ADDITION TO GOD'S FAMILY

ADOPTION
A boycotting alternative

Write a letter of encouragement to the family retailers who have refused to stock N.W.A’s Niggaz 4 Life, an album (with a warning label) which explicitly portrays brutality against women.

Command:
Mr. Bill Fields
Executive Merchandising Manager
Wal-Mart Corp.
P.O. Box 116
Bentonville, AR 72718

R.R. McIntyre
Divisional Merchandising Manager
& Murei Corp.
3100 West Big Beaver Road
Troy, MI 48084

Mr. Marvin Stern
Vice President, Brand Central
Sears, Roebuck & Co.
Sears Tower
Chicago, IL 60684

Write to the Janesville Center for contest details. Contest entry deadline is March 1, 1992.

Summer Christian Service Corps

Are you...
• 17 and a high school grad? (by June ‘92)
• wondering what to do next summer?
• wanting to serve God?
• a church member wanting an SCSC team?
• a church looking for a camp staff?

Summer Christian Service Corps can answer your questions. You can serve God and get acquainted with some of our fantastic youth. You will also see what it’s like to commit yourself to a challenging experience.

For applications, write to:
SDB Center, P.O. Box 1678, Janesville WI 53547-1678

Worker training: June 19-28, 1992
Director training: June 18-22
Project dates: June 28-August 3

Application Deadline: March 1, 1992
Called together from worlds apart

by Glen and Nancy Warner

One of our most interesting experiences was that of belonging to a group called "Friends of Children of Viet Nam."

When I was pastor of the Denver, Colo., Seventh Day Baptist Church in 1972, Nancy and I became active with this organization. Comprised of a great variety of people from several different faiths and backgrounds, it was an action-driven group; united by a strong desire to do something positive about the unpopular war in Southeast Asia.

Working closely with the Lutheran Service Society in Denver, Friends of Children of Viet Nam (FCVN) effectively brought about 600 infants and children from orphanages in Vietnam to their new adoptive homes in the United States. There are many wonderful stories of these families and their experiences. Our own seems unique to us; but then, the arrival of any child is cause for joy.

We were watching the news one evening when some American prisoners of war returned home. We saw one of them painfully walk down the airplane steps, then kneel to kiss the ground. This moving experience made us feel it was very important to do something positive, reconstructive, and personally important about the suffering in the world. We had talked about having infants and children adopted by us in our small town as the years flew by. Later, our children moved to the public schools for high school years and faced all the challenges of these modern times. Racism is a real issue for some individuals to face, and it has been surprising to realize that some secular people deal with it better than the staunchly religious.

Every caring parent sometimes aches as a child struggles to deal with the difficult situations of day-to-day living. Often in those times, we have remembered so clearly the conviction we felt at the beginning when our family was formed. We believed then that God had called the four of us to be together. That has not changed and has carried us through.

Time goes by so fast. Time is so valuable, nothing is more scarce. It cannot be dug out of the earth, bought from foreign powers, or substituted with a synthetic. Our best hope is to use time wisely. Whatever start children have in life, let us remember:

"Whatever you write on the heart of a child, No waters can wash it away. The sands may be shifted When billows are wild And effects of time may decay. Some stories may perish Some songs be forgot But this engraved record Time changes it not."

There have been many good lessons in our adoptive family. Perhaps the greatest is that we are all adopted. We are not God's children by nature; it is the gift of God through Christ as we acknowledge His acceptance of us.

Glen and Nancy Warner live in Ashitaba, Ohio, where Glen is vice president of sales at Molded Fiber Glass. He still serves as pulpit supply for area churches. Nancy teaches junior and senior high classes at Christian Life Academy.

Twice adopted

by Eddie Henry

I remember when I was in third grade, and we were studying heredity in school. I came home that day wondering who I looked like. Erik looks like my mom, and Tanya looks like my dad. I was really upset.

You see, I'm adopted, and I wanted to know what my natural parents looked like. I talked to my dad about this. He said, "Tanya may have my looks, but you've got my sense of humor, and to tell you the truth—you got the better deal."

The first time my parents saw me was at a Shakey's restaurant in the Philippines while they were missionaries. I was three months old at the time. They were friends with these people who ran an orphanage in Cebu. That night they brought me to Shakey's. When we got there, my mom held me for the first time and when she did, she fell in love with me.

Later, when they were driving home, my mom told my dad that she wanted to adopt me. My dad said no. But after a while, my dad fell in love with me, too.

At the time this all was happening, it was around Christmas. My parents wanted to adopt me, but they had to ask Tanya and Erik. In
Twice adopted (cont. from page 5)

order to adopt me, they would have to forget about Christmas because there wasn’t enough money to have Christmas and adopt me, too. They would have to buy a crib, clothes, and other stuff. My brother and sister said that they wanted to adopt me. When I was six months old, I was adopted. Sometimes I wonder what life would have been like if I wasn’t adopted. I would probably be on the streets of Cebu City begging for money from people who drive by. I don’t know if I could live without the things that I take for granted. I used to be very angry with my natural parents for leaving me at the hospital when I was born. I can now also thank them for that, too. I feel that from the time I was born, God was watching over me. He has blessed me with a Christian family. Most people in the Philippines have natural parents for leaving me at the hospital when I was born. I think that from the time I was born, I didn’t want me or I wasn’t good enough for them. The reason they left me at the hospital when I was born is because they didn’t have enough money to take care of me when I was a baby. I think that my natural parents cared about me a lot because they called an orphanage to pick me up. They could have left me at the hospital and just forgotten about me.

