A call to Prayer
Lost address = lost money

The Memorial Fund office cannot locate Richard L. Andrews Jr., former Office Manager, to deliver his accrued pension benefits. His last known address was Carlton Avenue, Piscataway, NJ. Any assistance will be appreciated.

Ministry opening in Mississippi

Sunshine Mountain is seeking a woman or a couple to serve as housemother or houseparents to the mentally retarded and handicapped residents there. This is an ideal situation for someone on a retirement income who could be helped by the benefits of having rent, utilities, and groceries provided. For an investment of love and time you will earn returned love in abundance, joy in serving the Lord, the fellowship of SDB Christians daily, and stars in your crown. Direct inquiries to Ralph Hays at (601) 763-3479 or write to him at P.O. Box 37, Chatawa, MS 39632. There is room for you and blessings await you at Sunshine Mountain.

United Relief Fund

Please give to the SDB United Relief Fund

Make your Thanksgiving checks payable to Christian Social Action and designate it for SDBURF.

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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:

— the saving love of Jesus Christ.
— the Bible as the inspired word of God and a record of God's will for man. The Bible is our authority both for our faith and our daily conduct.
— freedom of thought under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
— the congregational form of church government. Every member of the church 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, 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 Christ.

It is the joy of the Sabbath that makes Seventh Day Baptists just a little bit different. If you would like more information, write: Seventh Day Baptist Center, 3120 Kennedy Road, PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547-1678.

Contributing Editors


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Kevin Butler
Editor

Leanne Lippincott
Assistant Editor

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Getting intimate with God

by William Shobe

Our crying need is not new methods, but greater depth of relationship with the Father.

As I have sought the Lord over the past several months, I have gained some insight from Jesus’ school of prayer. I have not discovered any new gimmicks or methods, but rather a problem much more fundamental. I am convinced that many others struggle for the same reason. Our conversation with God is weak and faltering primarily because we do not know Him, nor do we know His ways!

Our daily prayer life is often a chore, but greater depth of relationship with the Father is evident. I have known God with the Father. The shallowness is ours, not God’s. Honestly, how well do you know God? Oh, we have immediate answers about His omnipotence, His eternality, His wisdom. We are familiar with a whole list of His attributes. We know much about God, but few of us are familiar with Him.

The key is to pray according to His will, believing He will accomplish His desire. As we seek to know His will, we can ask Him to reveal that to us. We will find that His will is revealed in the life of Jesus, who is “the image of the invisible God” (Col. 1:15) and who “has explained” it to us (John 1:18).

Bill Shobe is pastor of the First Seventh Day Baptist Church of Houston, Texas.

November 1990
by David Bryant

Wherever I travel, people frequently ask me this question: "What is the most hopeful sign that you see in the great cause of world evangelization?" Without exception my response is the same: "The most hopeful sign on the horizon is the emerging movement of concerted prayer for spiritual awakening worldwide." There are good reasons for such hope.

Take a look at the repeating pattern of movements of united prayer which have occurred prior to major times of spiritual awakening.

For instance, the second Great Awakening of the late 1700's was characterized by a prayer movement, often called "concerts of prayer." This resulted in revival in the church and a worldwide missionary advance that continues to this hour.

In fact, from the beginning the secret of the Kingdom of God is movements of seekers. Because ultimately the seekers become the receivers. And when they receive, they never do so for their sakes alone, but for the sakes of many, many others. This is at the heart of the covenant with Abraham; this is the scope of the Great Commission.

Today, God is accelerating another prayer movement throughout the world. Perhaps you are sensing the tremors where the church and a worldwide movement of concerted prayer is also a gift of God. And when God raises up a movement of prayer for spiritual awakening, He intends to answer it. That's why, at an hour of history when the church is rightfully filled with a sense of holy desperation, we can also be filled with holy anticipation. Christ is on the move.

What characterizes this prayer movement? As I have visited with prayer thrusters around the world, I would mark these four major characteristics currently emerging in most expressions of the movement. I also see them emerging in local congregations that are taking their calling as "World Christians" seriously.

1. The Atmosphere—A growing sense of hope

Not only is the prayer movement the most hopeful sign of our times, it is a movement that overflows with the spirit of hope as well. Knowing biblically the character of God, praying people have hope that God can and will change our present world and bring about a lasting spiritual awakening today. That's the hope they pray toward. And this hope ignites and sustains the growing Concert of Prayer movement at this hour. As praying people probe God's plan in Christ for the nations, the Spirit of God moves in them the hope that He places before them, a vision so compelling that they could do nothing else but pray, and call others to come with them into the work.

We might define this hope-filled focus in prayer concerts by three words based on the word "fulfill":

(1) Fuller—We're seeking a fuller revelation of the glory, power and Lordship of Jesus Christ to those united in prayer.

(2) Fullness—We are praying for the fullness of Christ as Lord to be restored in the midst of his church corporately, in what is called revival or spiritual awakening.

(3) Fulfillment—We are praying for the resulting fulfillment of Christ's global cause through a revived church, as we enter into his mission within our own situation, as well as among all the peoples of the earth.

In many prayer rallies we pray through what I call the 7 Rs' of corporate prayer. These can help form the prayer meetings you organize in your local church, as well. They are:

- Rejoice—In the Hope that God has set before us and before the world.
- Repent—Of everything in the church and in us that might hinder the fulfillment of that Hope.
- Resist—at every point where the Enemy is seeking to thwart the unfolding of what God has promised to His church and to its mission in the world.
- Restore—Praying for God to again fill the church with the fullness of the life of Christ.
- Release—Asking God to release many new works of His Kingdom both locally and worldwide, in compassion, justice and salvation to fulfill Christ's mission.
- Receive—Taking time to hear and confirm whatever new words of promise and mission God may be speaking to us while we pray.

2. The Shape—A multifaceted movement

Over the past 10 years as I have served the global prayer movement I've been thrilled to observe a second trend: It is maturing from the basic annual prayer rally event, to an actual movement that has many exciting facets. Although we have seen tens of thousands gathered in united prayer this past year alone, the thing that excites me far more is to see how the prayer movement is working its way back into every other dimension of the life of Christians within the city, and within their own churches.

