



The
Sabbath
RECORDER

October 2007

News for and about Seventh Day Baptists



Are You

in the Book?



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.

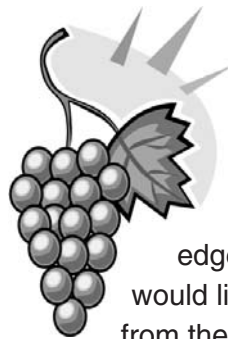
The seventh day

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

Check our website and read the **SDBlog**

The "SDB Exec" web log (known internally as 'SDBlog') features posts from our agency executives. Check it out at seventhdaybaptist.org.



SDB Grapevine— **200 Members and Growing!**

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

—Executive Director Rob Appel

Women's Society Love Gift 2007

The members of the Women's Interest Committee voted to distribute the Love Gift of \$4,208 as follows:

- \$100 *Joyce Samuels*
- \$300 *Pastor Scott and Jeanie Smith*
- \$300 *Pastor Mike and Jill Burns*
- \$100 *Johnmark and Cathy Camenga*

The remainder will be divided as follows:

- 50% Travel for women's group leaders to help train other women (distributed at the discretion of the SDB Missionary Society).

- 40% To help purchase material for school clothing (also at the discretion of the Missionary Society).

- 10% Thomas Medical Clinic in Malawi, Africa.

Craft Table sales at General Conference this year amounted to \$1,359.35. This includes \$305 received from the silent auction quilt sale. Pastor Bernie Wethington of White Cloud, Mich., was the high bidder.

The Seventh Day Baptist Women's Society thanks you all for your generosity.



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“We’re in the Book!”

by George Lawson

Pastor George Lawson of the Maranatha Community Church (SDB) of Colton, Calif., shared this message at the 2007 General Conference.



There’s a building in Washington, D.C., that houses the National Institute of Standards and Technology. This facility is responsible for storing “prototypes,” or perfect samples of different weights and measurements.

For example, they have a “Meter Standard”—a reinforced bar of platinum alloyed with 10% iridium. That bar is known as “Prototype #27.” (The original is kept in Paris.)

When scientists cool this bar down to 0 degrees Celsius at sea level, they know they have the exact measurement of a meter.

These measuring prototypes are always precise, never wavering, never varying over time.

We Christians also have a measuring rod that never changes. Just like “Prototype #27” is the standard for measuring a meter, so the Bible is a Christian’s ultimate standard for what is absolute, for what is true; never wavering, never varying over time.

I was reminded of a license plate frame I saw at one of my first General Conference sessions several years ago. It read, “Seventh Day Baptists—We’re in the Book!”

What a great marketing phrase! It’s short, it’s catchy, and it carries a dual meaning: 1) You can find Seventh Day Baptists in the phone book, and 2) You can find us in the Holy Book!

Turning to 2 Timothy 3:14-17, I’d like to suggest four perspectives on what it means to be “in” the Book.

OF the Book

First, we can’t be “IN” the book unless we are a people “OF” the book.

“But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it” (verse 14).

Thanks to recent blockbuster books like *The Da Vinci Code* and the so-called “Gospels” of Thomas, Mary Magdalene, Philip, and Judas, we now live in a time where the very nature of the Bible has come into question: Was Jesus married? Did he father a child with Mary Magdalene? Are there missing books of the Bible? Can we trust the Scripture we hold so dear?

Let’s look at three areas in which the Bible is often challenged.

Science

Many people don’t believe in the Bible because they assume it is not scientifically accurate. But that is just not true. In fact, while the Bible is not a science textbook, it was accurate in some areas long before science caught up.

For example, we take for granted today that the earth is suspended in space, hanging from nothing. What does Scripture say?

“He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing” (Job 26:7).

What were the common thoughts back then? Well, the ancient Egyptians believed earth rested on five marble pillars. The Greeks believed earth rested on the shoulders of the god Atlas. And Hindus believed earth rested on the backs of elephants, sitting on top of a huge tortoise, atop of a coiled serpent in the midst of a cosmic sea!

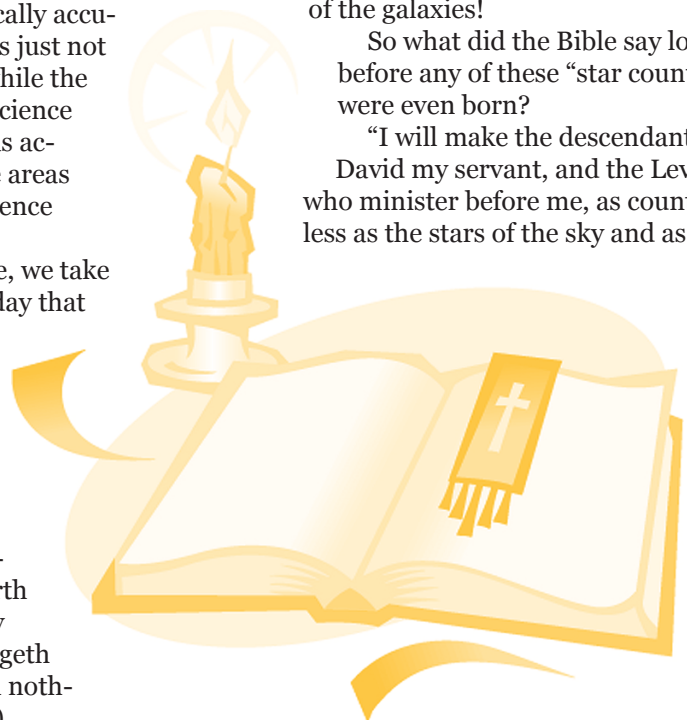
Even just 100 years ago, scientists were positively certain that earth was suspended in ether.

How about the number of stars?

In 150 B.C., an astronomer named Hipparchus announced that there were exactly 1,022 stars. He knew that, of course, as he hand-counted and cataloged every single one. That figure was used in universities for 250 years until Ptolemy updated that number with *four more* that he had discovered. That new number of 1,026 was used for over a thousand years. Of course, today we know that there are billions and billions of stars in each of the galaxies!

So what did the Bible say long before any of these “star counters” were even born?

“I will make the descendants of David my servant, and the Levites who minister before me, as countless as the stars of the sky and as



measureless as the sand on the seashore” (Jeremiah 33:22).

Until the 1500s, most scientists also believed that the earth was flat. But Isaiah said that the earth was round 2,000 years before science ever caught on—

“God sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers” (Isaiah 40:22).

Dennis Lindsay, author of *Harmony of Science and Scripture* says this:

One thing is certain. No verse in the Bible has ever been found to violate any known law of science. God’s Word does not contain one scientific inaccuracy, contradiction, absurdity, nor blunder. The absence of error in the Bible is truly remarkable since all other ancient books, and even many recent ones, contain scientific blunders and mistakes.

There are many theories contradicting Scripture, but there has never been found one scientifically established law denying any biblical passage, verse, or precept. Everything about the universe coincides with the Bible, pointing with overwhelming force to a personal creator whose mind and power are infinite.¹

Archaeology

The Bible might not be a history book, but it can be accurately described as “His Story.”

Historians have always needed to “catch up” with the Bible. There does not exist today one archaeological find that proves the Bible to be in error at any point. Yet there are over 25,000 archaeological finds that substantiate the accuracy of the Bible.

Nelson Gleuck, one of the greatest authorities in Biblical archaeology, said:

“It may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a Biblical reference.”²

William F. Albright, widely recognized in his day as the top expert on Biblical archaeology, wrote:

The excessive skepticism shown toward the Bible by important historical schools of the 18th and 19th centuries—certain phases of which still appear periodically—has been progressively discredited. Discovery after discovery has established the accuracy of innumerable details, and has brought increased recognition to the value of the Bible as a source of history.³

**We can’t be
“IN”
the book
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“OF”
the book.**

Here are some examples:

- 1) Pilate was once said to be a “figment of imagination” that Christians dreamed up when they needed a bad guy villain. A helicopter gunship was flying down the coast of Israel when its crew noticed a circle in the sand. They began to dig and excavated an entire city called Caesarea Philippi. There was a plaque dedicated to the man who had it built: Pontius Pilate.
- 2) The Bible says Jonah was sent to the city of Nineveh. There was no other evidence of the city of Nineveh, so skeptics scoffed and said the Bible was making the city up. Then archeologists discovered Nineveh.
- 3) For years historians said the Bible was in error because no one could find any trace of the “Hittite” civilization (mention-

ed over 60 times in the Old Testament). That is, until this century. Writings discovered in Turkey list them as a powerful nation that once attacked Egypt.

Prophecy

The Septuagint, a Greek translation of the Old Testament (finished 270 years before Christ was born), contained 330 distinct prophecies of Christ. Every single one of them was fulfilled.

Look up just these eight Messianic prophecies:

Micah 5:2, Zech. 9:9, 11:12, 11:13, and 13:6; Isa. 52:7 and Isa. 53:9; and Psalm 22.

Peter Stoner, Professor Emeritus of Mathematics and Astronomy at Pasadena City College in California, asked 600 students to estimate the odds for any one person on the planet fulfilling all eight prophecies.

Their conclusions? 1 in 10¹⁷. Written out, this number is 1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000!

Let us try to visualize this chance.

Suppose that we take 10¹⁷ silver dollars and cover the state of Texas. They will cover the whole state, two feet deep. And let’s mark one of these silver dollars and stir the whole mass thoroughly, all over the state. Blindfold a man and tell him that he can travel as far as he wishes, but he must pick up one silver dollar and say that it is the right one.

What chance would he have of finding it? Just the same chance that the prophets would have had in writing these eight prophecies and having them all come true in any one man—from their day to the present time—providing they wrote using their own wisdom.

If we added just eight more prophecies to our list, the chance

cont. on next page

that one man would fulfill all sixteen is 1 in 10⁴⁵.

Take *that* number of silver dollars. If you make these into a solid ball, you will have created a sphere with a radius more than 30 times the distance from the earth to the sun. Now imagine marking one silver dollar, then thoroughly stirring it into this great ball, and blindfolding a person and telling him to pick out the one marked dollar... You have somewhat of an idea of the chances for one human being to fulfill all 16 prophecies.⁴

These are amazing illustrations, but remember; there's not eight, or even 16, but over 300 fulfilled prophecies to demonstrate the reliability of Scripture!

What does the Bible say about itself? "The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever" (Isaiah 40:8).