I think that my natural parents cared about me a lot because they called an orphanage to pick me up. They could have left me at the hospital and just forgotten about me.

He adopted me into His family. It made the decision for us. The adoption agency turned us down because our income was too low. Then a pregnant woman-fund money, and the church decided not to give birth. News of her abortion was hard to take. Things looked hopeless. Wouldn’t my dream of motherhood ever come true?

Finally Tom graduated, and we found a very helpful adoption agency that introduced us to the International Mission of Hope (IMH) in Calcutta. Though we had tons of paperwork to fill out and very little money in sight, still we were actually “expecting”! We had entered the most incredible year of our married life. Things began smoothly. Tom took a position as a visitation minister with a rural church, and it looked as though we could live on his salary, while saving all of mine. We would need $2,700 by the time a baby was assigned to us, but our adoption agency estimated our waiting time to be at least a year. Then the first blow hit us. My boss walked into the Campus Copy Center that I managed and tactfully explained that the school could no longer afford the huge copying machine I operated. They’d have to let me go and make do with a smaller copy machine and send big jobs out to a printer. I was without a job.

Summer arrived and things weren’t going well for Tom’s ministry. “All I ever do is get lost driving around country roads,” he’d say, “and then, when I finally find the right address, no one is home, or they’re not too interested in talking to me.”

We struggled for weeks over whether Tom should continue with this frustrating ministry. As that hot summer drew to a close, our car engine overheated, and the head cracked. Tom repaired it, using some of our savings. And then the car broke down a second time! We just couldn’t use any more of the baby-fund money, and the church already was stretched to their financial limit. So we were car-less, and Tom resigned.

His only option was to return to part-time school bus driving while he looked for adequate employment. Jobs, however, were scarce during the 1981 recession; I was still looking for work myself. We were weary from financial surprises.

After a time I was working as a waitress, but very little money was finding its way into savings. “If only Tom can find a good job soon,” I thought, “we’ll still be able to save the money we need before the baby arrives.”

October passed, and still another blow! I lost my job at the restaurant, and that very week the adoption agency called. “You’re going to get your baby sooner than we expected,” the India adoption coordinator exclaimed. “There are so many babies in the IMH nursery that yours could be assigned by Christmas!”

What were we to do? We had nearly $1,000 in the baby fund, but we’d need another $1,700 before the infant could be assigned. “We
do have good credit," Tom recolled, "so let's ask the credit union for a loan." We hoped they would overlook our current income and employment difficulties.

Amazingly, they approved the loan application. But (another blow) they were not allowing any money right then because of the recession. "Keep checking back," they told us. "Things could change." That night I prayed, "Lord, I think You want us to have this baby. I remember when we were first considering adoption three years ago, I asked You what Your will was and as I was reading the Psalms a moment later, I was struck with the words: 'The Lord makes the barren woman abide in the house of the joyous mother of children' (Psalm 113:9 NASB).

"I believed You were speaking to me through that; and I've claimed that verse whenever it seemed that we'd never be able to have or adopt a child. I've studied the infertility studies and the first agency turning us down, and even when that young mother had an abortion, I've trusted You to work things out. But now everything is falling apart!"

"Don't You want us to have this baby? Please give me some reassurance."

The next morning I decided to apply with every (every) employment contractor downtown to find some office work.

As I was transferring from one bus to another along the route, I glanced up to see a church sign and its inspirational thought for the day. To my amazement it read: "God's Delays Are Not God's Denials." I breathed a grateful prayer, "Thank You, Lord; I'm taking that as Your answer."

During the months that followed, our financial situation remained unstable, but at least I was assured that God was in control. If the moment came by the time a baby was assigned, we'd just have to ask to be reassigned later and let that baby go to someone else, trusting in God's perfect timing. Meanwhile I worked at temporary jobs when work was available; Tom drove a school bus while continuing to search for more suitable employment. We kept checking with our credit union, hoping that they'd soon have money to loan.

January 22, 1982, Tom's birthday: good news from the credit union! We got the loan! January 23, the next day: The phone rang, and it was from the agency. The caller exclaimed, "Guess what! You've been assigned a baby boy! Aren't you excited?"

Yes, we were excited, not only because we were parents of a soon-to-be arriving infant son, but also because God had provided in our moment of need. We dared to hope.He would perform one more miracle: a job for Tom, so I could stay home with our baby.

February 23, a tense day: We learned that a flight had left Calcutta yesterday, but was our son on it? The agency hadn't heard yet. Each time the phone rang, I leaped to answer it; but instead of the hoped-for news, it was a friend, a relative, a salesperson, everyone-a wrong number! "This is insane," I grumbled. "I never get this many calls!"

The phone rang one more time. "This has got to be it!" I exclaimed as I pounced on the receiver. "Mrs. Warner," the voice at the other end began, "this is the principal at Lot Whitcomb Elementary School..." It was not the call I had expected, but one I was amazed and happy to receive, for God had performed one more miracle. He had provided a job for Tom!