We might diagram this trend with the graphic below:

a. Concert—A core of participants from a broad spectrum of the body of Christ meeting in regular interdenominational gatherings. In the beginning they are made up primarily of initiators or "prayer pace setters.

b. Closet—People carry the vision and spirit of hope from the Concert back into their own times of daily prayer and devotions. They seek God in new ways and with larger vision.

c. Clusters—The prayer agenda for spiritual awakening and world evangelization then begins to surface in various smaller groups. Here the revitalized prayer-ers are able to share themselves in praise and prayer with their families, in Bible study groups, growth groups, prayer bands or prayer triplets.
**Congregation—Gradually, the thrust of the concert of prayer movement works its way into times of local church corporate prayer—through the efforts of spiritual leaders and pacesetters within each local body. The entire congregation has times of united prayer for spiritual awakening and world evangelization which may occur, for example, during 10 minutes in each morning worship hour.**

**Concert—The initial pacesetters continue to return to each citywide concert of prayer, not only to renew their own vision and faith, but also to bring others with them from their own small groups and congregations in order to mobilize more people into the movement of prayer where they live. The “conversion” process continues to spread.**

However, the prayer movement not only mobilizes prayer within the life of the local church; it not only “converts” people into World Christians; but as it gathers Christians together in united prayer, God uses it to network and expand ministry and mission activities that flow directly out of the prayer movement itself.

4. The Compass—Leaders leading the way

The key to sustaining the work of prayer rests primarily on God-ordained leadership—within both churches and cities. I call them prayer pacesetters.” And God is giving them to the church in increasing numbers.

They set the pace by (1) faithfully attending prayer gatherings, (2) spreading the vision for a prayer movement and spiritual awakening back in their local congregation or ministry, and (3) bringing others with them to the next united prayer event, or into other types of united prayer efforts within their homes, schools, work and churches.

Often the initial pacesetters are those already moving with a missional vision. Because they are living for the advance of Christ’s global cause, both locally and worldwide, they are already aware of the desperate need to get God’s people praying. Like the Levites assigned to the tabernacle of old, their job is to get all of the people of God praying as “priests,” so that they become a kingdom of priests. One of the most exciting developments is the emergence of pastors in concerted prayer. For over a year in Los Angeles, nearly 1,000 pastors have gathered together every three months to seek God’s face for spiritual awakening and global mission. This began when only a few pastors, who had been praying together in secret, extended an invitation for others to join them. The response was overwhelming.

The same has happened recently in New York City, where 350 pastors came to a Pastor’s Concert of Prayer. The only attraction was the call to prayer, not a personality or a famous singing group. And after spending three hours in such prayer, they stated that they wanted to unite like this again at least two or three times a year. One person remarked that this was the most significant gathering of pastors in New York City since the great prayer revival of 1858.

Two important principles ignite and sustain prayer movements:

**The first, as we’ve seen is: Help people to be clear on the Hope they are praying toward. The next most strategic principle however, is: “That the leaders lead the way.” And that’s exactly what’s happening across the land!”**

Here then are some of the emerging trends in a global movement of concerted prayer: (1) The **God is bringing the Church to the threshold of spiritual awakening.**

- **atmosphere—a growing sense of hope.**
- **The shape—a multifaceted movement.**
- **The impact—God’s way to mobilize for mission.**

(2) The **Prayer.** And God is fully attending prayer gatherings, giving them to the church in the way churches and cities. I call them the prayer movement itself. activities that flow directly out of prayer, God uses it to network and only

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(3) **Concert—**leaders leading the way.

What we are seeing at citywide and nationwide levels of united prayer is equally applicable and practical to a local church. I am concerned for becoming God’s base of operations for the advance of His Kingdom. God wants every local church to be swelling with the spirit of hope, multifaceted in all of the ways it prays, mobilized out of prayer for mission, and directed where God wants them to go by the leaders who first led them into the work of prayer.

Dr. Paul Cedar, formerly senior pastor at Lake Avenue Congregational Church and now president of the Evangelical Free Church in America, has said: “I believe the concert of prayer movement is the most significant of any spiritual movements in my lifetime.”

Truly, today’s prayer movement is a miracle from God. And why is it happening? Because God is bringing the Church to the threshold of spiritual awakening and worldwide evangelization. The time for such a united prayer effort where you live has come.  

David Bryant is president of Concerts of Prayer International, based in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

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**MORE 2000 churches hard at work—and prayer**

A vital part of our new Mission of Revival and Evangelism (MORE 2000) has been prayer. Each of the area group meetings begins with a concert of prayer, Conference delegates in Kansas prayed for our pilot program churches, and we continue to pray for those brothers and sisters at our weekly Center chapel services.

Prayer took on an active and transforming role during one of the plan’s recent “phases.” Phase five calls for the pastor to seek God’s vision for that local church. Talk about something that calls for serious prayer!

To help facilitate this, the church allows the pastor to seek God’s vision for that local church. Talk about something that calls for serious prayer!

To help facilitate this, the church allows the pastor to seek God’s vision for that local church. Talk about something that calls for serious prayer!

(2) The **shape—a multifaceted movement.**

(3) **The impact—**God’s way to mobilize for mission. (4) **The compass—**leaders leading the way.

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**MORE 2000 process with the members, answering questions like:**

- “Why was the church involved in the program?”
- “Why did the pastor need to go on a retreat?”
- “Why did the pastor need to go on a retreat?”
- “What more God wants for the Bay Area church.

Answers to prayer came to others than just the pastors. Rick, a young Christian in the Bay Area group, had finished his prayer about two hours before he was to go to his job as janitor in a very rough area of the city. Everything seemed to be against him—he felt physically ill and had many excuses to stay at home. But off to work he went.

