change the location so often.

During one meeting, a man got out of his seat and walked up front and assaulted the speaker. This is something they endure because they are “different” [Christians, and Sabbathkeepers] and yet believe strongly in what they preach.

Presently, they are meeting in the refurbished garage of Sister Nani Yohana, Conference secretary. The sanctuary/garage is attached to her home.

About 40 people continue to attend their meetings. Last July, they held a baptism for one of their members at Cibubur. So far, they have not had the trouble that they experienced at their previous building. **SR**



Members of the SDB church in Jakarta, Indonesia, pose in the park where they conducted a baptism in July.



Pastor Butje prays for the new believer before the baptism.



the BEACON

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

January 2006

“No pain, no gain.”

by Micayla Neher

“In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents” (Luke 15:10, NIV).

The start of the year is when people begin rewriting their New Year’s resolutions.

Some of the resolutions that people come up with are traditional: “I’m going to try to get good grades.” “I’m going to try to remember everyone’s birthday.”

People think that these things are pretty important, so they make sure they do them. But have you thought about what *God* thinks is important? What does He want to make sure we do?

God really likes it when we decide to repent of our sins. It’s said that the heavens rejoice more for one sinner who repents than for all the others who don’t need to.

I know that repenting isn’t the easiest thing to do, but it is one of our most important tasks.

I think that the hardest part of repenting is to bring up all of the things we regret. We don’t like to admit that we have made mistakes, but most of us would agree that we always feel better when we ask God for forgiveness.

Bringing up the past can be painful, but we won’t gain the blessings we seek *without* bringing up those painful memories.

God doesn’t hold things against us. Every time we ask Him to forgive us, He gives us a clean slate. He forgets all about what we have done if we just acknowledge our faults.

Another important point that we have to remember is that we don’t know when Jesus is coming again. If we aren’t ready and looking for him—

times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?” Jesus answered, ‘I tell you, not seven times, but seventy times seven.’”

God never stops forgiving us if we have a sincere heart, so what makes us think that *we* can stop forgiving others?

***Bringing up the past
can be painful, but we won’t gain
the blessings we seek without
bringing up those painful memories.***

if we don’t “wake up”—then we’re going to miss him. He will come like a thief, and we won’t know what hour he comes (see Revelation 3:3).

We not only have to ask forgiveness from God; we have to ask forgiveness from the people in our lives. And we have to forgive those who have wronged us as well.

Have you ever thought about how many times God has forgiven you and never held a grudge? How many times have you said that you forgave someone but didn’t really mean it? That’s holding a grudge.

Sometimes it gets really annoying and “old” to keep forgiving people. That’s when we need to recall Matthew 18:21-22—“...‘Lord, how many

I have a challenge for you this new year: If there is someone in your life who needs your forgiveness, forgive them with your whole heart. Think of all those times God has done that for you.

And if there is something in your life that you need to ask God’s forgiveness for, do it. Don’t wait. No one knows when Jesus will come back, so don’t put off confessing until it’s too late.

In the words of author and speaker Josh McDowell, “Forgiveness is the oil of relationships.”

Don’t let your relationships with God and the people around you get “squeaky.”

Until next time, God bless. **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*

Have we gone too far?

Another Christmas has come and gone. As I took down the dozens of glass and clear-plastic angel ornaments that trimmed my Christmas tree, I felt my blood pressure rising. As I boxed up my olive-wood crèche and its wide array of carved figures for another 11-month hibernation, I found myself trying to box up my anger as well.

Christmas is "the season to be jolly"—and peaceful, and hopeful, and Christ-centered. But this past Christmas, I felt mostly frustration.

Many of us are fed up with the over-commercialization of Christmas, and the hustle and bustle of crowded stores where we buy gifts we can't afford for people who don't really need or want them.

Family Christmas gatherings can be uncomfortable, especially when people who don't normally get along have to pretend that they like each other.

Some of us dread Christmas simply because it can be a very lonely time, spent far from loved ones or filled with memories of deceased friends and relatives. Often the holiday brims with unrealistic expectations that exacerbate feelings of loneliness and depression.