Wednesday, February 24: Today, our son, Anand (Hindi for hope) arrived. Cameras flashed. Voices congratulated. I saw my brother standing above me on a platform, holding a feather! "I laughingly exclaimed, "Shelley!" exclaimed Toon, one of our friends. "That's your baby!"

I moved through the throng of people and stretched forth my arms, in a beam of joy. I held a beautiful baby boy nestled in the crook of my elbow. "He's so light, I feel like I'm holding a feather!" I laughingly exclaimed.

When I checked his ID ankle bracelet, Yes, he was truly our son. Anand. James Stanley Warner. Cameras flashed. Voices congratulated. I saw my brother standing above me on a chair snapping pictures. I looked at my little bundle. No longer did I have empty arms.

Note: International Mission of Hope has its headquarters with Friends of Children of Various Nations, 1818 Gaylord St., Denver, CO 80206-1211. Anyone wishing to adopt a baby or child from International Mission of Hope should contact Friends of Children of Various Nations to see what adoption agencies they work with.

Shelley Warner is a member of the Denver SDB Church, where her husband Tom is pastor. This article first appeared in the June 1988 Standard, a Nazarene take-home paper.

An increasing influence
by Jane Mackintosh

On May 23, 1991, after an 18-month search and a three-week stay in Sao Paulo, Brazil, we finalized the adoption of our three new sons: Andre, age 6; Timothy, 4; and Micah, 22 months. After another week in Rio de Janeiro clearing visas through the American Consulate, Doug and I left Brazil with our expanded family. (In addition to our three adopted sons, we have three biological children—Adam, 15; Eric, 14; and Alicia, 11.)

Though the story of our experience finding our younger set and living in Brazil with them for a month could fill a book, I feel it is important to discuss how God led us to search for more children.

Our three older children initiated the discussion of adoption in October, 1989. As we talked about it, prayed about it, and thought a lot about how this would change our lives, many disturbing issues that had been dangling around loosely in my brain began to come together.

The most bothersome issue for me was the picture of starving children around the world, contrasted lower. Adopting more children did not solve this, but it has altered our lifestyle forcibly and at least provided for three more children.

Another troubling issue that was continually rattling me was abortion. I have been quite verbal about the horror of abortion, but I was disturbed by my own lack of answers to the question of what would become of all the unwanted children if abortion was outlawed.

Even so, the answer seemed absolutely obvious—adoption.

Of course I have used the argument of the many childless couples desperate for babies to adopt; but if

...
Influence (cont. from page 9)

and go through our home, some just visiting and some staying for extended periods of time. It became more and more difficult for me to deal with the reality that our influence was very limited, because we did not have these young ones on a permanent basis, nor did we have parental authority over them. We sensed that adoption would give us a better chance to make a permanent difference in some lives.

Doug and I both feel that parenting is a very important and effective area of ministry. Bringing more children into our family seemed to be an obvious way to further this ministry and strengthen the next generation.

We also considered thoroughly the racial issues involved in adopting black children into our white family. Because black/white tensions are so strong in our American society, we were very concerned that our adopted black children would have more pressure than they could cope with from both the white and black communities. We had to consider whether we could stand the heartache of watching them try to cope with the pressure.

These were questions to which we felt we had few answers, but we concluded that God would give us the children He had for us, and would provide to us and our children the strength and courage needed for the task.

When the referral call came about our boys, the agency didn’t even know what race they were. Actually we got quite a mix—Andre has very dark skin and black, loosely curled hair; Timothy has brown skin and brown, straight hair; and Micah has very light skin and blond, tightly curled hair. These are biological brothers, too! Adopting these three little boys certainly hasn’t solved all these issues, but we believe God has led us to begin here, and we know He has blessed us beyond measure. We have already had the opportunity to practice our faith in God—that He has given us these particular children.

We found out shortly after arriving home that Timothy, our 4-year-old, has had a very serious and rare heart problem for some time. The cardiologist told us the constriction around the bottom of his heart was caused by one of two problems—one correctable and one fatal in a few years. Between July and September, he (and I) spent 23 days in the hospital because of tests, heart surgery, and a life-threatening, surgical complication.

We don’t yet know what the future holds, but we are certain of the One Who holds the future. And we have, in our home, living evidence that “Sons are a heritage from the Lord, children a reward from Him... Blessed is the man whose quiver is full” (Psalm 127:3,5).

Doug and Jane Mackintosh are former SDB missionaries to Jamaica. They own a Radio Shack store in Half Moon Bay, Calif. Jane home schools the children and, with them, has edited The Sabbath Visitor for the last few years.

The first day (Sunday) in the New Testament

by Rodney Henry

Arguments for observing the first day

Most Christians believe that the seventh day, Sabbath, is for the Jews. They believe that the Sabbath no longer applies to Christians today.

They believe that Christ changed the holy day to the first day of the week, and it is now called the “Lord’s day.” They say that the day was changed from the seventh day to the first day in order to celebrate the day of Christ’s resurrection on the first day of the week.

Their argument would continue by showing how Christ appeared to His disciples on the first day of the week (John 20:19). To them, this was the beginning of the change from Sabbath to the Lord’s day.

