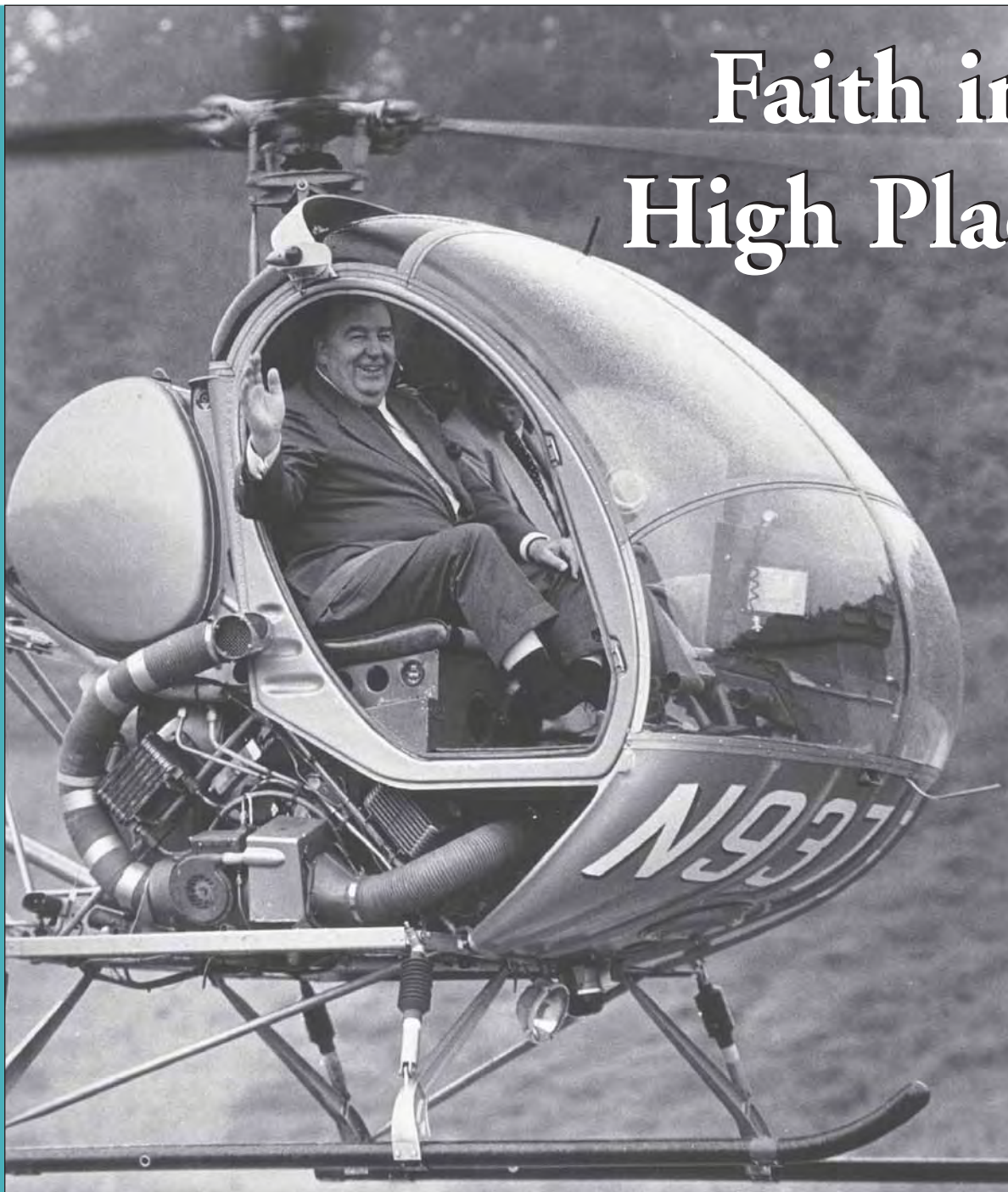


SR The Sabbath RECORDER

September 2006

News for and about Seventh Day Baptists

Faith in High Places



**The many contributions
of Sen. Jennings Randolph**



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



Conference coverage
begins on page 8

Annual Corporation Meeting Notice

Seventh Day Baptist 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 22, 2006, at 10:00 a.m.

The purpose of this meeting shall be to hear and act upon the 2005 Annual Report of the Board of

Directors, and to consider and act upon such matters that may properly come before said meeting.

Members of member churches of the SDB General Conference USA & Canada, Ltd., are members of the Corporation. Accredited delegates attending the 2006 General Conference sessions in Houghton, N.Y., are entitled to vote at this annual meeting.



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An ambassador in a foreign land:

The life contributions of Sen. Jennings Randolph

by Nicholas Kersten

Librarian-historian Nick Kersten spoke this spring at the annual gathering of the Baptist History and Heritage Society. With the overall topic—"The Contributions of Baptist Public Figures in America"—Nick chose to focus on Seventh Day Baptist Jennings Randolph, U.S. Congressman and Senator from West Virginia.

While his presentation contained a full biography, Nick wanted to share these special impressions with Recorder readers this month.

God still has a purpose for Seventh Day Baptists. That much is clear. There is no lesson more deeply ingrained on my consciousness after only one year of service to the Historical Society.

Larger, more powerful, more affluent, more numerous denominations have risen to prominence and died, but Seventh Day Baptists still carry out devoted service to our Lord. Every time I walk into the Center in Janesville [Wis.], the



Senator Jennings Randolph in his Washington, D.C., office.

exploring the life and contributions of Jennings Randolph, a Seventh Day Baptist from West Virginia. He served his community, his state, and

ever, after studying the information we have about him in our archives—and after the personal stories I have heard about him—it's easy to understand his contributions and the kind of man he was.

Jennings was a man with a deep, personal, saving faith in Jesus Christ who was willing to use his God-given talents and gifts to serve all people. He was also a man who wasn't afraid to let his personality come through as he lived his life. Even people with different political perspectives admired him for his integrity, gentleness, and sense of humor.

From researching the Senator's background, I have the overwhelming sense that there will never be another Jennings Randolph. While on this earth, he did what he felt God had called and gifted him to do.

Senator Randolph had a deep, personal, saving faith in Jesus Christ. Even people with different political perspectives admired him for his integrity, gentleness, and sense of humor.

lesson is affirmed again—God has a purpose for us.

I'm grateful for that lesson, and for the opportunities that have provided me the occasion to relearn it.

One such opportunity came this year, when I undertook a paper ex-

Seventh Day Baptists as a legislator in both the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate.

I don't remember Senator Jennings personally. He passed on to his reward in 1998, the same year I graduated from high school. How-

Jennings grew up in Salem, W.Va., and was baptized into that body of believers in 1914 by A.J.C. Bond. He attended Salem Academy and Salem College, and made an impact there

2nd Congressional District of West Virginia, becoming aware of the residents' conditions.

Though he wasn't elected in 1930, he ran again in 1932 and won. He

His proposal to empower the visually handicapped, allowing them to provide for themselves, was his first piece of legislation approved by Congress.

He also championed the cause of public works. This included proposals to encourage the fledgling commercial aviation industry, and facilitating interstate commerce by a set of national roads that we now call the Interstate system.

He championed the expansion of voting rights, including the 26th Amendment, which gave 18-year-olds the right to vote. It also gave the residents of the District of Columbia the right to govern themselves.

Jennings chaired the House Committee on the District of Columbia from 1939-1947, serving as the *de facto* mayor of the city and championing their cause of voting rights.

By all accounts, he worked hard for the people who elected him, and for the people his position mandated him to represent.

In 1946, after being voted the Congressman who did the most for his constituents, Jennings Randolph was not reelected.

Despite the disappointment he

During his first stint in Washington, Congressman Randolph's speeches on the floor of Congress routinely included quotes from the Bible and hymns he loved.

almost immediately, becoming a trustee of the college while still a student in 1923.

In 1922, when the school was suffering financial difficulties, the dean of the school, S.O. Bond, called Jennings and several of the other students into his office. He then asked them to pray for the future of the school. Later, Bond commented, "In the sight of God, the life of a college was saved that night."¹

Jennings became involved in political and public life early on. He helped his father run unsuccessfully for Congress in 1916, and started writing an update on happenings in Salem for the *Clarksburg Telegram* in 1922.

After finishing school at Salem, he continued to work in journalism until accepting a job working as the Athletic and Public Relations Director at Davis and Elkins College in Elkins, W.Va.

In this position, Jennings again used his public speaking and writing gifts—as well as his own love of sports—to his advantage. He helped raise the prominence of the school and increased its visibility on the regional and local level.

