

SR The Sabbath RECORDER

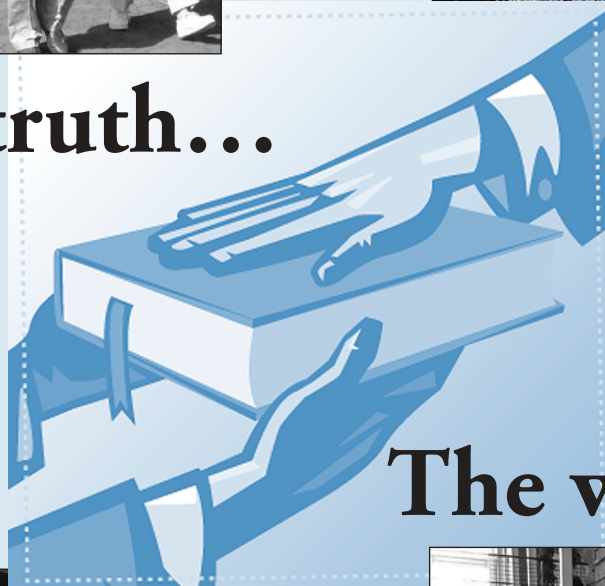
Coverage
of Conference
2007

September 2007

News for and about Seventh Day Baptists



Tell the truth...



The whole truth.





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

Searching for Salem Yearbook

Attention Salem College grads!!

Do you have a copy of the 1934 *Dirigo* Yearbook (or know someone who does), and would like to donate it to the Salem International University library?

The former Salem College wants to complete their Yearbook collection.

Please contact Dr. Phyllis Freedman at (304) 326-1390, or Becky Nesbitt at nesbitt@salemu.edu. Thanks so much!

“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.

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 28, 2007, at 10:00 a.m.

The purpose of this meeting shall be to hear and act upon the 2006 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 2007 General Conference sessions in Newberg, Ore., are entitled to vote at this annual meeting.



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

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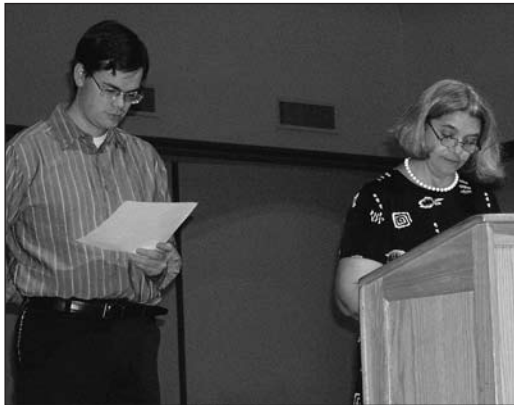
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2007 Conference happenings



President Ruth Burdick (right) studies a new recommendation with one of the three parliamentarians, Nathanael Lawton.



Puppets Frank and Barney (and their human friends Kevin Smith and Ken Burdick) helped to open Conference on Sunday night.

Tell the Truth... the Whole Truth at George Fox University Newberg, Ore., July 29-August 4, 2007

Statistics

- 342 registered guests
- 215 delegates representing 41 churches
- 48 ministers/pastors present
- 32 at Associated Conference and nursery
- 28 at Youth Pre-Con, directed by Christian Mattison with 6 staff
- 18 at Young Adult, directed by Wayne North with 1 staff

Elections

- President 2007-2008: Andy Samuels, Miami, FL
- President-elect: Edward Cruzan, White Cloud, MI

- General Council: David Davis, Ed Cruzan
- Council on Ministry: Dale Thorngate, Charlotte Chroniger
- Faith and Order: Dale Rood, Bill Burks, Rodney Henry (2008)
- Committee on Support and Retirement: Eric Rudert
- Tract and Communication Council: Linda Lawton, Gretchen Zwiebel
- Memorial Fund Trustees: Donald Graffius, Stephen Rogers, Ruth Reynolds
- Christian Social Action: Christina Green, John Pethtel, Scott Hausrath, Beth Boyd

Awards/Recognitions

- SDB Women's Board Robe of Achievement: Camille Henry, Denver, CO
- Sabbath School Teacher of the Year: Ed Cruzan, White Cloud, MI
- Mary G. Clare Scripture Memorization Bowl: Toronto, Ontario and Milton, WI, churches (tie)
- Gold-headed Cane: Oscar Burdick, Bay Area, CA

* * *

*Next Year: August 3-9
 Carthage College
 Kenosha, Wis.*

Insight on church finances

by Morgan Shepard (*From the Conference Crier*)

Pastors and church treasurers enjoyed an informative Conference seminar on the “ins” and “outs” of pastor compensation and tax implications. It was presented by Beverly Worth of Worth Financial Services.

Subjects covered included:

- IRS salary definitions for ministers and lay people
- Tax implications for “Love Gifts” to pastors and other gifts
- How to classify allowances (housing and automobile)
- Medical insurance
- Retirement plans

The seminar, sponsored by the SDB Memorial Fund, was to educate pastors and church leaders on the



Beverly “B.J.” Worth of Worth Financial Services.

constantly changing tax laws for clergy and non-profits, and how to avoid practices that raise audit flags.

Also highlighted was making sound decisions for retirement. One

example given had a young pastor putting \$150 per month into a retirement plan that paid a 10 percent return per year. At age 65, that pastor would be a millionaire! Talk about the blessings of regular giving!!

Beverly has 30-plus years of experience in tax planning and preparation for ministers and other clergy. She is also no stranger to SDBs. Fifteen years ago, she presented a similar seminar during a Pastors’ Conference in Battle Creek, Mich.

The SDB Council on Ministry and COSAR (Committee on Support and Retirement) regularly use Mrs. Worth’s annual tax guide.

To learn more, contact Morgan Shepard at the SDB Center. **SR**

The art of effective ambassadorship

by Heather Rood (*From the Conference Crier*)



Shirley Morgan opening her seminar.

Shirley Morgan is the Associate Pastor of Outreach at the Miami, Fla., SDB Church, and a certified Evangelism Explosion trainer. In her seminar, she told how important it is to share Jesus Christ with those we meet.

As people who know for certain that when we die we will spend eter-

nity in heaven with God and not eternity in hell, it should be natural for us to want our family, friends, and acquaintances to be in heaven, too. However, finding the connection (bridge) between casual conversations and sharing the Gospel takes some creativity.

God has given us creative examples of how He got people’s attention so He could talk to them. For example, He got Moses’ attention by not burning a bush that was on fire. He got Pharaoh’s attention with frogs, locusts, and blood. And he got the Samaritan woman’s attention by asking for water.

We, too, need to take advantage

of creative circumstances and seize opportunities to share the Gospel.

We live in a world where people want to talk and give their opinions. Open doors that can turn conversations into sharing Christ’s Good News include news events (crisis) and the plethora of waiting lines in which we find ourselves.

Phrases like, “God bless you” and “I am blessed,” along with a genuine smile, can provide an opening.

It is not always up to us to pick those we share the Good News of eternal life with. We need to constantly be available and open to God’s leading as we tell others about His love and forgiveness.

The purpose of the seminar was not to teach specific witnessing techniques, but the challenge to discover creative segues from casual conversations to opportunities to share the Gospel. **SR**

Takin' care of business

Some of the Recommendations adopted at the 2007 Conference:

From Christian Social Action interest committee

—We commend Nick Kersten for compiling a list of Seventh Day Baptist social positions that have been adopted by the General Conference over the years. We **recommend** that this list for the previous 10 years be placed on the Seventh Day Baptist website by the webmaster before December 31, 2007.

—We **recommend** that the General Council review the status, operation, function, necessity, and goals of the CSA Standing Committee and that their recommendation

be presented at General Conference in 2008.

From Reference and Counsel

—The recent vote by churches indicated significant concerns among some Seventh Day Baptists about our continued involvement in the Baptist Joint Committee. Therefore, the Committee on Reference and Counsel **recommends** that our representative to the BJC and the Executive Director send a letter to the BJC expressing those concerns and encouraging dialogue.

—The Committee **recommends** that the General Council appoint an ad hoc committee of three, including the Executive Director and two

designees (not currently serving on one of the Boards or Agencies) to analyze the effectiveness of the Boards and Agencies as they seek to carry out the mission of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference. We further **recommend** the ad hoc committee report its findings to the Coordinating Leadership Team, the General Council, and appropriate Boards and Agencies within one year from its appointment.