Next they would show how the Apostle Paul also kept the Lord’s day by preaching and breaking bread on the first day of the week in Tarsus (Acts 20:7). Finally, they would argue that the Apostle Paul “commanded” first day, Sunday, observance in 1 Corinthians 16:1-2.

Biblical response to these arguments

"The Sabbath is for the Jews." According to the Bible, "the Sabbath was made for man" (Mark 2:27). At creation there were no Jews, or Gentiles, or races of any kind. There was just man and woman. On the sixth day of creation, God created man in His own image. On the seventh day of creation, God blessed the seventh day and made it holy. The Sabbath was made for all of mankind and not just for the Jews.

There is no place in the Bible where Jesus says that He is dead. But the celebration of His resurrection is not a license to violate or change the Ten Commandments of God written on tablets of stone and written on our hearts.

There is no place in the Bible where there is a command to observe the first day of the week. That would require a change in the Fourth Commandment, and Jesus said He did not come to change the law.

Other SDBs with their own stories

Iowa football standout Mike Saunders (far right) at sister Peggy’s wedding. Left to right: Brian and Hali Saunders; Karl and Peggy Stevenson; Herbert, Barbara, and Mike Saunders.

Seminarian student Matthew Olson with wife, Elisa, and daughter, Juliet.

Iowa football standout Mike Saunders (for right) at sister Peggy’s wedding. Left to right: Brian and Hali Saunders; Karl and Peggy Stevenson; Herbert, Barbara, and Mike Saunders.

December 1991/ 11
Research reveals plain truth
by Don A. Sanford, historian

The Worldwide Church of God is running a series of articles in their Plain Truth magazine under the heading, "History of the Church of God." The Historical Society has received several letters questioning their use of Seventh Day Baptist history in establishing an unbroken claim to New Testament origins. Seventh Day Baptists do not believe that the validity of the Sabbath is dependent upon any "apostolic succession" of an organized church. Attempts to prove such dependence on human institutions sometimes detract from the divine origin of the Sabbath.

Seventh Day Baptists believe that it is far more important to base the belief and practice of Sabbath observance upon the study of Scriptures rather than a succession of human authority or practice.

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One year ago—December 1990

Authors uncover the lies and deceptive practices of the New Age Movement.

The Ephesus SDB Fellowship becomes branch group of Miami church.

Christian Education page announces new resource book on baptism, written by Ernest Bee.

The Beacon unveils new YP logo designed by Carl Greene and Dan Stail.

Raritan Valley, N.J., church celebrates 15th anniversary.

Five years ago—December 1986

Conference award winners profiled: George Parriah for Sabbath School Teacher of the Year, and Madeline Fitz Randolph with the Roke of Achievement.

Complete Statement of Beliefs printed as adopted General Conference. Final vote to be by church roll call at the 1987 Conference.

Beacon proposes several Christmas youth service projects.

Rev. B. John V. Rao returns to India to discover large areas devastated by flood rains. Funds are sent from the SDB United Relief Fund and Missionary Society.

10 years ago—December 1981

The Toronto, Ontario, church (newest Conference member) hosts Allegheny Association meetings and Light Bearers concert.

New building site prepared for Houston, Texas, church.

Rev. Robert Harris begins service in Albion, Wis.


October was "Friendship Visitation Month" in Shiloah. November was slated, "Visitation Evangelism Month."

Installation service for new Verona, N.Y., church pastor, H.L. Polan, performed by Verona's retiring pastor, A.L. Davis.

Editors address America's involvement in the war.

Special supplement carries mock debate, "First or Seventh," by Pastor Lester Ochorn. Characters include: Mr. Change Fruit, Mr. Spider, Mr. Pinci, Mr. Fother, and Miss Friend O'Christian.

Pray...

- that Bible truths unmask New Age lies
- for our young church groups
- for your Sabbath School teachers
- that we be sensitive and respond to relief needs
- for revival in Bible reading
- that pastoral transitions go smoothly
- for your personal and church outreach

Articles push for daily Bible reading. Pastor Ed Sutton shares detailed reflections of North Central Association fair booth in Chippewa Falls, Wis. Riverside, Calif., Pastor C. Rex Burdick logs over 2,200 miles on his annual fall visitation trip through California. In 11 days, 50 calls were made on lone SDBs or interested parties. Los Angeles Pastor Myron Soper's spring trip also reported: 18 days, 4,670 miles (into Oregon and Washington), and 60 contacts made. Alfred, N.Y., church celebrates sesquicentennial.

50 years ago—December 1941

A "Floating Library" of sermons by SDB pastors is started. Sermons are "recorded on discs which may be played on any electric victrola or playback machine."


where are we headed?

December 1991/ 13
Women's Society page by Charlotte Chroniger

Adopted into a holy family

"When the fulness of time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, in order that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons" (Galatians 4:4-5 NASB).

Don and I have had two of our children portray baby Jesus at church Christmas programs: Tyler while in New Auburn, Wis., and Jessica at our present church in Shiloh, N.J.

