

SR The Sabbath RECORDER

September 2008

News for and about Seventh Day Baptists



**Conference at
Carthage 2008**



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 a people with a difference.

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

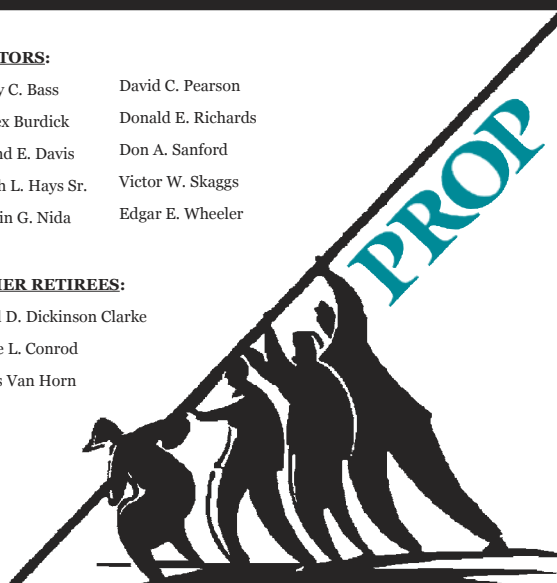
Give to those who gave so much.

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 E. Wheeler

OTHER RETIREES:

Ethel D. Dickinson Clarke
Joyce L. Conrod
Doris Van Horn



Pastors Retirement Offering Project

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

Please donate to PROP!

PROP still going

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

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

Send your donation to:

PROP

Seventh Day Baptist Center

PO Box 1678

Janesville WI 53547-1678



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Ⓔ = Editor's Circle members

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Our Librarian-Historian studied historical—and current—SDB struggles of religious liberty for a paper presented to the Baptist History and Heritage Society.

Front cover: Photo provided by Carthage College.
Digital watercolor by Kevin Butler.
Inside: Conference photos by Caleb Noel (Alfred Station, NY, church) and Kevin Butler

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Conference at Carthage

by Kevin Butler

This year's General Conference (August 3-9) proved to be a powerhouse of diversity and spiritual uplift. President Andrew Samuels' theme, "A Limitless God for a Hungry People" challenged us to tap into God's awesome power and love.

Many people commented about the beautiful campus of Carthage College, situated right on the shore of Lake Michigan in Kenosha, Wis.

Committee work included important changes to the Christian Social Action Standing Committee (*see p. 6*), and a statement on torture (*p. 8*). The International Missions interest committee recommended that the "Sister Church" program be revived.

National Missions passed a motion that "the Missionary Society



A LIMITLESS GOD FOR A HUNGRY PEOPLE

review the history of missionary work in the U.S. and find the resources to re-establish the evangelistic ministry that was a vital part of the large denominational growth during the 1800s." Also passed was a motion to "make plans to employ an additional

full-time field worker to assist the National Director of Extension."

It was a week of good business, great fellowship, and inspiring Bible Studies and worship services. Let's "Pray" for another outstanding Conference next year. **SR**

Faces of Conference



Clockwise from left:
Neville Callam, General Secretary of the Baptist World Alliance; Al Paypa represented the Philippines in the World Federation Parade of Flags; Heather Looper and Beth Dutcher sang special music; Pastor Nedd and Alefa Lozani of Malawi; Executive Director Rob Appel; "pirates" Melody Rankhorn and Rachel Parrish of SCSC; "Missionaries in Black" Ron Elston and Kirk Looper.



“A Limitless God for a Hungry People”

**at Carthage College,
Kenosha, Wis.**

August 3-9, 2008

President Andrew Samuels

The Week in Review

Statistics

- 661 registered guests
- 315 delegates representing 54 churches
- 75 ministers/pastors present (including those of World Federation)
- 13 fraternal delegates from other SDB Conferences
- 10 official visitors
- 83 at associated Conferences and nursery
- 34 at Youth Pre-Con, directed by Chris Mattison with 7 staff
- 20 at Young Adult, directed by Althea Rood with 3 staff

Elections

- President 2008-2009: Ed Cruzan, White Cloud, MI
- President-elect: Paul Andries, Washington, DC
- General Council: Paul Andries, Doug Payne
- Council on Ministry: Steve Crouch, Barb Green
- Faith and Order: Justin Camenga, Rodney Henry
- Committee on Support and Retirement: Earl Hibbard
- Tract and Communication Council: Ralph Hays Jr.,

Stephanie Sholtz

- Memorial Fund Trustees: George Cruzan, Doug Mackintosh, Bill Probasco
- Christian Social Action: Pat Bancroft, Steve Rogers, Jeanie Smith, Lydia Solomon

Awards/Recognitions

- Women’s Board Robe of Achievement: Jean (Bailey) Davis, Bradenton, FL
- Sabbath School Teacher of the Year: Velma Taylor, West Palm Beach, FL
- Mary G. Clare Scripture Memorization Bowl: Toronto, ON, Canada

Business Action

- Approved the 2009 budget of \$1,140,586 with \$495,693 to come from current giving

Next year: One week earlier!

July 26 – August 1

***Lancaster (Pa.) Bible College
Theme: “PRAY!”***



Conference President Andy Samuels with wife Kay (left) and daughters Tsafiq and Tsahai.



Pastors Jo Kandel and Don Chroniger led the Communion Service on Sabbath.



The New York City church choir sang at the Thursday vespers service.

Our Bible Study pastors:

Shirley Morgan
Steve Osborn
Wayne North
Carlton Ferguson
Matthew Olson



Cindy Nadeau received recognition for her years of service as secretary of the SDB Missionary Society.



Joe Samuels (left) celebrated his years of service with the World Federation—since its inception in 1964. Dale Thorngate made the presentation.



Leanne Lippincott-Wuerthele enjoyed being “roasted” about her retirement from the SR.



Singing praise to God on Sabbath morning.



Luan Ellis introduced the countries represented at the World Federation meetings.

Changes in Christian Social Action

Last year the General Conference requested that the General Council review the status, operation, function, necessity and goals of the Christian Social Action (CSA) Standing Committee. Representatives from the General Council met with the CSA Standing Committee in April.

Based on this meeting, the General Council included this in their report to Conference:

The CSA Standing Committee has found it difficult to respond quickly to requests for relief because the large and distributed composition of the committee—which was good when the focus was on crafting statements that reflect the sentiment of the Conference as a whole—makes scheduling committee meetings unwieldy. Another factor contributing to uncertain CSA response times has been that they have often been asked to make decisions about granting relief based on sketchy,

unverifiable information at times when the request provided no contact person from whom more information could be obtained.

General Council believes that the focus of the Christian Social Action Standing Committee has changed in response to the expectations of the General Conference. The Committee’s focus on disaster and emergency relief is an important part of our ministry to each other and will be easier to do with a smaller committee that can meet and respond to requests quickly.

Therefore, General Council recommends, as a first reading, that the current Christian Social Action Standing Committee be dissolved and replaced by a Standing Committee for Disaster Relief composed of three elected members and the SDB Executive Director, ex officio.

We further recommend that General Conference
contin. next box



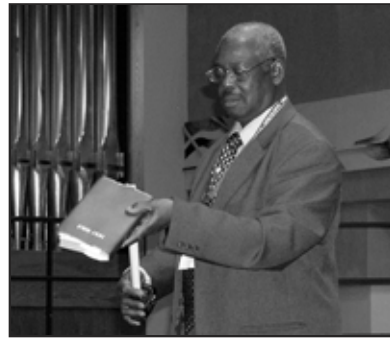
Steve James and Ann Pangburn presented one of the workshops: "Using High Tech to Bring God's High Touch."



Part of the long line for Sabbath dinner.



Our Tuesday morning Bible Study leader, Steve Osborn.



Pastor Owen Lynch pretended to "study" the Bible by measuring it.



Fiona and Marlo Siolo of Australia led the "Morning Praise from Around the World" on Friday.

elect an interim ad hoc Committee on Disaster Relief to review current relief guidelines, to update or revise them as necessary, and to act on requests for relief.

These recommendations were forwarded to the Conference Interest Committees on Reference and Counsel, and Christian Social Action.

The CSA Interest Committee (in conjunction with Reference and Counsel) proposed these changes to General Council's recommendations, which were passed:

- 1) That the new name shall be the "Standing Committee for *Christian Social Action and Disaster Relief*."
- 2) That General Conference elect an interim ad hoc Committee on Christian Social Action and Disaster Relief to address social action issues brought to their attention and to review current relief guidelines, to update or revise them as necessary, and to act on requests for relief. **SR**



Emily Olson played the role of Sarah as part of worship Wednesday night.