In 1930, Jennings Randolph ran for a seat in the United States House of Representatives. In the midst of the social crisis of the early years of the Great Depression, he toured the

ended up joining Congress just in time to participate in the famous "100 Days" that marked the beginning of the New Deal policies of Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

Looking at how Jennings voted and participated in those early years as a Congressman clearly shows that he took his responsibility seriously. He wanted to help the people of his district, so he routinely championed bills and causes that most directly benefited his constituents.

Congressman Randolph's contributions during his first stint in Washington, D.C., were infused with his faith. His speeches on the floor of Congress routinely included quotes from the Bible and hymns he loved. His faith was so vibrant that even in this country's corridors of power, His trust in Jesus was clearly evident.

Jennings participated in the routine prayer breakfasts for Congressmen, and was active in other Christian fellowships as well while in Washington. He was also a member of the Washington, D.C., Seventh Day Baptist church and continued to fellowship with them most Sabbaths.

Congressman Randolph also contributed visionary leadership to the Congress at a difficult time, understanding that the country could still thrive in the midst of hardship and economic strife, provided that the people stood together.



Wild, wonderful, "wet" Virginia. President Jimmy Carter holds the umbrella for U.S. Senator Jennings Randolph during the West Virginia State Forest Festival in 1978.

must have felt, the former Congressman didn't rest. He joined Capital Airlines and became the "Special Assistant to the President." He held that position until he was elected to the Senate in 1958. He represented



Father of the Interstate Highway System—As a young member of the U.S. House of Representatives, Jennings Randolph pioneered joint resolutions and legislative proposals in the 1930s and early 1940s considered important antecedents in constructing the modern super-highway network. Randolph received an award from Pat Moore (l.) and Charles Donaldson (r.) at a roadbuilders association meeting.

West Virginia in that body for more than 26 years.

For eleven years, Jennings crisscrossed the Ohio Valley, speaking on topics ranging from exercising the right to vote to the value of mass air transportation. He also continued to be active in the political life of West Virginia, regularly representing the state's Democratic caucus at that party's National Convention.

In many ways, Senator Randolph picked up where Congressman Randolph had left off—championing the causes of labor and public works, serving on the Senate committees that bear the same name, and ultimately chairing both committees.

Concerning labor issues, especially those surrounding the coal mining industry in his state, it appears that Sen. Randolph attempted to traverse a middle path. The proof of this can

be found in the occasional attacks he faced from both labor and corporations because of his policies.

Balancing the commitment to his constituents economically, socially, and environmentally was a formidable challenge. But Jennings did an admirable job. He even foresaw the energy issues that now face our country, and championed the cause of renewable energy resources to save our country from dependence on fossil fuels.

One of Senator Randolph's consuming passions, both as a junior Congressman and as a senior Senator, was the pursuit of peace. He was a lover of peace and believed that the United

States should pursue peace with the same vigor and preparation it utilized in fighting wars.

However, Sen. Randolph was not a pacifist. He understood that loving peace is not necessarily the same as shunning war—a prevalent but misconstrued idea that lives on today.

Congressman Randolph first suggested a Cabinet-level position of Secretary of Peace (to coincide with the Secretary of War) in 1945. Ultimately, it was not adopted.

Once elected to the Senate, he renewed his pursuit of this project. After many years of proposals, his passion became a reality in 1984, with the founding of the United States Institute of Peace. When he died in 1998, it ran his obituary on its website, including Jennings' opinion of the Institute:

"My most important unfinished project was completed [in 1984] when we established the United States Institute of Peace.... I am certain that our decision to establish [it]... will be regarded by those who come after us as one of the best investments in our future [that] our nation has ever made."¹

Jennings' passion for peace was almost certainly a direct response to his faith in Jesus Christ—the One who had finally made peace between God and men.

But his faith influenced more than his views on peace. He was also a powerful advocate for Seventh Day Baptists throughout his life. This included speaking out strongly and clearly about legislation passed during his time as a Senator, laws which would have made it possible for em-

Jennings was a lover of peace and believed that the U.S. should pursue peace with the same vigor and preparation it utilized in fighting wars.

ployers to discriminate against Sabbathkeepers.

Senator Randolph spoke out against the legislation while it was being debated in the Senate, and even after it was adopted and upheld by the Supreme Court. The legislation was later amended.

This was not the only time that Jennings stood up and represented the interests of Sabbathkeepers in the halls of Congress. The *Congressional Record* for Saturday, July 19, 1975, includes a rather contentious

discussion about one particular piece of legislation.

In the midst of the arguing, one of Sen. Randolph's colleagues suggested that the Senate ought not to meet on the Sabbath, referring to Sunday. Seizing the opportunity, Sen. Randolph rose and spoke, reminding everyone in that chamber about the Sabbath truth.

He focused on the Commandment from Exodus, but also offered an olive branch of peace to the two sides, entreating them to come to a consensus and stop bickering.

Jennings had decided that the issue at hand was an "oxen in the well" moment (Luke 14:5), and that he ought to be in the Senate on the day of rest. Because of that decision, he was able to proclaim the truth of the Sabbath to many powerful people, as well as being an agent for peace.

Listing the accomplishments of Jennings Randolph doesn't do him justice. We can look at some of his accomplishments and get a feel for the political or societal importance of the man, but such an evalua-

tion is cold, unfeeling, and—most importantly—insufficient.

Jennings was a man with a deep, personal, saving faith in Jesus Christ. That faith influenced everything he did, both as a Christian and as a legislator.

Throughout his long life (he died at 96), Jennings was an active participant in the SDB churches in Salem and Washington, D.C. At one point, he rallied Seventh Day Baptists to save the Washington church from extinction after a series of bad circumstances threatened its existence.³

He was an active participant in the Congressional Prayer Breakfasts, and a proponent of Seventh Day Baptist participation in groups like the Baptist Joint Committee.

The issues that he chose to focus on during his life reflected his own conviction of the truth of the Scriptures. The means by which he pursued them demonstrate that his own character and dignity remained intact throughout the process, no small feat given the corrupting tug of political power.

In one of his last years at General Conference (1983, Houghton, N.Y.), Jennings retold a story he heard from industrialist Henry J. Kaiser. It perfectly summarizes his own view of our responsibility in Christ. Kaiser said:

I sought to hear the voice of God and climbed the highest steeple,

But God declared, "Go down again... I dwell among the people."

That night at Houghton, Jennings reminded his "brothers and sisters" of their responsibility to go out into the world that God made and affect change as we represent Him.

The call to serve as Jennings served is a challenge to us all. We must remember that we are Christ's representatives and, as such, we need to embrace the positions in which He places us. We should serve wholeheartedly—whether we find ourselves in the supermarket, the mall, or even the hallowed halls of Congress.

The life and contributions of Jennings Randolph are strong reminders that it is both possible and commendable to be socially active and yet deeply responsive to God's calling.

Our Heavenly Father still has a plan for Seventh Day Baptists—that we go into the world as Christ's ambassadors (2 Cor. 5:20). My prayer is that we all fulfill our responsibilities as fully and faithfully as Sen. Randolph did, carrying out the plans that God has for us, day by day. **SR**

Several of the photographs in this article came from a website dedicated to preserving the life work of Senator Randolph. The Jennings Randolph Recognition Project can be found at www.agribusinesscouncil.org/randolph.htm.

¹*From the autobiography of Jennings Randolph by Rev. Robert B. Florian, from the archives of Salem International University.*

²*From the USIP website, <http://www.usip.org/peacewatch/1998/698.jrandol.html>.*

³*Report of the Washington Commission, Seventh Day Baptist Historical Society Archives.*



*(Above)
Jennings
Randolph's
homestead in
Salem, W. Va.*



*(1.) Autumn glory.
U.S. Senator Jennings
Randolph enjoys a
playful moment on
a warm October
afternoon.*

Conference highlights 2006



Delegates enjoyed a beautiful evening on Wednesday as they headed toward worship on the Houghton College campus.



Conference? A piece of cake! President Robert Van Horn and wife Lana shared lovely cakes made by Mary Jane Reid.