I have always been moved as I have had two of our own, I see how important the manger, the son who was the Savior of the world. What a wonder it was to have God send His Son to earth, to be born as a flesh-and-blood baby, even though He was divine and eternal. Because this divine baby was born, we would have the opportunity to be deemed from our sins and adopted into God's holy family of believers. As I reflect on the baby Jesus (and because I have four children of my own), I see how important Mary and Joseph were to Jesus' life. They had the responsibility of teaching Jesus many things and helped to instill many good habits and qualities into Jesus' life. Even though Jesus was born divine, He needed human parents to teach Him about earthly things.

I'm sure God recognized wonderful qualities in Mary and Joseph for Him to choose them to be Jesus' earthly parents. They were wonderful examples and models for Jesus to follow. Likewise, God chose Don and me to be the parents of Tyler, Jordan, Bethany, and Jessica. They were sent to us as gifts of God, for us to nurture and teach and love. We have the responsibility to help our children be the best they can be for the Lord, to teach them about Him, and to pray for them that they might one day accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

Because of the presence of sin in the world, we are not born with a godly nature, but rather with a sinful nature. We are not born as part of God's holy family of believers. Each of us must individually make the choice to believe in God's Holy Son, Jesus, as our Savior. Once we believe in Him, we become part of the family of God. When we decide to be a follower of Jesus, God adopts us into His family. He shares His love and concern with us, He disciplines and teaches us, and He cares for us as a father cares for his children.

As we rejoice in the birth of God's Son into the world, may we who are parents rejoice for the children who have been brought into our lives—those born to us, those adopted by us, those whose lives cross our paths. May we be godly examples to them and lead them to the Savior.

May we also seek God's guidance as we strive to be responsible parents and models to these children. May the love of God the Father be evident in our lives as we reach out to a world that needs to find and experience the redemption of Jesus Christ.

By the time you read this report, my wife and I will have completed our first major church visitation trip of this Conference year.

We traveled first to Lost Creek, W. Va., to meet with the West Virginia churches. What a wonderful place to begin the year. There was real spiritual vitality, and we were warmly received. The Lost Creek church people were abuzz with activity, anticipating the arrival of their new pastor, Larry Graffius. From there we journeyed on to Janesville, Wis., where we spent the better part of the week checking out various things relating to facilities we will be using, a major "plus" is the very close proximity of all the recreational facilities that our young people will be needing. Within just a few blocks there is a skating rink, a bowling alley, and a very nice park with swimming pool and more. You'll love it at Waukesha!

On to Dodge Center, Minn., for an enthusiastic, spirit-filled Sabbath with the North Central Association. What a blessing to see and feel the joy of our people as they worshipped the Lord. One full day was all too short.

After a two-day rest stop with our Nebraska families, we journeyed on to Riverside, Calif., for a speaking engagement with the Pacific Coast Association. Over 300 people packed the beautiful new facilities of the Riverside church. Again there was the strong impression that Seventh Day Baptists are alive and well and ready for a mighty moving of the Lord. During the week following Association, we met with the Hispanic Church and the Community Church in Los Angeles, a combined meeting of the Lake Elsinore and Hemet groups, Foothills Church on Sabbath morning, and the All Nations Church in Long Beach on Sabbath afternoon, October 26. We were able to share a spiritual challenge as well as denominational matters with each of these groups.

The President's Page

On the road with the president

by Mynor Soper

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In addition, we listened to their hopes, dreams, and concerns. Our sincere prayer is that they were encouraged by our visit in some way.

Ahead of us was a meeting with the Santa Barbara church, Bay Area church, and the Boulder, Colo., church.

As I reflect on the journey thus far, I can't keep from thinking of Paul's journeys to the churches of his day. Acts 14:21-22a says, "They preached the good news in that city and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith" (NIV). That is our purpose, too—and to challenge our people to truly "lift Jesus" by courageously sharing their faith in Jesus Christ as the Savior of all who believe.
Christian Education
by Ernest K. Bee Jr.

Sabbath School Teacher of the Year

Ruth Bennett of the Battle Creek, Mich., Seventh Day Baptist Church, was honored as the 1991 Sabbath School Teacher of the Year at the annual session of General Conference held at Houghton (N.Y.) College.

Marilyn Davis, a director and member of the Sabbath School Committee of the SDB Board of Christian Education, presented Ruth with the "crystal apple" and certificate during the Conference awards ceremony.

Ruth serves the Battle Creek church as Sabbath School Teacher for the 2 and 3-year-olds.

She started teaching the Sabbath School nursery class at the age of 16 in her home church in Dodge Center, Minn. In 1959, Ruth started teaching the nursery class in the Battle Creek church, which she has done for the past 32 years.

The only "breaks" during this time have found Ruth serving as Sabbath School Superintendent and junior class teacher. After one year of attending the adult class, Ruth says, "I wanted to get back to teaching."

The Battle Creek church wrote in nominating Ruth: "Teaching on Sabbath mornings is only part of Ruth's role as a Christian educator. She has always been involved in the Vacation Bible School program at the church, and has been the director of the Day Camp program at Camp Holston since its beginning. Junior Camp and Primary Camp have also benefited from her directorship in numerous years. The Junior Youth Fellowship and Junior Choir have also been projects of Ruth's at three different times, for several years each time—most recently in 1989 and 1990. She and her husband, Herb, who died last year, also served a term as Junior Youth Fellowship directors."