Still quite sick, he was amazed to hear a co-worker ask, “What are you so happy about?” And he was serious! Rick was able to share about his faith in Jesus, and the curious friend wanted to hear more. If that wasn’t enough, Rick met with someone else later that same week who also asked to hear more about Rick’s faith. Time in prayer led to these divine appointments.

It meant a lot to the pastors knowing that their church was behind them, actively, through prayer. Please take some time to pray for your pastor and church, that God would reveal His desire and vision to you.
How should SDBs pray?
by Dale E. Rood

As I have grown in the Lord, I have come to see prayer as a matter of waging spiritual war. Ephesians 6:12 points to the nature of this battle: "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against powers, against principalities, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." In this war, guns and atom bombs are mere toys. The armies of the world are mere pawns in the hands of the spiritual rulers who oppose the Lord of Hosta. The way to fight this war is not with military weapons of warfare, but down on our knees appealing to our God who controls the war.

This is not the sort of thing we see with our eyes or hear with our ears. We need an eternal perspective, what songwriter Twila Paris has called, "Forever Eyes."

This is what the disciples had when they prayed in Acts 4:23-30. They were seeing what God was doing, and moving with Him in prayer. God responded by a new filling of the Holy Spirit that shook the place they were in and prompted them to be bold in proclaiming the Word of God. This is what Peter had in Acts 10:9 when he was praying on the rooftop. In a vision, the Lord revealed to Peter His plan for including the Gentiles in the people of God.

Oh, that we might have forever eyes in praying for Seventh Day Baptists; that we might see the gigantic spiritual battles being waged over Seventh Day Baptists even as we read this article; that in response to our prayer the places where we might be is shaken and the Word of God proclaimed boldly.

One thing we can always pray for is that God be glorified. In praying for the sick, I can always pray that God be glorified and His power displayed in such a way that the sick person and those around him or her would see that it is God at work. I visualize God working in this situation and that lives would change as a result. I visualize the enemies of God being put to flight as I pray. In prayer I release the power of God into a situation and with forever eyes I see Him working in the way He chooses, defeating the enemy and moving ahead to victory.

In healing, if God heals physically I rejoice that His power is displayed in the situation. But if healing does not happen in a way that can be measured by observation, I expect God's power and love to be displayed in some other way which we will be able to recognize. In praying for God to be glorified, always pray that His glory will be seen by the people involved (John 9:3). We can pray for these things on the authority of God's Word:

1) For laborers for the harvest (Matthew 9:37-38)
2) The rule of God to prevail (Matthew 6:10)
3) Needs to be supplied—our own, our friends and loved ones, our church (Matthew 6:11, Philippians 4:19)
4) Wisdom (James 1:5)
6) The peace of Jerusalem (Psalm 122:6, Isaiah 62:6-7)

What are some situations which we can pray for among Seventh Day Baptists? Some key areas to mention specifically are:

1) The Philippines, for Eli Payapa of our Philippine SDB Convention, and for Corazon Aquino and the Philippine government for peace and stability in which to proclaim God's Word.
2) Myanmar (Burma), for stability in that country, and for L. Saw Thanga and the Myanmar SDB Conference to boldly declare God's Word.
3) Our extension churches and pastors in the United States and Canada, for laborers for the harvest, and for health and growth.
4) Missionary Tom McElwain and Pastor Risto Sorsa in Finland, for fruit for the harvest in Finland and also in the Soviet Union.
5) The South African SDB Conference, for protection from the turmoil in that land and for boldness in proclaiming God's Word of peace and Good News.

David Bryant on MORE 2000

Editor's note: David Bryant, president of Concerts of Prayer International (see article page 6), visited the SDB Center in Janesville to discuss prayer and the denomination's new Mission of Revival and Evangelism (MORE 2000). I was glad to catch this busy travelor as he was in between two denominational gatherings who had asked him to teach on prayer.

The following is excerpted from my interview with David and contains his positive evaluation of our new plan.

In looking at MORE 2000, I like it because the word more is a key characteristic in the thinking and perspective of people who have been catalysts for revival.

In Martyn Lloyd-Jones' book on revival, one of the major emphases he makes is that there is something more; that we've got to believe that there's something far more that God wants to do in His church.

When I'm at the meeting this evening, I'm going to be asking these three more questions. They all work with this idea of more.

The first one is this: "Is there more of Christ to be revealed to us as His people—more of His power, His presence, His person, and His purpose than we have yet seen?"

Second, "In light of the desperate needs and the great challenges inside the church, do we need to be seeking that revelation of Christ far more than we do?"

And third, "In light of the desperate needs and great challenges that we face in the outward mission of the church, can we ever seek that greater revelation of Christ to much?"

You can't fight those three questions. That brings us to the whole principle of seekers.

I often say that the secret of God's Kingdom is seekers, because it is the seekers who become the receivers. And when they receive, they never receive just for themselves alone, but for the sake of many, many others. There's the idea of more.

There's a lot going on in the church that's calling us to do more, but what God's calling us to do is to seek more.

In fact, you could almost say that if a seeking process has begun in a local church or denomination, in a sense, then the first phase of revival has begun, because the only reason people start getting serious about seeking God again is because God is already beginning to awaken them to the fact that there's something more.

Dale Rood is pastor of the Dodge Center, Minnesota, SDB Church.
A prayer meeting under a haystack

by Don A. Sanford, historian

The following story is taken from a collection of stories told by Everett T. Harris, at the Pawtucket, Rhode Island, SDB Vacation Bible School in July 1973. These were mimeographed and made into a little booklet entitled Mission Stories.

A haystack seems like a queer place to hold a prayer meeting. If there were very many people present it might be crowded. But there were only five young men present at this prayer meeting.

Let me tell you how it happened:

A young man named Samuel J. Mills was a student at Williams College, located in the northwestern corner of Massachusetts in Williamstown. Sam was a devoted Christian. He loved Jesus Christ and studied His Bible faithfully and earnestly.

Two verses in the Bible were on Sam's mind on this particular day. One was Jesus' words, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). And the second one was the apostle Paul's words in Romans 10:15, "And how shall they preach except they be sent?"