Other recommendations to improve communications to and from the Missionary Society, and to improve youth involvement at Conference and in missions, may be found at our website: www.seventhdaybaptist.org. **SR**

Conference votes to remain with BJC

In a rare vote-by-church, Conference delegates turned down a recommendation to have Seventh Day Baptists withdraw from the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty (BJC).

The vote was on the question, “Shall the SDB General Conference withdraw its membership from the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty?” Informational packets about the issue



The vote was smooth and cordial.

were sent to each church back in January, with most churches waiting until this summer to cast their votes at the local level.

On Tuesday morning, the chair of each church’s delegation approached the microphone while the tally of votes was displayed on the big screen. The final result: 234 “yes,” and 279 “no”—a division of 46 to 54 percent. The motion was defeated.

The last vote by church took place in 1987 to approve the Conference’s current Statement of Belief. **SR**

Conference



is



for



kids!



“We’re in the Book”



Matthew, Kurt, and Jennifer (Lewis) Berg delve into the Word.



One Sabbath School class was led by Pastor Michael Spearl.



What does the Bible say? The youth Sabbath School class checks it out.



Another of the eight classes offered was taught by Pastor Juan Amaya.



*Pastor Steve Graffius concluded his Bible study by reading a passage from *The Chronicles of Narnia*.*



Pastor George Lawson preached on Monday night.

The Divinity of Jesus

by Heather Rood (*From the Crier*)

Wednesday morning’s Bible Study was presented by John Pethtel, who began by asking, “Who is Jesus?”

A number of humorous slides followed, offering various answers to the question. John then listed a number of more serious views on who Jesus is, along with the thoughts of such “religions” as atheists, the Bahai, Mormons, etc. He explained that everyone is a skeptic or critic.

Next he asked, “Who did Jesus claim to be?” and introduced the “trilemma.” Was Jesus a liar, a lunatic, or the Lord?

People wanted to kill Jesus because he claimed to be God. If Jesus was a liar, he was also a hypocrite, an evil man, and a fool.

Was Jesus a lunatic? He claimed to be God, the only salvation for people of this world, and the only way to eternal reward. However, believing the lunatic theory is a problem because of Jesus’ use of practical wisdom, his compassion and authority, and his ability to astonish.

This leaves only one more option: Jesus is Lord (Hebrews 1-3).

There are a few common objections to his divinity. John 14:28 states that Christ’s position is lesser than God’s. But this refers only to Jesus’ position, not his being. 1 Corinthians 11:3 says that this statement is not about inferiority or superiority.

Some people even use the well-known Bible verse, John 3:16, to imply that Jesus was a created being. But “begetting” and “creating” have two different definitions. To “beget” is to become the father of; “create” means to make.

So, is Jesus *your* Lord?

Who Jesus Christ is makes a huge difference! Your decision regarding his identity must not be an idle intellectual exercise.

Society cannot put Jesus on a shelf, designating him as only a great moral teacher. He is God! **SR**

We love to sing!



Jackson Butler, Jessica Ryall, and Tarnah Wright were part of the praise band from Young Adult Pre-Con.



This quartet was featured during the Men's Chorus (l. to r.): Joe Samuels, Mel Stephan, Robert Van Horn, and David Hauber.



The tight harmonies of "Six Days Work" led our worship on Friday morning. (Arne Buhman, Dave and Doreen Davis, and Dave Alldredge.)



Vivian McName (top, in front of piano) led a workshop on Davidic Dance. The participants worshipped and displayed their new skills on Sabbath afternoon.

If Pastor Steve had his way...

In the first Bible study of the week, Pastor Steve Crouch (Bay Area, Calif.) lifted up Monday's theme of "God's Word Is Truth." He listed the dozens of English translations of the Bible, then mentioned (with tongue-in-cheek) that if he could write his own Table of Contents for the Bible, it would look like this:

Chap. 1—This is who God is:
Eternal, Holy, Creator, etc.

Chap. 2—This is who people are, and what human nature is.

Chap. 3—This is what sin is and why it is a problem for us.

Chap. 4—This is Israel and how they prepared the way for Jesus.

Chap. 5—This is who Jesus is and what he did to fix the sin problem.

Chap. 6—This is how to be saved from sin and death.

Chap. 7—Now that you're a Christian, this is how you need to live:

Faith, Obedience, Prayer, etc.

Chap. 8—This is what the Church is, and how you can get involved.

Chap. 9—Jesus is coming again, and we will live with him forever.

Steve then promoted the SDB Statement of Belief as a good guide for biblical understanding. "Better yet," he added, "is to read the Bible itself." **SR**

The Law can lead to the Lord

by Patty Petersen, Boulder, Colo.

From June 23-30, four people from the Boulder, Colo., SDB Church traveled to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota to work for the Rez Connection mission outreach. They were Sheri Crowder and her 14-year-old son, Nathan; and myself and my son, Paul, 15. (Bob Harris drove us there and back, but he was unable to stay for the week.)

We had a great time with Pastor Chet Marks and his family.

The farm work was interesting and challenging—weeding, moving compost piles, collecting hay bales, and helping to butcher 25 chickens. But the best part was the personal evangelism training, based on “The Way of the Master” materials by Ray Comfort and Kirk Cameron. (Go to www.wayofthemaster.com for details.)

At first, I wasn’t sure about using this approach because it seemed harsh and strange. But as I continued to study, I saw the strength of the case from Scripture and experience.

Basically, Comfort and Cameron found that using the Law to get people to recognize their sinful state is a highly effective way to convert them into believers. Once they’re saved, they don’t want to backslide since they now understand God’s wrath against sin. They know what they’ve been saved from, and they understand how awesome God is; how great a gift Jesus gave to us.

The people we witnessed to didn’t seem offended. We simply asked them questions and then had them consider God’s moral law and how they matched up to it. Instead of “pushing” them for a decision, we tried to get their consciences to wake up and face the reality of life after death.



The worship hall for the Rez Connection outreach to Native Americans in South Dakota.

Statistics show that only about 10 percent of the people who make a decision for Christ at a crusade or a revival actually continue in Christ. I had no idea that was the case! Apparently, we’ve been doing something wrong. Using the Law, as Jesus did, seems to make a huge difference.

I really recommend this training. It has enormous value for SDBs who want to bring a spark to their churches. At the very least, it will revive you personally, making you a better witness for Christ.

During each of the last three days of our stay, we went out and talked to people. Paul was especially excited to be able to share his faith in a positive way.


I haven’t been this excited about the Great Commission since I was a youngster. Thank goodness, God can still teach me!

I know that I need to keep learning, especially when it comes to quoting appropriate Scripture for different situations. The Holy Spirit will help us in this area, but we need to have these verses stored in our memories so that we can pull them out as the Spirit leads.



Nathan Crowder marvels at the ‘huge’ population of a nearby town.

I was sorry that we couldn’t stay longer at the reservation and get further training. However, we’ll take what we learned and continue to witness to those in our communities while sharing this approach with our churches.

For more information on the Rez Connection, contact the Missionary Society by calling (401) 596-4326, or see them on the web at sdbmissions.org. 



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

First responder

by Linda Cain, Lost Creek, W.Va.

"...that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:2-4).

This verse typifies my first impression of the 2007 SDB Conference.

My husband, Perry, and I arrived at the Portland, Ore., airport at 5:30 a.m. on Sunday, after a seemingly endless day of travel across the country. Walking to breakfast later that morning, the setting that unfolded filled us with nature's repose and the glory of God's Creation. The campus at George Fox University was a perfect location for my first Conference, with its surroundings inspiring reflection and prayer.

On the first day, I learned the Conference theme: "Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world" (John 17:17-18).

I thought, *Isn't it amazing that God sends us into the world to deal*

with situations that grow our faith?

Sometimes we find ourselves being tested to be an example for Him. At other times, we find ourselves in situations that build our faith through the evidence of God around us and the fellowship of believers.

So it was with my initiation into the SDB fellowship. Conference proved to be a warm, comforting experience. In the midst of it all—directing each twist and turn and meditation—was our God.

I immediately felt a sense of belonging. Person after person stopped to talk with me, introducing themselves and finding common ground on which to build a relationship. Many people asked my "story" and took me into their circle, giving me the security of sharing in their family—our Christian family whose circle symbolizes everlasting life and the omniscience of God.

A few days into Conference, Perry and I rented a car to do a little sight-seeing. We drove to the Pacific Coast since neither of us had seen it before.

Both of us were awestruck by the magnificence of nature.

On the way back to Newberg, I spotted a bumper sticker that read, "When you like what you do, it shows."

God likes what *He* does, and we should exhibit our joy in Him by daily walking as we have been commanded.