Our evening speakers:

George Calhoun
Wray Winborne
Gabe Bejjani

Joe Samuels
Bernie Wethington
Juan Amaya

Concern over torture

A statement against the use of torture was proposed on the floor of Conference.

Following referral to the Interest Committee on Christian Social Action, this substitute statement was passed:

“We understand the significance and complexity of the issue of torture and appreciate our responsibility as Christians to make scripturally informed judgments. Since making such judgments involves decisions about what constitutes torture, and whether torture of captured terrorists is ever justified if it may prevent loss of life by disclosing future terrorist attacks, we urge the following:

— That each individual use every resource available to him or her in order to objectively and sincerely consider the issue of the use of torture in interrogation techniques. It should always be our goal as Christians to support our beliefs with truth according to Scripture.

— That pastors and churches consider addressing this issue through sermons, Bible Study, and prayer.

— That the interim ad hoc Committee on Christian Social Action and Disaster Relief (replacing the present CSA Standing Committee) facilitate discussion of this issue.”



Susan Bond, chair of the Christian Social Action interest committee, read the statement concerning torture.



Nathanael Lawton (left) was one of the parliamentarians for President Samuels.



Pastor Ericessen Cooper helped to lead worship Sabbath morning.



The discussion on torture brought comments by Jim Skaggs, Madison, Wis., and...



...Bill Burks of Fort Worth, Texas.



Author Steve Sjogren led a plenary session on Thursday afternoon.



Pastor Matt Olson broke up the crowd (in more ways than one) during his Bible Study on Friday.

At every turn

SDBs keep Sabbath despite challenges

by Nick Kersten, SDB Librarian-Historian



While many of the dissenting groups in England found refuge in America, Seventh Day Baptists continued to struggle to find their niche in the new land.

This spring I attended the annual meeting of the Baptist History and Heritage Society at Mercer University in Atlanta, Ga. The theme of the meeting was “Baptists and the First Amendment.”

I had the opportunity to present a paper entitled, “A Rock and a Hard Place: Seventh Day Baptists, Religious Liberty, Sabbath Keeping and Civil Authority.” The paper explored the challenges that American Seventh Day Baptists have faced as we attempt to exercise our religious freedom under the First Amendment.

What a blessing to have the archives of the SDB Historical Society at my disposal—a uniquely rich source of information on the subject. I discovered much about Seventh Day Baptist history that I didn’t know, confirmed in writing things passed along as SDB legends, and reconfirmed commonly known information.

There is much for us to remember which should comfort and challenge

us as we strive to follow godly convictions in our own lives.

Before there was a United States

An important part of understanding our history and religious liberty issues comes from understanding our origins. From the first Sabbatarian Baptists in England to the founding of our first American churches, Seventh Day Baptists faced unique challenges that other groups did not.

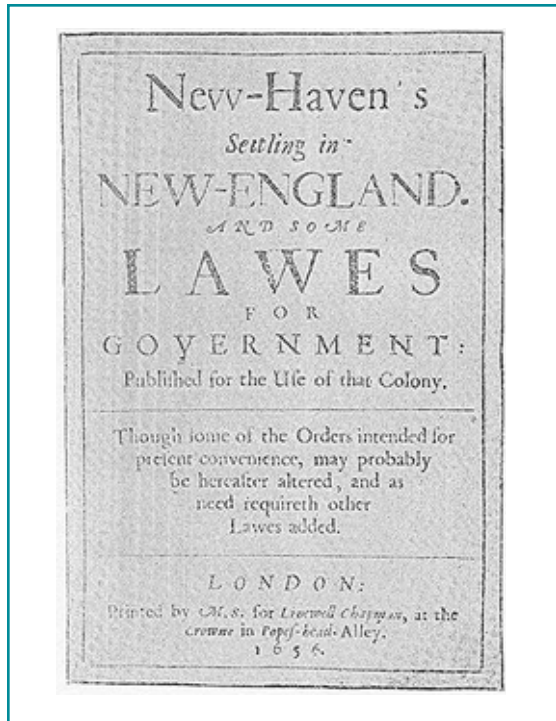
Certainly the early Baptist figures in England and America faced persecution for their beliefs. Men like John Smyth, Thomas Helwys and Roger Williams endured persecution for adhering to the tenets of our shared Baptist faith: the priesthood of all believers, regenerate church membership, baptism by immersion, and the authority of Scripture over all areas of life.

But Seventh Day Baptists also incurred persecution for their adherence to the seventh day Sabbath

of the Bible. This Sabbath observance made them an “easy mark” for authorities looking to root out dissent because of the day they chose to worship. Anyone who wasn’t in church on Sunday was surely violating the law by not doing so. Likewise anyone who *was* in church on Saturday was violating the law. The early SDBs faced nearly constant persecution in England.

While many of the dissenting groups in England found refuge in America, Seventh Day Baptists continued to struggle to find their niche in the new land. The more numerous groups that fled to America to escape religious persecution simply founded colonies to enforce their own religious preferences.

While there was more freedom for those who kept Sunday in America, Sabbathkeepers continued to find the way difficult and strewn with obstacles. In particular, Sabbathkeepers in Massachusetts Bay and Pennsylvania faced difficulties.

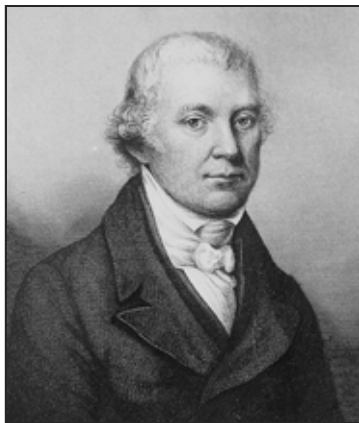


This booklet was a precursor to the “Blue Laws.”

To avoid persecution at the hands of those formerly persecuted, Seventh Day Baptists fled to places that didn't have these laws.

Most prevalent among these obstacles were the “blue laws,” which mandated how religion could lawfully be followed in the colonies where they were passed.

To avoid this persecution at the hands of those formerly persecuted, Seventh Day Baptists fled to places that didn't have these laws. Rhode Island and New Jersey had environments which catered to the religious



Gov. Samuel Ward

freedom necessary for SDBs to live out their convictions.

When given the opportunity to participate in a government which did not mandate a particular kind of religious persuasion, Seventh Day Baptists were active in politics. Most notable were the contributions of the Newport church, who had several members active in Rhode Island politics. This included Samuel Ward who served as the governor of the colony and later was the presiding officer over the Continental Congress in the years leading up to the Revolutionary War.

Several other members of Seventh Day Baptist churches contributed to the colonial war effort, fighting to secure freedom from British rule. And in true Baptist fashion, some SDBs supported the British, believing it their duty to honor the authority placed above them.

In early America

With the passage of the Bill of Rights in 1791, things appeared to

be looking up for Seventh Day Baptists in America. The First Amendment stated plainly that “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.”

To modern readers, this might seem to indicate that the blue laws would be repealed and that free exercise of religion—including Sabbath worship—would be allowed. But the promise of freedom did not come with the ratification of the First Amendment.

In those first days after ratification, the federal government's laws did not supersede the laws of the individual states. So while the federal government couldn't pass laws that would limit an individual's religious freedom, the First Amendment did not overturn the state laws that limited religious freedom. It also did not prevent states from passing legislation that further limited religious liberty.

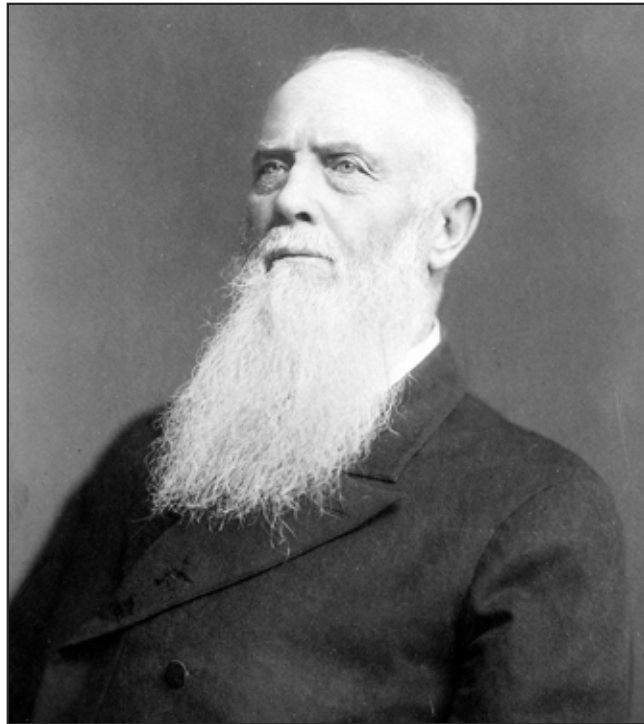
Because of this, the Bill of Rights was merely a promise of religious liberty that remained to be kept.