Sam thought to himself, "I want to go but who is going to send me? How can I go when I can scarcely take care of my expenses at college?"

After thinking of these things for a long time Sam decided to talk it over with some of his friends at Williams College; some of his closest, most intimate friends. So he asked some of them to go behind the main college building to a grove of trees where they could sit in the shade and talk about it. Four fellows came and Sam poured out to them the things that had been troubling him, i.e.: Was Jesus' word "Go" meant for him? And if he was to go, who would "send" him?

A wonderful thing happened as Sam talked to his four friends. Every one of them said he had thought of these things, too. Why didn't the people of the churches organize so that they could send out those who felt the urge of Jesus' words to go?

Just then there was a streak of lightning and a clap of thunder and it began to rain a torrent of rain. They had been so engrossed in Sam's words that they had not noticed a big, black cloud in the sky right over them. "Come on," one of the young men yelled, "Here's a haystack; let's get in out of the rain!" So they dashed to the haystack and piled in close together to get out of the rain.

As they huddled together, so close they could hear each other breathing, one of them said, "Why don't we pray while we wait for it to stop raining?"

So the five young men prayed about the idea of encouraging the churches to organize so as to send out those who felt God's leading to go into all the world and tell the story of His love. And before they were through praying each one of them had pledged God that they would go if God wanted them to do so and if the people in the churches would send them out.

Right then and there was the birthplace of the modern missionary movement that has spread over the world. God broke into the world with a big, new idea in such a humble place as a haystack. This was in 1806. A few years later the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society was organized—1819—and reorganized in 1840.

At Williams College today there is a marble shaft to mark the place where the haystack stood. On top of the shaft there is a globe, representing the world, and on the globe are these words:

The field is the world—the birthplace of American Foreign Missions—1806:

Samuel J. Mills, James Richards, Francis Robbins, Harvey Loomis, and Byram Greene.

Was Jesus' word "Go" meant for him? And if he was to go, who would "send" him?

One year ago—November 1989

Pastor Leon Wheeler, Alfred, New York, recruits local members to write features about the environment. Regular columns follow the same theme. Conference President Joe Samuels begins to lay out his vision for SDBs.

Malankara Conference in India joins the SDB World Federation.

Report of new missionaries, Ian and Trudy Inge, arriving safely in Malawi.

San Diego church welcomes new pastor, Bernie Wethington.

Five years ago—November 1985

New Training In Ministry and Extension (T.I.M.E.) project explained.

SDB Bible study leader wounded by gunmen in the Philippines.

New York State Assembly of SDB Churches votes to disband, but churches plan for future ministry opportunities.

United Relief Fund responds to severe earthquake in Mexico.

Christian Education page encourages personal devotional life.

10 years ago—November 1989

Conference President Charles Grafius promotes January 4 as Day of Fasting and Prayer.

James Chang's letter from China to General Conference shared.

Over 600 people request Bible correspondence courses from SDB fair booth in Memphis, Tennessee.

Women's Board moves from Colorado to California. Verona, New York, reports on new discipleship classes, growth, and 16 baptisms (including this editor).

25 years ago—November 1965

1965 noted as the "parsonage year" as many churches built or bought new parsonages.

"Contemporary Conflict," a special issue edited by Ruth Ellis, features writing from young people.

Literature booth in Kansas City attracts many.

Mrs. George Thorngate retires as office manager for her doctor husband and four sons (all doctors).

Salem College President K. Duane Hurley on European college and church tour.

50 years ago—November 1940

Historic church building at Newport, Rhode Island, houses another yearly meeting. The first was held in 1896.

A new "Who's Who" column highlights SDB pastors. Editorial calls for courage to give thanks to God during "the misery about us"—poverty, cold, hunger, and the horrors of war.

New certificate for conscientious objectors made available from the corresponding secretary of Conference, Courtland V. Davis.

Long-awaited biographical sketch of Stephan Babcock appears as special supplement.

75 years ago—November 1915

Our first "denominational school," DeRuyter (New York) Institute, founded in 1837, remembered.

Detailed notes relate happenings at various Associations.

New "Lone Sabbath Keepers' Directory" lists over 1,000 names and addresses.

Death of Rev. Darwin Lippincott listed.


Pastor C.B. Loubourrow installed at Walworth, Wisconsin.

...where are we headed?

Pray...

* for the preservation of our environment
* that we all seek God's vision
* for our missionaries at home and abroad
* for our denominational budget situation
* that we could always find reasons to give thanks
* for peace in the troubled Middle East
* for our United Relief Fund ministries
Women, we need to pray

"The effective prayer of a righteous man (or woman) can accomplish much" (James 5:16, NASB; parentheses mine).

I came away from Conference with the need to pray more: more for my children, more for my pastor husband Don and his ministry, more for my unsaved neighbors, more for my church family, more for our work with the Women's Board, more for our denomination. I am feeling myself if I think that I can accomplish things for the Lord without prayer. We are deceiving ourselves if we think our churches can be true witnesses for the Lord and have successes and growth without bathing the ministry with prayer.

Many of you may have used Evelyn Christenson's book, What Happens When Women Pray (Victor Books, Wheaton, Illinois, 1977), for a Bible study group or prayer group. As I reflected on the issue of prayer, I pulled this book off of the shelf and began to reread it. Mrs. Christenson gives many true-life examples of what happens when God-fearing women earnestly seek the Lord and His direction. There are unbelievable results, but there are right ways and wrong ways of praying that need to be remembered. The Psalmist says, "If I regard wickedness (iniquity) in my heart, the Lord will not hear me." I cannot expect results from my prayers if I have unconfessed sins in my life. Perhaps I don't blatantly sin or deliberately go against God's will, but maybe I have a wrong attitude toward someone. Maybe I've never forgiven someone for something said or done against me. Perhaps I spoke harshly to my husband, my children, or my neighbor. I need to confess bad attitudes, unforgiveness, or angry words to God before I can expect Him to hear and answer my prayers.