But the unChristlike anger and frustration that I felt in December was caused by something far more blatant: There seemed to be an even stronger effort to remove Christ from CHRISTmas than in past years.

While growing up in Milton, Wis., in the 1950s, I sat with fellow students on the wide stairways of the grade school every December. With the younger pupils sitting on the floor below us, we gleefully belted out songs like "Jingle Bells." But we also softly sang carols. "Silent Night" was my favorite.

Over the years, this country's efforts to do away with discrimination, to accept and foster diversity, and to



uphold the rights and privileges of minorities have been good and noble. In many areas, we need to be more sensitive, more understanding. But in our efforts to be a decent nation, we sometimes go "off the deep end."

Today, schools are busy rewriting the words to Christmas carols or banning them altogether. We now have "winter programs," and "holiday trees." Store clerks are cautioned not to say "Merry Christmas," lest they offend someone.

Politicians, judges, and others in authority claim that they respect all religions, and yet it sometimes seems that the only ones drowning in this tsunami of "political correctness" are Christians.

Many well-known journalists, commentators, and pundits claim that we Christians are paranoid; that we're swinging our swords at windmills. But twirling blades can decapitate individuals and a nation.

Someone once said, "What one generation tolerates, another accepts. And what another accepts, the next generation embraces."

Mere man—and man's laws—will never wipe Christianity from the face of the earth. But what about being driven underground, like the early Christians were? Could the subway systems in our major cities become the catacombs of tomorrow?

As bleak as this scenario seems, I'm reminded that faith feeds on adversity. Many Christians become stronger when their lives *aren't* easy.

Believers need to draw a line in the sand. And in the dirt, and in the snow. We need to stand up against "the powers that be" that are quietly and subtly—and sometimes loudly and openly—outlawing Christian practices, customs, and values. If we don't, we'll eventually have *nothing to stand up for*. We need to protect our beliefs before unbelief becomes the norm in this nation that was founded under God.

"That will never happen in America," you say.

Are you sure? **SR**



The President's Page
by Robert Van Horn

Intensify the “Light”

For us to be successful in *Making Christ's Mission our Mission*, the very first aspect we need to understand is just who Jesus is. I could write article after article on this and barely scratch the surface.

For now, let's look at the concept of Jesus being the light of the world, the light of our lives.

In John 8:12, we find Jesus speaking these words: “...*I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.*”

We take it for granted that the sun will come up tomorrow morning. And we don't think a thing about our homes being well-lighted, or about our car's headlights shining through the darkness. We have grown accustomed to all these things!

When Jesus shared these words, light was a precious commodity and not readily available.

My daughter recently purchased a house, and the bedrooms do not have a central light. She was saying how dark each room was. My wife and I suggested that she place a lamp in front of a mirror to help intensify the light.

I would like us to think about how to intensify the “Light” in our lives. Psalm 119:105 says, “*Thy word is a light unto my feet, and a lamp unto my path.*”

Very simply, this verse shows us the need to be immersed in God's Word. His teachings are the “light”

or guidance system that we must use to direct where, how, and when we proceed with everything.

When I was working in a hospital day care center, I would stop and ask myself, *What does God's Word say to me about how to react in the different situations I encounter?* This was a beginning for me to know how to apply Jesus the Christ to my world.

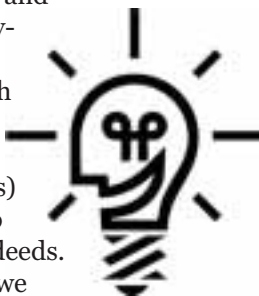
In Matthew 5:14-16, we find Jesus' teachings on light.

First, he shares that we are the light of the world. Then he goes on to say that we need to shine our light before men, so that they will see our good deeds and praise our Heavenly Father.

Did you catch the big step Jesus shared? Our light (Jesus) is to cause us to be doing good deeds. Why? Because we have also *become* the light! This makes perfect sense when we realize that “we no longer live, but Christ lives in us” (Galatians 2:20).

Now the question becomes, “What kind of light am I?”

I recently talked with someone who isn't an active believer and was in a situation where the church's people were an integral part of family life. This person said, “I am watching.”