Christine Davis, the Women's Banquet speaker, said something that has caused me much thought: "Accept what is real and recognize the sovereignty of God. Whatever is true, think on these things. Our thoughts are secret from everyone but God. Check yourselves daily. Keep in the Word and prayer. Be the gatekeeper of truth for family, friends, and coworkers."

God is sovereign. God is powerful. God is just. God is truth.

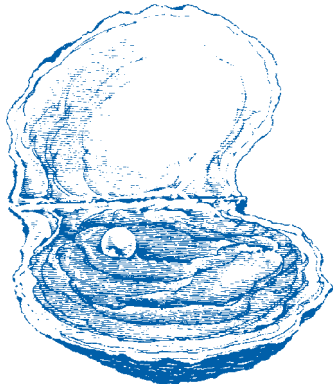
Thanks so much to all who welcomed me. I look forward to worshipping, laughing, singing, talking, praying, dreaming, and reminiscing with you again. **SR**



Locally-grown vegetables and fruit, along with fresh flowers and beautiful table settings, greeted the ladies at the Women's Banquet on Wednesday.



Christine Davis was the Women's Banquet speaker.



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

The Associations and General Conference

Some may think of our denominational structure as being individual members of a church, bound within an Association of churches, belonging to a General Conference. Yet, constitutionally, Associations are not a structural part of General Conference.

Article II of the bylaws specify membership as consisting of “all members in good standing of Seventh Day Baptist churches which now comprise, or may hereafter be admitted to voluntary association known as the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference.”

Within the Constitution, various denominational agencies are listed: the Missionary Society, the Tract and Communication Council, the Board of Christian Education, the Council on Ministry, the Historical and Women’s Societies, and the Board of Trustees of the Memorial Board.

In August of 2005, General Conference action added the following section 4 to **Article X: Standing Special and Ad Hoc Committees**. (This included a practice that had been followed unofficially for a number of years):

“Each member of the Committee on Nominations shall be a member of a member church of the General Conference. The Committee on Nominations shall consist of six persons appointed by the General Conference President, two members appointed or elected by each Association to serve a one-year term. The current President

will name the chairman of the Committee on Nominations from among the six members appointed by the President. Associations are required to notify the General Conference Office who their representatives will be by June 30 prior to Conference. Meetings of the Committee on Nominations are restricted to those members identified to the General Conference Office prior to June 30 and are not open to other attendees at the General Conference sessions.”

tem for consideration, one that might make it more effective.

That committee recommended that all the Seventh Day Baptist churches form themselves into three associations “which may properly be denominated the Eastern, Middle & Western Association who shall hold sessions each year, a little prior to the sitting of General Conference,” and would suggest the appointment of 12 delegates to sit in the Conference from each Association.

It voted that the churches of Rhode Island, New Jersey, and Connecticut form the Eastern Associa-

Although Associations have been autonomous in organization, they have provided an important link in the denomination’s overall mission. They have established churches, ordained ministers, established schools, operated camps, and supported missionaries.

Even though this is the only constitutional connection between Associations and General Conference, in practice Associations have been its agencies for over 170 years, carrying out many of the Conference’s missions.

Within 10 years of General Conference’s formation, letters were exchanged. These suggested that—because of travel and communication difficulties between the coastal areas of the U.S. and the trans-Appalachian areas to the west—it might be feasible to have two separate Conferences.

It wasn’t until 1835 that General Conference voted to appoint a committee to prepare a new sys-

tem; that the churches east of Allegany County and west of the Hudson River form the Middle; that the churches of Berlin, Petersburg, and Schenectady attach themselves to the Eastern or Middle; and that all the churches including Allegany County on westward and south, form the Western.¹

Although the Associations were established by General Conference, they had no vote as an Association. Article VIII in the Constitution of the Eastern Association specified: “The Association shall adopt no measures, and pass no resolves that shall interdict or infringe upon the connection of the churches with the General Conference, and nothing in

these articles shall be construed as, in the least, affecting the connection of the churches with that body.”²

The Eastern and Central Associations remained virtually unchanged, but the Western Association—whose theoretical boundaries extended south to the Gulf of Mexico and west to the Pacific Ocean—were unrealistic. With the migration into the Northwest Territory of Wisconsin in 1838 and the formation of churches at Milton, Albion, and Walworth, a Wisconsin Association was formed.

This later became known as the Northwestern Association and included settlements in surrounding states. However, its western boundary extended all the way to California to include the Riverside church. About 1930, that church became part of the newly-established Pacific Association.

In 1888, with settlements and extensive evangelistic efforts in the Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas areas, the Southwestern Association came into being.

In 1950, the Northwestern Association was divided into the Mid-Continent Association (including SDB churches in Nebraska, Kansas, and Colorado); the Northern Association (embracing churches in Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana); and the North Central Association (churches in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Illinois).

After the closing of two churches in Ohio and Indiana in 1969, the Northern Association became part of the North Central Association.

Churches in West Virginia and Ohio areas that were originally part of the Eastern Association formed their own Association in 1839, going under the names of Virginia and Ohio, and then as the Virginia Association.

Because of their migratory roots from the Eastern Association, they applied for membership in that group. But their bid was rejected, so they ended up establishing the Southeastern Association in 1872.

This Association’s territory eventually extended from southern Pennsylvania in the north to Florida; from Kentucky in the west to Washington D.C.; and then to the south Atlantic states.

Because of growth in the Carolinas, Georgia, and Florida, these churches withdrew from the South-

A further restriction specified that the right to elect regional commissioners should be rotated among the three Associations constituting each region, so that each Association, in turn, would have its own elected member of the Commission.

Had this been enacted, it would have prevented some of the more

***Even though General Conference
has remained a Conference of
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Associations to carry out
its mission.***

eastern Association to become the South Atlantic Association in 1999. The remaining churches adopted the name Appalachian Association, and embraced churches in southern Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Alabama.

Although these Associations have been autonomous in organization, they have provided an important link in the denomination’s overall mission. They have established churches, ordained ministers, established schools, operated camps, and supported both foreign and domestic missionaries.

They have also provided contacts through which denominational agencies have extended their various services and missions. At times, Associations have even hosted sessions of General Conference.

In 1953, it was proposed that Commission be composed of six members consisting of pastors and laymen. Three of this number were to be considered regional commissioners, elected by the Associations grouped in three regions:

Region 1—consisting of Eastern, Central, and Western Associations;

Region 2—the Northern, North Central, and Southeastern Associations; and **Region 3**—embracing the Mid-Continent, Southwestern, and Pacific Associations.

capable denominational leaders from serving if they happened to be from the same geographic configuration.

In 1954, it was recommended that no change be made in the bylaws concerning Commission. However, they believed that people should be more widely represented in the operation of General Conference.

Since this goal could be reached in the selection of Commission, committee, and agency members, it was recommended that the Conference’s Nominations Committee consist of two persons elected by each Association prior to General Conference, and that the chairman be selected from among them by the Conference president.³

Listings of the Nominations Committee in the 1955 and subsequent Yearbooks shows compliance with this recommendation.

Even though General Conference has remained a Conference of churches, it has worked through Associations to carry out its mission. In turn, the Associations have had a voice in selecting the personnel to lead the denomination. **SR**

¹*Seventh Day Baptists in Europe and America, Vol. 2, p. 705.*

²*Ibid, p. 708.*

³*SDB Yearbook, 1954, p. 45.*

Scripture Memory

Theme: "A Limitless God"

Month

Youth/Adult

The Scripture Memorization Program for the 2007-2008 Conference Year will focus on President Andrew Samuels' theme:

"A Limitless God for a Hungry People!"

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, 2008. 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.

October

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. (Matthew 5:6)

November

He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. (Isaiah 40:29)

December

Seek the LORD while He may be found; call on Him while He is near. (Isaiah 55:6)

January

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. (Isaiah 55:8)

February

Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor His ear too dull to hear. (Isaiah 59:1)

March

As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for You, O God. (Psalm 42:1)

April

My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God? (Psalm 42:2)

May

Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." (Matthew 19:26)

June

Is anything too hard for the LORD? I will return to you at the appointed time next year and Sarah will have a son. (Genesis 18:14)

Verses—2007-2008

for a Hungry People!