The new Women's Board officers and committee members need your prayers of intercession. We need to have God's will and direction clearly revealed to us as we minister on behalf of the denomination's women. Our new churches and fellowships desperately need our prayers as they seek to grow and minister to their communities. Those of us in established churches may not understand the frustrations that come with beginning a new work (unless we have gone through that with our own church family).

We need to pray for all of our pastors and leaders and their spouses. Sometimes the cost of leadership takes a toll on the family and on oneself. We need to pray for our denomination as a body. We have some difficult and yet exciting days ahead of us. The Lord is waiting for us to cry out to Him for wisdom and direction.

Does your church have an intercessory prayer group which meets regularly to lift before the Lord people and programs, dreams and goals? If not, why not organize one? Perhaps you and a friend or neighbor can meet often to pray together. Get a copy of What Happens When Women Pray and use it for your personal growth or Bible study group. Let's see how much we can accomplish for the Lord as we pray earnestly together. Let me share some qualities that I value in my friends. A true friend is: faithful, compassionate, trustworthy, committed to God, forgiving, encouraging, honest, a listener, someone who accepts me as I am and encourages me to become all that I can be through Jesus Christ. These same qualities are applicable in our relationship with God.

Prayer is an integral part of developing a relationship with God. In fact, our initial relationship with God is dependent on our prayerful need for Him and our desire to have Him live in and through us. Viewing prayer in this way, we can learn much about cultivating a relationship with God as we look at our other cherished relationships.

Listening is an art that needs to be practiced.

In our hurried society, there is a tremendous need for someone who listens! Prayers of intercession are often listed as the greatest need. If listening is so important in our human relationships, it is much more important in our relationship with God.

God has been challenging me recently in the area of prayer and listening. In the Gospel of John, Jesus talks about the sheep listening to the voice of the shepherd. The Word really speaks to me when Jesus says, "...and his sheep follow him because they know his voice" (John 10:4). I believe that many times we miss out on exciting and powerful experiences in our lives because we are either not listening to God or, because of our inattentiveness, God is silent. Or perhaps we haven't listened enough to know His voice. Listening is an art that needs to be practiced.

God may speak to us and encourage us to go visit someone. The blessing may come when we discover that the other person had been lonely and had prayed that God would send someone—and that someone was you! The Christian life is not meant to be dull or mechanical; it is meant to be abundant!

How about you? Are you missing out on the adventure by failing to listen or by failing to do what He shows you? May each of us learn to listen more carefully to His voice and to act on it in obedience.
New Pre-school Sabbath Nurture Series

The Sabbath Nurture Series has all new materials for pre-schoolers. If your 4 and 5-year-olds are a top priority for your Sabbath School, you will want to order these special Sabbath-oriented lessons.

Ruth Anne Peil, Alhambra, California, is the editor/writer and artist. Beautiful two-color artwork, lesson pullout, finger puppets, and a variety of pupil activities present the Sabbath to pre-schoolers.

The Student Activity Books include lesson cut-outs for each of the 13 lessons. They are created to assist the teacher in guiding the children through one quarter's biblical lessons concerning the Sabbath.

The Teacher's Book provides 36 pages of step-by-step lesson plans. The suggested format includes stories and rhymes which will involve the children in an exciting learning experience of God's Sabbath in a fun, joyful way.

The Children's Songs book includes guitar chords and hand movements. You may use the accompanying cassette tape which contains a music only section and music with voices section. You do not have to be a musician to teach the lessons.

The pre-school unit on the Sabbath was edited under the supervision of the Children's Committee of the Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education.

Pre-school Nurture Lesson Topics

Unit 1—God Shows Us the Way
God Made Me
God Makes the Rules
In God's House—Jesus
I Will Obey—Jesus
Samuel Serves the Lord

Unit 2—Jesus Our Teacher
Jesus Loves Me
Lord of the Sabbath
Jesus Heals

Unit 3—Little Ones Help
Giving
Thanking
Asking
Paul Takes a Trip
Paul Tells Everyone

Thanking Paul Tells Everyone

Pre-school Nurture Lesson Topics

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Malawi, Africa

Throughout September, violence and fighting increased in Mozambique, just across the river from Chipiki where the new clinic was opened in May. Nearly 5,000 new refugees left Mozambique for the safety of the Chipiki area of Malawi. This is adding to the growing number of patients! At the same time the Malawi government that helps fund private medical work through the Private Hospital Association of Malawi (PHAM) has not been able to meet the needs. Such support, which has been up to three months late in coming, is now threatened altogether.

Pastor Ronald H. P. Barrar, a former missionary in Malawi, retired as pastor of the Auckland, New Zealand SDB Church this fall and is now at Makapawa Station. One of his ministries is giving further education to Theological Education by Extension (T.E.E.) graduates that will enable them to assume teaching/leadership roles.

Rev. A.K. Harawa, corresponding secretary of the Central Africa Conference of SDBs, Blantyre, Malawi, has resigned and retired to his home in the northern region. The pressure of work has been heavy, and he has considered this action for over a year.

Finland; Estonia; USSR

Pastor Risto Sorsa of Helsinki, Finland, president of the European Free Street Mission (Seventh Day Baptist), spent from May to mid-July in Estonia in evangelistic outreach. "The Gospel is moving ahead there. During our last series of meetings dozens made decisions for Christ, among them a police officer. The sick were healed and all of the marks of the apostolic times appeared."

"We thank you for the gifts ... on behalf of Estonians and Russians. We are now printing the Gospel of John in Russian. We have ordered 10,000 copies to start with and hope to continue with hundreds of thousands. The situation in Estonia is quite good as I am working Russia based from Estonia. Time is short and we must hasten to work while we can."

The churches in Finland and Estonia have joined together in the Baltic Seventh Day Baptist Conference (literally Yearly Meeting). Since printing is less expensive in Estonia, periodic church publications in both languages have been started, in addition to tracts and gospels. The churches are working closely together and Missionary Tom McElvain is spending time in special meetings in Estonia this fall.