We may be the only indication to others that they should be interested in our Lord. And the only way to be a “great light” is to know the Word, and then apply the Word.

But we shouldn't be surprised when others do not receive our light. “Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of the Light because their deeds were evil...” (John 3:19).

If you truly want to be in the light—and be blessed by God—take to heart the counsel of Psalm 1:2, “*His delight is in the law of the Lord, and on His law he meditates day and night.*”

Being involved in “Christ's Mission” means knowing Christ intimately. We sing a praise chorus called, “Here I Am to Worship.” Does our life really reflect these words?

“Light of the World, You stepped down into darkness, opened my eyes, let me see: Beauty that made this heart adore You, Hope of a life spent with You. So, Here I am to worship, Here I am to bow down, Here I am to say that ‘You're my God’; You're altogether lovely, Altogether worthy, Altogether wonderful to me.”

Romans 12:1 tells us that our spiritual act of worship is to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, *holy and pleasing* to God. May this be the true desire of our hearts. **SR**



A new year, a new budget, a new commitment

Since Conference 2005, I have been attempting to communicate with all of you about what is happening with your General Conference and what you can do to help and be involved.

“It’s not about you”

In the October *SR*, we brushed up on “I Cubed—It’s not About You,” and how we can Invite, Include, and Involve others in our church. We must learn to work together as we develop new ministry opportunities.

New programs bring about change, but change is inevitable. We must learn to be flexible with each other since new and different ways of worshipping can produce conflict with our traditions. History and traditions are important, but they shouldn’t get in the way of dynamic change!

The Great Commission

In November, we heard of Conference action to incorporate a new Mission Statement: “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).”

We also briefly added that our new Conference theme for 2005-2006 is “Making Christ’s Mission Our Mission.”

Our new Conference Mission Statement declares that we will help the local church in their endeavors to fulfill the Great Commission. The Conference will do this through encouragement, team unity, and equipping our churches with tools and training. As a Conference of churches, this is what we are striving to do.

Next Step: Tithing

In December, you learned that your *Next Step* was tithing.

***It surprises me that
while we preach about
individuals tithing,
the local church
itself does not
tithe.***

I spoke of a vision for Seventh Day Baptists that we all tithe, that we work together to make the Church work again for social and humanitarian causes.

My “ideal” church would also tithe by taking 10 percent of their annual budget and give it to other causes outside the local church emphasis. I challenged each of you personally that if you had not tithed, to take the



*by Executive Director
Rob Appel*

Next Step by committing to tithing for only a three-month period, thereby giving you the opportunity to witness firsthand the gift of tithing.

A challenge to your church

Most of our SDB churches get together in January for their annual meetings. During these times, yearly budgets are discussed and voted on. Most of the discussions revolve around what each church can do within its four walls. Very little—if any—discussion involves what the churches are planning to do outside their internal focus.

It surprises me that while we preach about individuals tithing, the local church itself does not tithe. It has even been brought to my attention that one church used the pat answer that individual non-tithers give: “If we tithe, we won’t have any money at the end of the month.”

As you go about your budget discussions this year, ask yourselves, “Can I feel good about what my church is doing if the only focus is on making sure we are financially healthy? Is the church all about us and our comfort, and not about them?”

Take the *Next Step*! Your church will be blessed, and those you minister to will be in a position to be witnessed to and saved.

No, it’s not all about us. Or is it? **SR**

Berlin, N.Y., church celebrates 225 years

by Paula Dibble

On October 1, 2005, the Berlin, N.Y., Seventh Day Baptist Church celebrated its 225th anniversary. The church was organized on September 24, 1780.

We invited former Berlin pastors to attend, and three responded. Two of them—Pastors C. Rex Burdick and Dale Hall—joined us in the worship service. The third, Pastor Ed Sutton, sent a letter reminiscing about the time he was with us. Our current pastor,



New SDB Historian Nick Kersten shared stories from the past and challenged the church with God's future plans.

Matthew Olson, read that letter to the congregation.

Area churches were also invited to share this special day with us, and we enjoyed the company of their representatives.

