All One In Christ Jesus

GALATIANS 3:28

LET'S PRACTICE IT

Welcome Bethany!

1990 General Conference
Lindsborg, Kansas
All one in Christ Jesus

PROP hits the top!

Congratulations!
The campaign to help our retired clergy, widows and denominational workers exceeded the goal with months to spare.

These servants have already enjoyed a 25% increase in their monthly benefits—thanks to you and the Sue McMillan Fund.

Thank you for “Giving to those who gave so much.”

Definitely a banner week!

This year’s presidential family: Joe, Joyce, Myron and David Samuels.

Hats off to the Stillmans and Pierces. Great job!

Celebrating the successful PROP drive with balloons at Conference.

Kevin Butler
Editor

Leanne Lippincott
Assistant Editor

Contributing Editors

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

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. Jesus agreed by keeping it 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.
Conference highlights, 1990

Special thanks to Larry Graffius and Janet Thorngate

President Joe Samuels brought General Conference the challenge of unity and growth with his keynote address, "Are You Ready?" During the week, those in attendance did not merely focus on the theme, "All One in Christ Jesus," but actually practiced a level of unity and close fellowship that surpassed even Pastor Joe's expectations!

Opening comments from Nicole Curling, on behalf of her father, the Honorable Alvin Curling, were especially appreciated. (Mr. Curling, unable to attend because of a back injury, is parliamentary assistant to the Premier of Ontario, Canada.)

MORE 2000 was presented with great expectations of growth in the coming decade. The challenge and the potential are before us!

SCSC Reunion Banquet—Some 60 previous SCSC workers reminisced. (Oh, the memories!)

Youth Pre-Con, directed by Mel and Yvonne Stephan, shared a dramatic presentation of "The Champion," recording by Carmen. (Awesome, dudes!)

The Tract and Communication Council presentation suggested how you can better "market" your church to the community it serves.

Lake Elsinore, California, Grow ingest Church (1989), 63.5% growth; Seminary graduate: David Thorngate (now serving on staff at Riverside, California); Summer Institute Coarse on History and Polity, certificates: Eric Davis, Mary Jo Johnson, Andy Samuels, Bernie Wethington, Gene Smith, Jim Galanaugh, and Ron Davis; and Gerry Van Dyke, Rob of Achievement.

Youth Bible Study (replaced Jr./Sr. High Assoc. Conf.) led by Jim Galanaugh, on the Christian's spiritual armor. (Well attended, well taught.)

Business Highlights

Who was there? 425 registered (as of Friday p.m.); about 550 in attendance Sabbath day; Conference offering and pledges $25,800; 268 delegates from 53 churches; 54 ministers; Children's Conferences, 54; Youth Bible Study, 35; and Pre-Con Retreats, 25 youth and 10 young adults.

New church accepted—Black Hills SDB Church, Rapid City, South Dakota.

Revised ordination guidelines—Conference recommends each Association establish an Ordination Preparation Committee which, once a church has identified a candidate for ordination, would review the candidate's credentials to see if they are in order for the Ordination Council, and vote on whether to recommend that the church proceed with examination and ordination. Membership of this committee would represent the Association, Council on Ministry, and ordaining church.

SCSC Youth Rally—A special "no holds barred" program staged by the eight radically saved 1990 workers to promote the program to our young people. (Proving, once again, that you don't have to be crazy to join SCSC, but it helps!)

A special, urgent business session was called to order Tuesday night. In light of the growing tension in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia (the Iraqi invasion), the General Conference unanimously voted to send a message by telegraph to the White House, informing President George Bush that we of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference are praying for him and for our nation.

Historical Society announced the completion of the new book, Seventh Day Baptist: A Choosing People, authored by Historian Rev. Don Sanford. Publication contract is still being negotiated; released in a year?

The "changing of the guard" at the Women's Banquet, as the Women's Board moves to New Jersey.

Hearing many nice comments on this year's "Crier" newspaper.

Hearing General Conference singing: "Wonderful Grace of Jesus"

All kinds of music (top to bottom): Kory Gehr; Debbie Smith; Larry Graffius; Camille Henry.

Beautiful blending—Jamaican style.

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Reduced budget cuts positions—Conference adopted General Council's proposed 1991 budget of $708,785 (a 6% decrease), $352,988 of it to come from current giving (an 11% decrease). This budget does not fund the position of Executive Secretary or Director of Youth Ministries, and represents a cutback in foreign missions. Revenue shortfalls (16% of the 1989 budget not raised and similar pattern in 1990) were cited as reason for the cuts with indication that "further cuts will mean elimination of either services or whole boards or agencies. Increased per capita giving is needed to reverse the trend." (The Council indicates plans to hire a part-time acting executive secretary "to communicate denominational ministries to the churches through visits. Other essential functions are being distributed among the new General Services Administrator and other boards and agencies.")

Denominational archives—Conference designated the SDB Historical Society as the official archives of the General Conference, its related agencies and its member churches. Guidelines for its use will be forthcoming.