Reaching out—USA and Canada

Reach out for Christ is a growing desire of God's people gathered under the name of Seventh Day Baptist. God continues to bring new individuals and groups into contact with Conference leaders. Members of existing SDB churches are being convinced of the need to personally become involved in starting new groups in various parts of the United States and Canada.

Since General Conference at least three locations have emerged where God may be calling new SDB churches into being. Extension of the Kingdom is not impossible as we obey the Lord Jesus Christ and the Great Commission which He gave us. Please pray with us that the Lord will supply both the leadership and other resources to fully honor Him in these places.

Since July, Director of Extension Russell Johnson has been working full-time to aid our churches, new contacts, and possible groups. Thus we are better meeting the growing needs that Rodney Henry, in only a part-time ministry in this role, could not fully meet.

Turku, Finland

Missionary Tom McElvain and daughter, Anna Maria, were able to be present at the General Conference sessions in Lindborg, Kansas, in August. After over three years service in this new field, basic goals have been met—the establishment of a growing new SDB witness having local leadership. As noted above, this joins new SDB churches in both Finland and Estonia into a new Conference, and extends their ministries into Russia as well. Thus Tom will be able to close his ministry at the end of 1990. Pray that the Lord will direct Tom into a new and vital place for continued ministry!

Miami, Florida, USA

The Miami SDB congregation had a special Missions Sabbath on October 20 with Leon R. Lawton speaking. It is easy for any Christian to become "narrow-minded" with their interest, and minister only in their community or area. But there are millions of unreached peoples around the world that have never had the opportunity to hear the Gospel. He shared how the work and witness of Seventh Day Baptists is growing in the USA and Canada and in over 20 countries around the world.
National YF News

Youth Fellowship members voted at the 1990 General Conference to officially adopt a new name: Seventh Day Baptist Youth Fellowship of U.S.A. and Canada.

The Conference Youth Interest Committee under the leadership of Pastor Andrew Samuels, chairman, and Kristin Rod, secretary, worked on amending the Youth Fellowship Constitution. It is presented to the members of the SDBYF of U.S.A. and Canada for study. Absentee ballots will be printed in the March Beacon for those who will be unable to attend the 1991 annual YF business meeting at Houghton College.

Youth Fellowship Constitution

Article I—Name
Section 1. The name of this organization is the Seventh Day Baptist Youth Fellowship of U.S.A. and Canada.

Article II—Aims
Section 1. The purposes of this organization are:
A. To encourage communication throughout the year amongst all members of the Seventh Day Baptist Youth Fellowship of U.S.A. and Canada. Voting members shall be of ages 12-22.
B. To enhance the knowledge of God's Word and apply it to our daily lives.
C. To increase the understanding of the Lord and His plan for our lives.
D. To help develop the skills and practice the Biblical wisdom necessary to share our belief in Jesus the Savior.
E. To encourage communication amongst all members of the Seventh Day Baptist Youth Fellowship of U.S.A. and Canada, and work with the Board of Christian Education to educate for the Beacon.
F. To promote respect amongst all members of the Seventh Day Baptist Youth Fellowship of U.S.A. and Canada.
G. To follow Jesus' example of putting others first.

Article III—Membership
Section 1. All members of the Seventh Day Baptist Youth Fellowship of SDBYF of U.S.A. and Canada shall be of ages 12-22.

Article IV—Business
Section 1. An annual business session of the Seventh Day Baptist Youth Fellowship of U.S.A. and Canada shall be held Wednesday evening at General Conference, Section 2. Business shall be conducted according to the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

Article V—Officer's Duties
Section 1. The Commission shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary and/or Treasurer of the Seventh Day Baptist Youth Fellowship of U.S.A. and Canada. The communications officer, the youth advisor, and the Youth Committee Chairman of the Board of Christian Education shall be ex officio. Section 2. The officers shall promote attendance at Pre-Con and aid the directors when such aid is called for. They shall assume responsibility for planning Conference youth activities. They shall conduct all elections of the Seventh Day Baptist Youth Fellowship of U.S.A. and Canada. Article VI—Vacancies
Section 1. If the office of President falls vacant, the Vice-President shall assume the duties of that office. Article VII—Amendments
Section 1. This Constitution shall be amended by a two-thirds vote at the annual meeting at General Conference. Any amendment must be provided in order to vote on any amendment.

Article VIII—Ratification
Section 1. This Constitution shall take effect with a two-thirds vote at the annual meeting of the Seventh Day Baptist Youth Fellowship of U.S.A. and Canada.
By Myrna Cox

September 14, 15, and 16 found nine campers and five staff from the Denver SDB Church traveling to Camp Paul Hummel in a weekend of Natural Evangelism Training (NET). The weekend proved to be enjoyable and fruitful for all.

Training (12 hours) was interspersed with vespers, alone time, recreation, fellowship, and great meals prepared by Barbara White and Pat Williams. Gretchen Zwiebel led us Friday evening in vespers, and Pastor Ralph Greaser led us Sabbath night. Daryl White and Myrna Cox shared in the teaching.

This is the second time this training has been offered to our church, and this retreat setting was initiated instead of our previous 13-week course. Evaluation of the weekend indicates that a retreat setting is a great way to go, but we may need to expand it to three days in order to have more study time.

A potluck dinner was held during the month of September, a potluck dinner was held after the training. Pastor Ralph Greaser served as project director. After 10 adventure-packed days of training in Battle Creek, each team set out for their projects until July 30. It was then that they all arrived in Kansas for evaluation.

Keep this ministry in your prayers, and consider how the Lord can use you in SCSC.

SDB churches set on “FIRE”

by Leigh Stewart

The Kirkwood, Missouri, Seventh Day Baptist Church is one of the newer churches in our denomination. It came into being after dissolving the old Parma, Illinois, SDB Church, that had survived some 120 years.

Many years ago Missouri had Sabbathkeepers scattered across the Show-Me State, but history tells us that the first SDB church was at Naylor in the 1980s. This growing group was named the Faith SDB Church when it moved to Doniphan, Missouri. Pastor Ron Elston has done a remarkable job.