Following a fellowship meal, SDB Historian Nick Kersten joined us for an afternoon of remembrance, talking about our church's history from its beginning to the present. He shared stories of how our forefathers left their original churches in Rhode Island to found "daughter" churches. Interesting family and church tidbits made the "olden days" come alive for us.

The "old folks" among us had fun reliving old times, while the youngsters marveled at the changes in fashion and in us. (They laughed when they thought we weren't looking!)

Despite our proud past, Nick also spoke about what God wants us to do in the present, and what glorious future plans He has for us. The aim of the church remains the same: Missions, sharing God's Word, and His salvation plan for all.

Irene Greene supplied some photos and clippings of times past, which Damian Greene put in scrapbooks for easier viewing. Beverly Kilts prepared an interesting display of current events that took place the year our church was founded.

The "old folks" among us had fun reliving old times, while the youngsters marveled at the changes in fashion and in us. (They laughed when they thought we weren't looking!)

David Stall, Josh Michaels, and Craig Mosher closed this special day with an uplifting and energized concert.

As long as God wills it—or until our Lord returns—we will be here in Berlin, continuing His work in our peaceful little valley. As our town sweatshirt proclaims, we're still "Conveniently located in the middle of nowhere."

Stay in His love. **SR**



Pastor Matt Olson led the Berlin anniversary worship service (at the pulpit). A signer for the hearing-impaired stands at lower left.

Alabama parsonage provides home for Katrina evacuees

by John Bevis



Members of the Paint Rock, Ala., church (above) have opened their parsonage to a couple in need.

Hurricane Katrina impacted many lives in several coastal states last year. The congregation of the Paint Rock, Ala., Seventh Day Baptist Church wanted to help in some tangible way in addition to monetary support. We knew we couldn't help everyone, but felt we could help at least one family.

The Missionary Baptist Church and the SDB church of Paint Rock decided to combine resources for a joint project. We had a parsonage that we could share, and the Missionary Baptists voted to pay for the utilities. Both churches agreed to help in other ways as well.

In October, Larry and Janie Cherie moved into the parsonage. Their home in Gulfport, Miss., was located only one block from the beach and was totally destroyed, along with their vehicle and personal effects.

They somehow rode out the storm, even though 16 of their neighbors died. Janie shared their experience with our congregation:

"We left the night before the storm and went some five mile in-

land, thinking we would be safe. We couldn't sleep that night because we heard Katrina coming. At 6:30 the next morning, August 29, she made it to where we were.

"First, the wind and the rains came. The sound of winds blowing at 165 miles-per-hour was deafening and very frightening. Debris of all types came flying past us. Shingles, boards, people's personal effects, bricks, and trees were crashing down all around us.

"At the worst point of the storm, the van we were in was rocking back and forth so violently that we decided to run to a nearby building to take cover.

shoulder deep, but we had ridden out the storm.

"The next day, we made it to our house. We had to walk around fallen trees and climb over piles of debris up to 12 feet high. Our home was completely destroyed by the 30-foot surge of water. We also had to deal with many snakes, which was very frightening.

"Larry walked many miles to reach a telephone to call our son in Huntsville to come and get us. We made it to that city, and had to live in a motel for weeks.

"After we were here [in Paint Rock] for three weeks, we got a call that our dogs were alive, and Larry went to get them. We're not sure how they survived, but what a joy it was to be reunited with them!

"Both Larry and I would like each of you to know how grateful

***"How grateful
we are for all that this
church has done for us. We
have found a sense of belonging
and a peace of mind that we
haven't had in three months."***

"Just as we got to the building, a tree fell across it so we had to make our way back to the van. In the process, I was stuck by debris.

"Once in the van, we found the surges rising again. We had three feet of water in the van, so we decided to run to a nearby house. At this point, our two dogs were washed away by the storm. The water around the van was now

we are for all that this church has done for us. We have found a sense of belonging and a peace of mind that we haven't had in three months.