Christian Social Action concerns—Conference recommends that individual SDBs be encouraged to boycott K-Mart and its subsidiaries (including Waldenbooks, Kohl's bookstores, Pay Less Drugs, PACE Memberships Warehouses) "until Waldenbooks discontinue selling publications such as Playboy and Penthouse, which undermine the fabric of the family." Other resolutions were passed encouraging education regarding the New Age movement and encouraging appropriate protest of religious discrimination in Finland.

New officers—Rev. Mynor Soper, Texarkana, Arkansas, president-elect and member of General Council; Cormeth Lawrence, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, General Council; Donna Bond, Shiloh, New Jersey, president, Women's Board; Calvin Babcock, Milton, Wisconsin, denominational treasurer; Lorna Austin, Dodge Center, Minnesota, Council on Ministry; Philip Burrows, Milton, Communication Council; and Dale Green, Milton, Memorial Board.


September 1990
As I come to the end of my tenure as the Executive Secretary for Seventh Day Baptists, it is with mixed emotions that I prepare this ninth annual report. I truly consider it an honor to have been chosen nine years ago to serve you as your executive. There have been good days and bad days. Fortunately, more of the good ones. There have been accomplishments and failures. I am happy about the accomplishments, sad about the failures. I have learned a lot in the past nine years. I have learned a lot about people, how they function, and how it makes decisions. I have learned a lot about this organization, its history, how it functions, and how different we all are. I have also learned a lot about myself, what I can do and what I can’t. I have learned a lot about our churches. I have been chosen nine years ago to serve you as your executive. There have been accomplishments, sad about the failures; I am happy about the accomplishments, sad about the failures. I have learned a lot about people, how they function, and how it makes decisions. I have learned a lot about this organization, its history, how it functions, and how different we all are. I have also learned a lot about myself, what I can do and what I can’t. I have learned a lot about our churches.

The Denominational Budget (second highest ever): $16,693. We have got better organized and more efficient with our computer systems, new publishing technology, sophisticated mailing lists, and video communication techniques. However, I feel that our main responsibility is to continue to bring people into a loving relationship with God, and to work with each other, through Jesus Christ. We have got better organized and more efficient with our computer systems, new publishing technology, sophisticated mailing lists, and video communication techniques. However, I feel that our main responsibility is to continue to bring people into a loving relationship with God, and to work with each other, through Jesus Christ. We have got better organized and more efficient with our computer systems, new publishing technology, sophisticated mailing lists, and video communication techniques. However, I feel that our main responsibility is to continue to bring people into a loving relationship with God, and to work with each other, through Jesus Christ.

Reflections

I am leaving this position with many mixed emotions. I feel, on the one hand, that we have made a great deal of progress toward my original vision of unity, effectiveness, and cooperation. However, in the last analysis, I have been unable to help us generate renewed energy for the next decade as I spent many days maintaining the administrative machinery.

As I leave, several people have asked me to offer some words of wisdom for the future. I have few. I am still too close to the day-to-day crisis management situations that have drained my personal energy resources. I do have a concern about our future as I see no denominational leader emerging or being sought by our current General Council.

Communications and public relations

During this Conference year, Janet Thorngate continued to edit the Lead-Line as a volunteer. Many people over the years have indicated their support for the monthly newsletter. I believe it has contributed a great deal to the many-faceted coordinating and communicating role of the executive secretary. I am concerned that funds for its printing and mailing have been removed from the budget. (Editor’s note: This was the case, but funds have been secured. Lead-Line will continue.)

My Sabbath Recorder articles have been written on the theme chosen by the editor for the respective issue. That has been a challenge but an opportunity I have appreciated and enjoyed.

Meetings and church visits

During the year I attended 20 meetings of denominational boards and agencies, three ecumenical organizations, and one leadership seminar by Lyle Schaller.

I visited, in the course of making presentations, preaching, and listening.

Office management

On May 15, Jeremy Howard’s contract was reviewed, and he is now employed full-time by the General Conference office. On May 6, Jill Fitz-Randolph Grine was assigned as financial secretary, effective June 7.

On July 1, Camille Henry began working in the General Conference office full-time, replacing Jill Groelle as financial secretary.

Calvin Babcock, newly appointed General Services Administrator, began his duties on June 20. He reports directly to the General Council.

Douglas Derby moved from full-time to part-time work, effective July 1.

I believe the future has called Seventh Day Baptists to two specific tasks for the next decade.

(1) The first is to train and provide creative, dynamic, enthusiastic, ethical and thinking leadership, not just for our churches, but for our communities and our world. (2) The second task is to define the challenge of the 21st century—true to its original purpose—and the sharing of Sabbath with the rest of the world.

God’s promise for the future

As I close this, my last report to you, I pass on to you God’s promise that was shared with me by a dear friend many years ago. It was originally given to the Israelites by the prophet Jeremiah as they went into exile. I have claimed it for myself, and I offer it to you for your vision-making plans for the future.

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you,” declares the Lord. (Jeremiah 29:11-14a.)

May God grant us His wisdom, love and strength for this new decade as we continue to serve Him with determination and the desire to bring people into a loving relationship with Him through Christ. Love you all and will continue to pray for you as we seek God’s wisdom, guidance, and love.