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away" (Matthew 24:35).

IN the Book

It is not enough to be a people "OF" the book, to merely accept the Bible as God's Word. We should also be a people "IN" the book.

"...and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus" (verse 15).

A recent survey showed that 92% of all households in the United States own at least one Bible. But owning a Bible and studying it are two different things.

Authors George Gallup and Jim Castelli put the problem this way: "Americans revere the Bible—but, by and large, they don't read it. And because they don't read it, they have become a nation of biblical illiterates."

"No wonder people break the Ten Commandments all the time.

They don't know what they are," said George Barna.⁵

For several years, a professor of New Testament at Wheaton College tested incoming freshmen on their knowledge of the Bible. Most of the students entering Wheaton come from strong evangelical churches, and have a long history of Christian involvement in youth groups, camps, and missions. Here is what he found:

- One-third could not identify Matthew as an apostle from a list of New Testament names.
- One-third could not find Paul's missionary journeys in Acts.
- One-half did not know that the Passover story was in Exodus.⁶

It makes sense that an increasingly secularized population should not be expected to know about the

Owning a Bible and studying it are two different things.

Bible. The greater scandal is biblical ignorance among Christians. Choose whichever survey or poll you like. From generation to generation, America's Christians know less and less about the Bible.

Albert Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, says, "How can a generation be biblically shaped in its understanding of human sexuality when it believes Sodom and Gomorrah to be a married couple? ...Many who identify themselves as Christians are similarly confused about the Gospel itself. An individual who believes that 'God helps those who

help themselves' will find salvation by grace and justification by faith to be alien concepts."

The essentials of our faith need to be addressed by our pastors, by our Sabbath School teachers and youth leaders, and by our parents.

BY the Book

We need to be a people "OF" the book, and "IN" the book, but also "BY" the book.

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking and training in righteousness" (verse 16).

Did you know that the major division between professing Christians today is no longer along denominational lines, or between Reformed and Freewill theology, or across eschatological divisions? No, the biggest division today is between those who believe the Bible is true, and those who do not.

Although the Bible reveals God's truth to us, its primary purpose is not merely to educate us. Jesus said that "blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!" (Luke 11:28).

Knowing God's Word is not enough. The Bible is full of stories of folks who knew right from wrong, but chose the wrong way anyway.

When Jesus was tempted in the wilderness, he said, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4, cf. Deuteronomy 8:3). That "every word" starts from Genesis 1:1 and ends with Revelation 22:21.

The idea that God "breathed out" the Scriptures is that He produced them somewhat like He did Creation. "By the word of the LORD were the heavens made and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth" (Psalm 33:6).

The fundamental characteristic of Scripture—what makes these "sacred" writings—is the fact that God breathed them out; that they

have their origin with God Himself. The Bible's writers only added form, not content.

The fact that Scripture is God-breathed also makes the Bible "useful," meaning "practical," "beneficial," "relevant."

This relevance is seen in four areas: teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness. In other words, the Bible is useful in:

- Showing us what's right
- Showing us what's wrong
- Showing us how to get it right
- Showing us how to keep it right

Now this assumes that we come to the Bible as learners, because only learners can be taught. This instruction isn't just about heavenly things; it's about practical things like being a good spouse, being a good parent, loaning out money, starting a business, and so on.

Rebuking (or convicting) really just means confronting our wrong ideas about life. "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will" (Romans 12:2).

Correction is similar to rebuking, but instead of confronting wrong ideas, it focuses on our behavior. The Bible corrects us when we get off track in life, showing us how to get back on course where God wants us to go.

Finally, training in righteousness focuses on the Bible's role in helping us live the kind of lives that please God. The Bible trains us to be ready to make the right choices and decisions in our lives.

WITH the Book

Lastly, to be a people "IN" the book, we need to be a people "WITH" the book.

"...so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work" (verse 17).

The result of all this is being prepared for every good thing. Raising kids, loving my spouse, caring for my small group, discovering my purpose—the Bible prepares us for it all.

Every one of us has a purpose in this life that has been orchestrated by God. He has gifted you and enabled you with talents and natural ability in ways that no other person has.

As you turn to the standard of the Bible, it will help you to grow to the place where God can accomplish His purposes for your life. "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" (Ephesians 2:10).

"...faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ" (Romans 10:17).

The Holy Scriptures tell us how we can be saved through God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. No other book reveals this to man. The only wisdom that can ever save this world is the wisdom of God Himself, and that wisdom is found in the Holy Bible.

Conclusion

One day, I ran across some interesting facts about John Wesley, the father of Methodism. He wrote over 200 books, edited a magazine, and compiled dictionaries in four languages (and, mind you, all in his own handwriting).

Wesley crisscrossed England on horseback for a total of 250,000 miles—stopping to preach along the way. He preached 40,000 sermons; rarely less than two a day and often seven, eight, or even more.

When he was 83, he regretted that he could no longer preach more than twice a day, and confessed his increasing tendency to lie in bed until 5:30 in the morning!

John Wesley wrote this about the Bible:

"I want to know one thing, the way to heaven: how to land safe on that happy shore. God himself has


condescended to teach the way; for this very end he came from heaven. He has written it down in a book! Oh, give me that book! At any price, give me the book of God! I have it: here is knowledge enough for me. Let me be a man of one book!"

As SDB Christians, we're known for a number of distinctives:

- Seventh Day Sabbath
- Baptism by immersion
- Priesthood of all believers

May we be best known for being a people in the Book!

As the memorable words from a "classic old hymn" remind us:

"Oh, the B-I-B-L-E, yes that's the book for me! I stand alone on the word of God, the B-I-B-L-E." 

¹*Harmony of Science and Scripture; Christ for the Nations, 1991.*

²*Rivers in the Desert; Farrar, Strauss & Cudahy, 1959.*

³*The Archaeology of Palestine, Rev. ed.; Pelican Books, 1960, as quoted in Josh McDowell's Evidence That Demands a Verdict.*

⁴*Science Speaks; Moody Bible Institute, revised 1976.*

⁵*Commentary at www.albertmohler.com; 6/29/04.*

⁶*Article by Gary M. Burge, "The Greatest Story Never Read"; Christianity Today, August 9, 1999.*



George Lawson

Here am I; send me

by Chet Marks

“The adventure of a lifetime.” That’s the way the brochure for the mission trip began.

The excitement and lure of going to some far off, exotic place was all Robert could think about. After all, he hadn’t been *anywhere* before. (Well, his parents had taken him to Disney World when he was 6, but he didn’t remember much about it.)

“The adventure of a lifetime” echoed through his mind as he folded up the brochure. Of course, there was the problem of coming up with the money. Four thousand dollars was a lot for a two-week trip.

Everyone was supportive of Robert going, but financing the trip was still a challenge. He knew that his parents couldn’t afford to help.

His pastor agreed to let him share his trip idea with the congregation, and he would take up an offering. Robert’s youth group said that they would also help by holding some fund-raisers. He even overheard the youth pastor telling his mother that the trip would be good for him, and that it might change his life.

Robert had to admit that he was struggling lately. He was falling behind in his school work, and the arguments with his parents were getting worse. They just didn’t understand him. He was actually surprised when his folks said that he could go if he raised the money.

With the brochure tucked in his shirt pocket, Robert headed home to make a list of all the



things he would need to take on the trip.

* * *

This is a fictional scene, but the same scenario is played out in real life each year—countless times, in countless churches.

Is this what missions is all about? Is it an “adventure of a lifetime”? Should it be a “What’s in it for me?” kind of decision?

Are mission trips about excitement and fun, or have we missed the focus of missions?

I believe that missions is a **commandment** from God. We’re told, “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost” (Matthew 28:19, KJV). Mark 16:15 says, “And he [Jesus] said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”

Our involvement in missions should be an act of **obedience**, stemming from our love for Christ. Jesus said, “If you love me, you will obey my commandments.”

As Sabbatharians, we understand the importance of being true to God's Word, which is why we keep the Sabbath. We do it not because we are under the law, but out of love for Christ. It is an act of worship.

Missions is the same. We don't obey simply because we are commanded to; we obey because of our love for Christ, who saved us.

We should be so thankful for what Jesus has done for us that we will respond like Isaiah. When he heard the voice of the Lord say, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us," Isaiah replied, "Here am I, send me."

We must recover a Biblical vision of missions. Jesus came to seek and save that which was lost. His whole life was about missions.

"From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, 'Repent; for the kingdom of heaven is at hand'" (Matthew 4:17).

In Mark 1:38, Jesus said to his disciples, "Let us go into the next towns that I may preach there also: for therefore came I forth."

He even compelled his apostles to be involved in missions. Mark 3:14 reads, "And He ordained twelve, that they should be with Him, and that He might send them forth to preach." In Luke

***We should be
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10:11, Jesus appointed 70 others and sent them out, two by two.

Somewhere along the line, we've forgotten that missions is an opportunity to serve Christ and reach the lost with the Gospel. Mission work is not always glamorous; it is not always a fun-filled adventure of a lifetime. It should not be, "What's in it for me?" "How will I be changed?"

When the Macedonian man appeared to Paul in a vision saying, "Come over into Macedonia and help us," Paul immediately endeavored to go to Macedonia, knowing that the Lord had called him to preach the Gospel there (Acts 16:9-10).

I cannot picture Paul thinking, "Oh, this is really cool! I hear Macedonia has some great beaches; that's going to be exciting! I've never been there before."

Paul knew that when an opportunity for missions came, it was because the Lord had opened a great and effectual door, and that there would be many adversaries (1 Corinthians 16:9).

Paul was one of the greatest missionaries in the New Testament. If you could ask him to come and share about the "adventure of a lifetime," here is what he would probably say:

"Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labors more

abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness" (2 Corinthians 11:23-27, KJV).

Mission work may not always be glamorous, or adventurous, or even fun, but it should be the heartbeat of every church and the driving passion of every believer.

May we understand the excellence of missions as Isaiah did when he said, "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!" (Isaiah 52:7). **SR**

Pastor Chet Marks is the developer of the Rez Connection, a non-profit, faith-based, Bible-believing Christian outreach for Sioux living on the Pine Ridge Native American Reservation in South Dakota.



Chet and Barbara Marks with their eight children.

Former exec (for two Boards) passes

An obituary and tribute to David S. Clarke

by Douglas Clarke

Rev. David Stillman Clarke, 88, died in Sayre, Pa., on July 11, 2007. He had successfully undergone partial hip replacement surgery after a fall but succumbed to pneumonia.