Making Christ's Mission Our Mission at Houghton College Houghton, N.Y., August 6-12, 2006

Statistics

- 658 registered guests
- 750+ at worship on Sabbath
- 339 delegates representing 63 churches
- 57 ministers/pastors present
- 5 fraternal delegates from other SDB Conferences
- 37 at Youth Pre-Con, directed by Christina Thorngate with 5 staff
- 35 at Young Adult, directed by Dale Thorngate with 4 staff

Elections

- President 2006-2007: Ruth Burdick
- President-elect: Andy Samuels

- General Council: Don Graffius (replaces Harold King, who has resigned), Jane Mackintosh, Andrew Samuels
- Council on Ministry: Kenneth Burdick, Steven James
- Faith and Order: Andrew Samuels, Janet Thorngate
- Committee on Support and Retirement: Clayton Pinder
- Tract and Communication Council: Joel Osborn, Dusty Mackintosh
- Memorial Fund Trustees: Erin Burdick, James Goodrich, Myron McPherson
- Christian Social Action: Matthew Berg, Elizabeth Green, Melvin Nida, Gus Tucker

Awards/Recognitions

- Women's Board Robe of Achievement: Ruth S. Rogers, Salem, W.Va.
- Sabbath School Teacher of the Year: Wesley Greene, Pataskala, Ohio
- Mary G. Clare Scripture Memorization Bowl: Toronto, Ontario church

* * *

Next year: One week earlier!

July 29 – August 4
George Fox University
Newberg, Oregon
"Tell the Truth—
the Whole Truth"

Fasting must be done 'unto God'

by Emily Kandel (*From the Conference Crier*)

The focus of Thursday morning's Bible Study was fasting, with Pastor Dale Rood from Dodge Center, Minn., leading our study.

He differentiated between not eating and fasting. After giving examples of fasting from the Old Testament—such as in times of anguish, when seeking guidance from God, and in times of mourning—he used them to determine the conditions of fasting.

The examples Pastor Dale gave all involved humbling oneself. Therefore, the conditions of fasting are:

- One must have a right heart before God.
- One must have concern for people.
- It must be done 'unto God.'

After reviewing examples of fasting in the Old Testament, Pastor Rood gave examples from the New Testament. Before beginning, he explained that he believes that teach-



Pastor Dale Rood led the Thursday Bible Study.

ings in the New Testament *build* on things established in the Old, rather than doing away with them.

Jesus' teaching on fasting is found in Matthew 6:16-18. Here, he added a new dimension to fasting by introducing "celebrative" fasting and disallowing "demonstrative" fasting.

The purpose of a fast is always the pursuit of God with one's whole heart, never just as a show for others.

Aside from these changes, Jesus kept all of the conditions of fasting found in the Old Testament.

Jesus seemed to assume that Christians would fast because, when asked about it, he used phrases like, "When you fast..." and not "If you fast..."

Pastor Dale gave a few more examples from the New Testament to further build the Biblical foundation for fasting. He then told how the body generally responds to fasting.

He also gave examples of things to fast from besides eating, including sleep and entertainment, or anything else that distracts us from fully following God. While fasting from food may not be physically possible for everyone, he noted that it is an important spiritual discipline to cultivate.

Pastor Rood closed the study with Psalm 37:4: "Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart." **SR**

Other Bible Study leaders



*Pastor Don Shackleford
Lost Creek, W.Va.*



*Pastor Dalmon Murphy
Miami, Fla.*



*Pastor Scott Hausrath
Montrose, Calif.*



*Pastor Shirley Morgan
Miami, Fla.*

Business Action from 2006

- The approved 2007 budget of \$1,042,587 calls for \$458,897 to come from current giving.

Adopted recommendations:

- That the Executive Director and the Christian Social Action Standing Committee continue to develop an emergency relief contingency plan to be used for disaster relief, including a list of approved aid agencies.

- To the Missionary Society: That the Manual of Procedures for plant groups and churches that want to join the denomination be sent directly to the sponsoring church pastor, to work with the church seeking membership in completing its application.

- That the General Council send a letter to each Association president/moderator urging them to make significant efforts to educate their respective Associations concerning the position of representative to the Conference Interest Committee on Nominations. This education should include the following:

- 1) Prayerfully selecting representatives who are aware of individuals within their Association qualified to serve.
- 2) Encouraging those Association members who desire to be involved at the denominational level to notify their Associational representatives.

- That a vote by churches be taken at General Conference 2007 on the question: "Shall the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference withdraw its membership from the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty?"

We further recommend that clear, concise materials setting forth the opposing positions on the question be sent to church clerks, moderators or presidents, and pastors by January 1, 2007, through the Executive Director. A church that does not expect to have delegates at General Conference may submit an absentee vote, as long as it is received at the General Conference Office by July 15, 2007. *SR*



It wasn't all business! The "SDBolympics" included a grueling match of rock-paper-scissors.



Also at the "Bolympics": Would you believe potato-peeling? Shirley Morgan had the longest peel.



Mae and George Bottoms (right) were honored for their combined 64 years of service to the Board of Christian Education.



While the adults went to evening worship, these children enjoyed outdoor activities.



"Intro to Deliverance" workshop was led by Becky Van Horn.



Conference Treasurer Morgan Shepard surprised his wife, Kate, with a special military spouse's medal. Morgan served six months in Iraq.



Yvonne Stephan shared a number of stories for the children's conference.



While the women were at their banquet, Karl Rudd (r.) served up some kangaroo meat from his native Australia.



Special music by Kristin Camenga.



This praise band (mostly from New Auburn, Wis.) led worship songs on Tuesday night.

History... in perspective

by Linda Harris
(From the Conference Crier)

SDB Librarian-Historian Nick Kersten presented this year's Historical Society report at Conference.

The Society was founded in 1916 and is celebrating its 90th anniversary. Its purpose is, in part, "to provide prospective for future planning," and to understand the past and remember.

Nick presented a remembrance of Senator Jennings Randolph, who served a combined total of more than 40 years as a United States congressman and senator. He was born in Salem, W.Va., in 1902 and baptized by A.J.C. Bond in 1914.

On July 19, 1975—a Sabbath day—the Senate met to deal with important matters. Senator Randolph had to decide whether the business at hand merited his attendance on the Sabbath, and he felt that it did.

When reference was made to Sunday as the Sabbath, Senator Randolph rose to the occasion and witnessed to his belief in the seventh-day Sabbath.

Nick Kersten said that we can learn three things from Senator Randolph's example:



Wayne Maxson, Nick Kersten, and Janet Thorngate received training on the automated cataloging system at the SDB Center.

- God calls people to serve Him in many different vocations.

- We don't have to be afraid to serve God, no matter where He calls us.

- We should trust in God to preserve us and place us in situations where we can speak His truth.


Nick spoke about the historical library's Automation Project, which is underway at the SDB Center in Janesville, Wis. The Cuadra Company is supplying the library software and remote storage. The Society also bought

a new microfilm scanner, which uses jpeg images.

The Historical Society is helping Brazilian SDBs write their own Conference's history, as well as translating *A Choosing People* and other SDB publications into Portuguese. The Society continues to provide reference assistance to institutions and individuals, with Historian Emeritus Don Sanford handling genealogical requests.

The Society has received copies of the Greenmanville SDB Church records held at Mystic Seaport in Connecticut. It is also in the process of reprinting *A Choosing People*, with the goal of having copies at next year's Conference, depending on the publisher's schedule.

Historical Society membership dues will be increased on January 1, 2007. Lifetime memberships will go from \$100 to \$150, and annual memberships will rise from \$10 to \$15. If you have ever considered becoming a lifetime member, now is the time!

Send your contributions to the SDB Historical Society, PO Box 1678, Janesville WI 53547. 



Nick Kersten (background) introduced the Historical Society's Board of Directors at Conference (l. to r.): Chris Mattison, Norma Rudert, Ruth Burdick, Janet Thorngate (president), and Paul Green.

2007 Historical Society Calendars Now Available!

Important dates and photos of SDB history, for only \$10 postpaid.

Send your address and payment (checks payable to the SDB Historical Society) to:

*SDB Historical Society
 PO Box 1678*

Janesville WI 53547-1678



Reflections from Jamaica

This past June, 13 women and three men teamed up on a medical mission trip to Montego Bay, Jamaica. I asked each of the women to answer this question: "What was most memorable or meaningful for you about this experience?"

Amanda Barbee:

I had several opportunities to present the Gospel, which was both exciting and scary to me. One involved a little girl. She was waiting for her mom to be seen, so she climbed up onto my lap, and I read a children's tract to her. I told her that Jesus loved her, and I encouraged her to learn more about Jesus.

She did not accept Christ then, but I believe that I planted a seed that will grow. One day, she will know Jesus as her Savior.

Andrea Davis:

I enjoyed seeing patients as a fourth-year medical student with my father, Dr. Paul Davis. He's my mentor, question-answerer, affirmer, and protector-of-patients-from-my-not-yet-MD-self.

It was wonderful being able to apply what I've learned the past three years along with the message of what an awesome God we serve.