Respectfully submitted,
Dale D. Thorngate
Women's Society News & Ideas by Charlotte Chroniger

Women all in Christ

"Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised." Prov. 31:30 (NASB)

Many women of God from across our denomination gathered at the General Conference meetings in Lindsborg, Kansas. We came to enjoy Bible studies, prayer, worship, workshops, and fellowship, and to discuss SDB women’s ministries through the Women’s Board.

The Women’s Interest Committees, attended by approximately 25-35 women, was chaired by Jean Davis, a pastor’s wife from Salem, West Virginia. Shirley Hurley, also of Salem, served as secretary. We met several times and reviewed the SDB Women’s Annual Report and Six-Month Update. Through our discussions, we were able to understand the little better the workings of the Women’s Board, as well as the various projects the Women’s Board supports. We enthusiastically agreed that the current projects (including Tuition Fund, Summer Christian Service Corps, Pen & Prayer Partners, and Conference nursery) should be continued. (We'll give more details of these projects in future columns.)

It was exciting to meet some of the women from our newer churches. We noted with interest that the Women’s Board not only represents Women’s Societies/Ladies Aid/Benevolent Societies/etc. from old, established churches, but also needs to minister to the women of our newer fellowships who do not have an organized women’s group.

A committee of Marjorie Jacob, Ruth Burdick, and Joyce Bardick presented considerations for the Love Gift (special offerings received from local societies and from women attending the Women’s Banquet). The following recipients were approved: Bibles for Russia, $100; women’s work in India, $200; Ian Ingoe family (our missionaries in Malawi, Africa), $100; hosting MORIS 2000 in California churches, $600; Ron Elston family (medical needs), $300; Helen Green’s prison ministry, $200; Verne Wright family (medical needs), $500; SCSC promotion fund, $200; and 50% of balance to each: Jefferson City, Missouri, church for remodeling; Junction City, Kansas, church for remodeling; Sunshine Mountain; and Imnolose, Wisconsin, children’s camp.

Two people gave special presentations to the Interest Committee. George Calhoun, SCSC coordinator, shared his vision and goals for the program. Debbie James reported on the new work she and her pastor, husband Steve, have begun in the Junction City area.

Approximately 40 women attended the Women’s Luncheon on Tuesday. The main item of business was to elect officers as presented in the Nominating Report. For 1990-91, the Women’s Board officers will be from our New Jersey churches. You’ll get to meet them in the next month’s Women’s Page.

Approximately 130 women attended the Women’s Banquet held in the college cafeteria on Wednesday evening. We were grateful to the dads and grandpas who took the children on a picnic.) Following a delicious meal, Dorothy Shettel, retiring Women’s Board president, introduced the program, which included musical selections from Anna Maria McElwain and Raakeli Watt, and a slide show about Tacy Hubbard (the first Sabbath convert in America) by Yvonne Stepanian. The Love Gift offering was taken, and Dorothy reported later that over $2,500 had been received.

Donna Bond, newly elected Women’s Board president, presented certificates and corsages to those women in attendance who had served in some capacity while the Board was in California. The SDB women were proud when several of our sisters in Christ received special recognition during the week of Conference.

June Johnson of Nortonville, Kansas, received the SDB Board of Christian Education’s Sabbath School Teacher of the Year Award. Gerry Van Dyke of the Denver, Colorado, church received the Robe of Achievement, presented by retiring Women’s Board Vice President Jean Lewis. Linda Harris of Nortonville, Kansas, was presented a plaque in recognition of her six years as Helping Hand editor.

The Bible is full of stories of women who put their faith in the Lord and were willing to be used by Him for the furtherance of God’s Kingdom on earth. As we begin a new decade and a new chapter in the denomination, let us be in earnest prayer for:

—Althea Rood of Dodge Center, Minnesota, as she leads our denomination as president.
—Donna Bond of Stiloh, New Jersey, as she leads the Women’s Board in service to all SDB women.
—Ourselves as we seek God’s leading and guidance so that we might each reflect the love of our Savior to those around us, and that we would use our God-given abilities to bring praise and glory to Jesus Christ who has called us to obedience to Him. "

1990 Robe of Achievement

The nominee for the 1990 Robe of Achievement award has a background similar to that of many of us. She grew up in a Christian home, married, had two daughters and a son, all of whom married, and has several grandchildren. She and her husband cared for her parents in their home for a time.

At an early age she joined her church choir and began to share her musical talent with those around her. She is an active deaconess in her church, has taught Sabbath School classes, and has worked in parent-teacher organizations. She has been active in Bible Study Fellowship, and has held Bible studies in her home. She and her husband have served their church camp both on staff and in maintenance. She serves on the executive board of the Women’s Society when it was in her area. At this point, the similarities became fewer for most of us. About 20 years ago, she saw a need for workshops and seminars on family...

The nominee for the 1990 Robe of Achievement was Mrs. Geraldine Van Dyke. She has been active in the church, serving in various capacities and growing in her faith as she has faced challenges and difficulties. She has shown a strong commitment to education and has been involved in teaching and mentoring others.