Ruth's tireless service to Christ and His local church in Battle Creek may be noted in other activities. She served on the local Christian Education Board, the Activities Committee, Mother's Council, and Ladies Aid. Ruth was the first editor of the Battle Creek church paper, The Friendly Guest, and served as secretary of the SDB Women's Society during the 10 years it was in Battle Creek.

Ruth's love for Christ and His children has led her to direct Junior Conference for about a dozen years, beginning in 1989. She also has served as co-director for Intermediate and Primary Conferences.

Following high school, Ruth attended Salem (W.Va.) College. She went back to college in 1983 and graduated from Michigan State University in 1986 with a bachelor's degree in education. Ruth taught third, fourth, and fifth grades in the public schools for 18 years before retiring.

The Battle Creek church wrote: "Of her tireless efforts Ruth says, "When there's a job to do, one does it! Learning never stops.""

Health services, Andhra Pradesh, India

The third SDB Health Camp was held on August 30 at Potlapudi. This was at a school with 154 boys and girls given a checkup with particular emphasis to identify malarial cases. Two medical doctors gave the checkup with a paramedic team dispensing the medicines.

Executive Secretary B. Kishor Kumar shared, "We commenced with prayers. The camp was held exclusively for children on representation from the elders. The public's enthusiastic cooperation was encouraging, and the camp was a success. The activity was closed after prayers."

The cost? Rs 441.35—which translates to $17! The Rupee was devalued over three months ago which has led to price increases. Rev. Kumar writes, "The phenomenon of large monies and their uselessness when it comes to the position of buying power is now, I think, a universal one, and it is unfortunate such an effect is 'forced' upon the middle and lower-class peoples. All these are beyond common man's comprehension."

New Life, Durham, CT, USA

This growing new witness, a branch of the Waterford, Conn., SDB Church, has been without pastoral leadership since Extension Pastor Jim Galanaugh moved to serve the Battle Creek, Mich., SDB Church in mid-year.

Rev. David McLean, a Jamaican pastor now living in Canada, has been called and hopes to begin his service about mid-December. Pastor McLean is a graduate of Jamaica Theological Seminary and was the director of the Jamaica Bible Institute (SDB) extension training before he left Jamaica.

Chipho SDB Church, Malawi, Africa

Missionaries Ian and Trudy Ingoe, who have served in Malawi, Africa, since 1989, spent their last Sabbath with the new Chipho congregation on October 12.

Their new brick meeting house was dedicated and Missionary Ingoe realized a fulfilled vision. When he arrived on the field less than three years ago, the Chipho clinic project was still a "drawing."

Since then, the clinic-building—with housing for workers, family shelter and kitchen, water supply, etc.—has been completed and was there to help meet the needs of over 14,000 Mozambican refugees who crossed the nearby river into Malawi. Many have come to Christ, a new congregation with over 90 members has been organized, and needed ministries to refugees have been realized.

The Ingoes shared more about Malawi as they visited about 20 local churches while traveling across the United States. They leave for their home in Auckland, New Zealand, on December 10.

Executive Vice President Kirk Looper, USA

Following the recommendation of General Conference, the Missionary Society will fund their new executive vice president's trip to Auckland, New Zealand, to participate as a Conference delegate in the SDB World Federation's 1992 session. Federation meetings will be January 2-8, followed by the Australasian SDB Conference, January 8-15.

As Kirk Looper begins his ministry January 1, this trip allows him to meet and enter into fellowship with delegates from sister SDB Conferences from around the world. At present, the Missionary Society is financially involved with six of these and has related to projects in three more.

Faith Church, Doniphan, MO, USA

The clerk has written, "We will be ordaining a new deacon in the near future. Please continue to pray for our work here, for leadership in our music ministry. We have a very blessed song leader but need a piano player. We thank each of you for your help, prayers, and love these past years and ask for continued support of prayer and love."

Pastor Ronald J. Blott Jr. also shared, "It has been a great blessing serving as Extension Pastor and also working on the Missouri Field. I feel that the Lord is calling me to continue in church planting, and resigned as pastor to free me for His calling. I appreciate all of the prayers and support that I have received from the Missionary Society as well as Seventh Day Baptists from all areas. The Lord has a great work ahead for His people, and I am excited about the days ahead."

FOCUS on Missions

by Leon R. Lawton
Young Adult Pre-Con 1991
by Nicole Peters

The dorms at Camp Harley Sutton in Alfred Station, N.Y., were completely packed with 52 campers and eight counselors, yet everyone had a wonderful time under the direction of Pastor Dave Taylor.

Each day started at 7:30 a.m. with devotions. During the course of the day, there were two or three musical rehearsals led by Christina Thorngate. Pastor Charles Graffius (also known as "P.C.") taught Bible studies at least twice a day. The main topic of the week was "model" men and "model" women. There were many discussions on what characteristics the campers thought "model" men and women should have, and what characteristics the Bible tells us they should have.

At the end of the day, a group of campers—along with Andrew Camenga—would lead the camp in vespers, followed by a campfire led by Jim Plane. During campfire, there were a lot of skits, many of them involving pranks on unsuspecting volunteers.

The week ended with an hour and a half hike on Saturday night. The next morning was spent cleaning camp and packing for the bus ride to Conference.