David was born to Ford Stillman and Agnes (Kenyon) Clarke on March 2, 1919, in Hornell, N.Y. The family resided in Alfred.

David's father died from the combined effects of tuberculosis and influenza later that same year, so David and his two older siblings were raised by their mother and grandparents, Alpheus B. and M. Veola Kenyon. (Alpheus was an instructor, Registrar, Dean, and twice Acting President of Alfred University.)

Although he never knew his father, David followed his dad's pattern of being active in church and civic affairs. Dr. Lloyd Watson, an Alfred University chemistry professor, became a father figure and encouraged David to do things well. Watson was the first in the world to successfully inseminate a honey bee queen using instruments.

David's stepfather, Ahva J.C. Bond, was also a strong influence. Bond was Dean of Alfred's Theological School, promoted ecumenism, and introduced camping as a form of Christian education to SDBs in the 1930s. These themes continued throughout David's life.

David worked in Dr. Watson's apiary during his high school years. After graduating as class valedictorian from Alfred Union High in 1937, he hitchhiked to Kansas State University and began studying entomology.

A year later, David became convinced that he should enter the Christian ministry.



David S. Clarke
1919–2007

Returning to Alfred, he met Frances Catherine Polan, and the couple married on May 31, 1942. He earned his BA from Alfred in 1941, with Frances graduating the following year. (She was a minister's daughter and enthusiastically supported him in his career, as well as in numerous charitable endeavors.)

David spent one semester at the Graduate Theological School at Oberlin College in Ohio before returning to New York. He earned a Bachelor of Divinity degree from Alfred University's Theological School in 1944.

For the next year and a half, David served as a missionary pastor at the SDB church at Jackson Center, Ohio. He was ordained on June 7, 1944.

Next, he became Assistant Missionary Secretary of the SDB Missionary Society in Westerly, R.I., and then its Executive Secretary.

From 1951 to 1955, David pastored the Seventh Day Baptist Church

in New Auburn, Wis. He drove a school bus, kept beehives, and did farm and carpentry work to supplement the family income. He was also involved in trying to start a church in the Twin Cities in Minnesota.

In 1955, David was called to the Boulder, Colo., SDB Church. While there, he helped a rancher friend, Paul Hummel, take salt to cattle grazing in the Rocky Mountains. After spending a few days in the saddle and camping out, Paul's daughter was disappointed that David wasn't saddle sore. David became active in the church's camping program, using land donated by Mr. Hummel.

While in Boulder, the Clarke family took in a student refugee from the Hungarian Revolution who had narrowly escaped execution. They helped him learn to speak English and adapt to life in the U.S. That young man went on to become a successful inventor, engineer, and business owner.

From 1961 to 1963, David served as pastor of the North Loup, Neb., SDB Church, becoming involved in that congregation's camping program.

In 1963, he was called to serve the SDB church in his hometown of Alfred. His eldest daughter had already attended Alfred University for one year, living with her grandmother in the home where he had spent most of his childhood.

David weathered the tumultuous 1960s in Alfred, allowing the church's youth to play guitars as they participated in worship. He was actively involved with college students, challenging them to think for themselves while respecting the opinions of others in open dialogue.

David directed sessions for all ages at Camp Harley Sutton [Alfred Station, N.Y.], serving as a lifeguard for several camping seasons.

The summer garden at the Alfred parsonage was turned into an ice-skating rink in the winter, and young people came often to visit the Clarkes.

David was President of General Conference for its 1968 session in Kearney, Neb., choosing the theme, "Yoked by Christ In Missions."

His father had been the first Boy Scout Master of the Alfred troop, and David became a Scout Master while living in Wisconsin, joining the Order of the Arrow.

Both he and Frances were active in local efforts to help migrant workers in the New York counties of Steuben and Allegany, encouraging people of other faiths in this and other work. David helped found the Alfred Lions Club chapter and was one of its early presidents.

From 1970-76, he served as Executive Secretary of the SDB Board of Christian Education. In that capacity, he created and promoted resources for Christian camping and church school programs as a way of connecting people of all ages with their environment, with each other, and with their Creator.

In 1974, he edited the denomination's Bible study guide, *The Helping Hand*.

During these years in Alfred, the Clarkes moved into the house that his grandfather and great-grandfather had built in the 1870s. This enabled them to care for David's mother and aunt as each of them neared or surpassed their 100th birthday. They then cared for an aging cousin and several family friends.

With all their children grown, David and Frances took in student boarders from China and Tunisia,

enjoying the contact with other people and cultures.

David also served as caretaker and trustee of Camp Harley Sutton while continuing to be active in church and community affairs. He volunteered with the Allegany County Office for the Aging and managed a food pantry.

When their youngest child returned to Alfred to build a house, the Clarkes helped with the construction, gardening, and caring for their youngest grandchild. David enjoyed teaching his son and grandchildren about bees and how to manage their hives.

Cancer ended Fran's life in 1998—after 56 years of marriage, five children, five grandchildren, many friendships, and many years of service to all kinds of people.

Two years later, David married a widowed friend, Ethel (Davis) Dickinson. She had served as denominational secretary, and her late husband, Harmon, had been in theological school with David. Both men had pastored SDB churches, with the two families sometimes living in the same region at the same time.

In the early years of their marriage, David and Ethel spent half of each year in each other's homes. When Ethel's health declined, they stayed at her home in Fort Mill, S.C., year-round.

David looked after Ethel until she moved into assisted living near her daughter in 2006. Since he was still fairly healthy, he moved back to his home in Alfred. He worked on the manuscripts of two books for several months until his own health began to fail, leaving editing and publication to his children.

In addition to Ethel, David's survivors include five children, Roberta Ellis of Queensbury, N.Y., D. Sherman Clarke of New York City, Cathy Baumgarten of Syosset, N.Y., Carol Clarke of Branchport, N.Y., and G. Douglas Clarke of Alfred Station; five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. His first wife, Frances; one sister, Mary Roberta Clarke; and one brother, Ford Kenyon Clarke, preceded him in death.

A service of remembrance and celebration was held on August 4, 2007, at the First Seventh Day Baptist Church of Alfred, with Rev. Pat Bancroft officiating. Interment was in the Alfred Rural Cemetery. **SR**



Remember last year's

Thanksgiving Art Contest?

See the back cover and have your kids enter the 2008 contest celebrating the Resurrection

Robe of Achievement goes to Camille Henry

Although our 2007 Robe recipient didn't grow up a Seventh Day Baptist, she was raised in a home with good family values and high moral standards.

She married a Seventh Day Baptist, and shortly afterwards accepted the Lord as her Savior, was baptized, and joined one of our denominational churches. She has been a committed Christian and a committed SDB ever since.

After touring the country with Lightbearers for Christ, she was soon busy raising a family and supporting her husband while he finished college and seminary.

During her active life as a pastor's wife, she lived in the Philippines for five years, where the family served in the mission field.

While there, she kept financial records and reported on their outreach. Her greatest contribution was working with the sick and poor. She helped to improve their lives, visited them in the hospital, and took them to doctor appointments. Scores of poor and sick people were blessed by her ministry.

After returning to the States, our honoree began working at the SDB



A humbled and surprised Camille Henry, Denver, Colo., accepted this year's Robe of Achievement.


Her greatest contribution was working with the sick and poor.

Center in Janesville, Wis. There, she helped with the *Sabbath Recorder*, and was employed as Administrative Assistant and Financial Secretary.

She also has been the SCSC Business Manager, Recording Secretary for General Conference, a church clerk, and an ordained deaconess. She is very active in other areas of church ministry as well.

In more recent years, she realized a lifelong dream of becoming a Registered Nurse, ministering to patients and staff as though they were part of her family. She has been recognized by her coworkers as an outstanding caregiver, receiving the Gold Star Award. She has also been nominated for the First Humanitarian Award by demonstrating extraordinary concern for the welfare and happiness of her patients and community.

Our recipient started up the Mid-Continent Association Women's Retreat by serving as an organizer and teacher. She continues to support this endeavor through her leadership.

Camille Henry certainly exhibits the traits and actions of a woman worthy of the Robe of Achievement! 

Recent Robe recipients

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| 2007 — Camille Henry | 1999 — Jean Lewis | 1991 — Gertrude Davis |
| 2006 — Ruth S. Rogers | 1998 — Lorna Austin Graffius | 1990 — Geraldine Van Dyke |
| 2005 — Vivian Looper | 1997 — Beth Burdick | 1989 — Mae Bottoms |
| 2004 — Ruth Bottoms | 1996 — Luan Sutton Ellis | 1988 — Audrey Fuller |
| 2003 — Barbara Green | 1995 — Ethel Wheeler | 1987 — Xenia Lee Wheeler |
| 2002 — Sylvia Lindo | 1994 — Mabel Cruzan | 1986 — Madeline Fitz Randolph |
| 2001 — Floy Owen | 1993 — Dorotha Shettel | 1985 — Lois Wells and Ethel Dickinson |
| 2000 — Nellie Jo Brissey | 1992 — Myrna Cox | |



Becoming a woman

Now that I'm nearly 60, do you think it's time I became one—a woman, that is?

Actually, what *you* think isn't of prime importance. [Smack!] Did I really say that?

Yes, thanks to a recent *Helping Hand* lesson on Ezekiel 18, I've decided it's time to accept responsibility for my actions. And that decision probably separates the women from the girls.

Frankly, I always liked being "just one of the girls," and I think many other women feel the same way. I consider them girls, too, no matter what their age.

Alas, I do care what others think. And I care what my husband thinks.

As I consider what *God* thinks—which is above anything we can ever think or imagine—I'm humbled by His love and grace, and ashamed for choosing the road of least resistance. (Yet, Lord, I choose Your yoke for it is easy, and Your burden light.)

It's time I cease blaming others for what I do or don't do, and pray earnestly, thanking God for what He's making of all of us.

I look forward to hearing what Christine Davis shared at this year's Women's Banquet at Conference. Her theme, "Becoming Women of Truth," inspired my title and thoughts today. Women's Board President Margie Jacob provided the following rundown of banquet happenings:

Debra Williams, the SCSC Project Director for Seattle, Wash., shared her testimony, as did SCSCers Melody Rankhorn (Paint Rock, Ala.), and Rachel Hargett (Atlanta, Ga.). Their topics were "Perfectionism" and "The Sabbath."