Junior

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. (Matthew 5:6)

He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. (Isaiah 40:29)

Seek the LORD while He may be found; call on Him while He is near. (Isaiah 55:6)

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. (Isaiah 55:8)

Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, nor His ear too dull to hear. (Isaiah 59:1)

As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for You, O God. (Psalm 42:1)

My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God? (Psalm 42:2)

Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.” (Matthew 19:26)

Is anything too hard for the LORD? I will return to you at the appointed time next year and Sarah will have a son. (Genesis 18:14)

Primary

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst. (Matthew 5:6a)

He gives strength to the weary. (Isaiah 40:29a)

Seek the LORD while He may be found. (Isaiah 55:6a)

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts,” declares the LORD. (Isaiah 55:8a)

Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save. (Isaiah 59:1a)

My soul pants for You, O God. (Psalm 42:1b)

My soul thirsts for God. (Psalm 42:2a)

“With God all things are possible.” (Matthew 19:26b)

Is anything too hard for the LORD? (Genesis 18:14a)

Building a strong foundation

by Morgan Shepard



Did you miss General Conference this year? Don't worry. Here is what the Memorial Board covered:

Endowments provide a solid foundation for the churches and General Conference. You can add to that through...

- Wills and Estates
- Annuities
- Life Insurance Policies

Churches looking to reach out to their communities

- New Projects for New People Matching Grants
- Lay Leadership Training Grants
- Church Planting Grants
- Ministry Staff Development Grants through COM

Churches looking to grow

- Purchasing—Expanding; Expanding Churches, Parsonages, and Camps
- Fixed and Variable Rates
- Grants for First-Time Loans

Scholarships for future leaders

•*Spiritual Leadership Development Scholarships*: SCSC service or similar, \$1,250 – \$2,000/year.

- Lois Wells Music Scholarship*: Undergraduate degree intending to teach music; \$1,500 or more/year.
- Margaret Allen Bond Christian Education Scholarship*: Undergraduate study in Christian Education; \$1,000 or more/year. Priority to Lost Creek and Salem SDB Churches, Appalachian Association, and then General Conference.

529 College Savings Accounts

- For Ordained and Accredited, Ordained, or SDB Licensed Pastor actively serving an SDB church, fellowship, or General Conference.
- Memorial Fund will make up to an initial \$1,000 contribution, with \$100 annual contributions until graduating high school or age 19.
- Disbursements are not subject to taxes if used for higher education, and some contributions are tax deductible.

Endowments provide the foundation for building up our churches as centers in our communities and developing leaders through education to serve our communities as we endeavor to fulfill the Great Commission. **SR**





FOCUS on Missions

Areas of concern

by Kirk Looper

We are so blessed at the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society!

Each year, we report on many different mission projects and request funds to help finance them. Some projects are small, while others require a considerable amount of money.

Each year, we are amazed at the cooperation that we get from our many friends—SDB church members and non-members alike—who come up with the funds to help with a project's success. We appreciate this and always look forward to promoting the ministries of our sister Conferences and churches. We salute you and thank you profusely.

Let me bring you up-to-date on some of the projects. (Most are small because of the time it takes to get the jobs completed.)

Over the past few months, we have been working with the Conference in **Sierra Leone**. They have quickly accomplished several urgent goals.

With your help, they secured their government registration, roofed one school, established an evangelistic outreach program, provided food and clothing for orphans, paid some of the school teachers, and helped defend a lawsuit against their executive.

During an evangelistic meeting, many Muslims were brought to know the Lord. Some of the teachers continue to work without pay, but we are praying for more funds to pay them, also.

During the past five months, the ministry to orphans in one of the **Ugandan** churches was greatly helped. Funds for these children—as well as for one of their ministers—were provided, helping to buy medicine to combat HIV/AIDS. Also, they gave

food and clothing to the orphans. We appreciate the response to this project, especially since the money went directly to the people.

The financial donations sent to **Zambia** this past quarter were used to purchase garden tools, iron sheets for roofs, women's uniforms, 60 school uniforms for orphans, school fees for 100 orphans, and to aid the travel of the women leaders holding classes around the country. They continue to work with groups led by women as well as men.

They are looking forward to their annual Conference meetings in August or September, but they still need money to cover the transportation costs of representatives from distant churches.

In January of this year, the General Secretary of the Conference in **Burundi** was set free from his abductors. Shortly afterwards, he met with those dissatisfied with the way the Conference works.

This group expected the Conference to support them. They claim-

ed that Pastor Gilbert Nduwayo was receiving funds from our Missionary Society that were to be distributed to their pastors and leaders. They didn't know our polity, nor did they read the e-mail messages that were sent to Pastor Nduwayo concerning the use of these funds.

As designated by those who donated the money, Pastor Nduwayo spent it on a computer, printer, scanner, rent for a building to house the Conference's government-required office, and office expenses. If they had taken the time to read the message, they would have saved a lot of time, both for the General Secretary as well as the government.

There are many more areas where your donations have been applied. We could not help these countries nearly as much if we did not have your cooperation and support. We look forward to a time when we can report additional areas where you have helped.

Again, thank you for your perseverance and charity. **SR**



Many of these Ugandan children are orphans.



the BEACON

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

September 2007

Forever God is faithful

by Micayla Neher

"I lift up my eyes to the mountains, where does my help come from? My help comes from you, Lord, maker of Heaven, Creator of the Earth. You are my only hope, you are my only prayer. I will wait for you to come and rescue me, to give me life."

I've been living by these words a lot lately.

One day, I was on my way to the neighboring town of Byron, Minn. To get there, I needed to drive on Highway 14.

As I got to the on-ramp, I pushed on the accelerator to gain speed. But, much to my surprise, the harder I pushed, the slower I went.

All I could think was, *No, not now God! Not now!*

It was a hot day, close to 80 degrees. I remembered that this van did the same thing when our family drove back from Maryland last year.

I pulled over to the side of the road and waited. After a few minutes, I figured that the engine had cooled down enough so I could make it to the next exit, a mile away. And with God's help, I did.

As I was leaving the highway, the power steering went out! So, there I was; pulling with all of my might to get into a parking spot.

I called my mom and told her what was going on. She, in turn,

told me to call my brother who was just getting off work.

He stopped by and checked out the van. When *he* tried to drive it, he didn't even make it out of the driveway. Meanwhile, I had called a friend, who picked me up and took me to Byron.

When we arrived back in Dodge Center, I returned to the van to see how far I could get. I decided that,

***God reminded me,
"Don't worry, Beloved,
I'm always with you,
and I'll take care
of you."***

no matter what, I was going to get it to the church in Byron.

After an "okay" start, I eventually had a quarter of a mile to go before I could turn onto Main Street to get to the church. On that short strip, I could only go about 5 miles per hour, and I stopped three times.

As I turned onto Main Street, I was finally able to go 25. I was half a block away from the church when the van died on me once again. I was so frustrated! Then God reminded me, "Don't worry, Beloved, I'm always with you, and I'll take care of you."

That calm "voice" eased my mind and changed my attitude.

The van died on me one last time. However, this time, it conked out just as I drove into my parking space at the church.

Since then, I've been reminded of my years without a car.

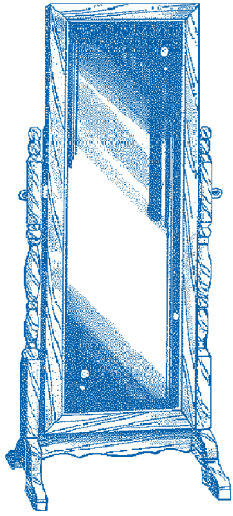
One day, neither of my parents could pick me up after school, so I had to walk the four miles home. What could have been a five-minute drive turned into an hour-plus walk. But it was worth it. I had time to think and to enjoy all the beautiful sights that God has given us.

I'll be excited to have a car again. In the meantime, I'm making the best of it. I'm taking the time to appreciate all that God has done for me.

I am so thankful that, during that hot afternoon, God allowed the van not to totally break down until He knew that I was in a safe place. That experience also reminded me not to take life so fast. We need to take our time and enjoy life. God put us on this earth for a reason.

If all of us are so wrapped up in trying to rush to our next meeting and cram everything into one day, when are we going to have time to spread God's Word and help those in need?

The next time you're feeling rushed and pressed for time, remember to slow down. Look for the hidden lessons God is trying to teach you. And take the time to thank Him for allowing so many things in your life that remind you that you are truly living. **SR**



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*

The more the merrier

*"God sets the lonely in families..."
(Psalm 68:6, NIV).*



I have a hard time identifying with people who grow up without an abundance of relatives. For instance, one of my brothers-in-law was born when his parents were quite old. He ended up an only child, with few cousins, and few aunts and uncles.