Her dedication to helping others has been evident in her work with children and youth, as well as in her service to the church. She has been a leader in various women’s organizations and has played a role in building and strengthening the church as a whole.

The Robe of Achievement is an honor given by the Women’s Board to recognize和服务, dedication, and commitment to the church and its mission. Mrs. Van Dyke is a true example of this dedication, and she has earned the right to wear the Robe of Achievement.

The Board presents the Robe of Achievement in recognition of her commitment and service to the church. We congratulate Mrs. Van Dyke and thank her for her contributions to the church and community.

September 1990/11
Awards and rewards

Right: Leland and Gertrude Davis opened and closed the decade with the growingest churches.

Below: The right hand of fellowship welcomed Pastor Larry Graffius and the Black Hills SDB Church (Rapid City, South Dakota) into the Conference.

Dorotha Shettel (left) honored for her service on the General Council by chairman Luan Ellis.

The pie chart was filled, and so were the balloons as Conference celebrated the successful completion of the PROP campaign.

Earl Cruzan (left) surprised by Rodney Henry for recognition of 50 years of ministry.

The crystal apple and certificate during the Conference Awards Ceremony, August 10.

June serves the Nortonville church as Sabbath School teacher, deaconess, Women's Society president, and choir member, and is involved with the church clothing bank. She has been a church member for 66 years, and has been a Sabbath School teacher for 51 of those years.

Her current teaching assignment is third through sixth grade. When asked what she felt was most important as a Sabbath School teacher, she replied, "Making the students aware of the presence of God and the need for a Savior."

Previous honorees include George Parrish, Battle Creek, Michigan; Shirley Curgill, North Loup, Nebraska; Margaret Allen, Lost Creek, West Virginia; and Helen Bond, Columbus, Ohio.

The Sabbath School Committee of the Board of Christian Education has announced the appointment of the Reverend C. Rex Burdick as the new editor of The Helping Hand effective July 31, 1990. Committee Chairman David S. Clarke introduced Editor Burdick to the General Conference participants on Monday, August 6. He will begin with the winter quarter 1991-92.

Editor Rex Burdick is a retired Seventh Day Baptist pastor who lives with his wife, Joyce, in Sherrill, New York. Pastor Rex was educated at Salem College, Salem, West Virginia (BA degree); Alfred University School of Theology, Alfred, New York; Faith Theological Seminary, Wilmington, Delaware (BD and STM degrees); and Syracuse University.

Burdick has served as pastor of SDB churches in Marlboro, New Jersey; Verona, New York; Salem; Riverside, California; and Berlin, New York. He has served on the American Sabbath Tract Society, Council on Ministry, and Commission, and as president of General Conference.

The Reverend David S. Clarke, Sabbath School Committee chairman, presented Mrs. Johnson with the crystal apple and certificate during the Conference Awards Ceremony, August 10.

Christian Education

Sabbath School Teacher of the Year

Deaconess June Johnson, from the Nortonville, Kansas, Seventh Day Baptist Church, was honored as the 1990 Sabbath School Teacher of the Year at the annual sessions of General Conference, Bethany College, Lindsborg, Kansas.

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June Johnson (left) accepts the crystal apple award as Teacher of the Year. Linda Harris (right) was also recognized for her six years as editor of The Helping Hand.

New Helping Hand Editor

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A 1917 look at the denomination
Rev. George B. Shaw, president
from Don A. Sanford, historian

The year 1917 was one of considerable turmoil in the United States. War had been formally declared in April; the first conscription law was passed in May; and, by the end of June, the first U.S. troops had arrived in Europe. The 18th—er Prohibition—Amendment was submitted to the states for ratification.

The president of General Conference that year saw 1917 as a time for facing serious problems within the denomination. Thus in his president’s address, George B. Shaw said:

“The Seventh Day Baptist denomination is facing very many religious and secular world. For us, goodness and the triumph of truth. But we have, and many that are peculiar to the other denominations. For us, to deny, ignore or belittle these problems is inherently weak and inefficient. It is practically wrong. That method of administration of the affairs of the Kingdom can not be right which is internally wrong and inefficient. The president of Conference is always without experience, without money, and without authority.

“...What this denomination needs more than organization and more than money is unity and consecration. We must have charity in a form a compact circle getting their heads together and showing their heels to their foes. Bryan says that, on the contrary, when reformers are surrounded and pressed by the enemy, they will bravely face the foe and vigorously kick each other. But, most of all, we need personal piety and consecration. The world must know when it meets us that we have met Jesus. Unless the world sees Jesus Christ in us, it will not believe us or follow us. Our only hope of winning the world is to live above the world; not to be

When reformers are surrounded and pressed by the enemy, they will bravely face the foe and vigorously kick each other.

new to call people... to the obedience that comes from faith.”—Romans 1:5b

As your new Conference president, I would like to share with you an adventure in obedience that I’ve experienced this year and some of my discoveries.