As one example, the state of Pennsylvania passed a series of laws in 1794 which further limited religious liberty of Sabbathkeepers by mandating even more strictly what could (or could not) be done on Sunday. The law stipulated that Sunday was the only acceptable day of worship, and that doing work on Sunday violated proper observance of the Lord's day.

That law, coupled with an earlier one which defined the Sabbath as Sunday, effectively left Seventh Day Baptists out of religious life in Pennsylvania. Similar laws in Connecticut and elsewhere continued to make life difficult for Seventh Day Baptists.

As time passed, the environment of religious liberty in the States started to grow. In 1868, the 14th Amendment was ratified. This mandated that no state law could supercede federal laws which guaranteed rights to citizens. This amendment would later become the basis of extending the protections of the First Amendment to all citizens, though admittedly it did not do this at first.

Discussions of liberty following the Civil War proved promising for



Rev. A.H. Lewis

While the federal government couldn't pass laws that would limit an individual's religious freedom, the First Amendment did not overturn the state laws that limited religious freedom.

from that time until his death in 1908, he worked tirelessly in the Sabbath Reform movement—a movement to gain rights for Sabbathkeepers and to promote our Sabbath convictions.

A.H. Lewis spoke in front of Congress against Sunday laws; edited several periodicals, including *The Sabbath Recorder*; and he published several books on the subject. He also continued to take speaking engagements among Sunday keepers to make the plight of SDBs known.

He worked so fervently on the issue that his family frequently required that he take enforced sabbaticals because of ill health caused by overexertion. His final book, *Spiritual Sabbathism*, was published after his death in 1910.

Contemporary developments

From the turn of the century until the 1960s, Seventh Day Baptists con-

Lewis worked tirelessly in the Sabbath Reform movement—a movement to gain rights for Sabbathkeepers and to promote our Sabbath convictions.

tinued to lobby to exercise their religious freedom. Some setbacks arose during the 1950s and '60s when the Supreme Court ruled that blue laws were constitutional, using arguments that, in essence, stated that Sunday had “always been the day of worship.”

Interestingly, the same legislation that resulted in ending racial discrimination in some ways also ended religious discrimination against Sabbathkeepers. In 1964, Congress passed the Civil Rights

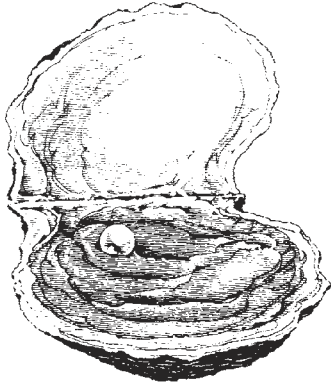
cont. on page 26

SDBs. During these years of discussion about the rights of American citizens, Seventh Day Baptists needed a strong figure to head up the fight for religious freedom, and to advocate for them.

Enter A.H. Lewis

The person God called upon to take up that fight was Abram Herbert Lewis. He was born in 1836 in western New York State, and by 1866 he was pastoring and taking speaking engagements.

Lewis was hired by the American Sabbath Tract Society in 1867 and



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

A gem from the past and for the future

The dictionary defines a pearl as “a substance formed around an irritation” such as a grain of sand within an oyster.

In a sense, events in the past often arise from actual or perceived irritations, but they can develop real gems of history. This process is illustrated in an upcoming history book about the Milton, Wis., Seventh Day Baptist Church.

(It will not be the proverbial “pearl of great price” but it can be a “pearl at a very modest price.”)

Many events in the history of the Milton church—as in other churches of the denomination—arose out of crop failures due to weather, economics, urban sprawl, as well as the freedom to worship according to religious convictions. Even some personality differences may cause irritations that in time can be the “grain of sand” around which a pearl can develop.

Several of these factors were the grains of sand that led the Goodrich and Crandall families to migrate from the old “hard pan” Allegany County soil in New York State. With hard work, new vibrant life surrounded those irritations in the decade of 1830 and beyond.

Even after moving to Wisconsin, more irritations appeared, becoming seeds of new pearls. Such was the formation of the Milton Junction SDB Church, about a mile west of the Milton church.

Several perceived irritations contributed to this separation in 1877. One was the concept of the “town and gown” syndrome—the scholarly college atmosphere contrasted with the rural and agricultural orientation. Another was the dress attire of overalls or suits.

Also there was the matter of “pew rentals” which appeared to be too expensive for some, causing some who did not have their own pews to slide in with others. I am sure that there were some personal differences that did not appear in the official records.

To many, this separation was a traumatic experience. Yet in historical retrospect, around those irritations a “gem” was formed. Instead of one church, there were two thriving churches for nearly a century.

At the time of the division, the statistical report to General Conference showed a drop in the Milton church membership from 298 to 244, with the Junction church reporting 150. However, this report might be misleading since about 50 charter members of the Junction church transferred from the rural Rock River SDB Church, five miles west of the Junction.

During the many years that the Milton Junction church was in existence, it was served by some of the most prominent ministers in the denomination, as well as those in education and missions.

In 1909, the Junction church

hosted Conference sessions. In several other Conferences it was listed as co-host with the Milton church.

The Junction church was also very involved in the Women’s Board and other agencies of the denomination when they were located in the area. Throughout much of its existence, it was active in ecumenical community programs.

It is true that the Milton church has drawn heavily on transfer of



The Milton Junction, Wis., SDB Church was established in 1877. It closed in 1979.

members from other Seventh Day Baptist churches. One study in 1990 showed that 121 members of the church joined by transfer from 34 SDB churches from Rhode Island to California (even China).

It is also true that, over the years, many members of the Milton church have established new churches and strengthened others by transfer.

This is just one glimpse of the history of the Milton SDB Church. A new book will soon be available, with the proceeds going to the building fund of the church and its expanding mission. **SR**



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

My sheep hear my voice

by Linda Zinn

Note from Susan:

Linda Zinn popped into my life a few months ago. Sitting quietly on my sofa next to her rugged, boy-faced husband, she struck me as being reserved and shy. That first impression was erased when she opened her mouth.

A contagious zeal and love for God flowed from her. I found myself asking her if she'd like to write something for this page. The following is the result.

Linda told me that when she asked God if she was supposed to write this, she thought His answer was, "If you don't, I'll ask someone who will."

* * *

Have you ever felt frustrated as you tried to hear what God was saying, but the "be still" part of "...and know that I am God" couldn't be found?

When stillness was finally achieved, did unfinished tasks come rushing to your mind, drowning out any other voice? Prayer time became a dreaded "duty" as your words trailed off into silence...

For many, trying to hear God's voice is a struggle leading to discouragement. But take heart—help is on the way!

How to Hear God's Voice, a curriculum developed by Dr. Mark and Patti Virkler, is teaching people around the world to succeed in communing with God.

For more than a decade, Dr. Virkler struggled to hear God's voice, even while serving in ministry. He

earned degrees, read Scripture and fasted, questioned others who could hear, but still no breakthrough.

Finally, he devoted to intense study to his passion for communion with God. From this labor more than 25 years ago, God birthed in him the ability to hear His voice and teach others to do the same.

You might ask, "How do I start?" First, you must have a born-again experience with Jesus. Next, a working knowledge of Scripture is helpful. Dr. Virkler says, "Hearing God's voice is as simple as quieting yourself down, looking for vision, tuning to spontaneity, and writing."

Hush

Begin by quieting yourself; a real challenge in our Western culture. A place free from distractions is a must. Soothing music without lyrics may also help.

Choose a comfortable position so you won't be distracted by aching body parts. When inner thoughts begin to surface, write these interruptions down as a "to do" list for later.