"God has a plan for us. Because of His intervention, we're both alive and thank Him for that every night. We know He will continue to lead us to a better way of life. We feel His power at work in our lives." **SR**

Denominational Dateline

January 2006

- 8-11 North American Baptist Fellowship Executive Meetings, Orlando, Fla.—Rob Appel
- 13-14 Ashtabula, Ohio—Ron Elston
- 14 Ordination Council for Val Bennett, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.—Gordon Lawton
- 21-22 Seventh Day Baptist Memorial Fund Quarterly Meeting in the Miami/Fort Lauderdale area of Florida—Calvin Babcock, Appel
- 22 Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society Board of Managers Meeting in Westerly, R.I.—Kirk Looper
- 28 Berlin, N.Y., Seventh Day Baptist Church—Kevin Butler
- 28-29 COM at the Seventh Day Baptist Center, Janesville, Wis.—Lawton

February

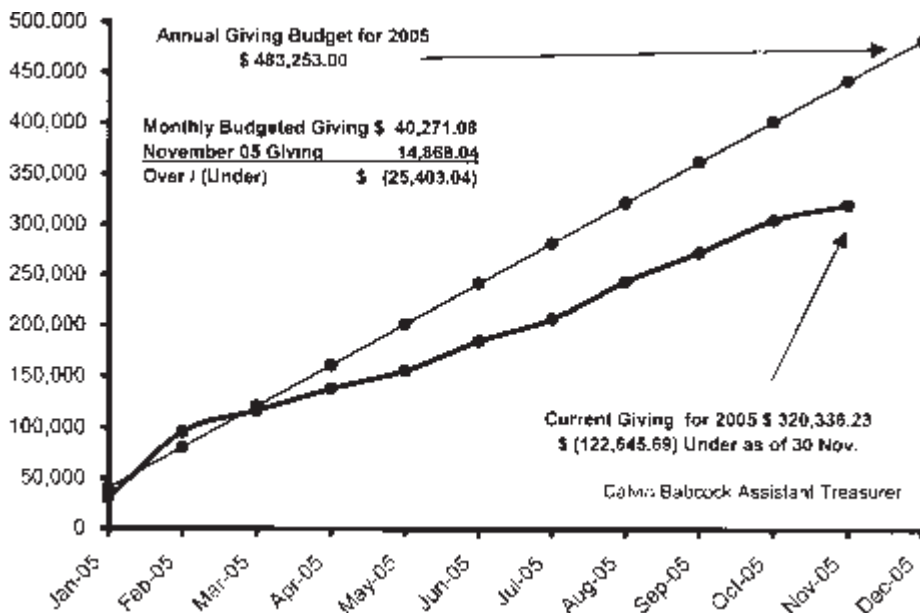
- 4 Russellville, Ark.—Elston
- 24 *Coordinating Leadership Team, Daytona Beach
- 25-27 General Council, Daytona Beach

March

- 6 Baptist Joint Committee Executive Committee, Washington, D.C.—Butler
- 25 North Loup, Neb., Seventh Day Baptist Church—Butler

* The Coordinating Leadership Team (CLT) is made up of the executives of the General Conference, Board of Christian Education, Center on Ministry, Historical Society, Missionary Society, Tract and Communication Council, and Women's Society.

Current Giving 2005



Budget shortfall

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As you can see from our chart, we are behind in denominational giving! If this trend continues, all of our Boards and Agencies will have to cut their ministry programs. However, our ministry opportunities continue to grow as we receive daily contacts from those seeking information about Seventh Day Baptists, and we continue to provide tracts, counsel, and Christian education materials that are making a difference in people's lives.

Please consider how YOU might help in this time of financial need.

Obituaries

Barber.—Eunice Jane (Maxson) Barber, 65, of Petersburg, N.Y., died on October 22, 2005, at St. Mary's Hospital in Troy, N.Y., in the presence of family and friends after a courageous battle with cancer.

She was born on June 7, 1940, in Hornell, N.Y., the elder daughter of Rev. Paul L. and Ruby C. (Harbert) Maxson. In July of 1940, the family moved to Berlin, N.Y., where her father became pastor of the Seventh Day Baptist Church. At age 12, Eunice became the church organist.

After graduating from high school in 1958, she enrolled in the Crane School of Music in Potsdam, N.Y. The following June, she married Denison D. "Denny" Barber. After her marriage, she transferred to Western Connecticut State College in Danbury, where she received a BA degree in Music in 1962.