Recently ordained Pastor Jon Warren, along with his wife Jeannie and daughter Sheri, have started a new group just outside of Jefferson City, in the village of Elkton (no relation to Ron). It, too, is growing.

These three groups form a huge triangle that covers nearly a quarter of the state. It was these three that hosted the Southwestern Association in June. It was well attended and we are sure that it was a spiritual uplift for all who were there.

We praise God that Pastor Ron and Pastor Jon are so very helpful at Kirkwood. Then we got the good news that Pastor Wayne Collfish has once again agreed to be back with us once a month. He helped when we struggled as a “fellowship,” but as a busy teacher in a parochial school, driving 185 miles one way on Sabbath morning.

Relief Fund meeting many needs

A letter of thanks for your contributions to your Christian Social Action Committee to the supporters of the Seventh Day Baptist United Relief Fund:

Thanks for your faithfulness and caring response to crises as they occur, the SDB United Relief Fund has been able to respond to situations in the last year.

Charleston SC (hurricane relief) $8,000
SDB minister’s (illness and stress) $1,000
SDB minister’s family (fire) $1,200
Baptist World Aid (starvation) $5,000
SDB minister’s family (illness) $1,700
Province of Uyuakwars, India (cyclone) $3,000
Province of Uyuakwars, India (cyclone) $3,000
SDB minister’s family (illness) $1,338
World Relief (refugees in Jordan) $7,550

Early in our experience as the new core committee, we voted to maintain a balance of $5,000 in case of emergency. There are many organizations which might receive the balance above the $5,000; we’re in the process of investigating which ones need it most and would use it most wisely.

Your gifts to those affected by Hurricane Hugo had far-reaching results, spiritually as well as physically. People thanked God for the relief and were drawn to Him because of what was done in Christ’s name.

Relief Fund was able to respond to situations in the last year.
A miracle
A testimony by Beth Wallstrom

Have you ever seen a miracle? I have! I am alive today only because the Lord intervened to save my life at a time when I wanted to end it.
I grow up in a Christian home, and accepted Jesus as my Savior when I was 6 years old. I attended a Christian college and was engaged to marry a Christian young man. Through various circumstances, including the pressures of final exams and uncertainty about whether I was really loved, I decided to take a lot of pills and end it all.

The doctor who saw me later said I should have died. But God saved me. "What a glorious Lord! He who daily bears our burdens also gives us our salvation. He frees us! He rescues us from death" (Psalm 69:19-20).
While I was recovering from the overdose of pills, my parents came to see me. I was afraid to face them; I thought they would be angry, disappointed, and ashamed. When Mom and Dad walked into the room I cried and said, "I'm so sorry!" They both hugged me, told me they loved me, and said how glad they were that I was alive.
What a wonderful demonstration of Christ's infinite love and forgiveness! "What happiness for those whose guilt has been forgiven! What joys when sins are covered over! What relief for those who have confessed their sins and God has cleared their record" (Psalm 32:1-2).

Later that same year, I married the Christian young man I was engaged to. God blessed our marriage with a son, Peter, and a daughter, Joy. Although I was aware of God's blessings, I mostly ignored Him and went my own way. For many years, I attended church once a week and did as I pleased the rest of the time.
Recently, my daughter pressed her desire to be baptized at the local Seventh Day Baptist church. She had been visiting the church for some time, enjoying the fellowship and growing in the Lord. (She had also been praying for me.) On the evening Joy and the other baptism candidates were to give their testimonies to the church. She had been visiting the church for some time, enjoying the fellowship and growing in the Lord. (She had also been praying for me.)
On the evening Joy and the other baptism candidates were to give their testimonies to the diaconate, Bob Bonser called to offer me a ride to the meeting. I told him I was too tired to go, and went to bed. As I lay there, I was unable to sleep. My daughter was taking one of the most important steps of her life, and I was going to miss it! I jumped out of bed, dialed the Bonser's number, and asked Bob, "Can I change my mind?" Five minutes later, we were driving to the meeting. During Joy's testimony she told of being led to the Baptism Church, and have enjoyed the fellowship of our brothers and sisters here. We have seen God working in our family and have experienced His love in our church.
Each day with the Lord is a new adventure. I'm so thankful for His love, patience, and mercy. He has a perfect plan for my life, and yours, too. "For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. They are plans for good and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope" (Jeremiah 29:11).
I Daryl Lister VanHorn of 24 Total needed each month-$62,873.

Per 1990

SHOULD BE

February

January

March

April

May

June

July

August

September

$754,485

$69,611

$28,738

$565,864

$602,900

$440,116

$377,243

$314,364

$251,495

$188,021

$125,748

$62,873


SR Reaction

Latter may be edited, for length and clarity.

Dear editor,

As a Seventh Day Baptist young person I protest. I protest vehemently.

I protest that older and old-fashioned pastors with a rational outlook, such as Dr. Hansen, get so much criticism that they dare not speak.

I protest that old-fashioned Hill Yard SDB unitarian Bible faith in the one true God is likely to disappear from among us in the next generation.

I protest that young and old alike are so ready to conform to worldly ways that you can hardly tell the difference between them and heathen idolators.

I protest circuses instead of worship.

I protest a system of dating that relieves parents of their responsibility to find suitable spouses for their children and encourages questionable public behavior among young people at Conference.

I protest the light and frivolous music that has taken the place of the old SDB practice of psalm singing.

I protest all statements of faith, especially trinitarian ones.

I protest that nobody protests anymore.

I say up with the old-fashioned faith of Abraham, David, Jesus, Elwell, and Hampfield!

Vehemently yours,

Anna Maria McElwein Turku, Finland

Dear sir,

Thanks to you and Don Gray for his refreshing "Ruminations" in the October SR. More such thoughtful and pleasant reading will be welcome in our home any time.