Linda Lawton entertained with inspiring music ("Lift Him Up"), with Charlotte Chroniger at the

piano; and David Hauber sang "He's Alive," accompanying himself on the guitar.

As usual, the banquet included not only good food and inspiration, but also laughter.

This year, Yvonne Stephan read two stories provided by Gail Price. I don't know if peas were served at the banquet, but Margie's e-mail to me mentioned that *SR* editor/photographer Kevin Butler "took a lot of pictures—bless his pea-pickin' heart. Or maybe he was just hanging around to get a plate or two of the good buffet, eh?" [Photos on this page prove he wasn't there just for the peas.]

The annual Love Gift totaled \$4,208. Before Conference, \$810 was received; \$2,928 was collected during the banquet; and \$470 was received during Conference week. We received additional gifts up until September 30. (*See the distribution chart inside the front cover.*)

SR



Linda Lawton sang to the accompaniment of Charlotte Chroniger.



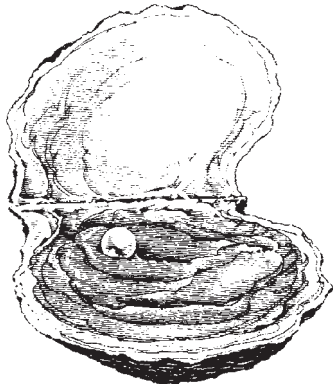
Testimonies came from Debra Williams...



...and Rachel Hargett.



Alex Huntington-Ofner loved the fresh berries for dessert.



A high point in SDB recognition

Statistically, Seventh Day Baptists in the United States reached their peak membership in the 1890s. SDBs were widely recognized, particularly in Wisconsin.

During that decade, the emphasis on mission work shifted from foreign countries to the home field. Some 45 Young People's Societies reported a membership of 2,000, with an average attendance of 27, and 161 conversions.

Also during this period, student quartets were active, and nearly two dozen churches or branch churches were started. The visibility of SDBs was heightened, particularly in the expanding territory of the old Northwest.

In 1900, Rev. Lester A. Platts, pastor of the Milton, Wis., Seventh Day Baptist Church (1896-1918), wrote a letter to the *Sabbath Recorder*, reporting a train ride from Milwaukee to Racine, Wis.

"I took a seat with a stranger. The fact that we each had clerical tickets served as an introduction; and when in answer to his query as to my 'connection,' I told him that I was a Seventh Day Baptist.

"To my surprise he began to speak familiarly of certain of our churches and ministers in New York State. I was more surprised still when, of his own accord he said, 'Your people are right,' and expressed his wish that everybody could see the way to keep the Sabbath."

Platts then added that, two or three weeks prior, he had preached

at a Presbyterian church in a small town in Northern Wisconsin. He had supposed that a live, honest-to-goodness Seventh Day Baptist would be a curiosity that Sunday morning, so he was taken aback when a young woman mentioned that her mother had once been an "inmate" with the family of Darwin E. Maxson, and a student at Alfred, N.Y., University.

Platt was again surprised when another young professional said

"Our public men, our churches, our institutions, our work, and our faith are more widely known than we sometimes think."

that he was a grandnephew of Prof. Pickett, a teacher at Alfred.

Still another man asked Platts if he knew whatever became of A.B. Prentice of Albion (Wis.), and another inquired about the health and work of Milton College's President William Whitford.

Rev. Platts wasn't totally surprised by the latter inquiry. President Whitford's two terms as State Superintendent of Public Instruction—plus his subsequent public addresses on historical and educational subjects—made him well-known throughout Wisconsin, especially among teachers, preachers, and statesmen.

But Platts was surprised when a businessman, up until then a stranger, said:

"Do you know that your college down there at Milton has furnished more State Superintendents for Wisconsin than all other institutions in the state combined?"

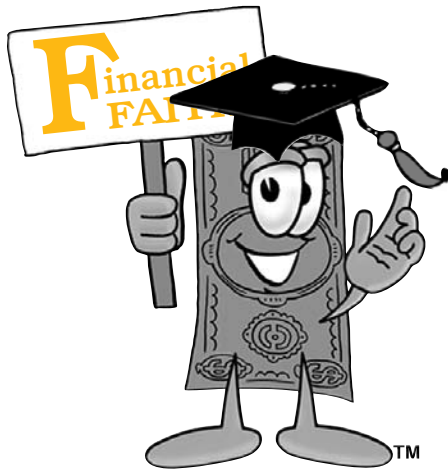
The man also stated that the National Teacher's Association, meeting recently in Chicago, unanimously elected Prof. L. Dow Harvey, a Milton man, as its new president.

This caused Platts to write, "All of which demonstrates that our public men, our churches, our institutions, our work, and our faith are more widely known than we sometimes think."

Hopefully, this will encourage us to work even harder in spreading the Good News. As Rev. Platts further wrote:

"Might we not make it all mean vastly more than it now does toward the advancement of God's truth in the world? Suppose the name 'Seventh Day Baptist'—whether applied to individuals or to churches or to the denomination as a whole—wherever spoken, should become the synonym of purity, of good-will to men, of earnest purpose to bless and save men, of the love of God, and loyalty to his Word, would not God set his seal upon that name and clothe it with mighty power? Who doubts it?"—*L.A. Platts, Milton, April 20, 1900*

Now, over a century later, how many of the people we encounter know that we are Seventh Day Baptists? We need to tell them ... —that we have a history of which we can be proud; —that we have a mission to a world in need; —that we recognize God in our harried lives; —that we are sanctified in the weekly remembrance of his Holy Sabbath. **SR**



Scholars— yesterday and today

by Morgan Shepard

Seventh Day Baptists have always placed an importance on education. From our earliest days, SDB institutions of higher education existed—Alfred University and the Alfred School of Theology in New York; Milton College in Wisconsin; and Salem College in West Virginia.

Secondary schools also played a key role in preparing our youth for adulthood: Albion Academy in Wisconsin, DeRuyter Academy in New York, and the Fouke School in Arkansas.

While all of these institutions are no longer operating (or distinctively SDB), an emphasis on education among Seventh Day Baptists continues.

Early endowments were created to provide scholarships for students attending Milton, Alfred, or Salem. This money is now used to fund scholarships for SDBs attending any school.

The former schools left behind a legacy that still supports education. Scholarships are currently available

to all Seventh Day Baptists, based on service, academic major, or need. The chart on this page outlines some of these scholarships, plus the qualifications and areas of focus.

Several endowments within the Memorial Fund support the *Spiritual Leadership Development Scholarships*, available to SCSCers:

- **Youth Education Scholarships**, created in 1995, for SDBs attending college or universities.

- **The Edna R. and Walter J. Wilkinson Education Fund**, created in 1987 for the “education of young people.”

- **The Owen H. Probasco Scholarship Fund**, created in 2004 in recognition of Owen’s passion for education.

In 2007, the Memorial Board increased the amount of these scholarships to: first year, \$1,500; second, \$2,000; third, \$2,500; and fourth and fifth years, \$3,000.


In addition to these leadership scholarships, two others are available to deserving SDB students: The *Lois Wells Music Scholarship* (established in 1985 for Christian music students), and the *Margaret Bond Allen Scholarship* (set up in 2001 with a focus on Christian education, giving priority to SDBs from the

Lost Creek and Salem churches, the Appalachian Association, and then the General Conference).

Since 2004, the Memorial Fund has helped qualifying SDB pastors set up *529 College Savings Accounts* for their children. Donations to these accounts can have tax-saving benefits as well as provide for an education.

The Council on Ministry also gives scholarships to seminary students through the *Charles H. Bond Scholarship*. Started in 1996, it helps “worthy and promising SDB college graduates who are enrolled full-time in accredited Christian seminaries, studying for a vocational Christian ministry within the SDB denomination.”

For more information about these scholarships, contact me or visit the Conference’s website: www.seventhdaybaptist.org. We need to give our youth every opportunity to explore and learn about God’s Creation, so that when they get old, they will not turn from His ways.

“Instruct a wise man and he will be wiser still; teach a righteous man and he will add to his learning. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding” (Proverbs 9:9-10, NIV). 

Scholarship	Supports /Area of Study	Scholarship Amount
Youth Education Scholarships	SCSC	Varies per year of service
Edna R. & Walter J. Wilkinson Education Fund	SCSC	Varies per year of service
Owen H. Probasco Scholarship	SCSC	Varies per year of service
Discretionary Fund	SCSC	Varies per year of service
Lois Wells Music Scholarship	Music Education	\$1,000 & Up
Margaret Bond Allen Scholarship	Education	\$1,000 & Up



2007 Scripture Memorization participants

Ruth Burdick, 2006-07 Conference President, worked with the Board of Christian Education to choose Scripture verses that highlighted the year's theme, *Tell the Truth—the Whole Truth*, for the 2007 Scripture Memorization Program. More than 200 Seventh Day Baptists completed the program, and they are listed here to encourage others to hide God's Word in their hearts.

In 2006-07, the Milton, Wis., and the Toronto, Ontario, Canada, SDB Churches tied for having the largest number of participants complete the program. They will share the Mary G. Clare Scripture Memorization Bowl during the year.

The 2007-2008 memorization program was listed in last month's *SR*. Brochures were mailed to churches in August. In addition to or instead of those verses, you may participate in their year's program by memorizing Isaiah 55. Additional copies are available from the Board of Christian Education. Phone: (607) 587-8527; Website: EducatingChristians.org; E-Mail: sdbbce@educatingchristians.org.