That same year, the couple moved to North Stonington, Conn., where both became active in the Pawca-

tuck SDB Church. At various times, Eunice served as chairman of the Religious Education Committee, was a Sabbath School teacher and superintendent, headed up Vacation Bible School and its music program; and served as Youth Choir director. She also served other churches as a choir director and organist.

In her "spare time," Eunice gave piano lessons and worked on her Master's degree in Music (piano), receiving it in 1969 from the University of Connecticut. She taught part-time in elementary schools in Voluntown and Poquetanuck, Conn.

In 1978, the family relocated to Berlin, where she taught in the elementary schools through 1986. She also served as organist for the Schenectady SDB Church.

From 1986 to 1992, she assisted the Music Director of New Life [Christian] Academy in Schenectady.

Both she and Denny became involved in a marriage ministry that became known as Marriage Ministries International. The couple's involvement with MMI had them training missionaries and national leaders, and took them to the Middle East three times. At the 2003 General Conference near Portland, Ore., they presented a well-received workshop on marriage.

Eunice's passing extinguished a true "lighthouse" to her family, community, and the world.

Besides her husband of 46 years, survivors include one daughter, Myrna Barber of Cohoes, N.Y.; two sons, Michael of Petersburg and Paul of Lansingburgh, N.Y.; one sister, Maryann Palmer of Berlin; and 13 nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was held on October 26, 2005, at Christ Church in Schenectady, with Rev. James Hammerle officiating.

Stevens.—Marguerite G. Stevens, 83, of Athens, Mich., died on November 6, 2005, at Oak Lawn Hospital in Marshall, Mich.

She was born in Battle Creek, Mich., on May 23, 1922, the daughter of George and Ethel (Babcock) Stillman. She married Neil "Jack" Stevens in Battle Creek on September 2, 1955. He preceded her in death on July 26, 1988.

Marguerite was a lifelong member of the Battle Creek Seventh Day Baptist Church and a member of its Ladies Aid.

Survivors include one sister, Carol Fisher; two brothers, George "Sonny" and Richard Stillman; and one niece, Sharon Keck. In addition to her husband, two sisters, Charlotte Martin and Alice Byerley, predeceased her.

A memorial service to celebrate Marguerite's life was held on November 9, 2005, in the Battle Creek SDB Church, with Rev. Harold King officiating. Burial was in Floral Lawn Memorial Gardens.

Birth

Brode.—A son, William Philip Brode, was born to Brian and Rebecca (Young) Brode of Hopewell, PA, on July 20, 2005.

Marriage

Richards - Mitchell.—John Richards and Jennifer Mitchell were united in marriage on August 27, 2005, at the Community Church of God in Fort Lauderdale, FL. Pastors Andrew Samuels, Cormeth Lawrence, and Dalmon Murphy officiated.

SR Correspondents

Thank you for keeping us informed of your family news. If you need more of the two-part information forms, please let us know. You may also e-mail your updates to us at: editor@seventhdaybaptist.org



If you mail in obituaries cut or copied from the newspaper, please make sure that the death and service dates are listed, along with the location of the burial. Thank you.

Give to those who gave so much.

PASTORS:

Leroy C. Bass C. Rex Burdick David S. Clarke

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

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

Don A. Sanford Victor W. Skaggs

Edgar E. Wheeler

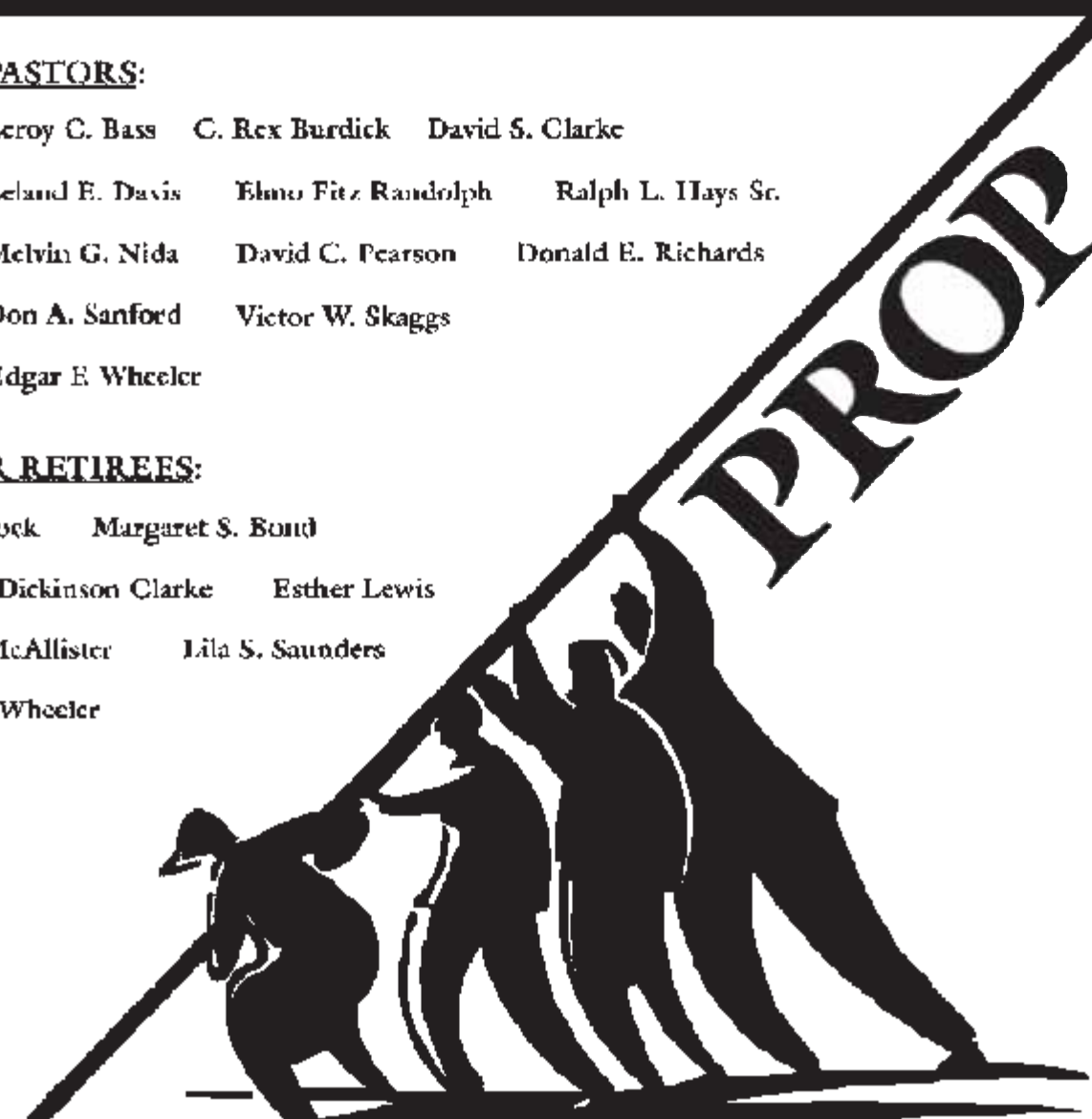
OTHER RETIREES:

Ida Babcock Margaret S. Bond

Ethel D. Dickinson Clarke Esther Lewis

Jean D. McAllister Lila S. Saunders

Ethel M. Wheeler



Pastors Retirement Offering Project

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

Please donate to PROP!

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

KEVIN'S

ORNER

It's not always what you know...

Wouldn't it be nice to know what's going to happen in this new year?

Or would it?

It would be nice to know how to project the budget figures and predict how the giving and investments will do.

It would be nice to know if those huge paper plants are really going to close in Canada, and what that might do to our printing costs.

It would be nice to know what my Tract Council "actors" will do for our Conference program in August(!).

Almost a prophet

Have you ever received a glimpse of the future?

I guess the closest that I ever felt to being a "prophet" was when I worked at a radio station. Every once in a while, the media would receive an advance copy of the President's upcoming speech.

When I saw the text coming across the old teletype machine, I was tempted to call my friends to comment on some hot topic: "You know, I'll bet you that the President is going to say..."