Look

The second step is looking for vision. To help your mind focus, picture yourself with Jesus in a beautiful setting. Hebrews 12:1-2 tells us to run the race set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus. Look at Jesus and listen for what he will share with you.

Tune

Tuning to spontaneity is the third step. As you envision Jesus, you may want to ask him questions such as, "Jesus, do you love me?" or "Lord,

what would you say to me today?"


Begin to recognize flowing thoughts gently lighting upon your mind. Do not evaluate them at this moment; just let them flow.

Write

Now you are ready for the final step. With pen and paper, record Jesus' words or "journal" as Dr. Virkler calls it. Write until the flow stops. Then examine the contents, determining whether or not your journaling is compatible with scriptural principles.

If some of your writings do not agree with Scripture, disregard those portions. For safety with major decisions, ask three spiritual advisors to read your journaling and offer their discernment on the issues (see 2 Corinthians 13:1).

Applying these basic steps to your prayer time will be life changing. It may seem a little "rough" at first, but don't give up! No new skill is mastered on the first try.

Your relationship with the Lord will grow stronger each time as you continue to share intimately with Him. For more information, Dr. Virkler's website is www.cwgministries.org. 

Dear Readers:

What is God doing in your lives? Do you have something to share on this page?

Contact Susan Bond at richbond@earthlink.net

Scripture Memory

Conference Theme:

Youth/Adult

The Scripture Memorization Program for 2008-2009 Conference Year will focus on President Ed Cruzan's theme: "**Pray.**"

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.

In addition to these verses, this year's Scripture Memorization Bible Chapter is **1 Thessalonians 1**. You may memorize this chapter as an alternative way to meet the requirements of the program.

A list of persons from each church who have completed the Scripture Memorization Program should be submitted to the Board of Christian Education Office. The postmarked deadline is **July 2, 2009**. Certificates for those who memorize all verses will be distributed at the 2009 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

After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed, "Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you." (John 17:1)

November

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. (1 John 5:14)

December

After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. (Acts 4:31)

January

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. (James 5:16)

February

Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. (Luke 18:1)

March

But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, "God, have mercy on me, a sinner." (Luke 18:13)

April

I want men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer, without anger or disputing. (1 Timothy 2:8)

May

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. (Colossians 3:15)

June

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. (2 Chronicles 7:14)

Verses: 2008-2009

“PRAY”

Junior

Primary

After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed, “Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.” (John 17:1)

Jesus looked toward heaven and prayed.
(John 17:1a)

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. (1 John 5:14)

Ask anything according to God’s will.
(1 John 5:14b)

After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. (Acts 4:31)

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.
(Acts 4:31b)

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. (James 5:16)

The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. (James 5:16b)

Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. (Luke 18:1)

Always pray and do not give up.
(Luke 18:1)

But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, “God, have mercy on me, a sinner.” (Luke 18:13)

“God, have mercy on me, a sinner.”
(Luke 18:13b)

I want men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer, without anger or disputing. (1 Timothy 2:8)

Lift up holy hands in prayer.
(1 Timothy 2:8)

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. (Colossians 3:15)

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.
(Colossians 3:15)

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. (2 Chronicles 7:14)

If my people will humble themselves and pray, I will forgive their sin.
(2 Chronicles 7:14)



God IS Limitless!

by Morgan Shepard

The 196th General Conference theme challenged us to rely on a “Limitless God” for all our needs. From a financial perspective, that was certainly evident.

At the beginning of the week, the General Council challenged us to enroll in **E-Gifting** to support all our ministries. E-Gifting is a way to send a regular monthly gift for the work of the SDB Agencies and Societies.

By Sabbath day, there were 23 new E-Gifters totaling \$1,110 per month—\$13,320 per year! Thank you!!

It’s not too late to sign up for E-Gifting. Go to the website, www.seventhdaybaptist.org, and click on E-Gifting for more info and an enrollment form.

General Council also recommended changing the name of General Services to “Conference Services.” Conference Services more accurately describes the role that the SDB Center in Janesville plays for all Seventh Day Baptists. Whether it be in mailings, providing SDB info for new Sabbathkeepers, coordinating efforts of the Agencies and Societies, or traveling the country representing SDBs, we are here to serve the General Conference.

The next challenge of the week occurred in the interest committees. Each committee was asked to review

the budget of their respective Agency/Society, along with the ministries they provide. They studied the expenses so everyone would know where the funds you’ve entrusted to us are being used.

A lot of thoughtful input was received. As a result of all of the committees’ efforts, the 2009 budget was approved (*see below*).

God’s true limitless-ness was demonstrated on Sabbath Day when the Conference offering came to \$18,222! Previously in the week, General Council had recommended that the Conference offering would be earmarked entirely for Conference Services for their ongoing support to all the ministries.

Thank you for all your prayers and support leading up to Conference week. We still have lots of work to do for the rest of the year, but we know that if we look to God we will not tire.

“...but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint” (Isaiah 40:31). **SR**



David Davis promoted E-Gifting for the General Council.

2009 General Conference Agency / Society Budget

Operating Expenses

Ministries		
Programs	\$ 299,700.00	26.41%
Support Salaries	619,118.39	54.57%
Travel	104,000.00	9.17%
Facilities	29,590.00	2.61%
Overhead	82,233.00	7.25%

Total \$ 1,134,641.39

Income Sources

Sales / Services / Misc. Income	\$ 78,878.00	6.92%
Agency Investment	91,940.00	8.06%
Memorial Fund Endowment	198,530.00	17.41%
Grants	48,506.50	4.25%
Withdrawals from Agency Accounts	227,038.50	19.91%
Sub-Total	<u>644,893.00</u>	56.54%

Needed Current Giving 495,693.39 **43.46%**

TOTAL \$ 1,140,586.39



FOCUS on Missions

June mission to Brazil

by Kirk Looper

Report by mission team member Helmer Umaña Jr.

On the first of June, we* arrived in Curitiba, Brazil, greeted by Pastors Reinaldo and Jonas Sommer. We headed to a church where they were excited to worship with us and hear one of us preach. This was a foreshadow of things to come.

For the first week we worked with two churches, the main church in Curitiba and the new branch church in Araucária. On Monday and Tuesday we prepared the lessons and bought material we needed for all the activities.

We also visited an orphanage on Tuesday morning. We sang songs about Jesus, prayed with the children, made salvation bracelets and wordless books with them, and gave away toys, clothes, and candy. (The candy was accompanied with toothbrushes and toothpaste.)

The rest of the week we worked with the church in Araucária. Handing out flyers in the immediate area, we invited all the children to come to the church. Working with about 60 kids, we prayed with them, had a puppet and clown show, and movies. At the end, we projected a slide show of pictures taken of the kids throughout the week. We led evangelism classes at night, using workbooks and material that Butch Hibbard helped us put together.

In the middle of each day we squeezed in music practice for the praise times. We also delivered food baskets to a family that was not doing too well financially, prepared snacks for each activity, taught American football to the kids, and participated in the Friday night service.

Sabbath was indeed an unfor-

gettable event. I taught the young adult class, Maria and Bethany taught the children class (and every children activity for that matter) and did crafts with them. Edwin preached during the morning service. Saul gave a class on the priesthood of all believers at noon.

Then we practiced our music for the night service in which I preached. I hope you have had one of those Sabbaths where you are praising and feeling the presence of God, and the church feels it, too. It's a service when you make an altar call and most of the church members come up to rededicate their lives to God. It's a service where the band has to keep playing because the Word of God has "hit home" and there are tears of repentance and joy. It's a service where you cannot help but hug your brother and sister because everyone has felt God like they've never felt Him before.

The following two weeks were replicas of the first, with two exceptions. We were in the city of Joinville. We worked with two churches there, the main church in Saguacu and Jarivatuba. This time we handed out flyers in the surrounding community dressed as clowns. (Yes, I said dressed as clowns.)

The turnout was a blessing. We prayed with the children, sang songs about Jesus, memorized verses, did many crafts, shared Jesus-centered films, did skits, puppet shows, clown shows, and shared a slide show of their smiling faces. Every event was followed by candy, juice, popcorn and a good game of American football (to them, the "weird" ball game).

The following week, we led classes on evangelism for the church members. This turned out to be a breath of fresh air for Pastor Jonas, since

many felt that growth in numbers was his job alone. We tried to focus on the responsibility of each member to witness and evangelize; basically, the priesthood of each believer.