On the other hand, I come from a family of five, with one brother and one sister. My father had three siblings, and my mother had eight, so I never lacked aunts and uncles, not to mention cousins. When our extended family got together during the holidays or for reunions, we could have filled an ark.

Over the years, those numbers have dwindled drastically. Many of my older relatives died of common causes—like heart disease, strokes, and cancer. One uncle, a farmer, died when the tree he was cutting fell on him.

At age 95, my father is the sole survivor of his family of six, while my mother's youngest sister, "Aunt Goldie," is the last of her family of 11.

Some days, it's difficult to comprehend that all of us first cousins have "become our parents." And it won't be too long before we become our *grandparents*.

This past July, the cousins (and their spouses) on my dad's side met in Burlington, Wis., for an informal family reunion. Only two cousins were no-shows. (Gary couldn't make the trip from Colorado; and my sister, Jean, had a prior commitment.) Even my brother, Jim, came from California.

As we talked and laughed and reminisced, three things struck me.

Number one, I was amazed at how some of the cousins resembled their parents, both in looks and mannerisms. When I glanced at cousin Kenlyn and her brother, Doug, it was like Aunt Dean and Uncle Ken were standing there. It was mind-blowing!

Secondly, as we looked at old family photographs, I found myself wondering what those long-gone relatives were like. *Was great-grandma Kate really as stern as she looked?*

Grandpa looked so handsome in his wedding photo. *Was he a lady's man before settling down?*

Thirdly, I felt blessed to be surrounded by family—people who love me in spite of my shortcomings. Not everyone can say that. Some people go through life estranged from loved ones, or they don't have any real family in the first place.

Halfway through the afternoon, we sat down at a long wooden table to consume a delightful meal prepared by our delightful hostess. (It felt like we were on that old TV show, *The Waltons*. "Please pass the devil-eggs, John Boy.")

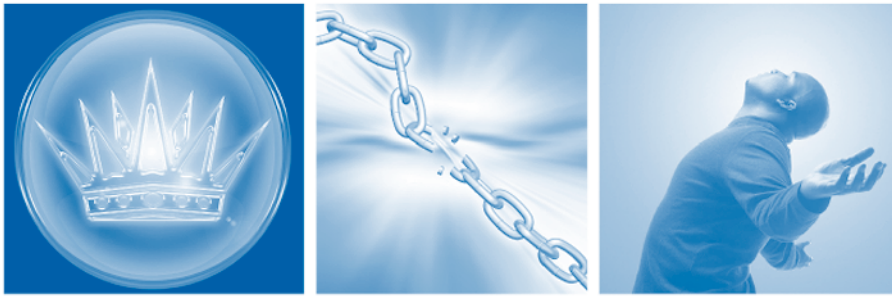
I was asked to say grace, and I did fine until I started mentioning the people who were no longer with us. My voice cracked and my eyes teared up as I thought of those now gathering around a heavenly table.

In my prayer, I included the hope that we cousins never take each other for granted; that all of us make an effort to stay in touch throughout the year. My good intentions often fall by the wayside, but I vowed that afternoon to at least make the effort.

Thank you, God, for family. Past, present, and future. **SR**



***When our extended family got together during
the holidays or for reunions, we could have filled an ark.***



A LIMITLESS GOD FOR A HUNGRY PEOPLE

2008 SDB General Conference August 3-9
Carthage College, Kenosha, Wisconsin



The President's Page
by Pastor Andrew Samuels

Hungry? Good!

Introducing the theme for Conference 2008

What does God desperately want to do for Seventh Day Baptists?

What do Seventh Day Baptists desperately want God to do for them?

These are questions I inevitably found myself wrestling with as I contemplated and prayed for a theme for General Conference in 2008.

With our long history as a denomination (336 years in America), what do we have to show? Of what can we be truly proud? When and where have we seen the mighty power of God among us?

Please don't misunderstand me. I am very aware of the strong convictions that have kept us alive and functioning for more than three centuries. And I am fully cognizant of the fact that we have proven God in a multiplicity of ways. I know God has shown Himself strong and mighty among us.

Yet, in my spirit, I sense that there is more for us. My experience with the Lord has taught me that He generally does not feed anyone who isn't hungry. Jesus said in the Beatitudes, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied" (Matthew 5:6, NASB).

As much as God has already done for us; as much as God has already shown us; as much as God

has already been to us, I cannot silence the witness of the Spirit in me saying, "There's more where that came from."

God wants to do so much more for us as a people! The big question is, "*Are we hungry enough to receive the feast of the Lord?*"

In many ways, we are a dissatisfied people. We're dissatisfied with our churches, we're dissatisfied with our leaders, we're dissatisfied with our programs. Could it be that we're not satisfied because we're not hungry enough for Him and His righteousness? Again, Jesus' admonition is to "Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you" (Matthew 6:33, NASB).

Give yourself a test: Look candidly within your heart and identify the things or people you truly love and pursue. Then ask yourself, "Do I love and pursue God more than all of those things or people?"

What would happen if Seventh Day Baptist churches were filled with hungry people?

As I continued to grapple with these two questions of what God wants and what we want, I had to envision the possible outcome of a people who are vehemently hun-

gry for God. It occurred to me that the God for whom we must hunger is an omnipotent God. There is no limit to His ability. Luke 1:37 declares, "For nothing will be impossible with God."

This God waits to act on behalf of a people who hunger for Him.

It is hungry people who are fed. It is hungry people who grow. It is a hungry people who seek and mature, and develop and multiply.

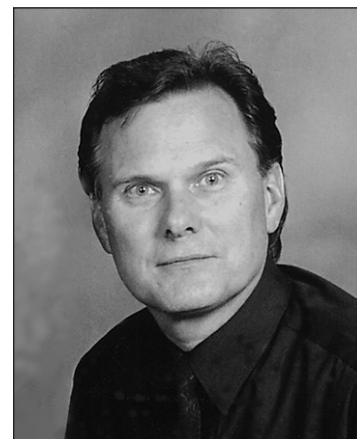
When fruit is not being borne and multiplication is not taking place, growth doesn't happen. The natural result is death.

So, if we are not hungry enough to seek God so we can be fed by Him—not only to stay alive, but to thrive—maybe we are slowly on our way to the "place of the dead."

I believe our limitless God has asked me to invite Seventh Day Baptists to become a hungry people. Hence our new Conference theme, "A Limitless God for a Hungry People."

My desire is that next year's Conference becomes a collision between a limitless God and a hungry people. May that collision take place in all our churches throughout the year and beyond.

We are also called to break certain barriers. I will elaborate on that next month. **SR**



by Executive Director
Rob Appel

Report to Conference (part 1)

It's a great pleasure to be here with so many people who have worked so hard in their local churches to make sure that the Gospel is being shared with all. I particularly want to thank the Coordinating Leadership Team for their work and unity in working with the Conference to provide ideas and guidance.

Although we're here with a variety of backgrounds, we're here for the same reason, which is to continue our good stewardship of the blessings that God has given to Seventh Day Baptists.

Yes, God has blessed us; He has blessed us with a large family of brothers and sisters; He has blessed us with a large influence in the Baptist world. God has also blessed us with the awesome responsibility of shaping this Conference today and for the generations to come.

Last year, I spoke of some possibilities of how we could do things better as far as efficiencies and used examples from our past: Henry Babcock's 1896 *Denominational Economy*, and the Chicago Council's denominational organization findings from that same year.

The purpose of bringing all of this up is to show the pattern that we have been following for over 160 years of a loose account-

ability structure and a uniformity within that structure.

Let me make something perfectly clear here: When I speak today about accountability, structure, and uniformity, I am not speaking of hierarchy, restructuring, or a consolidated Conference office.

Accountability starts at home in the Conference and its Boards and Agencies. Our **Structure** needs to be standardized within the Conference to identify our processes. And **Uniformity** means unity in efforts and not wasted energy and resources.

Last year at Conference, a motion was made on the business floor that called for a tithe to the SDB World Federation from the 2007 Conference budget. It was defeated. I would have liked to have supported that motion but could not due to the Conference budget shortfalls at the time.

I have often said, "In a perfect SDB world the flow of financial support would be like this: Everyone would tithe to their local church, the local church would tithe to the Conference, and the Conference would tithe to the World Federation."

We are still struggling to meet our budgets. But we must step out on faith and give our tithe and watch what God can do. It will not be easy. It's a tough challenge but it is one

that everyone here is going to have to work to achieve. We can do it if it is a goal we all set together.

I believe that we have seen progress over the last few years. There's some great work going on, and it requires us to come and work together.

Our AIM is to have an Alliance In Ministry!