Chris Davis:

Despite the heat and humidity (which the Jamaicans obviously were accustomed to), our team kept moving and ministering to nearly 600 people. I was blessed by the good attitude and steadfastness of our team. Clearly God gets the glory!!

God set the right Jamaicans in place to help with organizing and controlling the numbers, and

they displayed sincere hospitality and servant leadership.

Ziara Davis (9 years old):

Playing with Jenna Wethington and swimming in the sea by the falls was my favorite thing. I played with little children while their parents were treated by the doctors. They especially liked listening to my Kids Bop #9 music on my CD player.

Marilyn Discher:

Reminiscing with old friends and getting to know new ones as we wor-

*I was blessed by the
good attitude and steadfastness
of our team.
Clearly God gets
the glory!!*

shipped in the Jamaican churches and cared for medical needs; sharing the narrow, very bumpy and curvy road with people, goats, chickens, donkey carts, and cars while traveling to and from the mountaintop home of our gentle, soft-spoken hosts, the Clarks. These are a few favorite memories.

Heather Muchette:

As a native Jamaican who migrated to the U.S. some 35 years ago, this experience will remain with me always.

What a blessing to see the people's sparkling faces when they were fitted with a pair of reading glasses that would allow them to read their Bibles! We even saw some in use on Sabbath.

Jan Noel:

It felt especially good to me to be able to write down special diets for the diabetics who seemed eager to learn anything to help themselves. They can only get their blood sugar checked once per month at the doctor's office, so diet is really the only way they have to control it.

Erica Radcliffe-Henry:

The most meaningful part of my experience was the opportunity to minister to both the physical and spiritual needs of the patients. There were occasions where you just needed to pray with a patient and encourage them through the Scriptures.

Laura Sutton:

The only problem is where to start—the patience of the Jamaicans waiting in the heat for hours, the love shown by all of them, the healthcare needs, the excitement of the Jamaican churches about spreading the Gospel and the SDB message, the talent and responsibilities taken on by their youth, the excitement of worship.

Patti Wethington:

We stood in wonder when we saw how God had guided our planning so that we had just the right number of workers, supplies, and technology.

On Thursday, a young father shared with me that he had attended the SDB church in Montego Bay but had never committed his life to Christ.

The pressure of many waiting to register to see the doctors limited our time, so I quickly found Dr. Ron Davis and told him [about the young man]. As he was examined, Dr. Ron was able to share with him the plan of salvation and pray. **SR**

Scripture Memory

Theme: "Tell the Truth..."

The Scripture Memorization Program for the 2006-2007 Conference Year will focus on President Ruth Burdick's theme: "Tell the Truth... the WHOLE Truth."

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 2, 2007. These people will be honored at General Conference.

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

Month

Youth/Adult

- October** Show me your ways, O LORD, teach me your paths; guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long. (Psalm 25:4-5)
-
- November** I do not hide your righteousness in my heart; I speak of your faithfulness and salvation. I do not conceal your love and your truth from the great assembly. Do not withhold your mercy from me, O LORD; may your love and your truth always protect me. (Psalm 40:10-11)
-
- December** The LORD is righteous in all his ways and loving toward all he has made. The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. He fulfills the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cry and saves them. (Psalm 145:17-19)
-
- January** Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence whenever our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. (1 John 3:18-20)
-
- February** To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. (John 8:31-32)
-
- March** Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. (John 17:17)
-
- April** Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2:15)
-
- May** But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth. I do not write to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it and because no lie comes from the truth. (1 John 2:20-21)
-
- June** The one who comes from heaven is above all. He testifies to what he has seen and heard, but no one accepts his testimony. The man who has accepted it has certified that God is truthful. (John 2:31b-33)

Verses—2006-2007

the Whole Truth”

Junior

Show me your ways, O LORD, teach me your paths; guide me in your truth and teach me. (Psalm 25:4)

Do not withhold your mercy from me, O LORD; may your love and your truth always protect me. (Psalm 40:11)

The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. (Psalm 145:18)

Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. This then is how we know that we belong to the truth. (1 John 3:18-19a)

Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. (John 8:31-32)

Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. (John 17:17)

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed. (2 Timothy 2:15)

But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth. (1 John 2:20)

The man who has accepted it has certified that God is truthful. (John 3:33).

Primary

Show me your ways, O LORD, teach me your paths. (Psalm 25:4.)

O LORD, may your love and your truth always protect me. (Psalm 40:11).

The LORD is near to all who call on him. (Psalm 145:18)

Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. (1 John 3:18)

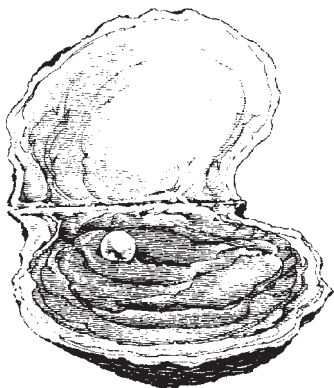
The truth will set you free. (John 8:32)

Your word is truth. (John 17:17)

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved. (2 Timothy 2:15)

But you have an anointing from the Holy One. (1 John 2:20).

The one who comes from heaven is above all. (John 3:31b)



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

Seventh Day Baptists' musical heritage

First-time visitors at General Conference are often amazed at both the quality and the quantity of music, ranging from children singing to the men's chorus; from the organ and piano to a variety of instrumental renditions; from congregational hymns (often in four-part harmony) to rousing chorus repetitions or various vocal solos.

There was a time when many Protestant churches were devoid of even the elementary sense of music in their worship.

When the Congregationalists and Baptists separated from the Church of England in the 17th century, they rejected the *Book of Common Prayer* and other pre-written materials (including hymns and poetry) in spite of their Biblical origins.

One Baptist writer in 1691 wrote, "Singing by a set stunted form is the invention of man, and being of the same quality as, if not worse than, common stilted set-form prayers or even infant sprinkling. It is artificial and therefore alien to free motion of the Spirit of God."

He also noted that "some cannot sing, not having tunable voices, and women ought anyhow to keep silent in the churches."

While researching Newport, R.I., where our first church in North America was established in 1671, I discovered a note concerning the dedication of a Methodist church there. The Bishop bitterly commented about its architecture: "A steeple... they'll be having a choir next!"

Even in the Baptist church of Newport, from which we separated, singing was not common until about

1764. Church minutes from that era read:

"A motion was made for introducing singing which was referred for consideration. We appointed three brethren to go to the brethren in general and see how their minds were concerning singing praise to God in church. The brethren reported that the brethren in general consented to allow liberty to those brethren that had a mind to sing... also agreeing that if any of the brethren found it burdensome for them to stay at time of singing that they have liberty to withdraw and go out."

For three and a half centuries, Seventh Day Baptists have been a singing people. As early as 1657, Thomas Tillam wrote a communion hymn in which he linked the Sabbath with the Lord's Supper. The Stennetts of our English churches contributed much to the hymnology of Baptists.

At an ecumenical gathering of Baptists in Green Lake, Wis., about a decade ago, I took copies of Joseph Stennett's Baptist hymn verses, published in 1732. I duplicated them, suggesting some common hymn tunes to which they could be sung.

One of my favorites contained verses in common meter (8.6.8.6) and could be sung to the tune of such hymns as "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" or "O God Our Help in Ages Past." The words were:

*Thus was the Great Redeemer
plunged;
In Jordan's swelling flood.
To shew he'd one day be baptiz'd
In tears, in sweat, and blood.*

*Thus was his sacred body laid
Beneath the yielding wave;
Thus was his sacred body rais'd
Out of the liquid grave.*

*When lo! from reams of light
and bliss*

*The heavenly dove comes down,
Lights on his venerable head
With rays of glory crown.*

*While his eternal father's voice,
An awful joy excites;
Thus is my well-beloved son,
In whom my soul delights.*

*The mystic rite his death described,
His burial did foreshow
The quick'ning of his sacred flesh,
His resurrection, too.*

*Lord, thy own Spirit of truth
and love,
His power on us display,
Approve our vows, and seal our
souls
To the redemption-day.*

Although I suggested that we sing the first three verses, they said, "Let's sing them all!" So we did, and I gave them the duplicated copies.

The Bible is filled with both songs and commands to sing. *Young's Concordance to the Bible* lists about 50 calls to sing in the Psalms. Most of the Psalms themselves were meant to be sung.

The SDB Historical Society archives contain the old Pulpit Bible from the Rock River (Wis.) Church. Appended in the back is a copy of each of the Psalms transposed into common meter (8.6.8.6). I have not attempted to sing all of them, but the potential is there, except for the final pages that contain Psalms 143-150.