In July, 1989, as my son and I pulled out of the driveway, of the Westerly, Rhode Island, parsonage, Jeff asked a question that really touched my heart. “Why do we have to move?” he asked.

I responded (through tears), “If we don’t move, we won’t be obedient to God. And if we’re not obedient to God, then we just won’t be happy.” In my mind, I knew that as a fact—and I believed it—but my heart seemed far removed.

The problem wasn’t that I was unsure of God’s will for our lives; I’d never been as sure of anything. I knew that God had called my husband, Dale, to the pastorate of the Dodge Center, Minnesota, SDB Church, and I was excited about that. Yet I wasn’t emotionally prepared for the experiences that would accompany obedience. It would include many firsts for me.

We had spent nearly 20 years in ministry in New England, and the people there had truly become my spiritual family. God had given me many deep relationships and a Bible study ministry that was still very meaningful. (It was meeting my needs as well.) I also was leaving a math teaching job that provided financial security and a sense of personal value (reputation). All of my life, I had lived within three hours of my parents, and we were always together on holidays.

I soon discovered that God had much to teach me. I had become very comfortable in my familiar surroundings; consequently, when stripped of so much, I became very vulnerable. However, I also became more teachable.

No longer financially secure, I began relying on God for our provision in a new way. During September, I substitute taught very regularly. However, in October, God provided a miracle: I was hired as a 6/10 math teacher for one year.

Obedience can be costly, but its rewards in growth in the Lord are well worth it.

Amazingly, it was the only position to open, and it required the only certification that I had. God really did supply our needs.

God also challenged me to rely on Him in the area of our children. Kristin and Jeffrey soon discovered that moving to a small town and having their picture on the front page of the local newspaper made them prime targets for "hazing." Not only were they the "new kids," but they were P1s (Preacher’s Kids). They had difficulty being accepted. There was ridicule and physical harassment, such as having one’s locker plastered with food or being beaten up on the way home from school.

For the first time, I realized that I couldn’t do anything to protect our children. Once again, I was forced to rely on God for His protection, and His love and acceptance.

One day, there was much jubilation when Jeff came home and reported on the kid who had been beating up on him. Not only had he quit harassing Jeff, he had become his friend. What a pleasure it was this summer to see them hold a car wash together! In some ways, the distance between family and friends is still difficult; however, God has already shown me that He wants to be my very best friend. He has revealed so much more of Himself to me because I have been spending more time with Him. He has been teaching me to listen, and I believe He is preparing me to minister in new ways. God is also blessing our ministry in Dodge Center, and I praise God for the wonderful new church family He has given us.

Obedience can be costly, but its rewards in growth in the Lord are well worth it.
Did kids come to Kansas? You bet!

The welcome mats were sure slippery!

And the natives (inset) were strange... but they gave a good children's message!

Hunting for treasure was neat!

And the musical couldn't be beat!

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**Medical Ministries, Malawi, Africa**

Medical Administrator Royal J.B. Mkandawire wrote, “Since we opened the Chipho Clinic there has been a very high attendance every day for both Malawians and refugees. We are now working on the water supply in the form of a borehole pump to reticulate the water into the clinic and staff houses. Water at Makapwa is no longer a problem. We have two pumps pumping water now. We are now fighting for electricity for which we have applied through the Christian Service Committee (CSC) and other donors. Please pray in union with us for this big project for God’s provision. We hope that by the end of this year we shall have electricity, if God wills.”

He also reports their relief activities are expanding with three workers: at Chipho, Jolly Maleta; at Bangula refugee camp, G. Kachingwe; and at Dedza Ntcheu refugee camp, S. Chisale.

At Makapwa, an oven has been built and a baker refugee is making bread, which is in great demand in that area. Hopefully, this will employ workers and bring some profit for the mission station. Funds are needed to replace the old jeep-type ambulance which is now off the road.

Statistics show there is at least one refugee from Mozambique for every 11 Malawians—one of the highest ratios in the world—and they continue to pour in by the thousands every month. As one of Africa’s poorest nations, the gross national product for the Malawi population was equivalent to only $160 in 1989.

**Faith SDB Church, Doniphan, MO, USA**

Bonnie J. Elston, clerk, has written (in early July), "We have had an exciting three months. Our branch church, Central, Missouri, has shown an increase and so have we. Our Wednesday night Bible studies have been exciting. Plans are in the making to start Friday evening vesper services, and everyone is excited about it. Missouri hosted the Southwestern Association meeting in June, and it was a blessed time. Many of our local members couldn't go because of jobs, but Pastor Ron and I—and Mrs. McClure—were there, and we came home uplifted. Our membership increase is three locally, four in our Central branch, and three non-resident. Continue to pray for us as our pastor has been ill for over a month. God continues to bless."

**Miami, FL, USA**

A congregation of Haitian ex-SDAs has requested branch affiliation with the Miami SDB Church. Pastor Andrew Samuels has visited them and asks for prayer as this new relationship develops.