Yours,

Clifford W.F. Hansen

Jane Lew, WV

Baker.—Ralph J. Baker died on June 20, 1990, and was laid to rest on June 25, 1990, in Beverly National Cemetery, New Jersey. Rev. Graham from The Fountain of Life Center in Florence, New Jersey, officiated.

Survivors include his wife, Katherine, of Burlington, New Jersey.

Pickard.—William Harvey Pickard, 69, died on August 10, 1990, in Kingman, Arizona, where he had moved just two weeks before from Santa Ysabel, California. He had been seriously ill for several years.

"Bill" was born on August 6, 1928, in Battle Creek, Michigan, to Harry and Cecile (Farrish) Pickard. He attended school in Battle Creek until he joined the U.S. Navy, where he served for over 20 years.

He also worked for the National Park Service as a park ranger on Palomar Mountain, California, before retiring for health reasons.

He was a member of the Battle Creek Seventh Day Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife, Ruth; two daughters, Laura and Arah; and three half-brothers, Jack Parrish of Sykesville, Maryland, and Ralph and George Parrish of Battle Creek. He was preceded in death by his son, Gerald; one brother, James; and a half-brother, Clare Farrish.

Campbell.—Ann A. Campbell, 90, formerly of Alfred, New York, died on August 1, 1990, in Bethany Manor, Hersheyheads, New York, where she had resided for the past two years.

She was born on April 25, 1900, in Albany, New York, the daughter of John and Leona (Burkitt) Willson.

Merrill. She was married to Robert M. Campbell in Alfred on April 6, 1926; he died in 1975. She spent most of her life in Alfred, where her husband taught at Alfred University.

Anna was a graduate of the Albany (New York) Academy for Girls and Alfred University, class of 1923, with a major in ceramic design. Earlier, she had taught art in public schools in Troy, New York. She was a student of the late Katherine Nelson and studied under her for over 60 years.

She was a member of the Alfred Seventh Day Baptist Church and was active for many years in its Ladies Aid Society. She was also a member of the Allen Civic Amandine Club and Forcethye Willson Club of Alfred.

Survivors include one daughter, Merilyn Barney of Endwell, New York; one son, Robert, of Clover, NY.
In 1940, he married Iva Schrader Lippincott; she preceded him in death in 1989. Survivors include one brother, G. Merton Sayre of Rosewell, New Mexico; one sister, Ethlyn Shadel of Milton; one grandson, and two great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held September 10, 1990, in the Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church.

Bennett—Charles H. Bennett, 67, of Battle Creek, Michigan, died on September 14, 1990, at Battle Creek Health System/Community Site, after he was stricken at home. He was born in Alma, Michigan, and was a 1951 graduate of Alma High School. He was awarded the Purple Heart after he was injured during World War II while serving in the U.S. Army in Germany and moved to Battle Creek in 1945 as a patient at the old Percy Jones Army Hospital. He was employed as warehouse supervisor at the Veteran's Administration Medical Center for 30 years, retiring in 1971.

"Herb" was a member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church, serving as a trustee, former moderator, and camp manager at Camp Holston at Cottam Lake. He was a former assistant Cub Master of Pack 333 at Post School, and Scout Master of Troop 67 at Washington School, Troop 18 at Southwestern Junior High, and Troop 312 of VFW Post 565. He was also a member of the District Commissioner's staff of the (Scout) Nottawa Trails District. He was serving as commander of the Lt. Harold J. Payette VFW Post 565 and received the All State Commander's Hat in 1986-1987. Surviving are his wife, the former A. Ruth Bird; two daughters, Lorrie J. Plane and Marilyn K. Disher, both of Battle Creek; two sons, Alton D. and James L., both of Battle Creek; one brother, Elmer L. of Vestaburg, Michigan; two sisters, Lucy M. Freed of Elwell, Michigan, and Ida M. Epler of Charlotte, Michigan; and four grandchildren.

Services were held on September 15, 1990, at Bachman Hoblitzel Funeral Service and were conducted by his pastor, the Rev. George D. Calhoun.

Graffius—Anne M. Graffius, 55, of New Enterprise, Pennsylvania, died on September 20, 1990, at home after an extended illness.

Anne was born on December 3, 1931, in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, to Joseph and Margaret (McElroy) Bedi Sr. She married the Rev. Charles Graffius on December 24, 1947, in East Earl, Pennsylvania. She was a member of the Salemville, Pennsylvania, German Seventh Day Baptist Church and the Los Angeles, California, Seventh Day Baptist Church. She was deeply involved in the ministry of the church in her community.

Anne will be remembered for her undying faith and genuine love and concern for others. She was always available whenever anyone needed her, and her kitchen was a favorite spot for her ministry to many. Of all those who benefited from her ministry, children had a special place in her heart.

Survivors include her husband, Charles; two sons, Donald M. of New Enterprise and Larry E. of Rapid City, South Dakota; one daughter, Cindy Roester of Bismarck, North Dakota; three brothers, Steve W. Bedi of Silver Spring, Maryland, William Bedi of Lititz, Pennsylvania, and Robert Bedi of Pottstown; four sisters, Jenny Feaster of Earl, Pennsylvania, Mary Sellers of Pottstown, and Eva Duncan and Jane Crowe of Memphis, Tennessee; and five grandchildren. A brother, Joseph Bedi Jr., and a sister, Martha Witmer, preceded her in death.

A memorial service was held on September 30, 1990, at the German Seventh Day Baptist Church in Salemville with the Rev. Rodney Henry officiating. Burial was in the Salemville Cemetery, New Enterprise.
Time is not a healer
by Glenn Williamson

Time is not a healer!
Don't depend upon it
For it compounds no drugs,
Provides no therapy,
Binds no wounds.

Time is a clinic
Where faith and love,
Doctors and nurses,
God and prayer
Are mending busily.

Time is a hospital
Where broken hearts,
Afflicted bodies,
Lost souls,
Are miraculously restored.

Time is a sanatorium—
And you may depend upon it—
Where in tiny rooms
Along its endless corridors,
Healing for body, soul and spirit
Is available every hour.