The following are recognized for completing the 2006-2007 Scripture Memorization Program:

Alfred Station, NY

Mae L. Bottoms
Elaine Brundage
Ivan Cherry

Nancy Cherry
Elianna Chroniger
Kenneth Chroniger
Madge Chroniger
Katelyn Dickerson
Phyllis Mattison
Reid Mattison
Voni Mattison
Abigail Noel
Dorothy Noel
Samantha Quick
Sandy Quick
Eden Rao
Sarah Torkaman
John Wood

All Nations Gardena, CA

Paulette Campbell
Komar Simpson
Alecia Thompson

Asheville, NC

Kenneth Lance

Battle Creek, MI

Caron George
Kory Geske

Beth Jones
Judy Parrish
Nicholas Thorngate

Bay Area Pinole, CA

Brock Hannah
Conor Hannah
Norma Johnson
Victoria Shephard

Bell SDB Salemville, PA

Esther Baker
Beth Boyd
Joe Boyd
Eileen Claycomb
Robert Claycomb
Lois Fletcher
Carol Guyer
Dwight Kagarise
Jeannie Kagarise
Floyd Roberts
Ruthanna Roberts
Ed Sutton

Berlin, NY

Becky Bonesteel
Paula Dibble
Casey Greene
Cindy Greene
Katie Greene
Luke Greene

Seth Greene
Wade Greene
Wyatt Greene
Aileen May
Ellen Olson
Matt Olson
Rebecca Olson
Dorothy Stall

Boulder, CO

Nathan Crowder
Doris Rood
Cletus Severance
Shari Severance

Bradenton, FL

Mischka Gumbs
Mike Spearl

Central SDB Mitchellville, MD

Cliff Gordon
Pam Gordon
Jeffrey Hazen
Brian Parrish
Robert Parrish

Daytona Beach, FL

Everald Kelly
Linda McCall
Leora Pinder
Kay Wilks

Dodge Center, MN

Rayan Bond
Austin Greene
Del Greene
Kylie Robinson
Althea Rood
Dale Rood

First Genesee Little Genesee, NY

Barbara Welch

First Hebron Hebron, PA

Pearl Brock
Breanne Dubots
David Hauber
Fay Hauber
Damaris Kenyon

First Hopkinton Ashaway, RI

Helen Brayman
Thelma Tarbox

First Toronto Toronto, Canada

Estel Aird
Norma Anderson
Herlitz Condison
Merlin Condison
Lee Fyffe
Sharai Fyffe

Winsome Gilmore
Shayanne Gilmour
Herman Grant
Jamoke Johnson
Godfrey London
Margaret London
Winston London
George Neville

Lyons

Jonathan Meshach
Lyons
Joshua Charles
Lyons
Tyrell Mingo
Vanessa Ormsby

Florence Reynolds

Paula Reynolds
Ruth Reynolds
Vnette Reynolds
Lorna Samuels
Nadia Simpson
Isolyn Sinclair
Festina Smith
Evelyn Taylor
Elton Williams
June Williams

Hope SDB Philadelphia, PA

Rolleesa Phillips

Little Rock, AR

Betty Seager
Irving Seager

Maranatha Community Colton, CA

George Lawson
Jonathan Lawson
Mindy Barnes Riley

Metro Atlanta, GA

Joel Hargett
Alex Kelley
Jasmine Kelley
AnnaRuth Lovelace
Jonathan Lovelace
Josiah Lovelace

Milton, WI

Marisol Arreola
Autumn Bennett
Charlie Bentz
Ellen Bentz
George Calhoun
Elizabeth Camenga
Tacy Camenga
Steve Gincer
Barbara Green
Shawn Hamm
Emily Heilman
Olivia Heilman
Kirstie Jorgenson
Micaela Jorgenson
Ben Lima
James Lima
Linda Lyke

cont. on page 26



FOCUS on Missions

Bibles for Africa

by Kirk Looper

I can hardly believe how successful the “Bibles for Africa” project was!

When Patty Petersen first suggested it, I thought that it would net about 100 Bibles, and that would be it. Currently, we have mailed boxes of over 300 pounds, and 200 pounds still need to be sent.

It was a great feeling to send so many Scriptures to our sister Conferences and churches. We’ve already sent them to places like Malawi, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia.

When the Missionary Society Board of Managers met at their regular quarterly meeting, they discussed the shortage of the printed Word in our overseas churches, especially in Africa. Some thought that they could locate Bibles in their own homes to donate.

After further discussion, the board members decided to go ahead with the project. They suggested placing a notice in the *Sabbath Recorder*, asking people to send extra Bibles that they had around the house. Churches were also asked if they could send “spare” copies.

Patty placed an ad in the *SR*, letting people know that they could send their packages to the Missionary Society office here in Westerly (R.I.), or bring them to General Conference in Oregon. The ad explained that the Bibles would be sent to Africa to help those who couldn’t afford them.

The Missionary Society started this drive because our brethren in Tanzania, Uganda, and Sierra Leone mentioned this need when I visited them in January of 2007. A major reason for collecting “unused”

Bibles was to put them into the hands of people who will truly utilize them.

Today, this project includes other countries as well. Many of our fellow SDBs need Bibles, so we could easily move over 1,000 through our Conferences and churches around the world.



***We could easily
move over 1,000 Bibles
through our Conferences
and churches around
the world.***

Beginning in late June and progressing beyond Conference in August, Bibles flowed into our office. Over 200 were brought to the George Fox campus, many of them new. These were sent overseas directly from Oregon.

We were so pleased with the response from Conference attendees! One individual discovered that the campus bookstore was selling Bibles for one dollar each, and purchased 25. It was wonderful to hear the excitement when some spoke of the project and its benefits to our sister Con-

ferences. The blessings kept coming, and we were happy to respond.

Several checks came to us unexpectedly from people who wanted to help pay the shipping costs. (We send many items overseas and usually receive few donations to help with the high shipping fees.) We really appreciate the willingness of people to share these costs!

People also gave money to buy Bibles right in the foreign countries. This allows us to purchase the Word in a specific language or dialect while reducing mailing costs.

Again, a big “Thanks” to everyone who participated in any way in this worthy project! **SR**



the BEACON

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

October 2007

God really satisfies and fills

by Jessica Chroniger

“Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men, for he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things” (Psalm 107:8-9).

Though the summer has come to an end, I believe that I will never forget all of the lessons God taught me, especially during Youth Pre-Con.

During that five-day period, I came to realize how much God has really touched my life this past year. He blessed me with special awards in school, but the greatest thing He did was help me get closer to my family.

My heart filled with anger after my sister went off to school in Wash-

ington, D.C. In a way, I felt abandoned by her, and I blamed her for leaving me for reasons that weren't true. I began pushing not only her away, but also others whom I loved.

Luckily for me, God is amazing! He helped to channel my anger into love, a love that I can't even begin to describe. I can't really explain how it happened, but without God I would be in the same predicament that I had been in at the beginning of the year.

I joined our praise band and sang my heart out, praising God for everything He has done for me. I'm not nearly done thanking Him, but it was a start.

The camp was filled with so much joy that the girls sang praise songs everywhere—before brushing their

teeth, before going to sleep, even before eating.

Pre-Con was an extreme blessing to me! I developed relationships that were different from any others I have had because Jesus Christ was the foundation.

I challenge you to stop and take notice of how God has worked in *your* life. We don't always notice Him, but I assure you that He is always there. Let God into your heart, and He will never desert you.

The lovely people and scenery that surrounded me at Pre-Con created a fire in my heart, a fire that I pray will never die. I grew hungry for God's presence and His Word, and to this day He has continued to feed me.

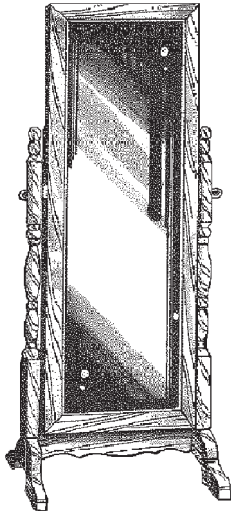
God bless! **SR**



Youth Pre-Con led worship on Monday morning at Conference in Newberg, Ore.



Forming lifelong bonds, the youth joined hands to sing the SDB Youth Rally Song.



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

Women can be heroes, too

Initially, I had planned to write about one of my childhood heroes, Roy Rogers. But when I looked up Mr. Webster's definition of "hero," my topic quickly changed.

The dictionary listing for hero includes:

- "Any person, especially a man, admired for courage, nobility, or exploits, especially in war."

- "Any person, especially a man, admired for qualities or achievements and regarded as ideal."

Whoa, Trigger! What about *women*?

Offhand, I can think of scores of females who, throughout history, exhibited abundant courage and character. They serve as role models for young women today—leaving celebrities like Paris Hilton, Britney Spears, and Madonna in the dust.

When referring to brave women, I like the term "hero" instead of its feminine form, "heroine." The latter conjures up an image of some helpless young damsel imprisoned in a medieval tower, waiting to be rescued by her knight in shining armor.

Many women, past and present, are far from helpless. They served courageously in the military as nurses and clerks in earlier wars. Today, they serve on ships, work alongside their male counterparts in land combat units, and pilot jet fighters over hostile territories.

Plenty of women had—and still have—their own "shining armor."

Born Elizabeth Griscom in 1752,

Betsy Ross is thought by many to have sewn the first American flag. She persevered and flourished in spite of a life filled with hardships.

The ninth of 17 children, she was disowned by the Quakers following her marriage to an Anglican, and was widowed three times. Her first husband was mortally wounded in a gunpowder explosion; her second died in a British prison; and her third succumbed after 20 years of



ill health. Of her seven daughters, two died in infancy.

During the Revolutionary War, British soldiers forcibly occupied her home in Philadelphia. Throughout all her trials, Betsy rented out rooms and maintained an upholstery business. She remained a strong and respected woman of God until her death at the age of 84.

At 17, **Florence Nightingale**

felt herself "called by God to some unnamed great cause." In the mid-1800s, she battled to improve the conditions of wounded British soldiers and founded modern nursing.

In later years, Florence struggled with poor health. She went blind in 1895, and soon after suffered "the loss of other faculties." She lived another 15 years as a complete invalid before dying in 1910.

When thinking of female heroes, several outstanding Seventh Day Baptist women come to mind. One is **Mabel West**.

Born in Utica, Wis., in 1884, Mabel headed to China in 1920 to join her mother in mission work. She taught at the Grace School for Girls in Shanghai for almost 30 years.

When the second Sino-Japanese War broke out in the early 1940s, Mabel and her mother spent 16 months in a Japanese concentration camp. In 1948, she fell and broke her hip, just as the Communists were advancing from the north.

In December of that year, Mabel—along with her mother and nurse Sarah Becker—were evacuated to San Francisco by a Navy transport ship. She spent the entire voyage in sick bay, "cocooned" in a body cast.

The late U.S. Senator Jennings Randolph once remarked, "Mabel's pace has slowed, her hearing is not good, and her eyes are weak. But I know that she will continue to have stars in her eyes. ...The Lord has been her companion and shepherd, and she does not want as He leadeth this noble woman beside the quiet waters."