**Guyana, South America**

About 1,000 people leave this northern South American nation each month "despairing of fair elections, frustrated by economic decline, and fearing new racial confrontation," writes Hugh O'Shaughnessy in the Observer of London.
Meet our YF officers

President: Alrich Lynch
Alrich graduated from high school this past school year. In September, he will be attending the University of Florida in Gainesville, where he will pursue a career in engineering or architecture. He was baptized in 1988 and is the first president of our Youth Fellowship group.

Vice President: Craig Miller
Craig alias high school junior who accepted the Lord in 1985. He hopes to pursue a career in law.

Secretary/Treasurer: Tanya Rochester
Tanya is a new Christian who is enthusiastic about serving the Lord. She is currently pursuing a career in nursing.

The Miami, Florida, Seventh Day Baptist Youth Fellowship, which was organized in August of 1988, is still very young. After getting off to a relatively slow start, the fellowship has gained in momentum, holding regular meetings twice per month and a social activity once per month. Below is a summary of some activities we have had so far:

Youth Day—The last one was held in May. On Youth Day, the young people are in charge of the worship service. Craig Miller gave the children’s message, and special music was provided by the Youth Ensemble. A guest speaker, Pastor Julio Dasilva—a chaplain with the Dade County Corrections and Rehabilitation Department—brought the sermon, which was entitled, “Whom Do You Serve?”

In the afternoon, we viewed a very interesting and well-presented videotape by Rich Wilkerson entitled, “The 4 Ds of Dating.” They are Design, Desire, Decline, and Delight.

Trip to Disney World—Approximately 28 persons representing our fellowship arrived in Orlando, Florida, at 10 p.m. on a Saturday in March. Our hostess for the night was the mother of one of our members. Her house proved to be just big enough to sleep 28 additional energetic young people. The next morning, we set off for the Magic Kingdom and spent the entire day enjoying the different attractions: 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea, Haunted House, It’s a Small World, Space Mountain, Grand Prix, etc. To sum it up, it was an excellent trip.

Video Night/Coconut Party—All the food and drink consumed at this event either contained coconut or was made from coconut. Some very adventurous recipes were attempted, but all were delicious. For entertainment, the group watched the movie, “The Gods Must Be Crazy.” (It was hilarious.)

Crowd Breaker Nights—We have had two of these fun-filled events so far. Many games were played, and interesting tricks were played on some of the attendees. (All were good sports.) The activities included Initiation, Gorilla, Hypnotism, Straw Mumble, Rhymes, Pass the Lifesaver, Open or Closed Scissors, Wink, Nose Washing, Fruit basket Upset, Remove the Shaving Cream, and Chocolate Donut Feed. Bowling and roller-skating have also been two of our favorites.

Youth at Conference

Rhythm, Pass the Lifesaver, Open or Closed Scissors, Wink, Nose Washing, Fruit basket Upset, Remove the Shaving Cream, and Chocolate Donut Feed. Bowling and roller-skating have also been two of our favorites.

Baccalaureate service

In June, we held a Baccalaureate Service to honor five members of our Youth Fellowship who had graduated. There were two elementary school graduates—Kerry-Ann Dixon and Shaun Watson; two middle school graduates—Claudine Adewusi and Sharon Thompson; and one high school graduate—Alrich Lynch.

Our pastor, Andrew Samuel, preached the Baccalaureate message, which was entitled, “The Needs of Youth.” The graduates all received gifts from the church.
Revival to Jubilee

by Diane R. Andries

The Washington D.C. Seventh Day Baptist Church held a great revival, March 14-17, 1990.

The theme of the revival, "Are You Going to the Promised Land?" was given to us through prayer by the Holy Spirit to pose questions in the minds of passersby.

Our main focus during this revival was to glorify our Creator. This was achieved by allowing the Holy Spirit to minister through the manifestation of His gifts. This heightened fellowship and created a sweet communion and unity among all present.

Each evening, the services opened with praise and adoration of the Lord. The songs of praise and worship were beautifully blended together in melodic tones, as a sweet fragrance unto God. We felt His mighty presence, and realized that He truly inhabits the praises of His people.

Pastor Joe Samuel's of the Plainfield, New Jersey, SDB Church was the speaker for the first two nights. His first message, "The Goal of the Mature Believer," was taken from Philippians 3:14. The message left no doubt in our minds that the real goal of each must be to reach the promised land.

More on MORE 2000

The plan is for Seventh Day Baptists and God's Kingdom. The plan is to develop our vision and direct our resources. The plan is MORE 2000: Our Mission of Revival and Evangelism toward the year 2000 and beyond.

MORE 2000 was "unveiled" by the Coordinating Leadership Team at General Conference sessions in Lindborg, Kansas. The slide presentation carried a taped endorsement of the proposal from David Bryant, president of Concerts of Prayer International, a ministry planting prayer movements and revival around the world.

The 10 phases of this plan include: the local presentation, education for leaders and church, seeking God's vision, church evaluation/storyboarding, discovering God's vision, planning and goal setting, exploring strategy options, communication, and continuing education, and pastoral continuing education.