The agenda we had prepared was completed. Actually, *God* completed His plans and we were just tools He used. Many kids came back to all the services, and they even showed up on Sabbath with the new Bibles we gave them.

What's more amazing is that they brought their parents. We had whole families come to a movie night. Some fathers were glad their sons came to the activities because now they want to go to church.

Church members thanked us for reviving their spirits. God had allowed the minds of many people to change, and allowed many of our tradition-bound brothers to "let loose" a bit and see that Jesus is not about traditions; He is about love. That's what we wanted to show them: love. That's what they showed us: love. For people who had just met, they laughed with us, praised with us, worked with us side-by-side, and they loved us.

Pastor Jonas said it best: "I want to thank all the people who made this trip possible for these missionaries to come to Brazil, because we have seen the love of American SDBs through these missionaries, and without knowing us, loved us first."

We represented God first, then the SDB Conference, each one of you, and then ourselves. Thank you for all your prayers and support. **SR**

**The mission team of young adults included Helmer Umaña Jr., Edwin and Maria Lopez, Saul Alonzo, and Bethany Chroniger.*



the BEACON

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

Sept. 2008

Youth Pre-Con was a uniting time

by Deryka Nairne (from the Conference Crier)

Conference Youth Activities went like this:

Monday

Swim Night on campus

Tuesday

Bowling Night
(with free pizza!)

Wednesday

Bible Bowl demo

Thursday

Pastors vs. Youth
Basketball game
(pastors won by 1!)

Friday

Sabbath Welcoming
Service with
Pastor Paul Andries

Sabbath

“Least of These” concert

*Hope to see you
there next year!*

“Out of the darkness, into the light” was the theme for the 2008 Youth Pre-Con held at Camp Wakonda in Milton, Wis.

Everyone being together, having fellowship, and eating together helped to unite the SDB youth. From dodgeball to devotions, we stayed in each other’s company.

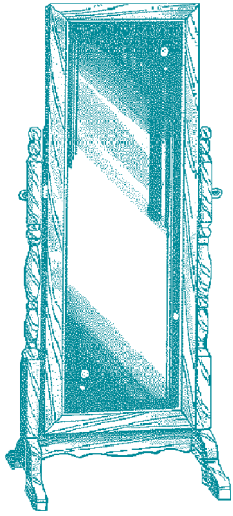
In my opinion, the best times were the vespers. Singing together and watching everyone sing to God was truly a blessing. I enjoyed the fact that we could open up to each other and share our testimonies.

Pastor Paul Andries’ messages touched most people, if not all. He preached to us about how God is a God of second chances, and how we shouldn’t straddle the fence when it comes to our faith. We’re either on Satan’s side, or we’re working with God and walking with Him.

That thought is one that will stay with each and every one of us. If you will be old enough to attend Pre-Con next year, do it! It is an amazing experience. It has truly strengthened my faith and I’m sure it has done the same with others. **SR**



Part of the Youth Pre-Con choir that led the Tuesday night vespers at General Conference.



Reflections

by Leanne Lippincott-Wuerthele

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

White House not always a rose garden

*"Children's children are a crown
to the aged..." (Proverbs 17:6 NIV).*

Many people agree that losing a spouse is the most stressful event in life. It's even rated more traumatic than going through a divorce, losing a job, or confronting bankruptcy.

Losing a spouse is a harrowing, faith-testing experience. But I contend that there's something even worse: losing a child.

While reading about America's First Ladies, I was amazed to learn that almost half of them outlived one or more of their offspring.

This sad legacy began with Martha Dandridge, who later married our first President, George Washington. At age 17, Martha was wed to Colonel Daniel Custis. They had four children, and two of them died as babies. The next First Lady, Abigail Adams, had four children, but a fifth died in infancy.

At age 18, Martha Wayles married a lawyer named Bathurst Skelton. He died at 22, and their only offspring—a son—died as a young child. At 23, Martha married Thomas Jefferson. They eventually had six children, and only two survived.

At 21, Dolley Payne married a Quaker lawyer and had two children. Three years later, her husband and one baby died of yellow fever. At 26, she married 43-year-old James

Madison and never had any more children.

Elizabeth and James Monroe had two daughters, but their only son died as a baby. Louisa Johnson, who married John Quincy Adams, reportedly had "many pregnancies," but only three children lived to adulthood.

One of Hannah and Martin Van Buren's five sons died as an infant, and Anna Tuthill Symmes—who married William Henry Harrison—also lost a baby. (Their other 10 kids survived childhood.)

Margaret "Peggy" Mackall Smith and her husband, Zachary Taylor, had five girls and one boy, but two of the girls died young.

Ida Saxton married William McKinley in 1871. Their first daughter, Katherine, died of typhoid fever when she was 4. A few years later Katherine's baby sister, Ida, died.

Some presidential children passed away when they were older.

One of Frances and Grover Cleveland's five children, Ruthie, succumbed to diphtheria at age 12. Edith and Teddy Roosevelt's youngest son, Quentin, died while fighting in World War I.

Two of the most tragic family histories involved the Lincolns and Pierces.

The Lincoln story is fairly familiar. Mary and Abe's young son Eddie died at 4, Willie died of typhoid at 11, and Tad died of tuberculosis at 18. Only Robert lived to adulthood.

Less well known is the sad saga of Jane and Franklin Pierce.

The couple's first son, Franklin, died a few days after birth. Their second son, Frank, died of typhus when he was 4. And their third son, Benjamin, was killed in a train wreck when he was 11.

Jane Pierce never recovered from losing "Bennie." She secluded herself upstairs in the White House, writing letters to her dead son.

Even modern day First Families have had their losses.

Mamie and Dwight Eisenhower's first son, Doud, died of scarlet fever when he was 3. Jacqueline Kennedy suffered a miscarriage in 1955, had a stillborn baby in 1956, and lost 2-day-old Patrick just three months before JFK's assassination.

Barbara and George H.W. Bush's daughter Robin died of leukemia at 3.

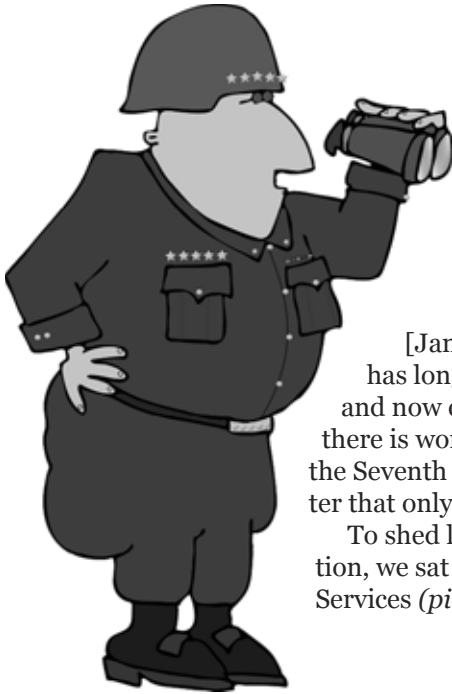
Many people, including myself, sometimes think that Presidential couples tend to lead charmed lives. They may have fewer money woes than "common people," and they enjoy perks that we can only dream of, like trips to exotic locations, fabulous houses, and worldwide recognition.

But after reading about Presidential wives, I realize that wealth and fame are no barriers to heartache and grief. Death—of a spouse, a child, or both—touches all of us regardless of our station in life.

The Good News is that, regardless of our station in life, *Life* also touches all of us—through the saving power of Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross. **SR**

Undercover Operation suspected at SDB Center

NEWS FLASH:
General Services
retires!!
See below...



[Janesville, Wis.]— It has long been suspected, and now confirmed, that there is work being done at the Seventh Day Baptist Center that only few are aware of. To shed light on this operation, we sat down with General Services (pictured).

SR: General Services, sir, is it true that your operation at the SDB Center has been somewhat secret?

General Services: No, it is not a secret! It's just that very few realize the importance of the work that my troops perform.

SR: So, you have troops in place here, sir? Can you tell us what they are doing?

GS: Certainly. Down on the main floor we have the mailroom operation. Someone has to prepare all of those *Sabbath Recorders* and *Helping Hands* and first-class mailings, get them into the hands of the Post Office, and have them delivered all over the world! The personnel at the Center are continually funneling materials to the mailroom—and my troops are ready!

And then, of course, there's the power.

SR: Power? And who has the power?

GS: Everyone—thanks to my troops! I'm talking about the power that turns on the lights, the computers, the copiers, heat and air conditioning... all of *that* kind of power.