I hope you have a clear sense of my excitement about where this is all going. In fact, you know, I think some day in the near future we'll look back on where we are today and say, "There were so many things that we need to do, and we were able to do them because we had a vision, a focus, and an AIM!" We are on the verge of a taking that next step today!

Around the denomination I am seeing the level of ministry optimism growing. We are showing the telltale signs that breakthroughs will take place in the near future. To make sure that we will carry through to the next level of ministry for future Seventh Day Baptists, I am confident that we can foster an environment of unity in our Alliance In Ministry.

I'm very excited to see how it all comes together. I hope you are, too.

God bless you all, and thank you for your support. **SR**

Shiloh ordains four

by Donna S. Bond

What are all these visitors doing here today?, I wondered as I got out of my car and headed toward the Shiloh, N.J., church on June 2, 2007.

It wasn't Association; it wasn't Shiloh/Marlboro Joint Communion; it wasn't a historical celebration. Yet here were all these people, some unknown to me and some familiar or recognizable, perhaps in a different setting.

A glance at the bulletin clarified my "senior moment": our church was ordaining four deacons, all of whom had gained the approval of the church body after serving unofficially for the past three years. The visitors were proud family members and friends from our sister church at Marlboro; a Lutheran church down the road; and other churches in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Florida.

The testimonies of the four candidates—Elizabeth (Dickinson) Bidwell, Ronald L. Campbell Sr.,

The stories were as different as the brothers and sisters sharing them.

Sandra (Davis) Layton, and William John Probasco Sr.—made us chuckle, and they made us "choke up" a bit.

The stories were as different as the brothers and sisters sharing them, but I couldn't help noticing three common themes: 1) the impact of family influence on childhood experiences; 2) the impact of fellow-



Photo By Rich Bidwell

Pastor Don Chroniger (left) introduces four new members of the Shiloh, N.J., diaconate. From left to right: Sandy Layton, Bill Probasco, Ron Campbell, and Elizabeth Bidwell.

ship with a body of believers; and 3) the blessings of serving as God calls us individually.

Each presentation was unique.

Elizabeth related her experiences of growing up in the church and raising two sons surrounded by a biological and spiritual family—until husband Gary's job transfer to North Carolina. Following that move, they were an hour and a half from any known Sabbathkeepers.

After sustaining them through these lonely years, God brought them "home" to Shiloh, providing employment for Gary that allowed him to have Sabbaths off.

God also brought their son, Richard, back to Shiloh after seven years in the Navy and a six-month stint in Antarctica. Additionally, He has provided needed strength and support for over 40 years as they care for their handicapped son, Jimmy.

The platform was soon filled to capacity with Dickinson children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and in-laws singing, "In Times Like These We Need a Savior."

Ron, too, was nurtured in a Christian home and by the Marlboro church. When he was approached with the possibility of becoming a deacon, his immediate response was, "Why me, Lord? Just tell me what I'm doing, and I'll stop doing it."

Of course, Ron *didn't* stop doing it! His greatest blessing from the Shiloh church, he said, was the privilege of teaching the Willing Workers Sabbath School class and gaining wisdom from their combined 400-plus years of Christian living. He quoted Pastor Don Chroniger's statement: "Each person here should have a friend in the church he can talk to."

Ron's Willing Workers—each approaching or attaining four-score years—have provided this "mentorship" for him.

And who among us, knowing Sandy Layton, can see her living testimony without getting teary-eyed? Sandy [a Dickinson grandchild] married a Christian man from a loving family, and had become a part of his

family's congregation in the interest of unity in her marriage.

What a shock it was when her beloved Jay was suddenly called Home, leaving her with a 2-year-old and a 4-year-old to raise "alone"—or so she thought!

In the 16 years since then, God has proved His love for Sandy through her family, through two supportive churches, and through in-laws who have never treated her as less than a daughter.

The greatest testimonies to Sandy's faith—children Jenn and Matt—read her favorite Scripture, Psalm 139. This left us wondering how the world would be different if more single parents had access to similar emotional and spiritual resources.

When Bill Probasco, son of denominational leaders Owen and Ruth, mounted the platform, we knew we were in for some chuckles. And he didn't let us down!

What we didn't expect, until Sandy handed him a box of tissues, was that Bill's testimony would also get emotional.

Bill related two incidents from his less-than-sensible years when God—and his dad, owner of a newly-totaled car—chose to spare his physical life.

"Why?" Bill asked.

Whatever the reason, Bill is committed to living in such a way that comes as close as humanly possible to making his earthly life worth saving.

We knew Bill wasn't going to speak for more than two minutes without mentioning the Seattle Seahawks. Surprisingly, he related his "fanaticism" for that football team to being a Sabbathkeeper. Both passions set him apart from his peers.

Stressing that Sabbathkeeping is *not* essential for salvation, Bill affirmed that Sabbath rest is a blessing for him and a witness

to those around him. In fact, he related that when his employer's special project required everyone to work on Saturday, the president of the company told his immediate supervisor, "Everyone except Bill."

In giving a charge to the candidates and the congregation, Pastor Don shared a delightful story about a duck, a rabbit, a squirrel, and an eagle who tried to excel, unsuccessfully, at different sports.

Don encouraged us to recognize the gifts that we have been given individually, rather than expect a duck to climb, a rabbit to swim, a squirrel to fly, or an eagle to run.

The service concluded with the "previously-ordained" laying hands on the "newly-ordained." I counted 14 people—pastors, deacons, and deaconesses of all ages, shapes, sizes, and from various churches and stations in life.

May God continue to bless our churches with the spiritual leadership we need and that He desires! **SR**

Denominational Dateline

September

- 8-9 Sabbath Recorder Committee, Nortonville, Kan.—Kevin Butler
19-22 North American Baptist Women's Union (NABWU) Assembly, Arlington, Va.—Marjorie Jacob (president of SDB Women's Society)

October

- 1-2 Baptist Joint Committee Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.—Butler
5-7 North Central Association, New Auburn, Wis.—Rob Appel
6-7 Diaconate and Teacher Workshops, New York City SDB Church—Andrew Camenga
9-11 CLT (Coordinating Leadership Team) Meetings, SDB Center, Janesville, Wis.
13 Mid-Continent Association, North Loup, Neb.—Kirk Looper
19-20 Pacific Coast Association, Riverside, Calif.—Appel

- 20-21 SDB Memorial Fund Annual and Quarterly Meeting, Toronto, Ontario, Canada—Morgan Shepard
27-28 SDB Missionary Society Board of Managers Meeting, Westerly, R.I.—Looper
28 Board of Christian Education Annual Corporation Meeting, Alfred Station, N.Y.—Camenga
29 SDB World Federation Meeting, Westerly—Looper
30-11/1 Gospel Growth vs. Church Growth, Washington, D.C.—Camenga

November

- 3-4 Tract Council Annual Meeting, SDB Center, Janesville—Butler
9-11 South Atlantic Association, Daytona Beach, Fla.—Appel
10 Central Seventh Day Baptist Church, Mitchellville, Md.—Looper

New members

Philadelphia, PA
Kenroy Cruickshank, pastor
 Joined after testimony
 Dennis Fuller

Houston, TX
Jim Barclift, pastor
 Joined after testimony
 Gunter Warncke
 Joan R. Warncke

New York, NY
Ericessen E. Cooper, pastor
 Joined after baptism
 Althea Hawthorne
 Rachael Smith
 Monica Walters

Paint Rock, AL
John D. Bevis, pastor
 Joined after testimony
 Linda Rogers

North Loup, NE
Christian Mattison, pastor
 Joined by letter
 Steven Graffius
 Emily Graffius

**Remembrance SDB
 Fort Worth, TX**
Bill Burks, pastor
 Joined by letter
 Evelyn Goodwin

Washington, D.C.
Paul Andries, pastor
 Joined after baptism
 Desmond Brown Sr.
 Desmond Brown Jr.
 Matthew Collins
 Deryka Nairne
 April Tabor

Marriages

Pimple - Winkfield.—Steven Pimple and Nicole Winkfield were united in marriage on April 8, 2006, at the Riverside, CA, Seventh Day Baptist Church. Pastors Eric Davis and Gabriel Bejjani officiated.

Harms - Dunsom.—Brian Harms and Stephanie Dunsom were united in marriage on May 14, 2007, at the Paint Rock, AL, Seventh Day Baptist Church, with Pastor John D. Bevis officiating.

Tull - Bates.—Jonathan D. Tull and Nadine Bates were united in marriage on June 2, 2007, at the Washington, DC, Seventh Day Baptist Church, with Rev. Paul R. Andries officiating.