Our four pilot churches in California are gearing up for phase seven, while two other church clusters will be introduced to the plan this fall. Please pray for the success of MORE 2000.
Thirty-eight women arrived on Sabbath afternoon, May 10, 1990, at the Pacific Pines Camp at Crestline, California, to attend a two-day retreat sponsored by the Pacific Coast Association Camp Committee. They were greeted by hundreds of white Dogwood trees in bloom against tall pine trees. Evelyn Haskell served as director of the retreat. Five California churches were represented—Foothills, Lake Elsinore, Riverside, San Diego, and San Gabriel—and Myrna Cox and Katherine Davis attended from Denver, Colorado. Brightly colored butterfly favors, lovingly crocheted by Floy Owen, were given to each one present.

Guest speaker Myrna Cox spoke on the theme, "Where Do I Go from Here, God?" using Jeremiah 29:11-12 as the basic Scripture. She used small group sessions, with a leader for each group. We were led in exercises on "how to get out of our holding patterns," and singing was led by women from the churches. Saturday night, we had a fun time with each small group responsible for leading a charade. LindaDickinson led the closing commitment service on Sunday.

During the retreat, the women were blessed with three men from the Riverside church who served as cooks. Paul Walling, Ken Whitlock, and Earl Soper prepared the food, cooked, served, and cleaned up. All their work was greatly appreciated and provided a real treat for the women.

George Barber, who served as handyman, provided firewood, installed light bulbs, and moved furniture. He was an active person and kept us going, facility-wise.

There was plenty of time for fellowship and getting acquainted with new friends, and everyone left feeling refreshed—mentally, physically, and spiritually. Many participants suggested that future retreats be held twice a year and that more time be allowed on the weekend itself.

Boulder church buys land
by John Rasmussen

Greetings in Christ's love from the Boulder City Baptist Church of Boulder, Colorado. We are rejoicing over the purchase of a parcel of land as a site for our new church building.

Some will remember that we sold the old church building and parsonage on Ninth and Arapahoe Avenue in July, 1988, because, though lovely it was, it did not meet the needs of our expanding and aging congregation. Since then we have enjoyed the use of Mesa Memorial Baptist Church in south Boulder, and we thank the brethren there for allowing us to rent their sanctuary.

But now the Lord has enabled us to buy a parcel of land just east of town, with plenty of room for any kind of church building or parsonage, and as a bonus, a spectacular view of the Rocky Mountains. We completed purchase in February, 1990. The land is completely undeveloped, so any construction will have to include water, electricity, and other utilities. Incidentally, this land is also on Arapahoe, as was the previous building, but also the original SDB Church building!

We praise the Lord that He has enabled us to use this land, but much work remains. Planning, drawing, finding or hiring labor, and even fund-raising are all part of the process of constructing a church building. Please pray for us as we go our part in building not only a facility, but the Kingdom of God, in Boulder.

Dear Editor:

I'm writing to express my thoughts on some of the things Rev. Hansen wrote of in his articles on the Sabbath (SR, May '90).

My opinion concerning evolution and relationship to it, is as follows: Although from my early years I have been indoctrinated with Creationism, I have found the denomination's view of the realm of fact and science to be in conflict. Thus the faith and secular realms are not compatible. In fact, there is an increasing recognition of the facts of Genesis concerning Creation. One may either believe the Bible or the fourth commandment, but not both. The first Fourth Commandment is truth and literal, and that we rest on one particular day precisely because God rested on and hallowed that particular portion of time, or we must keep the Sabbath for "poetic" reasons, which are the type of reasons Rev. Hansen gave. That is, the reasons God has given us for the Sabbath are not actually true, and we must substitute the [true] reasons.

Along the vein of truth, I would reject Rev. Hansen's admonition that we must avoid "facult reading of the Bible" by "accept[ing] all truth from whatever source it may come." The Jehovah's Witnesses say the very same thing and they, in all sincerity, accept a New Testament (especially 1 Peter) which was written under the direction of "spirit messengers" and through the aid of "angels"! That Hansen's phrase is also a tenet of the New Age cult and its many tie-ins, (I am not implying that he believes in this) that the New Age cult accepts all religions as being valid, including the Gospel (if it has first been sufficiently perverted). Ie accepted truth from the serpent, and because it was cleverly woven with lies, we live with her mistake every day of our lives. Jesus did not accept truth from any source.

Great is the price of the devil's desert for the devil tempted him in the desert he rejected the devil's accurately quoted scripture, though it was the divine word of God himself. For the devil was mishandling the word of God and his intent was to bring down the Righteousness. This is still the devil's technique and intent. I put a lot of stake in Christ's words to us that we must "be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves." We are truly like sheep among wolves (Mt. 10:16).

I believe that Rev. Hansen's statement that the earth's longer life is threatened is an overstatement of the facts. We are blessed with three men from the Riverside church who served as cooks. Paul Walling, Ken Whitlock, and Earl Soper prepared the food, cooked, served, and cleaned up. All their work was greatly appreciated and provided a real treat for the women.

George Barber, who served as handyman, provided firewood, installed light bulbs, and moved furniture. He was an active person and kept us going, facility-wise.