Mabel, a true SDB hero, went "home" in 1976, after living 92 years for her Lord. **SR**



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

Stretching to break down barriers

Many of us have barriers in our lives and in our churches. These barriers stand in our way and prevent us from being all that God wants us to be. They keep us from fulfilling our potential, and from seeking more, achieving more, loving more, and praying more.

Remember, it's a "hungry" person who longs for more. Hungry people often stretch themselves to find what will satisfy their hunger.

God's people need to be that hungry. We are called to stretch ourselves so that our limitless God will see our determination, our resolve, and our desperation, and respond accordingly.

I have learned three things about stretching:

First of all, ***we are no good unless we are stretched.***

Our value to ourselves, to others, and to the Kingdom of God comes in the stretching process. It is certainly more comfortable not to stretch, but it's also least effective.

Secondly, ***all of us can stretch more.***

We all have the capacity to stretch more for God. I don't believe anyone can stand and proudly say that they are giving 100% for God, or that they

are at maximum capacity in their walk with Him.

Thirdly, ***other people will stretch more when they see our example.***

This is certainly true regarding our spirituality, but let me illustrate it from the world of sports.

In 1864, a man ran the mile race in about 4.5 minutes, setting a world record that stood for nearly 90 years.

Expert opinions of the day declared that it was physically impossible for a human being to run a mile under four minutes. That thinking created a barrier and gave rise to the specter of "the four-minute mile."

Medical journals propagated the idea that running a mile in under four minutes would be too much for the lungs, and that a body's muscles could not endure that pressure, etc.

Then, in 1954, a medical student named Roger Bannister ran the mile in under four minutes. For the next two years—between 1954 and 1956—the barrier of "the four-minute mile" was broken 129 times.

Why did that happen? Because one man stretched himself and accomplished that feat, becoming an inspiration to many others.

Today, the world record for the mile is 3 minutes, 43.13 seconds. I

could tell you similar stories about the pole vault, high jump, and shot put records.

My point is this: If you get on fire for God, stretching yourself beyond your comfort zone and breaking barriers that have stood in your way for a long time, you have no idea how many people you may motivate and inspire to do the same. Someone might just be waiting to say, "If he can do it, so can I!"

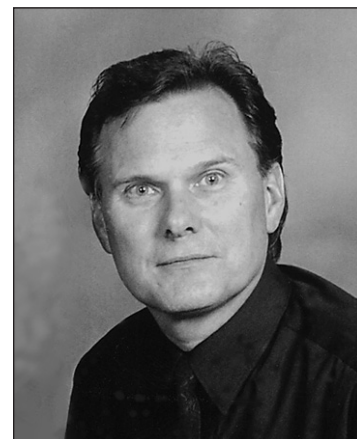
When you see a believer hungry for God—and growing in Him, and walking closely with Him—God lights a flame in you, and you suddenly want the same for yourself.

When "hot" Seventh Day Baptists get together with other hot SDBs, they create a huge bonfire. Likewise, when our relationship with God is "cold," we make those around us cold. We become like our environment.

In Isaiah 40:5, the Lord tells us that we must be prepared for the revelation of His glory. As a people, we can go higher! We can go further! We can go deeper!

When our "hunger" propels us to stretch, our limitless God partners with us, helping us to break all kinds of barriers.

Seventh Day Baptists need to break some barriers, starting today! **SR**



by Executive Director
Rob Appel

Report to Conference (part 2)

We claim that SDBs are not about “numbers.” Yet, we use numbers all the time to gauge where we are and how we are doing as a denomination.

Talking about numbers should not be a subject that makes us bristle. Numbers can ensure the truth and help us measure the effectiveness of a particular event.

We use numbers every day. But problems can creep in when we get stuck thinking that “more is better,” or “less is worse,” or the status quo is not good enough. Let me give you some information on where more is not necessarily better, less might be a good thing, and the status quo may show stability in an overall declining area.

More

Today, mega-churches are bringing thousands of people into the Church and basically leading them around like sheep.

If Christians are not discerning the truth for themselves, their spirituality can become shallow, and their relationship with Christ won't grow. If they simply follow whatever the leader is saying or doing, they will not mature as Christians.

So, in this case, more is not better; it's simply more.

Less

Some churches have had to go through serious declines in num-

bers, or even worse, a “split” in order to get healthy and then start to grow.

We sometimes have to clean out our house in order to invite more people in. Sometimes we have to deep-clean a wound for it to heal. This can be painful, but it can also lead to reconciliation and spiritual growth, which in turn can lead to a purpose.

In this case, less can be a good thing, leading to solid spiritual growth.

Status quo

A church that has steady numbers is sometimes actually showing stability. Given the location, the number of possible participants, and the health of area churches, a congregation with an non-fluctuating membership could still be healthy. Maybe they are on the verge of a breakthrough, and they are just waiting for God's perfect timing. Status quo or stability can be the steppingstone to the next ministry phase for a church.

More, less, or status quo... we use numbers to judge our effectiveness.

In our Conference right now, 12 churches are struggling to keep their doors open. On the average,

their attendance is down to less than 10 people. Sometimes two adults and a few children make up the congregation.

In many cases, these churches seem to be keeping their doors open simply because they believe that is what is expected of them.

Other SDB congregations, Associations, and the Conference want to help these churches get back into a growth process, but here's the catch: these declining congregations have to *want* the help, and they need to have a desire to grow.

Often when the Conference offers help, we are criticized for pushing our agenda. If we don't push hard enough, we are criticized for being too complacent.

My good friend, Don Graffius, once said, “Are we two-hour Seventh Day Baptists, or are we 24/7th Day Baptists?”

It's easy to be a two-hour Seventh Day Baptist. You come to church, you sit in a pew, and then you go home and forget whatever the pastor taught that morning. Easy... but also an ineffective way to become Christ's true ambassadors!

Try the 24/7 style. Why? You will become better connected to God, and you will receive the many blessings He has in store for you. This will help you to become a better witness in someone else's life. **SR**

Medical mission to Guyana

by Paul Andries

Hindrances, stumbling blocks, troubles, and difficulties are all good indications that the Lord has something special in store for one of His projects.

Nearly everyone experienced some sort of obstacle getting to JFK Airport in New York City that Thursday evening, August 9. The main problem? Storms.

From that moment on, it was evident that this trip would be a success, because every obstacle was met by people who steadfastly refused to be left behind.

By God's grace, the core team arrived in New York around 10:30 p.m., excited and ready for the overnight flight to Guyana, South America. We finally departed at 1:40 a.m., going through Port of Spain, then on to Georgetown.

Another evidence that the steps of these righteous men and women were truly ordered by the Lord was obvious upon arrival: We made it through immigration without having a single bag checked by customs!

On our way to Uitvlugt, we were informed that we had to be back in Georgetown that afternoon to be interviewed by a local TV station. As tired as were, it was a wonderful opportunity to witness.

This was the second trip for two of our team members, Diane Gertner and Trish Nagle. It was Dr. Ron Davis' fourth trip since leaving Guyana as a missionary kid, and Pastor Paul Andries' first trip "home" in 28 years.

This visit meant a lot to Ron. "I was finally able to visit the other five Amerindian [indigenous people] SDB churches—a goal of mine for some time," he commented. "We held clinics at all six Amerindian sites—two sites per day, on two occasions."



Every obstacle was met by people who steadfastly refused to be left behind.

Clinics were also held at churches in Uitvlugt (Pastor Paul's hometown), Wakenaam Island, Dartmouth, and Bona Ventura. Brief visits were made to three other churches, as well as at Camp Glory.

Much of the time at night was spent in the Bona Ventura area, and we traveled to the various Amerindian tribes during the day. Our sole mode of transportation in this area was by boat. These trips averaged between 50 minutes to over an hour-and-a-half on the Pomeroon River and its tributaries. The cool air during the ride was greatly welcomed and appreciated.

All of the team members were enthusiastic and flexible. The four Guyanese American team members were invaluable, as were the Guyanese who joined us. Our three nurses did mid-level practitioner care; they *had* to because

God brought 850 people to the clinics!

Both of our nursing students did progressively more patient care and lab work as the second week went by. Our "suitcase pharmacy" ran like a well-oiled machine. Thanks, Barbees and Blessings International!

We all worked hard and laughed a lot, often at our own mistakes. Mishaps and missteps clustered around the docks, the boats, and one "purple-heart paddle" that Joel Sutton bartered his pocket knife to get. At last report, this paddle had arrived safely in Florida.

God's Hand was protecting and leading us even through our mistakes. We had one suitcase in particular that made its way in the water on two different days, along with a digital camera. We thank God that nothing was lost.

We would like to extend deep appreciation to the SDB Memorial Fund for their substantial financial assistance (and team shirts), and countless individuals who prayed for us. Most of all, we thank God for His mercies in every facet of this trip, without Whom no success would be possible.

The hospitality of our Guyanese hosts needs to be mentioned: Dwayne and Kharlyn Henry, and Iona Caesar for sharing their homes; Pastor Cliff and Kharen Evans for using their bus; and Pastors English, Caesar, Marlon, and Cyrus for navigating us through the rivers and tributaries of the interior.

We cannot forget our cooks in Uitvlugt and Bona Ventura who were faithful, thoughtful, and considerate to our individual physical needs. We will forever remember the butter-and-cheese spread, "bakes," roti, bush tea, and "fish and hot sauce."

The outpouring of the Holy Spirit was especially evident on the last

Sabbath as local Pastors Earl Thomas and Oswald James; Pastor Reginald English (our Bona Ventura host); and our team pastor, Paul Andries (preaching), united in leading worship. That Sabbath we got a little foretaste of heaven as individuals from different people groups lifted prayers and songs to God. About 160 attended.

The fellowship and ministry were treasured times, in spite of the 4:00 a.m. wake-up calls, the heat, sweat, mosquitoes (yes, Dr. Ron, we took our last Malarone...), the long river and canal travels, early darkness, and occasional rain. The tasty native foods, drinks, and fruits added to our enjoyment.

In addition to meeting medical needs, we distributed clothes, tracts, Bibles, small balls, crayons, and coloring books.

Some of the needs that we encountered—apart from medical care and health promotion education—included study Bibles and materials

for the pastors and leaders; hymnals for the churches; and Bibles, clothing, and shoes (especially flip-flops). If you are able to supply any of these, you can forward them to the Washington, D.C., SDB Church, which frequently ships items to Guyana.