Do you think it just “happens”? No way. My troops are at the ready every time someone at the Center flips a switch. Power!

SR: Do you have any other troops lurking about?

GS: Sure do! We've got a few real good agents here under my command.

SR: Agents, General?

GS: My right-hand man is Special Agent Rob Appel. Agent Appel continues to coordinate the ground operations, keeps the teamwork and communications flowing among the other agents, and visits the troops in the field. It's a real morale booster!

We have more agents in charge of website operations, accounting and secretarial, upkeep of the building and grounds...

SR: Amazing. Doesn't all this take a lot of money?

GS: Yes it does! And, you know, nobody likes to talk about that. Guess you could call that the “secret” part of the operation. So many people think it just “happens,” and so funding goes everywhere else.

I think you'd notice soon enough when the lights go out and the troops are gone, and you'd sit there wondering why we “up and left” the place.

Yes, it takes money to run our operation, and we sure could use some right about now. **SR**

At this year's pre-Conference meetings, the General Council (no relation to General Services) voted to change the name of General Services to “Conference Services.” You can help General Conference Services with your tax-deductible gift to:

Seventh Day Baptist Center
PO Box 1678
Janesville WI 53547



by Executive Director
Rob Appel

The State of the Conference (Part 1 of 3)

The Seventh Day Baptist Conference of churches is growing! We are not growing by leaps and bounds but we are growing.

During this time we have become more diverse in our Conference's ethnic makeup. This is a great thing! We have grown from 68 member churches to 72. We have grown from 23 branches or fellowships to 25. This is a 6% increase.

From a membership standpoint it is difficult to get hard numbers. This is due to our reporting process. I would appreciate having an e-mail address for every church contact person. This would speed things up dramatically and ensure accuracy.

With that said, I believe that the 2008 Sabbath morning attendance is up around 10%.

While we were experiencing this growth over the past four years, many other mainstream denominations were in decline. I believe that these groups lost people simply because their leaders abandoned the clear teachings of the Bible.

It was thought that if you followed the Bible as your authority you were labeled as narrow-minded, uninformed, and with an outdated view. The result? These once-proud Gospel-preaching denominations slowly moved away from the Bible and embraced human teachings.

While all of this was happening, Seventh Day Baptists have experi-

enced God's blessings for being obedient to His Word.

Our SDB Statement of Belief represents those truths as revealed in the Bible. The Bible is the source of our authority, not merely a support for our historic doctrines.

Let's change direction here and look at some statistics.

The current population of the United States is around 305 million people. Within the top 50 metropolitan areas the total population is 163 million. Of those top 50, we do not have a presence in 32 of those locations. The populations in these 32 metro areas total over 71 million people!

Our population growth trends will tell us that we need to be more proactive among the Spanish-speaking community. Projections are that there will be 60 million Hispanics living in the U.S. by the year 2020.

Canada's population is about 32 million. Of the top 10 cities in Canada we have churches in one: Toronto. The nine other cities have a population of 10 million.

As we look to relocate churches or plant new ones, I would like to see Seventh Day Baptists look at larger cities and prime locations. At the SDB Center in Janesville, Wisconsin, we get many inquiries throughout the year about our church locations.

It's difficult to tell someone in

Richmond, Virginia, that the closest church to them is over 100 miles away. Or Phoenix, Arizona's closest church is over 300 miles away; Boise, Idaho's closest church is 400 miles away; and if you are in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, the closest church is over 12 hours away—in the U.S.!

In the 1970s and '80s, the Conference came together and agreed to help plant churches in urban areas. Some of those churches include the New York City church in Brooklyn in 1974; Houston, Texas, 1977; Columbus, Ohio, in 1976; Central Maryland, 1978; Portland, Oregon, 1978; and Philadelphia, Metro Atlanta, and Miami, all in 1982.

They are all still in existence today. We had a successful church planting program!

Recommendation

Therefore, I recommend that we explore where we would like to plant churches and reproduce our success once again. I also recommend that we have the Coordinating Leadership Team take on this task and make a proposal to the General Council at their 2009 mid-year meeting as to the locations that we might choose. And I further recommend that the General Council report to the 2009 General Conference session the suggested locations. **SR**

(Next month: Part 2.)

Another Chaplain chapter

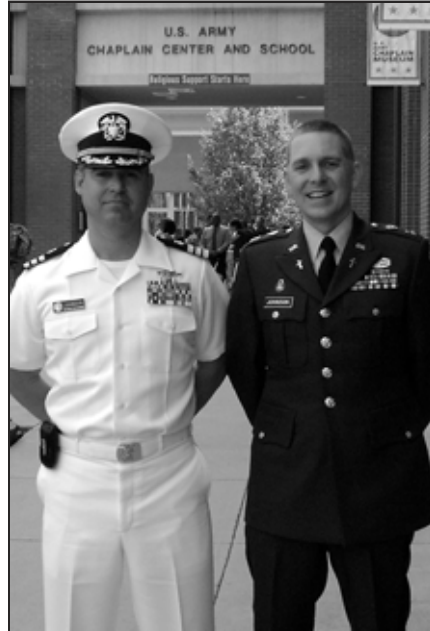
by Jerry Johnson

Hello, SDB friends! Thank you for your continued prayers for my family and me. Graduation from the Chaplain Captain Career Course (C4) at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, took place on June 5.

This was the longest course I will ever take during my chaplain career. It has prepared me to be a brigade chaplain in the future. We learned a lot of “sharpening” skills: spiritual leadership, spiritual formation, world religions, homiletics, pastoral care and counseling, religious support planning, and the military decision-making process.

As a tribute to others’ prayers, I finished third out of 34 in the class academically. Three staff rides included Charleston, S.C., to examine the Revolutionary War in the South; the Billy Graham Retreat Center at “The Cove” near Asheville, N.C., to enjoy Henry Blackaby’s material on leadership; and to Montreat in North Carolina for a family weekend.

I remained a student through and through, attending chapel every morning at 8:00 and classes until 5:00 or 6:00 at night. We met as a group for physical training two mornings (early!) a week. The days were long, yet the training was re-



Chaplain Jerry Johnson (r. in dark uniform) got a visit by his brother Joel, a Commander in the U.S. Public Health Service.

warding. I have been challenged to be more assertive as a leader who takes ministry to another level.

Carrie and the boys have had the hardest part of the last two-plus years, enduring 22 months without me. We did manage three short visits during my C4 experience, which

helped make the time go by a little bit. Our house still has not sold or been rented out as of mid-June, which is causing us to feel somewhat anxious. But we are depending on the Lord to help us find someone.

The family moved to South Carolina with me around the first of July. My parents are excited about the prospects of seeing grandkids!

The Army has decided to keep me here at Fort Jackson, to be a Basic Training Battalion Chaplain for 2-39 Infantry, part of the 165th Infantry Brigade. As a chaplain of recruits I will provide religious support to young men and women who come in two different cycles of about nine weeks in length. One cycle is always about three weeks ahead of another.

While the training routine is predictable, I have already experienced long hours due to the heavy counseling load. Ministry in this type of unit is more hands-on in that I will have consistent opportunities to preach and teach in garrison and out in the field.

Our unit has only about 120 personnel who are considered “permanent,” many of them drill sergeants who are busy training close to 100 hours per week. I hope to be able to help them with encouragement and spiritual resiliency during my time here.

My largest prayer request is for my family to reconnect with a spirit of unity after being separated for so many months. The boys face another adjustment to a different culture—an area with much larger school systems, as well as hotter temperatures.

Thank you for your support. Without it, I would not be able to succeed in ministering to soldiers and their families in this era of persistent conflict. **SR**

News from L-B Church

by Jodi Hawes

Pastor Gene Hoose has been called to shepherd the flock at the Leonardsville-Brookfield, N.Y., SDB Church. Pastor Gene, his wife Celeste, sons Patrick and Wade, and Wade’s wife Lisa are all welcome additions to our church.

The church once again set up an outreach booth at the Madison

County Fair. Members also participated in the community Yard Sale Days and raised over \$300. **SR**



Pastor Gene Hoose

Scouts get special 'God and Me' medals

by Cindy Nadeau

The Pawcatuck SDB Church in Westerly, R.I., recently presented "God and Me" medals to Adam and Patrick Nadeau during the Sabbath morning worship service.

"God and Me" is for grades 1-3, and is the first of four medals in the God and Country series.