Some of our church people are not gifted singers. Yet many of these, like my own father, have the poetic gift of understanding the words—and the expression of praise and thanksgiving—perhaps even better than those who concentrate more on the notes than the words. **SR**



Old dusty numbers and a bright new future

by Morgan Shepard

For years, the “Current Giving Chart” has presented a monthly snapshot of giving to the General Conference and its Board and Agencies. But is this the *whole* picture?

As I explored the catacombs of the SDB Historical Library, I discovered that a consolidated SDB General Conference budget has existed only since 1981! The first overall budget, called “Our World Mission,” was \$569,323. Budgeted giving for that year was estimated at \$342,163.

The General Conference budget for 2006 is \$1,144,010, and Giving is budgeted at \$539,869. In 25 years, the Conference budget has increased 101%, while actual Giving has gone up 30%

To give you a quick comparison, the cost of living from 1981 to 2006 has gone up 119%. So the 1981 bud-

get, in 2006 dollars, would be \$1,248,252. (Source: *AIER Cost-of-Living Calculator*—www.aier.org.)

The makeup of the budget has also changed over the years, with current giving becoming a lesser part of the overall budget from 1981 to 2006. Both budgeted and actual giving have dropped, along with income from Agency investments. Income from Memorial Fund endowments and grants has gone up over the same time period (see chart).

What does this mean? That’s a loaded question.

Clearly, we need to do a better job of communicating the services provided by our Boards and Agencies, as well as the financial needs of the Conference. Programs such as SCSC, *The Helping Hand*, Pre-Cons, international/national mission support, and pastoral development and training exist to serve the local church.

This seems to indicate that our Boards and Agencies are relying on endowments and gifts from the past to fund current programs. It also suggests we need to be more faithful stewards in terms of supporting our Conference budget and mission.

Where do we go from here? That’s another loaded question. It really comes down to what you believe.

- Do you believe in the vision, mission, and direction of the SDB General Conference and its Boards and Agencies?

- Do you believe in—and support the programs of—our Boards and Agencies?

- Do you believe God has a plan for you and your local SDB church? Proverbs 29:18 reminds us that a people without vision will perish.

In 2004, SDB Executive Director Rob Appel challenged us to be the “Next Step People.” Last year’s Conference theme encouraged us to be “Strong, Steady, and Enthusiastic.” This year’s Conference theme calls us to “Make Christ’s Mission Our Mission.” There is a bright future ahead.

Through our “Alliance in Ministry,” the SDB Boards and Agencies are working together more than ever before. All of us are focused on empowering and supporting your local SDB churches in the fulfillment of the Great Commission.

What’s *your* vision and mission? 

Year	“Our World Mission” / General Conference Budget	Budgeted Giving as a % of Overall Budget	Actual Giving as a % of Overall Budget (2005)	Agency Investment as a % of Overall Budget	MF Endowment as a % of Overall Budget	Memorial Fund Grant as a % of Overall Budget
1981	\$569,323	\$342,163 60%	\$270,693 48%	\$47,765 8%	\$88,900 16%	\$39,750 7%
2006	\$1,144,010	\$539,869 47%	\$351,153 33%	\$73,680 6%	\$244,674 21%	\$103,226 9%
% Increase	101%	58%	30%	54%	175%	160%
Cost of Living Increase from 1981 to 2006 – 119%						



the BEACON

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

September 2006

Youth came to worship

by Karen Payne

(From the Conference Crier)

On Wednesday morning at General Conference, Director Christina Thorngate introduced the Youth Pre-Con campers and staff for 2006. They met at Camp Harley Sutton [near Alfred Station, N.Y.], and their theme was "Rendering Your Life to Honor God."

Assisting Christina this year was her husband, Pastor David Thorngate, Pastor Paul and Diane Andries, Perry Barbee, Donna Rogers, and Linda Lawton.

During Pre-Con, the youth explored their variety of gifts through art, poetry, drama, music, and acts of service.

The theme for their Conference program was, "Here we are to worship." The campers sang solos, performed in small groups, read poetry, displayed their artwork, and performed short skits. The audience was challenged with the question, "Are you connected to God?"

Their closing song, "It Is You," was a fitting ending to their challenge to honor God. **SR**



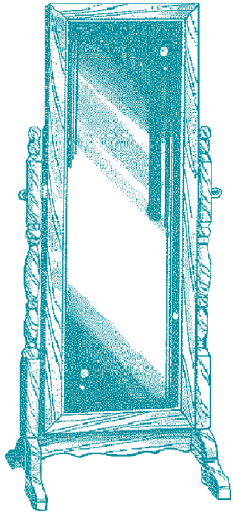
Katrina Goodrich, with remote in hand, was "bored" while watching one of the TV skits.



Emily Watt and Melody Rankhorn acted out a popular television commercial.



The Youth Pre-Con praise team led songs at Conference.



Reflections

by Leanne Lippincott-Wuerthele

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

A steady, faithful Christian

During the past few years, the Milton (Wis.) SDB Church has lost a number of "senior saints." Even though these precious souls are absent from us, we're comforted by the belief that they're present with the Lord. Along with others, I miss them dearly, but it's selfish to wish them back—especially when we think of the unimaginable joy and peace they must be experiencing.

In July, we bid farewell to Herb Crouch, a long-time Miltonian who remained active in the Milton church well into his 80s. I wasn't raised a Seventh Day Baptist, but my memories of Herb go way back.

I spent my first 25 years in Milton, attending grade school, high school, and college with his youngest son, Alan. Because of that connection, I was always aware of Herb and Virginia ("Ginny") Crouch.

My first "close encounter" with Herb came in the mid-1960s. I was a student at Milton College, and "Prof. Crouch" taught a Public Speaking class that I attended.

When I started that course, my knees literally shook every time I had to stand in front of my classmates and give a speech. (Hard to believe, isn't it? Me, afraid to talk!)

Herb was a positive influence, always encouraging me, both in written comments and verbal remarks. And who could resist that rich, baritone voice? It was warm enough to melt the ice off Main Hall's bell tower every winter.

As a drama professor, Herb was active in numerous play productions. He also directed church choirs for years. (He had a BA degree in music and an MA in speech and theater.)

A month before his death, the congregation honored Herb for his many contributions to the musical life of the Milton church. He stood in humble silence as we gave him a well-deserved standing ovation.

All three of his sons were there—Al from Florida, Steve from Califor-

Herb stood in humble silence as we gave him a well-deserved standing ovation.



nia, and Dave from Indiana—plus his newest grandson. God, Who knows the number of hairs on our heads and the length of our days, timed the event perfectly.

A few years ago, I was privileged to spend a Sabbath afternoon in Herb's home on Chicago Street. He talked at length about his life and his family. It was like I was in his class again, a two-legged sponge soaking up every wise word that flowed from his mind and heart.

I was surprised to learn that Herb

smoked years ago. (Who didn't?!) During his Army stint in Japan, the military actually provided the soldiers with free cigarettes. Once back in the states, he gave up the habit "cold turkey."

"When Dave was quite young," Herb said, "he walked through the house one day, puffing on an imaginary cigarette. I took one look at him, and decided to quit then and there."

Like all of us, Herb's life was a mixture of joy and sorrow. He was a highly respected professor who led a full life, and yet he was widowed twice, even outliving his daughter, Ann, who succumbed to cancer at age 40.

Herb had more than his share of sadness, but he never threw himself a pity-party. He was a steady, faithful Christian who did a lot of things "under the radar," charitable deeds that often went unnoticed. He drove people to doctor appointments, became a Hospice volunteer, delivered "Meals on Wheels," recorded church tapes, and collected reusable bulletin covers after the service.

One of the last times I spoke to this gentle, kind man, he was standing at the back of the sanctuary, waxing philosophical.

With his new constant companion at his side—a portable oxygen tank—he remarked that he felt like he was "sliding downhill." Yet I had the distinct impression that he was more than ready to enter that vast playground where the sleds, and slides, and swings are solid gold. A wonderful place where, if you skin a knee or scrape an elbow, you laugh instead of cry, because tears are banished from the premises forever.

Welcome Home, Herb. **SR**



FOCUS on Missions

Union of SDBs in Mozambique

by Kirk Looper

The Union of Seventh Day Baptist Churches in Mozambique was established in 2004 and received recognition from the government in 2005. Since then, they have been working toward developing more churches in that African country. They are thankful for the opportunity to serve God and look forward to the formation of many more churches.