We hope to continue our involvement in Guyana by assisting a few children who need surgery. For instance, a child with a cleft lip and palate.

Please pray that God gives us wisdom, and that He will be glorified in all of this.

Our 12 team members were:

Doctor: Ron Davis

Nurses: Laura Sutton, Debbie Hargett, Ernestine Rollins

Nursing students: Diane Gertner and Marsha Granville

Pharmacists: Perry Barbee and Amanda Barbee

Registration: Trish Nagle

Coordinator: Elnora Andries

All-around helper: Joel Sutton

Team pastor: Paul R. Andries **SR**

Four churches added to the Conference

At the 2007 Conference session, the following groups became member churches of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference, USA and Canada, Ltd.:

- **Southeast Atlanta SDB Church**
Stockbridge, Ga.
- **Ahtanum Community Church**
Yakima, Wash.
- **SDB Christian Church**
Silver Spring, Md.
- **All Nations SDB Church**
Grand Rapids, Mich.

Let's praise God together for this growth and expanding witness.

Denominational Dateline

October

- 1-2 Baptist Joint Committee Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.—Kevin Butler, Rob Appel
- 6-7 Diaconate and Teacher Workshops, New York City SDB Church—Andrew Camenga
- 7 Lewis Camp Meeting, Ashaway, R.I.—Kirk Looper
- 9-11 CLT (Coordinating Leadership Team) Meetings, Seventh Day Baptist Center, Janesville, Wis.
- 12-14 North Central Association, New Auburn, Wis.—Appel, Gordon Lawton
- 13 Mid-Continent Association, North Loup, Neb.—Looper
- 19-20 Pacific Coast Association, Riverside, Calif.
- 20 First SDB Church of Hebron, Coudersport, Pa.—Camenga
- 20-21 SDB Memorial Fund Annual and Quarterly Meeting, SDB Center, Janesville—Morgan Shepard, Appel, Lawton, Butler
- 27 First Hopkinton SDB Church, Ashaway, R.I.—Butler

- 27-28 SDB Missionary Society Board of Managers Meeting, Westerly, R.I.—Looper, Butler
- 28 Board of Christian Education Annual Corporation Meeting, Alfred Station, N.Y.—Camenga
- 29 SDB World Federation Executive Committee 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, Camenga
- 10 Central SDB Church, Mitchellville, Md.—Looper

December

- 1-2 Muriel Osborn Seminar for Teachers, Daytona Beach—Camenga

2007 Directories

Thanks to the hard work of Rob Appel and the General Services staff, the **2007 SDB Directory** is available—in 2007!! The price is reduced to \$7.50, plus \$1.50 for postage.

If you need more than one *Directory*, please contact the Center at (608) 752-5055, and we can invoice you. Or, place your order at our E-Store and let the computer do the calculations.

And **NEW** this year is the *SDB Directory* on CD, just \$5, including shipping and handling.

Thanks for
being part of our
Alliance In Ministry!

Births

Smith.—A daughter, Heaven Olivia Smith, age 3, was adopted by Scott and Jean Smith of Salem, WV, on March 12, 2007.

Bond.—A son, Josiah Ray Bond, was born to Ward and Deborah (Moncrief) Bond of Stow Creek Township, NJ, on June 8, 2007.

Martin.—A son, Isaac Benjamin Martin, was born to Duane and Jennifer Martin of Plymouth, MA, on July 2, 2007.

Van Horn.—A daughter, McKenna Rae Van Horn, was born to Erik and K.B. Van Horn of North Hollywood, CA, on August 19, 2007.

Richmond.—A daughter, Alexis Renee Richmond, was born to John and Julia Richmond of Salem, WV, on August 20, 2007.

New members

New Auburn, WI
Wayne North, pastor
Joined after testimony
John Farrell
Vera Miller
Brooke North
Bob Pecha
Barb Pecha

Salem, WV
Dale D. Thorngate, pastor
Joined after baptism
Cam Van Ngo
Nicholas Solomon

Marriages

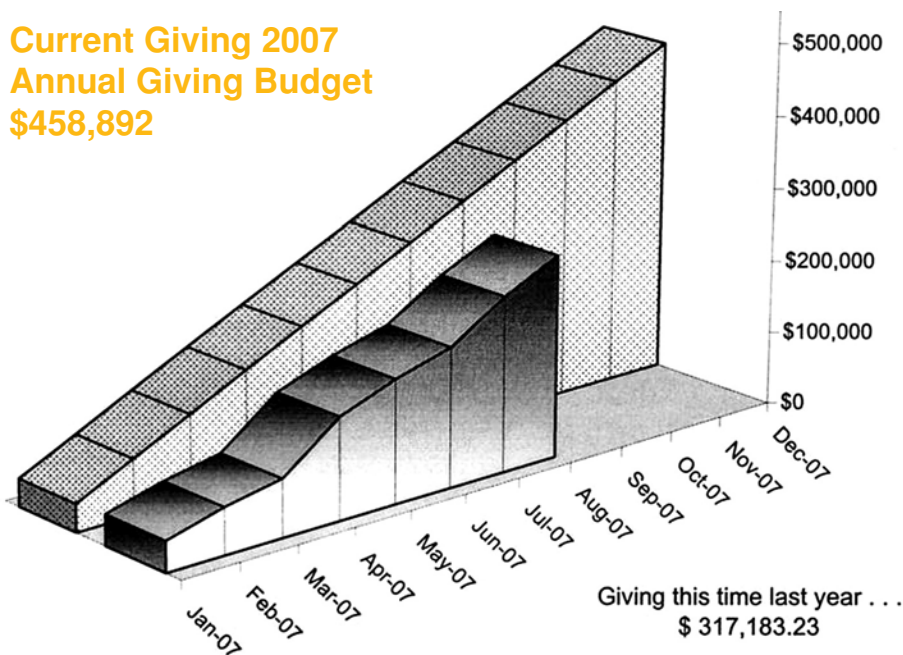
Huffman - Davis.—Joseph Huffman and Andrea Davis were united in marriage on June 2, 2007, at the Salem, WV, Seventh Day Baptist Church, with Chad Modesitt officiating.

McKinney - Grace.—Timothy Justin McKinney and Jessica Marie Grace were married on June 17, 2007, at the Salem (WV) Seventh Day Baptist Church. Rev. Dr. Dale D. Thorngate officiated.

Goode - Martin.—Joshua Kenneth Goode and Melissa Marlene Martin were married on June 18, 2007, at the State Arboretum in Boyce, VA.

Brissey - Thomas.—Douglas Brissey and Cheryl Thomas were united in marriage on July 22, 2007, at the Salem (WV) Seventh Day Baptist Church, with Rev. Perry L. Cain officiating.

Current Giving 2007 Annual Giving Budget \$458,892



Giving this time last year . . .
\$ 317,183.23

	Month - Aug '07	Year To Date
Budgeted	\$ 38,241	\$ 305,931
Actual	\$ 36,736	\$ 274,334
Difference	\$ (1,505)	\$ (31,597)
% of Budget	96%	90%

PROP Giving	
Aug '07	\$ 187
Year To Date	\$ 6,561

Morgan Shepard, Treasurer

Obituaries

Simms.—Adriana (Jackson)

Simms, 91, went joyfully to Glory on August 14, 2006.

She was born on August 20, 1914, in the rural village of Bartons, Jamaica, West Indies. Her parents, James and Virginia (Halstead) Jackson, were peasant farmers who provided a nurturing environment where Christian values ruled.

Adriana was a founding member of the Barnes Lane Seventh Day Baptist Church, and later the Kingston SDB Church in Jamaica. At Kingston, she served as church clerk, deaconess, Advisory Board member, and a Christian Endeavor teacher.

Affectionately known as “Lovey,” she married Ivan Simms and was blessed with four children.

Struggling to raise her young family, Lovey embarked on several entrepreneurial ventures. These included selling fruit, growing and selling callaloo, and launching a dressmaking business. Her work provided just enough extra bread for breakfast—or an additional yard of cloth—to make a difference.

Sister Lovey built her life on two pillars: family and church. She was a true Christian, both in word and deed, who acted as a full-time “missionary” for the Lord, always counseling those who would listen. She was kind and unselfish, always helping others.

Lovey’s greatest desire was to see her children serve the Lord and do His work.

In 1972, she moved to the United States to be with her children. While she was in California, she attended the All Nations SDB Church and the Los Angeles church. When visiting out East, she went to the Washington, D.C., church.

Survivors include four children, Urline Tabor, Avis Kelly, Starlington Simms, and Alfred Simms; 13 grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; many friends, and a church family.

Funeral services were held in Jamaica on August 27, 2006, conducted by Pastor Basil Clarke. A memorial service was held in Washington, D.C., on January 14, 2007, with Pastor Joe Samuels officiating.

Bloom.—Neoma Joyce Bloom, 60, of North Loup, Neb., died on May 14, 2007.

She was born on the family farm on May 1, 1947, in the Davis Creek Community of Valley County, Neb., the daughter of Oliver and Roena (Dunbar) Morgan. She was born 10 minutes after her twin sister, Viona Jean.

Neoma graduated from Loup City High School in 1966. On August 30, 1967, she married Homer Brannon, and the couple settled on a farm near North Loup. They had four children and were divorced in 1988.

In 1990, she married Harold Placke, who died in 2001. In 2003, she married Edward Bloom.

Survivors include her husband, Ed, of North Loup; two sons, Skippy Brannon of Colman, S.D., and James Brannon of Colorado Springs, Colo.; two daughters, Norma Jean Long of Sioux Falls, S.D., and Kelly Baker of Quenomo, Kan.; three stepsons, Kenneth, Russell, and Jeffrey Bloom; one stepdaughter, Christine Rhoads; five brothers, Marlen of Aguilar, Colo., Chester of Gibbon, Neb., Galen of Lincoln, Neb., and Charles and Melvin, both of North Loup; five sisters, Arlene Woodring of Lakewood, Wash., Donna Bushie of Poynette, Wis., Ryta Hartzell of Page, Ariz., Ruby Garner of Gregory, S.D., and Gladys Maring of Callaway, Neb.; six grandchildren, 15 stepgrandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and numerous nephews and nieces. Two sisters, Marilyn Morgan and Viona Harvey, preceded her in death.

Funeral services were held on May 18, 2007, at the North Loup Seventh Day Baptist Church, with Rev. Chris-

tian Mattison officiating. Interment was in North Loup’s Hillside Cemetery.