The others include:

- "God and Family" (grades 4-5),
- "God and Church" (6-8), and
- "God and Life" (9-12).

Administered by Programs of Religious Activities with Youth (PRAY), God and Country is a faith-based program that is recognized by many



Cub Scouts Adam and Patrick Nadeau were awarded "God and Me" medals in Westerly, R.I.

national youth agencies. Each level allows the student to grow more in their faith.

For Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts, earning a medal shows that they have completed requirements for rank advancement. In another recognition earlier in the spring, Adam and Patrick were presented with the Universal Religious Square Knot patch at their Pack meeting. This patch signifies that they have earned one of the medals and is the only Cub Scout patch they will be able to wear on both Boy Scout and Scout Leader uniforms.

In recognition of their achievement, Adam and Patrick's Cub Scout leaders attended the worship service. **SR**

Denominational Dateline

September 2008

16-17	Canopy Pastors' Gathering, Verona, N.Y.—Andrew Camenga	10-12	Mid-Continent Association, Colorado Springs, Colo.—Appel
20	Diaconate Seminar, Hebron, Pa.—Camenga	10-12	North Central Association, Battle Creek, Mich.—Ed Cruzan
20	Ordination Council (considering prior ordination of Tim Bancroft), Alfred, N.Y.—Gordon Lawton	17-18	Pacific Coast Association, Riverside, Calif.—Appel
27	New England Yearly Meeting, Ashaway, R.I.—Nick Kersten, Kevin Butler, Ed Cruzan	18-19	Memorial Fund Trustees, Toronto, Canada—Morgan Shepard
28	MOST Teachers Seminar, Marlboro, N.J.—Camenga	24-26	Board of Christian Education Directors' Retreat—Camenga
29-30	Ad-hoc Committee with Conference executives, SDB Center, Janesville, Wis.	25-26	Missionary Society Quarterly Board meeting—Kirk Looper, Ron Elston

October

1-3	Coordinating Leadership Team, SDB Center, Janesville
6-7	Baptist Joint Committee, Washington, D.C.—Rob Appel

November

1-2	Tract Council Annual Meeting, SDB Center, Janesville—Butler
7-9	South Atlantic Association, SE Atlanta, Ga.—Appel, Cruzan

Are you following the SDBlog?

* * *

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

seventhdaybaptist.org

And while you're there, shop at the [E-Store](#) or sign up for [E-Gifting!](#)

New Members

Paint Rock, AL
John D. Bevis, pastor
 Joined after baptism
 Bill Wiley
 Nancy Wiley
 Joined after testimony
 Amy Buffington
 Rachel Buffington

Philadelphia, PA
Kenroy Cruickshank, pastor
 Joined after baptism
 Angelina Albenzi

Shiloh, NJ
Don Chroniger, pastor
 Joined after baptism
 Sean Davis
 Melissa Hicks
 Sam Hicks
 Andrea Jones
 Courtney Roesch
 Josh Roesch
 Katy Scull

Births

Barbee.—A son, Aaron Josue Barbee, was born in Guatemala City, Guatemala, on June 12, 2007. He was delivered into the arms of Perry and Amanda (Graffius) Barbee on April 20, 2008, in Guatemala, and arrived home to New Enterprise, PA, on April 26.

Smalley.—A son, Azariah Daniel Smalley, was born to Daniel and Rachel (Aylesworths) Smalley of Portage, WI, on February 26, 2008.

Vining.—A daughter, Aubrey Irene Vining, was born to Brian and Anna (Cruzan) Vining of White Cloud, MI, on June 23, 2008.

Butler.—A son, Adrik Jackson Butler, was born to Matthew and Danielle (Lee) Butler of Colorado Springs, CO, on August 5, 2008. *(Yes, our first grandbaby!!—Editor.)*

Marriages

Manning - Goodermote.—Bryan Manning and Bethany Goodermote were united in marriage on October 15, 2006, at the Berlin, NY, Seventh Day Baptist Church, with Rev. Matthew Olson officiating.

Cruickshank - Albenzi.—Omar N. Cruickshank and Angelina Albenzi were united in marriage on May 24, 2008, at the Reformation Lutheran Church in Philadelphia, PA (while the Hope SDB Church is under renovation), with Rev. Val Bennett officiating.

2008 SDB General Conference Operating Budget

Board / Agency	Monthly Operating Budget	Monthly Giving Towards Budget	Received July '08	Over / (Short)
Conference Services*	\$ 22,635.13	\$ 16,513.25	\$ 41,044.68	\$ 24,531.43
Council On Ministry	13,017.33	5,410.25	5,502.58	92.33
Missionary Soc.	25,083.33	4,879.83	5,703.39	823.56
Tract Council	12,142.17	4,750.00	9,749.31	4,999.31
Christian Edu.	9,676.67	4,470.33	4,308.91	(161.42)
Women's Soc.	3,116.67	2,475.00	1,953.31	(521.69)
Total	\$ 85,671.30	\$ 38,498.67	\$ 68,262.18	\$ 29,763.51

* Includes: Conference Services, Building Operations Fund, Christian Social Action, and Ecumenical Affairs

Other Sources of Income for monthly operating budgets include: income from investments, sales and withdrawals from savings.

Budget Overage / Shortfall Year to Date	\$ (26,298.23)	90% Of Budget
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Morgan Shepard
 Treasurer, SDB General Conference

*Thank you for your generous Conference Offering!
 Details on page 16.*

Obituaries

Burdick.—Lina D. Burdick, 95, of Wellsville, N.Y., passed away at the Wellsville (N.Y.) Manor Care Center on May 11, 2007.

Lina was born October 10, 1911 in Honeoye, Pa., to Hal and Nettie (Cowles) Drake. She graduated from Shinglehouse (Pa.) High School in 1929.

On May 30, 1947, she married Jesse E. Burdick in Richburg, N.Y. Jesse predeceased her on March 25, 2004. (Jesse was born July 7, 1919, in Richburg, son of Jesse A. and Mable Perkins Burdick. He was a veteran of WWII where he served in Europe with the 3rd Armored Division.)

Lina was an elementary school teacher for her entire working career, teaching at Shinglehouse, Richburg and Wellsville. She was a longtime member of the Alfred Station, N.Y., Seventh Day Baptist Church.

She is survived by two grandchildren, several great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews. Lina was predeceased by a daughter, Ann Richmond; two sisters, Alice Bauman and Faith Young; one brother, Leon Drake; and a granddaughter.

Burial was in the Woodlawn Cemetery in Wellsville.

Moncrief.—James Harold Moncrief Sr., 66, of Stow Creek Township, N.J., died peacefully at home on March 20, 2008.

Jim was born January 27, 1942, in Camden, N.J., to Theodore C. and Elivina (Batten) Moncrief. He married Jan L. Angelo in 1969.

Raised in Stow Creek, Jim graduated from Bridgeton High School in 1960, then enlisted and served in the U.S. Navy for four years.

Jim worked at the EI DuPont Chambersworks and Jackson Lab facility in Deepwater for 27 years, retiring in 1993. He then worked as a bus driver aide for special

needs children for the Stow Creek Township School. He was an active member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Shiloh.

He was involved with local youth sports throughout his life. He coached in the Bridgeton Mid-get Football League and the West Cumberland Little League, even helping last season when his grandchildren participated. He was also active with the Cohansey Soccer Club and Church League Basketball.

For the last 12 years, Jim volunteered at the school as a “Grand friend.”

In addition to his wife, he is survived by his loving mother, Florence Moncrief Dickinson of Granite Falls, N.C.; one son, Jim Moncrief, and one daughter, Julie Snead, both of Bridgeton; one brother, Steve Moncrief of Stow Creek; one sister, Fay Russell of Granite Falls; four grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. One daughter, Tammy Lynn, and a brother, William Batten, preceded him in death.

A memorial service was held at the Shiloh SDB Church on March 25, 2008, with Rev. Donald Chroniger officiating. A graveside service with military honors was held at the Cumberland County Veteran’s Cemetery in Hopewell Township.

Davis.—Alfred L. Davis, 92, of Rochester, N.Y., died on May 28, 2008.

Al was born March 9, 1916, in Boulder, Colo., to Rev. Alva L. and Flora T. Davis. After earning a Bachelor of Arts degree from Salem (W.Va.) College, he got a Master of Arts degree from Syracuse (N.Y.) University in 1937. Salem College awarded him an Honorary degree (L.H.D.) in 1988.