History

The Portuguese government colonized Mozambique 500 years ago, lured by the abundance of raw materials that brought it many riches. That colonization ended with a war which lasted 10 years (1964-1974). National independence occurred on June 25, 1975, but a civil war that began in 1977 lasted another 16 years. This was the worst of the nation's wars. In 1992, peace finally came.

Through hard work and with the support of other countries and organizations, the Mozambique government built schools and hospitals to serve the majority of its people. Religious institutions are responsible for establishing many of the elementary schools and universities where art and the professions are taught.

Much of the country's population is made up of the illiterate and unemployed. To help abolish poverty and illiteracy, they are constructing small factories. Many people have no education funds, especially in rural areas where schools are scarce and lodging is required.

The government's main objective was to build roads and bridges, but many were destroyed during the war years. When hostilities finally ended, the government returned to erecting new roads and bridges, as well as repairing the damaged ones.

Mozambique's agricultural capabilities are outstanding, with fertile soil and plenty of water. Crops in-

cludes rice, mapira corn, beans, onions, garlic, cabbage, and tomatoes, many of which can be processed and canned. They also raise animals—cattle, goats, chickens, and other poultry—that provide beasts of burden as well as food.

With abundant forests and rivers, the country's potential is great. It's



Pastor Fernando Binasse, General Secretary of the Mozambique Union.

easy to see how its economy could flourish with quality products and modern transportation.

The missing component to the success of Mozambique is lack of investors. Our churches are looking for help in establishing successful, small-business projects.

Projects

Small businesses range from raising animals to running schools.

For a minimal amount of money, people can buy a couple of cattle or goats and then double their herd within a year. The following year, they may have a steer to butcher. This would help feed their families and provide meat to sell.

Baby "chicks" can be brought from Malawi and, when grown, used to feed their families or sold.

In turn, these funds can be used to buy boats and angling gear as part of the fishing industry on local rivers and the ocean.

Gardens are also important as potential small-business ventures. The growing season is long, and there are many irrigated areas in the country.

Schools are also an important "business" in Mozambique, and are investments in themselves. Individuals in the Conference already have a couple of schools up and running. However, funds for supplies, building expansion, and salaries are scarce. This ministry is limited by the availability of workbooks and texts.

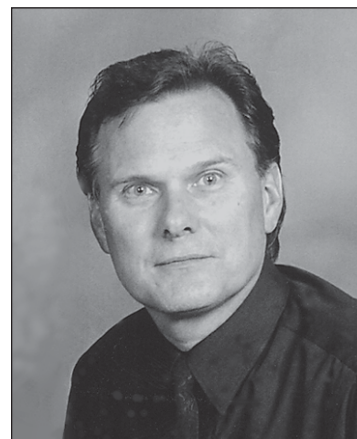
The outreach of our SDB churches is limited by the absence of sturdy buildings. Church members can make bricks for the walls, but roofs need to be constructed of something more permanent than thatch. Roofing sheets of iron are expensive.

The need for Bibles and study materials continues to increase as new members are added to our churches. The Mozambique Conference currently needs a computer, printer, and photocopier to aid in translating and publishing study materials. Some of these items are available from Brazil, but the cost is greater than printing their own.

This young Conference is pleading for help and looking forward to when they can fellowship with other Seventh Day Baptists around the world.

Brazil has played an important role in the organization and development of the Mozambique Conference. Also, their close relationship with Malawi has helped them organize quicker than if they had not had a sister Conference to lean on.

We here at the Missionary Society look forward to a time when the Mozambique Conference will be an official member of the SDB World Federation. **SR**



by Executive Director
Rob Appel

Would God's Vision help us?

"Where there is no prophetic vision the people are discouraged, but blessed is he who keeps the law" (Prov. 29:18).

Our Board visions

About a year ago, I asked each of our Board executives to give me his or her vision for the General Conference. Each executive had a vision, and all of them were pretty much in agreement.

This is rare! But it's also a blessing to this Conference, and a statement about our executives. (Most business executives never communicate their vision; hence, most Boards are unfocused as to any unified vision at all.)

To paraphrase what our executives said, their vision is to equip the local churches for growth while feeding our church people with the true Word of God.

My vision

Awesome—just plain awesome! And that vision is very much the same as my vision for this Conference: "To do everything we can to grow this Conference of churches in numbers, while remaining 100% biblically true in all that we do."

We *must* have a vision, both as a Conference and as churches.

Whom do we follow?

Let me change gears slightly. Years ago, I heard the same words

that people hear just about every week in church: We are supposed to follow Jesus and His commands. These are great words.

Even though they sounded good—and I knew that was what I was supposed to do—I still followed *me*. Those words sounded hollow because I had no direction, and they had no meaning because I had no vision.

So often we let things get in the way of what *God* wants us to focus

intends us to get involved. If we focus only on ourselves, we are not in a position to follow Christ's example of reaching out to others.

Take a hard look

I want us to take a hard look at ourselves and our churches, then decide if we are doing all that Christ wants us to do. We will look at two areas that I hope will inspire and encourage us to be in a better position

I want us to take a hard look at ourselves and our churches, then decide if we are doing all that Christ wants us to do.

on. We focus on ourselves and what we think *we* can do.

What is our focus?

Sometimes we find ourselves too focused on our church building and the weekly or daily functions that it takes to keep it running. We concentrate too much on our history, our budgets, our roots, our community, and our heritage. We may even emphasize the Sabbath so much that the salvation message gets lost.

Please don't get me wrong. Some of these are good things, but we are not allowing ourselves to focus on the *better* things—the areas where Christ

to reach out to others: what *you* need to do, and what *your church* can do.

I would like us to spend this next Conference year working on these two areas, taking on a new attitude and focusing on what we do in and out of the church. **SR**

*An excerpt from next month: **What do you need to do?***

My good friend, Rod Henry, said during a Sabbath morning sermon, "We have to get rid of the old self before we can put on the new self.... We must take off sin, pride, and unforgiveness before we can put on holiness, humility, and forgiveness."

135 years and counting!

by Alice Brooks

On May 20th of this year, the Old Stonefort, Ill., Seventh Day Baptist Church celebrated its 135th anniversary.

Forty-two people gathered on a sunny Sabbath morning for worship and praise. (We were thankful for the beautiful weather since we had been getting quite a bit of rain!)

Marla Agin provided prelude music, and Brother Hubert O. Lewis served as the worship leader, opening with prayer. The congregation sang several songs, and then we listened to “specials by the locals.”

Janice McCormick sang one of her favorite songs, “My Anchor Holds.” Carl Hall also sang a solo, and Merritt and Anita Mills presented a special reading and song.

SDB National Extension Minister, Pastor Ron Elston, along with



The Mattoon, Ill., Quartet (l. to r.): Rick Martin, Becky Parker, Marilyn Parsley, Tim Parsley.

PROP still going

PROP (the Pastors Retirement Offering Project) continues to support our retired pastors and denominational workers.

Won't you give to those who gave so much for Seventh Day Baptists over the years?

Send your donation to:

PROP
Seventh Day Baptist Center
PO Box 1678
Janesville WI 53547-1678

Brittany, played the guitar and sang two favorite hymns. We were blessed to hear them for the first time. We also enjoyed listening to a quartet from Mattoon (Ill.) comprised of Rev. Tim Parsley and his wife, Marilyn; our newest member, Rick Martin; and Becky Parker.

After they lifted our spirits with several numbers, we gathered for a brief “intermission” to greet new and old friends from Texas, Indiana, Missouri, Illinois, and Wisconsin.

Rev. Elston spoke on “God Offers a Better Way.” He based his sermon on Jeremiah 6:16—“Stand in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where the good way is, and walk in it, then you will find rest for your souls.”

Following the message, we partook of the Lord’s Supper.

Worship ended with a song that went along with the sermon theme: “Give Me That Old Time Religion.”

After enjoying a fellowship dinner, participants had another opportunity to visit. The Mattoon quartet provided entertainment until 3:00 p.m.

We, the faithful members of the Stonefort church, give God the glory for such a blessed day! **SR**

**Do you read The
Sabbath Recorder?**

**Do you study
The Helping Hand?**

**Do you have
a pastor?**

**Do you send a donation
to the SDB Budget?**

Your dollars make *The Sabbath Recorder* and *The Helping Hand* possible. Your dollars keep someone there for your pastor to talk to, learn from, and help you. Your dollars enable the Seventh Day Baptist Conference to serve your spiritual needs. Please send your dollars to support your denomination!

Seventh Day Baptist Center
PO Box 1678
Janesville WI 53547-1678

Marriages

Somers - Olson.—Jonathan David Somers and Ryan Lee Olson were united in marriage on March 11, 2006, in the Riverside, CA, Seventh Day Baptist Church, with George Lawson officiating.