There was plenty of time for fellowship and getting acquainted with new friends, and everyone left feeling refreshed—mentally, physically, and spiritually. Many participants suggested that future retreats be held twice a year and that more time be allowed on the weekend itself.
Dear Editor:

I re-read Rev. Hansen's article that has caused such a furor among some Seventh Day Baptists and found it to be a well-written, spirit-filled article. It is unfortunate that two or three sentences caused such a storm. This seems incomprehensible to me since I have always been told that within the bounds of basic 7th Day Baptist beliefs we cherished freedom of thought. Nowhere in those stated beliefs do I find a mandate to take every word in the Bible literally, particularly those in the Old Testament, none of which are the words of Jesus.

An alogistic part of my life, I became a Christian through a personal experience that brought me to a belief in God that could not be denied. Although my training through college, grad school, and medical school was scientific, study of the Bible convinced me that it was not necessary to choose between the facts of science and the reality of God as Creator. We "see through a glass darkly" about many things in the Bible, and until God chooses to reveal them, there will be differences of opinion among Christians.

I firmly believe in God as creator, not only of the world but of man, but I also believe the world is much, much older than 6,000 years and that God did not limit creation to one of our 24 hour days. Science has not proven that man descended from an ape, or from an amoba (the ultimate progenitor of life, according to scientific theory). There are too many gaps in the evolutionary chain that many scientists accept as fact. But evolutionary changes have taken place and man-like creatures did exist. I can even believe that, dissatisfied with what was evolving, God created Adam and Eve in the Garden and breathed life into them, thus separating them from any other creature.

Many scientists take the unscientific approach that nothing supernatural is possible, and that this statement alone proves the nonexistence of God. Fundamentalists feel that nothing in science can be true if it seems to conflict in any way with the six 24 hour days of Genesis. Many believing scientists-and many Christians-including Seventh Day Baptists-feel that the truth lies somewhere between these two polarized viewpoints. It would be better if both sides would allow the possibility that they might not be 100% correct, and, if so, the might even be fewer acrimonious letters to the editor.

Larry Burdick, MD
Milton, WI

Heidi Seibel
Holly Seibel
Henry Jo Randolph

Santa Barbara, CA
Robert Babcock, pastor

Joined by letter
Steve Osborn

Sandy Millars, AR
Myron G. Soper, pastor

 Joined after baptism
Charles A. Crow
David.—Alfred J. Davis of Nortonville, Kansas, died on May 6, 1990, at Village Villa Nursing Home in Nortonville. Alfred was born on December 9, 1920, the son of Carroll and Alma (Marrs) Davis. Blind most of his life, he attended the Kansas City "School for the Blind" for four years. He had a keen memory and listened to the radio, discussing with others what he had heard. He had many books and the complete Bible printed in Braille, which he shared with visitors as he read portions from them.

Alfred is survived by his mother, Alma, who devotedly cared for him up until the last few weeks of his life when he entered a nursing home because of his blindness. He was also survived by one brother, Edwin, of Nortonville; one sister, Gladys Neuhaus of Tecumseh, Kansas; and nieces and nephews.

Chaplain Clifford Bond officiated at the funeral, which was held on May 8, 1990, at the O'Trimonial Funeral Home. Burial was in the Nortonville Cemetery.

Wyles.—Rosella B. Wyles, 86, of Lake Elsinore, California, died on May 21, 1990, in Selby General Hospital following an extended illness. Lloyd was born on March 21, 1906, near Kent, Ohio, to William and Margarets (Chandler) Lukens. He attended a one-room school on Good Hope Ridge and then attended Sand High School, near Reno, Ohio, his freshman and sophomore years. He worked in Battle Creek, Michigan, for a number of years as a cabinetmaker. On May 24, 1937, Lloyd married Emma Lee Greene in Haiger, Nebraska. Following their marriage, they lived in Battle Creek where Lloyd worked for the United States Lumber Company. After serving two years with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in England and Germany during World War II, he and Leo moved to Columbus, Ohio, where he worked as a cabinetmaker for the Watersstrom Company. In 1959, they moved to Marietta.

Though not a member, Lloyd regularly supported the fellowship and program of the First Seventh Day Baptist Church of Columbus. He expressed his Christian faith by the programs he supported and by his daily witness. Survivors include his wife, Leo; one sister, Shirley Witwer of Akron, Ohio; and five nieces.

...we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands.

2 Corinthians 5:1 (NIV)

North Central Association to celebrate Milton Sesquicentennial September 28-30, 1990

The annual meeting of the North Central Association will be held with the Milton, Wisconsin, SDB Church as part of the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the signing of Milton's Covenant and Articles of Faith and Practice.

The theme for the weekend celebration will be "Refresh Thy People." Former pastor, Rev. Elmo FitzRandolph, will be the featured speaker Sabbath morning.
Kansas kinship

Thank you, Lord, for making us all one in Christ Jesus.

Our new "first family": Pastor Dale, Kristin, Jeffrey, and President Althea Rood.

"Folks, I'm telling you for the last time—I am NOT running for re-election!"

"Mommy, when are we going ho...?"

These banquets get better every year!