As a young man, Al sang in an SDB men’s quartet and served for three years on the Commission of the General Conference (predeces-

sor of the General Council).

It was at Salem that Al met his future wife, Ruby Cunningham, the daughter of college President S.C. Bond. They were married in the Salem SDB Church, with Al’s father performing the ceremony. Ruby passed away in 1986.

Al spent his adult life in Rochester, where his association with the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) spanned 68 years. As Vice President for Development, Al played a key role in raising millions of dollars to move the Institute to a suburban campus. Retiring in 1986, Al was named Vice President Emeritus at RIT. A longtime friend of the Salem church, he served recently as a fundraising consultant to its building finance committee.

In his heart, Al remained a Seventh Day Baptist, but his church affiliation was with the First Baptist Church of Rochester. Dr. Kenneth Williams conducted a memorial service on June 21, 2008, in the Kilian and Caroline Schmitt Inter-faith Center on the RIT campus. A graveside service was conducted on August 26, 2008, by Rev. Dale Thorngate in the Salem SDB Cemetery.

* * *

Obituary Error

The July-August *SR* carried the obituary of our dear brother (and faithful Conference attendee) **Neville “George” Lyons** of Toronto, Canada.

There was a mistake in the listing of George’s survivors. It should read: Survivors include his three children, Duane, Marlon, and Karlene; three brothers, Fritz, Conlief, and Joseph; and two sisters, Joyce Lyons of Halifax, Nova Scotia, and Charlene Lyons of Toronto.

The *Recorder* apologizes for the error.

At every turn, *cont. from p. 11*

Act, starting a new era of freedom by making discrimination based on race, creed, or religion illegal.

Jennings Randolph, a Seventh Day Baptist and U.S. Senator from West Virginia, successfully lobbied to include language in Title VII—a subsequent addition to the Act, passed in 1972—that made it illegal to fire Sabbathkeepers because of their day of worship (so long as making reasonable accommodations did not unduly handicap the employer).

This piece of legislation freed up Seventh Day Baptists, though it notably did not deal with the freedom to worship on Sabbath day.

There has been subsequent legislation to free up Sabbath worship for SDBs, but the fight continues. Many companies still do not readily give us the freedom to worship according to our convictions. Yet the current problem is not as often with employers as with labor unions that do not accommodate the religious preferences of their own members.

Lessons for today

As the entire history of Seventh Day Baptists lays open before us, there are several lessons that can instruct us today.

First, it is important to understand that our current struggles as Sabbathkeepers are part of a larger struggle which Seventh Day Baptists have always faced. The temptation to “feel alone” in our challenges as Sabbathkeepers is one we should be able to avoid because we know what our forebears faces. Any temptation to feel sorry for ourselves should be tempered with the knowledge of the



We should remember the passion of those who have gone before and honor their efforts with equally passionate work of our own.

freedoms we *do* have that our predecessors did not.

Second, we should strive to advocate for religious liberty—not to selfishly assert our own rights, but because religious liberty allows us to live according to our consciences before God, a right guaranteed by the Constitution.

Seventh Day Baptists have, in some cases, been forced to choose between honoring their conscience in regards to the Sabbath or disobeying written American law. That choice shouldn't be necessary in a land that trumpets religious freedom. Continued advocacy of our position, along with educating others about the Sabbath is something we need to strive for.

Third, Seventh Day Baptists have

had strong leadership in the struggle to keep Sabbath, not only at the Conference level, but also in local churches. We need our churches to advocate for the Sabbath in their communities, to increase knowledge of the Sabbath locally.

This advocacy for the Sabbath should not be viewed as more

important than our evangelistic responsibilities, but rather as two sides of the same coin. We share Christ with the world because of God's mercy to us through him. We share the Sabbath for the same reason: because we follow Jesus Christ and his leading.

Seventh Day Baptists have been extremely resilient in difficult situations, honoring our convictions while also doing what is possible to avoid conflict. Seventh Day Baptists responded to challenges vocationally by selecting professions that catered to our convictions, including jobs in education and agriculture, where many SDBs still work.

We have persevered in favor of our aims, staying true to the God who called us and to His standards. We should remember the passion of those who have gone before and honor their efforts with equally passionate work of our own.

Many challenges still face Seventh Day Baptists. But we should be proud of how we have responded throughout our history. This should encourage us to continue to live according to God's calling on us as individuals, as churches, and as a Conference, and to advocate not only for Christ's kingdom, but also for the Sabbath. **SR**

KEVIN'S

ORNER

The Great High Bridge

On my last few trips to Maine, a favorite destination has not been a lighthouse. Surprise! Nor has it been a mountain, a lake, or the rocky coast.

It's been a bridge.

High above the Penobscot River near Bucksport sits the Waldo-Hancock suspension bridge. (It got its name because it links Waldo and Hancock counties in Maine.)

The Waldo-Hancock was an early marvel of bridge construction. It was one of the tallest bridges of its kind, and served as a model for other more famous ones, like the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco.

But time and big trucks started to take its toll on the old structure. It was basically "condemned" by state and federal engineers. They started diverting truck traffic way around the bridge, adding many more miles to their routes. That caused some bad feelings with the truckers, and this was before fuel prices went through the roof.

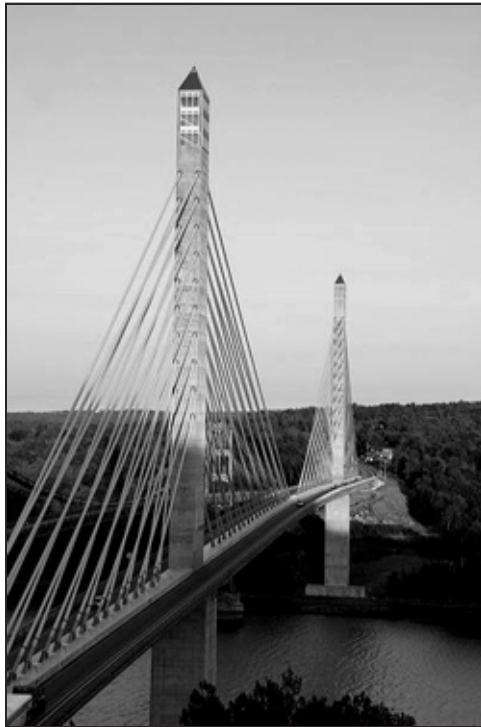
For temporary measures, engineers added more cabling and reinforced the bridge so it could handle the heavy loads. But everyone involved knew that it was time to completely replace the aging span.

A webcam allowed people "from away" to view the slow and careful construction. After three and a half years and \$85 million, the new Penobscot Narrows Bridge and Observatory was complete.

This type of bridge is one of just a handful like it in the world, using a "cradle" cabling system. It's the only bridge in North America with an observatory built in

one of the towers, and the tallest public bridge observatory in the world at 42 stories high.

It was exciting to see the builders working on the new bridge, and even more exciting to be able to go up the observation deck, then finally drive across the finished product!



In the Bible, the task of a priest was like that of a bridge builder.

The writer of Hebrews calls Jesus the "Great High Priest." That would make Jesus the perfect bridge builder.

You see, a true "chasm" existed between a Holy God and a sinful people. A bridge that would touch on both sides had to be built—that is, for Jesus to fulfill the office of "Great High Priest," he had to be fully in touch with God, and fully in touch with the people.

Why this talk of bridges? Because only Jesus can form the bridge between us and God.

We use this analogy in a brand new salvation tract that was unveiled at Conference. "Do you really know the Facts of Life?" was developed by Pastor John Camenga

while he ministered in Australia a few years ago.

With very colorful artwork and design by Pat Cruzan, we're pleased to be able to provide this 20-page mini-booklet for your mission to spread the Good News of Christ.





Pastor Ken Chroniger (l.), president of the Board of Christian Education, presents the Crystal Apple Award to Sabbath School Teacher of the Year, Velma Taylor, from West Palm Beach, Fla.



Winsome Gilmore accepts the Mary G. Clare Scripture Memorization Bowl for the Toronto, Canada, church. BCE member Amanda Snyder also presented certificates for the many participants.



Pastor Rex Burdick was recognized for the 60th anniversary of his accreditation as an SDB minister.



Jean Bailey Davis (middle) received this year's Women's Society Robe of Achievement. Presenting the award were Margie Jacob (l.) and Jani Graffius.