Berg - Lawton.—Matthew J. Berg and Miriam Elizabeth Lawton were united in marriage on July 1, 2007, at the Milton, WI, Seventh Day Baptist Church. Pastor Nate Crandall officiated.

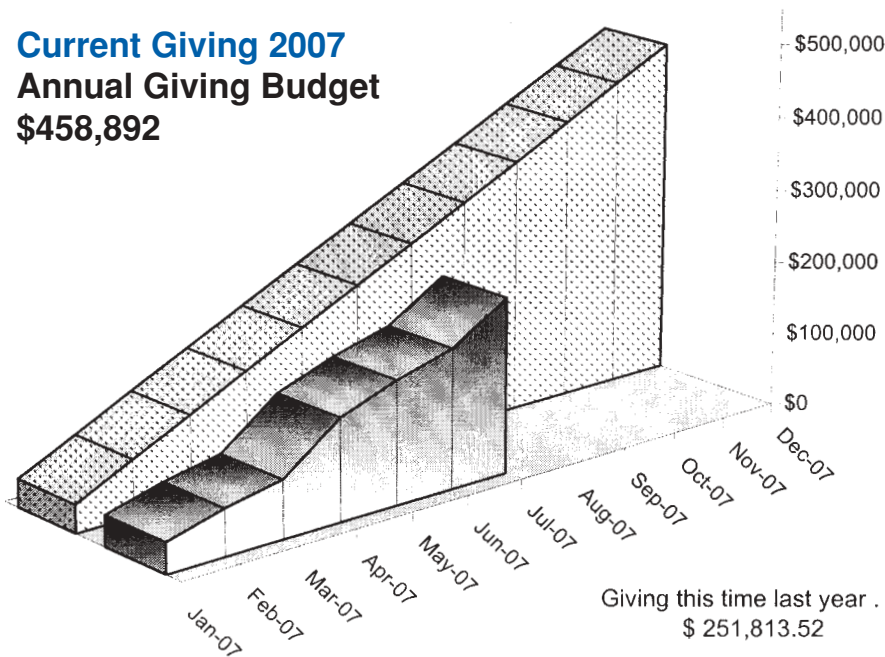
Owen- Cantu.—Aaron Robert Owen and Jennifer Nicolle Cantu were united in marriage on July 8, 2007, at the Calabasas (CA) Country Club. Pastor Scott Hausrath officiated.

THANK YOU

for your generous
 Aug. Conference offering!
 Received at Newberg:
 \$10,614.60
 From the churches:
 6,908.00

Total: \$17,522.60

Current Giving 2007 Annual Giving Budget \$458,892



	Month - July '07	Year To Date
Budgeted	\$ 38,241	\$ 267,690
Actual	\$ 48,237	\$ 237,598
Difference	\$ 9,996	\$ (30,092)
% of Budget	126%	89%

PROP Giving	
July '07	\$ 1,029
Year To Date	\$ 6,374

Morgan Shepard, Treasurer

Obituaries

Hendrickson.—Doris Jeanne Hendrickson, 79, of North Little Rock, Ark., died on February 23, 2007.

She was born on October 22, 1927, in Gentry, Ark., the daughter of George and Grace (Maxson) Ratliff. She was a charter member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Little Rock, and was a dedicated children's Sabbath School teacher for many years.

Jeanne worked in the office of Levi Strauss for several years. In recent years, she was employed by CareLinks, serving the elderly in central Arkansas.

Survivors include one sister, Pat Green of Milton, Wash.; four grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren. Her husband, Paul Hendrickson; one brother, Jack Ratliff; and two sons, Bobby and Billy, preceded her in death.

A graveside service celebrating Jeanne's life was held on February 27, 2007, at the Little Rock National Cemetery. Rev. John Winters officiated.

Ross.—Joy June Berry Ross, 86, of Squaw Valley, Calif., died on March 10, 2007, at home following months of failing health.

She was born on June 10, 1921, in Welcome, Minn., the daughter of Jules Ferdinand and Laura Louise (Ebel) Berry. She was a graduate of Colorado University in Boulder.

After marrying Starlin James Ross, the couple moved from Dearborn, Mich., to California. In the early 1950s, they arrived in Riverside. Joy became active in the Seventh Day Baptist church there, serving as an ordained deaconess for many years.

Joy taught special-needs children through the Riverside County Office of Education.

Her talent and interest in music was a major factor in her life. Joy

sang in her church choir, in "Mission Belles" and "Sweet Adelines," and in many local musical productions.

Whenever the church had an orchestra, she and her violin played a part. She was also a violinist in the Riverside Symphony Orchestra.

Following Joy's retirement, she and Starlin moved to the home he had built near Sequoia National Park, where they enjoyed living close to the mountains and forests.

Survivors include one son, Henry, of Riverside; two daughters, Donna Rollins of Riverside and Kathy Ross of Squaw Valley; one sister, Edith Claire Pearson of Idaho; and several grandchildren. Her husband, Starlin; and one son, Loran, preceded her in death.

A memorial service was held at the Riverside SDB Church, with Pastor Gabriel Bejjani officiating. Burial was in the Riverside National Cemetery.

Shuler.—Marilyn R. Shuler, 78, of Kenosha, Wis., died on May 30, 2007, at United Hospital Systems Kenosha Medical Center Campus.

She was born on August 29, 1928, in Oneida, N.Y., the daughter of Raymond H. and Frances (Babcock) Sholtz.

On June 21, 1951, she married Vincent L. Shuler in the Milton (Wis.) Seventh Day Baptist Church. Prior to moving to Kenosha in 1956, the couple lived in Clintonville, Wis.

Marilyn enjoyed studying family genealogy and was an active member of the First Presbyterian Church in Kenosha. She served as treasurer of the United Presbyterian Women's Association for over 20 years, and was also a longtime member of the Kenosha Chapter of the D.A.R.

Survivors include her husband, Vincent, of Kenosha; two sons, Gary of Kenosha and Jeffrey of Jackson,

Tenn.; one brother, Paul Sholtz, of Golden Valley, Minn.; four grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. One son, Thomas, and an infant daughter, Susan Yvonne, preceded her in death.

Funeral services were held on June 5, 2007, at the First Presbyterian Church in Kenosha. A private burial service was held at the Green Ridge Cemetery in Kenosha.

King.—Elery W. King, 95, of Ord, Neb., died on June 16, 2007, at the Valley County Health System Nursing Home in Ord.

He was born on July 1, 1911, in Scotia, Neb., the son of William and Edna (Clapp) King. He graduated from Scotia High School in 1931.

On February 2, 1928, Elery married Iva Stillman in North Loup, Neb. The couple farmed near Scotia and North Loup until 1969.

Elery worked for the Ord School District, the Mobil Oil Station in North Loup, and drove a road grader for Valley County until retirement.

When he gave up farming and moved into town, Elery became a gardener. He also enjoyed creating wooden lawn ornaments and was an avid artist. On his 95th birthday, he gave away 35 of his paintings to the Grandview Assisted Living staff in Ord, where he lived for four years prior to moving to the nursing home earlier this year.

Elery was a 75-year member of the North Loup Seventh Day Baptist Church. He served as a deacon (for 31 years), a Sabbath School teacher, Association president, and a lay pastor (in 1982).

In 2006, the church recognized him for a lifetime of faithful service and gave him an honorary lifetime license to preach as a lay pastor. Occasionally, he filled pulpits in Arcadia, Cotesfield, Scotia, Horace, Elba, and Sargent, Neb.

cont. next page

He also served on the Riverdale School Board for 12 years.

Although he had only one daughter and granddaughter—plus two nieces and a nephew—he was a friend, father, and grandfather to many children. His home was filled with young people, and almost every “PK” (Preacher’s Kid) considered Elery’s house their second home.

Survivors include his daughter, Ardith Keith of Denver, Colo.; one brother, Victor, of North Loup; and one granddaughter. His wife of 62 years, Iva, predeceased him in 2000; and two sisters, Dorothy and Audrey Mae, passed away in their youth.

Funeral services were held on June 21, 2007, at the North Loup SDB Church, with Rev. Christian Mattison officiating. Burial was in Hillside Cemetery, North Loup.

Smith.—Carl E. Smith, 77, of rural La Farge, Wis., went to be with his Lord on July 16, 2007, following a tractor accident. He was born on November 19,

1929, in La Crosse, Wis., the third child of Joe and Tillie (Gees) Smith. He graduated from La Farge High School in 1947, earning a gold medal in the mile run at the state track meet.