A friend on the inside

As I shared in our recent family Christmas letter, there's a perk to having Crystal working in a video store. The new releases come out on Tuesdays, but she gets to bring them home the previous weekend to preview. When Janet and I get to work on Monday, we're able to discuss the upcoming blockbuster film, and others say, "But that doesn't come out until tomorrow!" Then they pause. "Oh, yeah... Crystal."

It's not always what you know, but who you know.

That's like being part of the *SR's* Editor's Circle. After contributing a generous amount to support the ministry, members, in return, can choose to receive an e-mail posting that the latest (actually, next month's) *Recorder* is up on the website. They can get their SDB news weeks before the printed version gets to their mailbox.

It's not always what you know, but who you know.

Priorities change

So, would it be nice to know what's going to happen ahead of time?

I think that the Lord chooses to "keep the shutters closed" on the future, causing us to rely on Him in the present.

If we knew exactly what was going to happen "down the road," wouldn't we act and live differently? Wouldn't our priorities change?

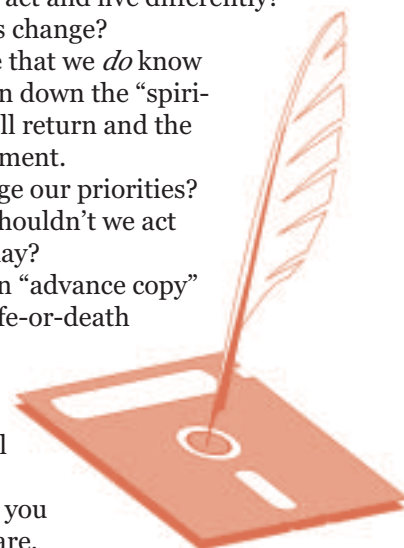
Well, it seems to me that we *do* know what is going to happen down the "spiritual" road: the Lord will return and the world will face its judgment.

Shouldn't that change our priorities? Knowing that future, shouldn't we act and live differently today?

The Bible gives us an "advance copy" of God's "speech" on life-or-death matters.

May His script for you read, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

It's not always what you know, but Whose you are.



SDB Grapevine—Do You Want to Know?

We have joked about the "SDB Grapevine" over the years. It was a tool to get news out quickly. Today, it may not be the most efficient way to communicate what is going on within your General Conference. You might get news, but not always the correct facts.

How would you like to receive "cutting edge" ministry news as it is developing? If you would like to receive a new monthly E-Newsletter from the Center offices, please send your e-mail to robappel@seventhdaybaptist.org. You will become an "insider" on SDB news happening today!

—Executive Director Rob Appel

Robe of Achievement

The SDB Women's Society is accepting nominations for the Robe of Achievement for 2006. Please consider a woman in your church who meets these criteria for nomination:



- Was/is active as a volunteer in some phase of denominational effort
- Has shown evidence of special service with her family and/or community
- Must be a committed Christian
- Must be an active member of a local Seventh Day Baptist church

You must submit a complete resumé that includes a life history detailing the nominee's achievements and activities.

Send all nominations to:

**Robe Nominations
Audrey Fuller
908 N. Colonial Cir.
Daytona Beach, FL 32117**

Phone: (386) 252-6560

Or apply on-line at
www.sdbwboard.org

Deadline: March 31, 2006

Missionary Society Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the members of the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society will be held at the Pawcatuck SDB Meeting House, 120 Main St., Westerly, R.I., on Sunday, March 19, 2006, at 2:00 p.m. for the following purposes:

To elect voting members, a Board of Managers, and officers to hold office until the next annual meeting and until their successors are elected.

To hear and act upon the reports of the Board of Managers and officers for the fiscal year January 1, 2005, to December 31, 2005.

To ratify the appointment of independent public accountants for the current fiscal year.

To consider and act upon such other matters as may properly come before said meeting or any adjournment thereof.

The Board of Managers has fixed the close of business on February 28, 2006, as the time at which members entitled to notice thereof and to vote at the meeting and any adjournment thereof shall be determined.

—Cindy L. Nadeau,
secretary