Foley - Bonser.—Peter Foley and Kris Bonser were united in marriage on April 22, 2006, in the Dodge Center, MN, Seventh Day Baptist Church. Pastor Dale Rood officiated.

Parker - Freed.—Brandon Parker and Kelly Freed were united in marriage on May 28, 2006, in the Denver, CO, Seventh Day Baptist Church. Pastor Rod Henry officiated.

Wilkerson - McPherson.—Quinton Jamal Wilkerson and Karen Elaine McPherson were married on July 15, 2006, at the Emanuel Church of God in Christ in Harrisburg, PA.

New members

Ashaway, RI
C. Justin Camenga, pastor
Joined after testimony
C. Justin Camenga

Sue Camenga
Ivan Dixon
Andria Powers

Births

Cook-Watt.—A daughter, Jamie Lynn Cook-Watt, was born to Dylin and Samantha (Chroniger) Cook-Watt of Jacksonville, NC, on March 16, 2006.

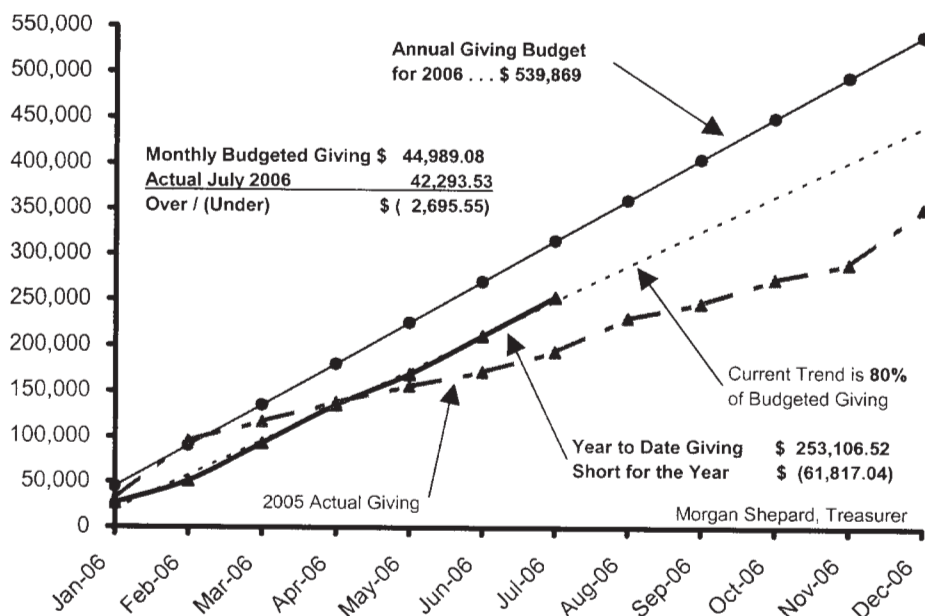
Robinson.—A daughter, Elyssa Robyn Robinson, was born to Shane and Jaci (Neher) Robinson of Dodge Center, MN, on June 9, 2006.

White.—A son, Kayden Jon White, was born to Andy and Jessie (Cowden) White of Kasson, MN, on June 24, 2006.

Crandall.—A son, Sean Clark Crandall, was born to Paul and Bess Crandall in Tucson, AZ, on June 26, 2006.

Current Giving 2006

Thank you for your Conference offering of over \$33,000!



Hey all,
listen up!

Did you know that you are entitled to one free Credit Report per year? Under a new Federal law, you have the right to receive a free copy of your credit report once every 12 months from each of the three nationwide consumer reporting companies.

To request your free annual report under that law, you must go to www.annualcreditreport.com.

Given today's threat of identity theft, it is important to know what your credit rating says about you.

Obituaries

Allen.—Stanley K. Allen, 80, of Bridgeport, W.Va., died at his home on May 15, 2006, following a brief illness.

He was born on March 24, 1926, in Ellenboro, W.Va., the son of Parley R. and Eleanor Allen. On June 12, 1945, he married Margaret Bond, who died in 2001.

Stanley was educated in Harrison County schools, graduating from Salem (W.Va.) High School. His formal education was interrupted by World War II, during which he served in the U.S. Army Air Force as a radar mechanic in the American and European theaters.

Following his discharge, he entered Salem College and graduated Magna Cum Laude with a double major in mathematics and physics. He later earned a master's degree in physics and education from WVU. He also held a degree in professional photography from the New York Institute of Photography.

Stanley taught in the public schools of Grant County for three years and then joined the National Carbon Company as a product and process engineer. Five years later, he transferred to Continental Can Company. He served the glass industry in Clarksburg for 30 years as manager of Quality Control and Customer Service.

Teaching was Stanley's first love, and he taught night classes at Salem College while employed in the glass industry.

His Masonic history was quite extensive, serving as Executive Officer of DeMolay for 17 years.

Stanley was a longtime member of the Lost Creek, W.Va., Seventh Day Baptist Church, serving in many capacities, including church treasurer for 33 years, Sabbath School teacher, and a member of the Executive Council. He designed and supervised the building of the church's educational wing.

Survivors include one son, Thomas, of Carlsbad, Calif.; one daughter, Linda Anderson, of Jordan, Minn.; four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. In addition to his wife, he was preceded in death by one brother, Jerry.

Funeral services were held on May 23, 2006, at the Lost Creek Seventh Day Baptist Church, with the Rev. Don Shackelford presiding. Burial was in the Brick Church Cemetery.

Saunders.—Lila Margaret (Stephan) Saunders, 87, died at Mercy Hospital in Janesville, Wis., on May 19, 2006, surrounded by her family.

She was born on December 28, 1918, in Nortonville, Kansas, the daughter of Claude and Rosa (DeLand) Stephan. She was the fifth of seven children.



Lila Saunders
1918 – 2006

Lila attended schools in Nortonville, where she was active in music and remained

proud of her basketball achievements.

In 1937, she graduated as valedictorian of her high school class. Although she couldn't afford college, she did take a one-year, post-graduate class in business. In 1938-39, she attended Salem (W.Va.) College on a scholarship. While there, she met a ministerial student named Francis Davis Saunders. They married on June 11, 1939.

Together, they spent 38 years in ministry, serving SDB churches in Marlboro, N.J.; Denver, Colo.; North Loup, Neb.; Los Angeles, Calif.; Lost Creek, W.Va.; Westerly, R.I.; and Farina, Ill. Lila delighted in decorat-

ing the interior of every parsonage they lived in, and each received her special touch. Upon retirement, they moved to Milton, Wis.

During her life, Lila worked as a secretary, taught music in the North Loup High School, and served as an organist, pianist, and choir director in many churches. She also gave piano lessons. The highlight of her musical career came in 1969 when she directed a 95-voice choir at General Conference in Nyack, N.Y.

She was a member of the Madison, Wis., Seventh Day Baptist Church and an active participant at the First Congregational Church in Milton. She was also active at the Gathering Place and enjoyed playing the piano for sing-a-longs.

Survivors include three sons, Daniel of Hazelhurst, Ga., and Pastors Herbert and Stephan Saunders of Milton and Nortonville, Kan., respectively; one brother, Marvin Stephan; 11 grandchildren, and 16 great-grandchildren. In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by two sisters, Rosa and Austa, and three brothers—Harry, Melvin, and Wendell.

A memorial service was held on May 21, 2006, at the First Congregational Church in Milton, with her sons officiating. Burial was in the Milton Cemetery.

Kagarise.—Edna L. Kagarise, 77, of New Enterprise, Pa., went to be with her Lord “up close and personal” on May 22, 2006, at the Altoona, Pa., Hospital, following a diligent battle with significant health problems.

She was born on July 10, 1928, in Hopewell, Pa., the daughter of Melvin F. and Hulda (Ritchey) Leach. She accepted Christ in her early youth and remained a valiant witness of a solid faith within her family and all who knew her.

cont. on top of next page

On September 18, 1949, she married Robert W. Kagarise. He preceded her in death in 1987.

At the time of her death, Edna was a member of the Bell Seventh Day Baptist Church in Salemville, Pa. Her witness was clear and without question as she worked with Vacation Bible School, Association church camps, and the Ladies Aid.

Survivors include three daughters, Deborah Kagarise and Denise Baker, both of New Enterprise, and

Doreen Peterson of Warsaw, Ohio; one son, Robert, of Martinsburg, Pa.; four brothers, Clair Leach of New Enterprise, M. Ray Leach of Torrington, Wy., and Joseph and James Leach, both of Baker's Summit, Pa.; 12 grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren. In addition to her husband, she was predeceased by one son, Randy, and two brothers, Roy and Harold.