Hays.—Jack Floyd Hays Sr., 72, died on July 28, 2007, at his home in Chatawa, Miss., losing a battle with cancer.

He was born on November 2, 1934, in Seminary, Miss., the sixth son and youngest child of Carrell and Sally V. (Floyd) Hays. He graduated from Fortier High School in New Orleans, La., and attended Belin University in St. Louis, Mo. Most of his



Jack Hays
1934–2007

working career was in the transportation and warehousing industries.

In 1964, Jack married Linda Bingham. They met in church and shared a mutual concern for children and young people, leading to lifelong Christian service.

Jack was ordained to the ministry in 1968. Prior to moving to Mississippi in 1978, he co-pastored the Seventh Day Baptist Church in Metairie, La. With his brother, Ralph, he founded the Sunshine Mountain Home in Chatawa.

Jack dedicated his life to helping others. Various known as the Gentle Giant, the Fat Man, the Man Who Tells Stories, or just Mr. Jack, he was known for his concern and compassion for those in need. More than once, it was said that

“his heart was as big as he was.”

Besides his wife, survivors include two daughters, Jennifer Bond of Chatawa, and Constance Warren of McComb, Miss.; one son, Jack Jr. (“Jay”) of Chatawa; his brother, Ralph; six grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by four brothers, Victor, James, Johnny, and Baxter; and one sister, Willie Ray Grace.

A memorial service was held on August 4, 2007, at the Sunshine Mountain SDB Church. His son, Jay, and son-in-law, Keith Bond, officiated. Jack’s body was donated to the University Medical Center in Jackson.

Death Notices

Ethel “Cecilia” (Parker) Garrison, 97, died in Santa Monica, Calif., on August 8, 2006.

Paul Cushman, 88, died in Bradenton, Fla., on August 26, 2007.

Jean (Davis) McAllister, 78, died in South Plainfield, N.J., on August 26, 2007.

Please see page 10 for the obituary and tribute of Rev. David S. Clarke.

From pastor to pastor

by Bettie Pearson

On Sabbath, August 11, 2007, members and friends of the Metro Atlanta Seventh Day Baptist Church welcomed their new pastor and his wife, John J. and Tabatha Pethtel, and their son, Xavier. The celebration was led by Luis D. Lovelace, the church’s former pastor.

Midway through the morning service here in Hiram, Ga., the Pethtels were invited to come forward for the installation. Church leaders placed their hands on the kneeling couple as retired pastor David C. Pearson offered a dedicatory prayer.

Pastor Luis gave the charge to Pastor John, and then to the church. He told us that we should look ahead in anticipation and confidence, expecting God to do great things among us as Pastor John leads us forward.

At the close of the meeting, we enjoyed a fellowship dinner.

The previous month, our congregation and visiting friends recognized Pastor Luis’ 18 years of ministry with us. That appreciation service was held on July 7.

After morning worship and dinner, Jeff Hargett presented a video portrayal of Luis’ years among our congregation. Several members spoke words of appreciation, and



Church leaders laid hands on Tabatha and John Pethtel as David Pearson offered a dedicatory prayer.

one offered encouragement for Luis’ future service for the Lord. We then presented Pastor Luis with a plaque commemorating his ministry here.

Pastor Luis served us faithfully for many years. Now we are entering a new era, looking forward to what God has prepared for us in the future.

“Good things are in store for the Metro Atlanta Church,” Pastor John remarked, “as we encourage each other to participate more fully in the work of God’s Kingdom.” **SR**

Scripture participants

cont. from page 16

Rob Lyke
Addison Mattox
Doneta Osborn
Gabrielle Osborn
Rachael Osborn
Randy Osborn
Brian Payne
Kristina Payne
Anne Snyder
Lydia Snyder
Kecia Thompson-
gordon
Taylor Tway

**North
Loup, NE**
Nicole Cargill
Ron Cargill
Shirley Cargill
Beth Dutcher
Brice Severance
Frances VanHorn

Nortonville, KS
June Johnson

Plainfield, NJ
Jean Ellenbacher

**Raritan
Valley, NJ**
Jeanne W. Yurke

Riverside, CA
Evelyn Gibson
Esmeralda
Rosalas

Salem, WV
Steve Rogers

**Seattle
Area, WA**
Daniel Basken

Daniel Borek
Annie Cairnes
Charlie Cairnes
Duane Davis
Amanda Noyes
Carl Noyes
Johannah Noyes
Melodie Noyes
Katherine
Spreadborough

Shiloh, NJ
Elizabeth Bidwell
Jan Bond

Sharon Campbell
Don Chroniger
Joshua Coleman
Nancy Davis
Cathy Dixon
Danielle Dixon
Meghan Glaspey
Suzanne Glaspey
Alex Hitchner

Matt Hitchner
Melissa Hitchner
Sandy Layton
Clara Mulford
Frank B. Mulford
Bill Probasco
Holly Probasco
Liam Probasco
Valerie Probasco
Carol Scull

Verona, NY
Joan Self
Mayola Warner

**Vision
Christian
Westerly, RI**
Cassandra Nadine
Lawton

Well done!

*May you continue to hide
God’s Word in
your heart.*

KEVIN'S

ORNER

“Better is one day”

Do you ever feel that it's hard to live in the place you find yourself?

My mind tends to gravitate toward the Northeast. (*I can hear Janet saying, “Now, there's an understatement!!”*)

Strong memories beckon me back to the homestead in upstate New York, or places in the Adirondacks, or Vermont, or Maine.

I am a true New England “nut.” How can you tell?

Maybe it's because I:

- Wear LL Bean clothes (ME)
- Wear Dexter shoes (ME)
- Drink Green Mountain Coffee (VT)
- Burn Yankee Candles (MA)

- Eat Cabot Cheese (VT)
- Brush with Tom's of Maine toothpaste
- Drink Poland Spring water (ME)
- Stream radio stations from there
- Surround myself with Maine memorabilia
- ‘Freeze’ any time New England is mentioned

I could go on, but I don't want you to think that I'm obsessive...

If I can't find New England-made products here in Wisconsin, I can pick up the phone or shop via the Internet and have things delivered.

When I actually get to travel out East, I have already spent lots of time in anticipation—planning my route and planning my stops. I try to hit my favorite places, recapturing old memories and creating new ones.

Calculating all the days of looking forward, plus being there, plus reflecting back on the trip, they certainly add up! Focusing on those great escapes can make reality turn a bit blurry.

I love being out East. I love thinking about it. I love planning my travels.

Sometimes anticipating the future helps me cope with the present.

A chorus we sing at church comes from Psalm 84:10—“Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere.”

I could view my times in the Northeast in a similar way: “Better is one day in Vermont than a dozen elsewhere.”

What am I doing to prepare for my time “in His courts”?

Do I anticipate my time in heaven with the same fervor as getting to Acadia National Park in Maine?

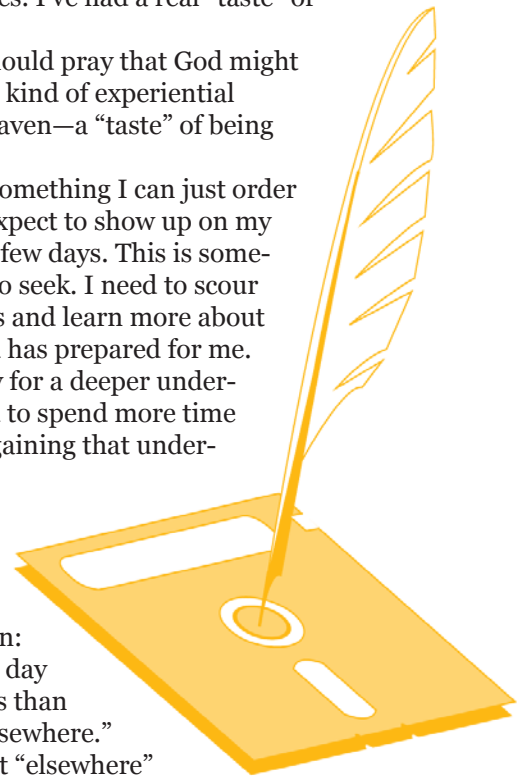
The enjoyment of my travels comes from my experiences. I've had a real “taste” of those places.

Maybe I should pray that God might give me some kind of experiential glimpse of heaven—a “taste” of being in His courts.

This isn't something I can just order on-line and expect to show up on my doorstep in a few days. This is something I need to seek. I need to scour the Scriptures and learn more about the place God has prepared for me. I need to pray for a deeper understanding, and to spend more time with Him in gaining that understanding.

I want to be able to sing that chorus with real conviction: “Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere.”

Even if that “elsewhere” is New England.



Calling all artists, ages 4 to 12!

Enter the Sabbath Recorder Resurrection Cover Contest



Do you like to draw? We need you!
Young Seventh Day Baptist artists
are asked to draw a picture (freehand)
about the Resurrection
of Jesus.

The overall winner's drawing
will appear on the cover of the
March 2008 *Sabbath Recorder*. Other
winners, by age category (4-6, 7-9, 10-12),
will appear inside the same issue.



The artwork needs to be:

- Original and unassisted (except for encouragement).
- Crayon, marking pens, paints, or pencil drawings are accepted. Computer-generated artwork or coloring book prints will not be accepted.
- All artwork is to be drawn on 8-1/2 x 11-inch white paper.
- Entries need to be vertical and should not be matted or mounted.
- Do not include a child's name or other information on the artwork. Words concerning the resurrection may appear in the artwork.
- Entries need to be submitted through a child's Sabbath School teacher.
- On a separate piece of paper **print** the following information and attach it to the back of the artwork:
 - Name of the child
 - Age of the child
 - Name of the church they attend
 - Name and telephone number of the Sabbath School teacher submitting the artwork.

Mail your entry to the SDB Center, PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547.

Deadline: All entries need to be postmarked no later than January 15, 2008. They may be submitted any time prior to that date.

Please put your entry in a large enough envelope so that there are no creases in the artwork. Adding a heavier piece of paper or cardboard will

help. Then write "Please do not bend or fold" on the outside of the envelope.

If you have any questions, contact either Peggy Van Horn at 308-496-3401 (or handj@nctc.net); or Jean Jorgensen at 913-774-2742 (or jorgemorj@yahoo.com).

Note to Sabbath School teachers: Please help promote this contest.