Carl married Donna Clark on August 16, 1954. He was an Army veteran, serving in the Korean War, and graduated from Stout University in Menomonie, Wis., in 1957.

He was a gifted carpenter and electrician, and spent many summers building houses and working on many other projects. In 1993, he and Donna retired to the home farm at La Farge.

Carl was a member of the Albion and Madison, Wis., Seventh Day Baptist churches. His sense of humor and love for Jesus were the hallmarks of his life. He put everyone at ease with his friendly manner, and his patience and persistence enabled him to fix almost anything.

Carl’s life here on earth ended with him doing the common, usual things he loved to do: driving his tractor on the farm he grew up

on, checking to make sure things were in order, being a responsible landowner.

In addition to his wife, survivors include one son, Vernie, of Viroqua, Wis.; two daughters, Barbara Francis of Orfordville, Wis., and Jackie Sjoberg of San Antonio, Texas; one sister, Iris Dozier, of North Fort Myers, Fla.; and seven grandchildren. Two brothers, Joe and Richard, preceded him in death.

Funeral services were held on July 21, 2007, at the Bethesda Lutheran Brethren Church in Westby, Wis., with Pastor Lindell Quam officiating. Inurnment will be held later.

Death Notices

Rev. David S. Clarke, 88, died in Sayre, Pa., on July 11, 2007.

Rev. Jack F. Hays, 72, died in Chatawa, Miss., on July 28, 2007.

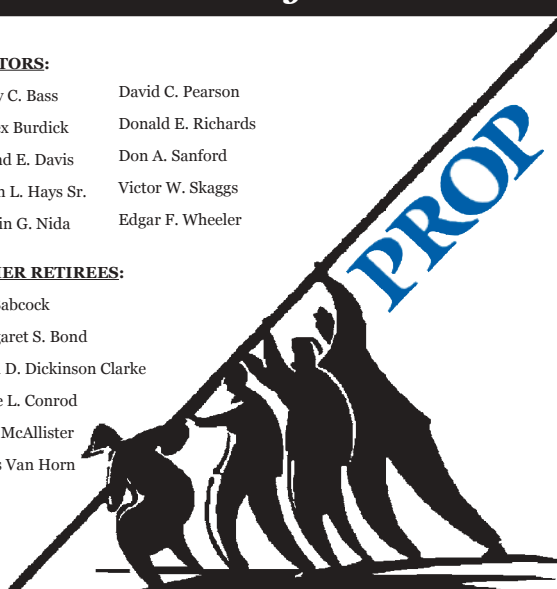
Give to those who gave so much.

PASTORS:

Leroy C. Bass	David C. Pearson
C. Rex Burdick	Donald E. Richards
Leland E. Davis	Don A. Sanford
Ralph L. Hays Sr.	Victor W. Skaggs
Melvin G. Nida	Edgar F. Wheeler

OTHER RETIREES:

Ida Babeock
Margaret S. Bond
Ethel D. Dickinson Clarke
Joyce L. Conrod
Jean McAllister
Doris Van Horn



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

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KEVIN'S

ORNER

Okay, think comedian Jeff Foxworthy and those silly "...you might be a Redneck" jokes:

- If you've ever helped to clean out a college's entire inventory of ice cream, ...you might be a Seventh Day Baptist.
- If you've ever crossed your arms to hold hands and sing the Youth Rally Song, ...you might be a Seventh Day Baptist.
- If you've ever been to Conference and discovered that you're related to nine people in the first two rows, ...you might be a Seventh Day Baptist.
- If you've ever seen Kevin Butler pretend to be a TV personality, ...you might be a Seventh Day Baptist.

- If you've ever married someone you met in Light Bearers, Stained Glass, SCSC, camp, and/or Pre-Con, ...you might be a Seventh Day Baptist.
- If your last name is Davis, Van Horn, Randolph, Burdick, Babcock, or Bond, ...you might be a Seventh Day Baptist.
- If you've ever teared up while listening to the men's chorus sing from the Towner books, ...you might be a Seventh Day Baptist.
- If you've ever praised God for His Sabbath and for the beautiful family that is this Conference, ...you might be a Seventh Day Baptist.



Jim Skaggs hamming it up (but just right) at the TCC program.

Thus began the 2007 Tract Council program. Yes, I pretended to be the host of a new hit quiz show. But I wasn't Jeff Foxworthy; I was Jeff Foundworthy. And it wasn't

"Are You Smarter than a 5th Grader?" It was "Are You Smarter than a 7th Day Baptist?"

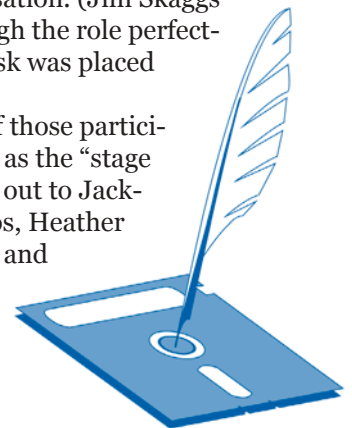
Contestants (TCCers Linda Lawton and Joel Osborn) did their best to answer "tough" questions about the recent work of the Tract Council. The laughter kicked in when the young "students" emerged from backstage. The excited and vibrant Brooke North and James Lima preceded the final student: a slow and stodgy Paul Manuel. Without having a line, Paul played his part very well.

One of the questions had to do with the *SR* editor reaching the 200-issue milestone. (Keep in mind that this program was just one week before baseball's Barry Bonds tied, then broke, Hank Aaron's all-time home run record.)

When the 200-issue mark was mentioned, someone from the audience took the stage to interrupt the proceedings. This supposed representative from the Magazine Hall of Fame disputed the new record of the "modern era," explaining how computers have quickened and simplified ("juiced") the process. Then, he produced "evidence"—with incriminating photos—of how the editor had bulked up his body since coming to Janesville in 1989. A list of new "human growth hormone outlets" (restaurants) that contributed to the obvious changes—known to be frequented by the editor—served to confirm his accusation. (Jim Skaggs deadpanned his way through the role perfectly. What a hoot!) An asterisk was placed next to the number 200.

So, I need to thank all of those participants, plus Scott Hausrath as the "stage manager." More thanks go out to Jackson Butler for taking photos, Heather Rood for editing the *Crier*, and all the Host Committee and college staff for another successful and inspiring Conference.

Next year in Wisconsin!



What does your local church mean to you?

Later this year, we would like to feature your answers to this important question.

Please send us your thoughts and memories of how your church has affected your life, or what impact the church has made in your community. If possible, limit your comments to 500 words, so we can share as many essays as we can.

You may send your testimony to The Sabbath Recorder, PO Box 1678, Janesville WI 53547, or e-mail it to editor@seventhdaybaptist.org. Deadline is September 30. Thank you!



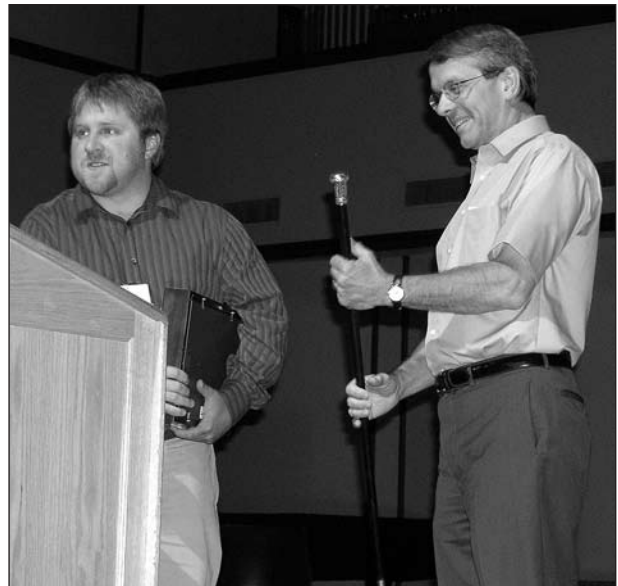
BCE Executive Andrew Camenga announces this year's Teacher of the Year: Ed Cruzan from White Cloud, Mich.



Camille Henry of Denver, Colo., received the Robe of Achievement. Marge Jacob (left) and Jan Graffius made the presentation.



A very happy Ruth Burdick handed the gavel over to new President Andy Samuels.



Pastor Steve Crouch (r.) accepted the Historical Society's Gold-Headed Cane for parishioner Oscar Burdick. Nick Kersten presented the cane and plaque.