Young Adult Pre-Con this year was held at Camp Vick in Sandusky, N.Y. For most of us, staying at the camp was an experience we will never forget or repeat.

We slept in tents on platforms, had lukewarm to ice-cold showers (unless you took one very early or very late), and played follow-the-leader at night as we traveled in packs guided by whoever had the few and far between flashlight.

In spite of all the "roughin' it," we did enjoy a great four days of fellowship, learning, and love.

But, in spite of all the "roughin' it," we did enjoy a great four days of fellowship, learning, and love.

Pastor Don and Charlotte Chroniger were the directors, with Jennifer and Keith Bond as their staff. During our class time, Pastor Don led us through four lessons to help us grow closer to God. We realized that our time is His, and we shouldn't waste it. We also learned about the covenants God has made with His people, and how we need to keep our covenants with Him and others.

Charlotte ministered to us through music and taught us many new songs. We learned all our songs for the Conference vespers service and many children's songs, too. One that we all enjoyed—"Two Said Go!"—was about Joshua and Caleb going to the Promised Land.

One day we even acted it out.

We had fun during recreation playing volleyball, going swimming, taking boats out on the lake, and hiking around the woods of Camp Vick. Thursday night we played games like "Prince of Paris," "Zoom, "Zoom, our favorite game, and "Killer."

Saturday night we played games like "Prince of Paris," "Zoom, "Zoom, and "Killer."

Saturday evening we ordered pizza and had a most enjoyable dinner.

One evening we ordered pizza and had a most enjoyable dinner.

While in the woods, we did enjoy a great four days of fellowship, learning, and love.

Ziggy Zoom, and "Killer." Saturday evening we ordered pizza and had a time of fellowship and singing. Sabbath Eve, however, was the highlight of Pre-Con. To welcome the Sabbath, we all shared Scripture, testimonies, songs, and poems.

Though we did have a wonderful time and learned a lot, one simple thing sticks in my mind. It was printed on the front of the schedule we received the first evening.

It is short, but something I will never forget or repeat.

It is short, but something I will never forget or repeat.

If we are on rigid paths of our own.

It is difficult to follow God's guidance.

If we are on rigid paths of our own.
Celebrating religious liberty

by Ruth E. Hazen

The Central SDB Church of Upper Marlboro, Md., held a farewell dinner at Watkins Regional Park in Kettering, Md., for Pastor Kenneth Chroniger, who has now become pastor of the Alfred Station, N.Y., SDB Church.

The Pastoral Search Committee has been working diligently towards calling another pastor. In the interim, we would like Central Church mail sent to Secretary Ruth Hazen, 330 Highview Rd., Tracys Landing, MD 20779. Calls may be made to either President Earl Hibbard, or to the secretary.

On October 4 and 5, Central hosted the 240th Yearly Meeting of the Eastern New York, New Jersey, Eastern Pennsylvania, and Maryland churches. The theme was "Religious Liberty." At the Friday evening vespers service, Drexoness Jean Cook, who now houses the church library in her home, presented portions of a Conference Sabbath sermon delivered by Rev. D. Burdett Coon in 1902 entitled, "What Hash God Wrought."

On Sabbath morning, the adult Sabbath School viewed a video, "He told how many people, including Seventh Day Baptists, gained religious liberty over the years."

As early as mid-1990, the Denver, Colo., SDB Church began planning to invite Dr. Desmond Ford of Good News Unlimited to be their speaker for a series of evangelistic meetings.

Dr. Victor and Beth Burdick were the coordinating offices for the sessions, held on October 2-5, 1991.

Natural Evangelism Training students volunteered as counselors for these services.

The meetings were announced as "New Life" seminars, held in conjunction with a well attended Women's Luncheon and a Men's Prayer Breakfast. One woman at the luncheon came as a direct result of hearing a radio interview with Dr. Ford.

The seminars proved to be extremely worthwhile, with the attendance building each night. Dr. Ford did a splendid job of teaching, informing, encouraging, and urging people to become more effective servants of the Lord. Several have asked to be baptized as a result of these services.

Enthusiasm and excitement continue as we follow up with a prayer ministry, visitations, personal visitations, and Bible studies for both youth and adults.

Denver hosts "New Life"

by Katherine Davis

Women's Luncheon before the New Life Seminar, Denver SDB Church.

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Research reveals (cont. from page 12)

cans to accept the Sabbath would have to have been the Hubbard's three daughters, Ruth, Rachel, and Bethiah.

"My wife took up the Lord's holy 7th day Sabbath the 10 day March 1665. I took it up 1 day April 1666. Our daughter Ruth — 25 October 1665, Rachel Jan. 15 day 1666, Bethiah — Feb. 1666. Our son Joseph Clarke — 23 Feb. 1666."

Ruth later married Robert Burdick; Rachel married Andrew Langworthy and was one of the charter members of the Newport Seventh Day Baptist church. Bethiah was the wife of Joseph Clarke. Many of today's Seventh Day Baptists have documented early Sabbathkeepers in Rhode Island. Under a section headed, "The Name of the Church," the authors correctly recognize the Hopkins congregation (the First Hopkinton Seventh Day Baptist Church in Ashaway, R.I.) as an outgrowth of the Newport Church, but refer to it as the "Church of God," based on a couple of passages which use the term "church of God" in a generic sense.