Funeral services were held on May 25, 2006, at the German SDB Church, with Pastor Edward Sutton

officiating. Interment was in the Salemville Community Cemetery.

Death Notices

Rev. Elmo FitzRandolph, 92, of Boulder, Colo., died on July 7, 2006.

Herbert L. Crouch, 88, of Milton, Wis., died on July 18, 2006.

Pastor Ken Davis like a "dad" to many

Rev. S. Kenneth Davis, 79, of Bradenton, Fla., "was taken to his heavenly home before dawn on Sabbath, May 20, 2006, having graduated *cum laude* from the school of life as he knew it here." His beloved wife, Jean, spoke those words, adding, "He was one of a kind and my best friend for more than 60 years."

Samuel Kenneth Davis was born on April 7, 1927, in Plainfield, N.J., the second of three children born to Courtland Van Horn Davis and Frankie (Lowther) Davis.

On January 4, 1947, he married his childhood classmate from Sabbath School, Jean Bailey. He served in the Marine Corps, 1st Division in the occupation of China at the end of World War II.

Ken graduated from Salem (W.Va.) College and taught 5th and 6th grades for 10 years before entering the ministry. He received his Bachelor of Divinity degree from Alfred (N.Y.) School of Theology and was ordained in 1961 by the Alfred Seventh Day Baptist Church. He served there as a student pastor from 1959-61 and then pastored Seventh Day Baptist churches in Daytona Beach, Fla. (1961-66); Westerly, R.I. (1966-70); Battle Creek, Mich. (1970-85); Salem (1985-92); and Bradenton (1992-2006).

Throughout his ministry, "Pastor Ken" was actively involved in com-



Rev. S. Kenneth Davis
1927 – 2006

munity activities and denominational service. He was president of the General Conference in 1975, serving two different times on its Commission and several years on its Christian Social Action Committee (1969-78).

In 1965, he was the first SDB to serve on the North American Baptist Fellowship's Executive Committee. He also served on the SDB Board of Christian Education (1957-61); on the Boards of the Missionary Society and the American Sabbath Tract Society (1966-70); and on the Historical Society Board (1985-90), serving as president for 13 years.

In 1999, the Historical Society presented him with their Gold-Headed Cane award for his contributions to the preservation and communication of SDB History.

In Salem, Ken served on the City Council, chaired the Ministerial Association and the City Apple Butter Festival Committee, and was founding president of the Salem and Greenbrier SDB Cemetery Association. Under his leadership in 1992, both the church and city commemorated their bicentennials with great pageantry and celebration.

Ken was much loved, and was like a "dad" to many. His broad smile and open arms will be missed by all, especially his wife, Jean, and their children: Deborah Giles of Battle Creek; Ken of Lancaster, Pa.; Paul of Salem; and Jan Noel of East Leroy, Mich.

Survivors also include an uncle, E. Jean Lowther; 17 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren, two great-great-children, and seven nephews and nieces, and their children. One daughter, Sally, was already in heaven, ready to greet him.

Memorial services were held in Battle Creek in June. A service was also held in Salem on July 15, 2006, with Rev. Dale D. Thorngate officiating. Interment was in the Salem Church Cemetery. **SR**

KEVIN'S

ORNER

Conference homecoming

Another milestone reached.

This was my 25th consecutive General Conference. Someone cruelly (and correctly) mentioned that my hair was starting to match this silver anniversary occasion...

Reflecting over the quarter-century of August gatherings, I realized that I have yet to pay for my own Conference registration or room-and-board.

"How can that be" you wonder? The Council on Ministry paid our way while I attended seminary for three years; the Madison, Wis., church paid their pastor's Conference expenses four times; and because representing the Tract Council at Conference (and working my tail off) is part of my job, I've gone for "free" the last 18 years.

Now, before you think that this is totally unfair, please remember that we have four kids. Over the summers-gone-by, we have contributed THOUSANDS of dollars to make sure that our children were plugged into the invaluable network of the SDB family. Forming lifelong friendships is truly priceless.

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Tables turned

Several times this year, I wound up on the opposite side of the camera (which I dislike). And I also found myself on the opposite side of an interview for an article.

A couple of young ladies on the "Crier" staff found several of us unsuspecting victims and grilled us with some fun questions. Here's how mine went:

Crier: Do you like peanut butter and jelly?

Me: Yes—Skippy extra crunchy and red raspberry preserves.

What is your favorite board game?

Rummikub.

Do cucumbers taste better pickled?

Yes!

If you were an animal, what would you be and why?

A work horse, because I have big legs and am expected to carry a big load.

Where are you from?

Earth.

What is your favorite book of the Bible?

Acts, because it describes the origins of the Church, its early teachings and struggles.

Who was your first girlfriend at Conference?

My wife, Janet.

Have you ever been kicked out of camp or Conference?

No, not yet.

Have you ever been lost at Conference?

Yes, every morning in the [Rothenbuhler] dorm.

What is your favorite part of your job at Conference?

Presenting the TCC program; and it being over.

The part of the process I liked the best was when Dorothy Noel repeated the questions, along with my answers, to confirm the accuracy. I was impressed with that. Hmm... Could there be a future for her at the SR?

Returning "home"

Another positive to this year's Conference was that it took place at my alma mater. It felt good to return to Houghton. Well, mostly.

After transferring from a community college in the mid-'70s, I began my career as a Houghton Highlander. Three decades tend to give one perspective.

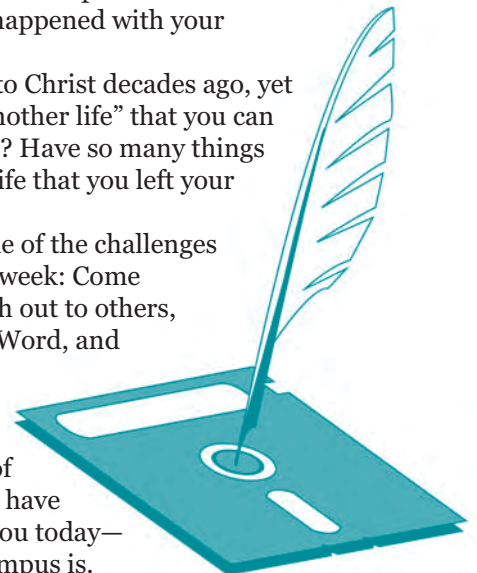
Many things on the campus have changed over the 30 years, but enough has remained the same that I had that strange feeling of déjà vu. The surroundings seemed "familiar," yet part of me was simply walking through another Conference campus.

Has that ever happened with your "faith walk"?

Did you come to Christ decades ago, yet feel like it was "another life" that you can only look back on? Have so many things changed in your life that you left your faith behind?

Repeating some of the challenges from Conference week: Come back to God, reach out to others, get back into the Word, and be released from oppression.

Rekindle that most-important of relationships and have Jesus walk with you today—wherever your campus is.





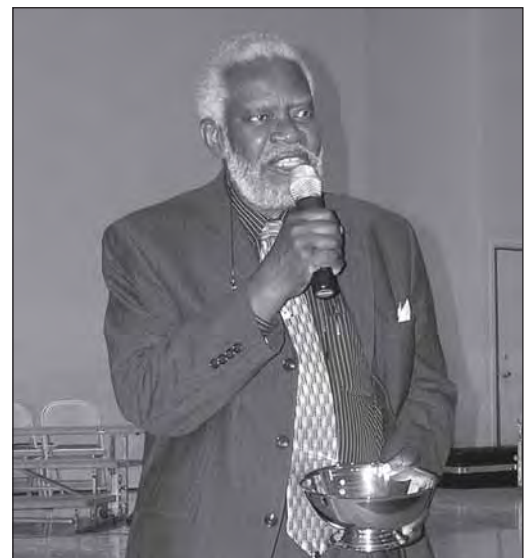
After much hesitation—and much persuasion by Bonnie Flint and Carolyn Jacob—Steve Rogers donned the Women’s Society’s Robe of Achievement in place of his mother, Ruth Sarah Rogers.



Steve Rogers humbly accepted the Robe for his mother, Ruth, who was unable to attend Conference.



The 2006 Sabbath School Teacher of the Year was Wesley Greene of Pataskala, Ohio.



Pastor Herlitz Condison accepted the Scripture Memory Bowl on behalf of the Toronto, Ontario, church. Herlitz was also our Sabbath morning speaker.