They correctly date the founding of the church at Piscataway, N.J., from the study of the Scriptures by Edmund Dunham in 1705. The authors call it "the Church of God," but a check of the record books clearly show that the early minutes all begin with the phrase, "The Church of Christ keeping the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus Christ." Several early Seventh Day Baptist churches did use the name Church of Christ, possibly to clearly identify the church as Christian rather than Jewish because of their Sabbath observance. The authors make use of several

Dear Kevin,
The Recorder (September 1991) was full of interesting things this time. Just for the record, I would like to add two doctrines to Victor Stakes' list: "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of His glory" (Isaiah 6:3): "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come" (Revelation 4:8). A comparison of those with those printed would tell us what kind of theology William Vis ("Dunderbuck Road") was referring to that would lead one to think he could commit murder without remorse, and not face eternal judgment.

But what I wanted to write about was Andrew Camenga's "Freedom" in the Beacon. I appreciate his positive reference to my daughter's Sabbath experience. He said, "We need to recognize that our standing up for what is right is not illegalism." How sad it is that "to recognize that standing up for right is not illegalism" is one of the needs of SDBs. I have been at a loss to understand why not one of the SDB communities without leadership has been willing to consider inviting us to live among them, even free of financial obligations. Whether or not I agree with all of my daughter's positions (What parent does?), I am certainly proud that she has the courage "to stand up for what is right," even if she steps on some "non-legalistic" Seventh Day Baptist toes in her hurry to get on her feet.

Sincerely, Thomas McElhinin

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First day (cont. from page 11)

was not even special because the Apostle Paul was preaching. It was special because while Paul was preaching, Butechus fell out of the window, died, and came back to life.

There is this one example of Paul preaching on the first day of the week in Troas. What about the four times in Acts where it mentions that Paul worshiped on the Sabbath? (See Acts 13:14; 16:17; 16:18; and 18:4)

"The Apostle Paul 'commanded' setting apart the first day of the week for worship in 1 Corinthians 16:1-2."

In 1 Corinthians 16:1-2, the Apostle Paul says, "On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made."

Paul is not establishing a new day of worship. The issue is not worship, but managing church administration. A special gift was set aside for Paul to take to the Jerusalem church from the church at Corinth. It is wrong to assume that Paul is addressing the issue of worship.

It is also wrong to assume that the people in Corinth were worshiping on the first day of the week at this time. According to Acts 18:4, Paul spent "every Sabbath" in the synagogue with both Jews and Gentiles.

Throughout the book of Acts, the seventh day of the week is given the title "Sabbath." However, throughout the book of Acts, the first day of the week is never given a title, nor is it ever called the "Lord's day." Though the resurrection is a key element in Paul's theology and preaching, the first day is never established as Scripture as a celebration of that resurrection.

Changing Sabbath to Sunday

It is clear that there is no biblical support for a change from the seventh day Sabbath of creation to a first day observance. There is no place in the Bible where there is a command to observe the first day of the week. That would require a change in the Fourth Commandment, and Jesus said He did not come to change the law.

The change from the Sabbath to the first day, Sunday, did not occur until after the time of the New Testament. In the book of Acts, we see both Christians and Jews worshiping together on the Sabbath. (See Acts 18:4.) But even during the time of Paul, there was growing tension between Jews and Christians because of Jesus' claim to be the Messiah.

During this time, Judaism enjoyed a freedom of religion within the Roman world. Christianity, as a sect of Judaism, enjoyed this same freedom. However, a great deal of tension arose between Rome and Judaism with the revolt of the Jews, which was put down by Titus in 70 A.D. The tension and hostility grew until Emperor Hadrian outlawed the practice of Judaism, with its Sabbath observance, in the year 135.

The most obvious external way to discover and punish Jews was to observe their practice of the Sabbath. Since Jews were in tension with Rome, Christians no longer wanted to be associated with Judaism and suffer Roman persecution. This made Sabbath worship dangerous for Christians since they could be mistaken for Jews.

The change from Sabbath to Sunday observance was a gradual change over many years. For a time, the church observed Sabbath as a day of fasting and worship, and Sunday as a day of feasting

and celebration. The observance of Sunday in celebration of the sun god was also prevalent. It was easier to blend in with the pagan practices of sun celebration on Sunday, than it was to be associated with Sabbathkeeping like the Jews. By 321 A.D., Emperor Constantine decreed that Sunday would be a day of rest. This was readily received by the Roman Catholic church.

The reasons for the change from Sabbath to Sunday are historical, social, and political; but they are not biblical.

Questions
1. According to Mark 2:27, is the Sabbath only for the Jews?
2. Is there any place in the Bible where Jesus changed the Sabbath to the first day of the week?
3. Is there any place in the Bible where Jesus, or anyone else, tells us to celebrate His resurrection on the first day of the week?
4. When looking at all, 1st Testament, texts, which day of the week is most often mentioned as a time for the Apostle Paul to worship?
5. Does 1 Corinthians 16:1-2 command, or even suggest, that a believer abandon the Fourth Commandment and establish the first day of the week as a sacred time of worship?
6. Outline the author's opinion of the change from Sabbath to Sunday observance.