Please consider these suggestions for "White Gifts for Christmas."

Bibles: Eastern Europe, Russia, and Africa. In Africa, Bibles are needed in many languages and dialects.

Seventh Day Baptist Orphanage in India (Andhra Pradesh). Our goal is at least $5,000 by the end of the year.

Evangelism: Requests have come to make the NET training available in Nigeria, Australia, and Jamaica. Many fields request tracts, Bibles, and study materials for their camps and churches.

Home field projects: We have had requests for equipment and study materials from some of our new churches, and others needing help.

SDB United Relief Fund: For drought and storm victims.

Medical supplies: Africa, India, Mexico. Mexico: Benches, pulpit, Bibles, and study materials for Kilometer 20 church.

Cabin available in Yosemite National Park

"Evergreen," a fully-equipped cabin that sleeps up to 12 persons, is available to Seventh Day Baptists traveling to or from the August 1993 General Conference in California. Reservations are on a "first-come, first-served" basis. (Dates available: July 23-August 7; after Conference, negotiable.) There is no charge for using Evergreen; however, guests are required to sign a "gratis use" liability release. For more information or reservations, write or call George Barber, 303-1 Vista Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91107, telephone (213) 250-6532.

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Who are Seventh Day Baptists?

If you've never read The Sabbath Recorder before, you might be wondering who Seventh Day Baptists are. Like other Baptists, we believe in:

- the saving love of Jesus Christ
- the Bible as the inspired word of God and a record of God's will for man. The Bible is our authority both for our faith and our daily conduct.
- freedom of thought under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- the congregational form of church government. Every member of the church has the right to participate in the decision-making process of the church.

The seventh day

God commanded that the seventh day (Saturday) be kept holy. Jesus agreed by keeping the seventh day holy. It is the joy of the Sabbath. God commands that you keep the seventh day holy as a sign of your loyalty to God.

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Encouraging your pastor

by Richard Barany

There were a number of guests in the sanctuary that Sabbath morning. A few were from the community, visiting because of invitations by church members. A few of the visitors were from out of state.

Pastor Rex must have felt a need for some pastor, the Rev. C. Rex Burdick. It was a touching moment in the life of the church.

Pastor Bee explained that Rex had been his pastor while he was in college. It was Ernest's pleasure and honor to present this award to him.

I began to reflect on my years as a pastor. I asked myself, "How did the people of my churches, and the people of God in general, minister to me? Were there moments of ministry that were inspired because others ministered to me in my time of need?" The answer was a most definite and resounding "yes!"

These Christian friends did something for me at a time when I needed it most. Like them, you can minister positively to your pastor.

One of my most memorable reflections of this kind of ministry took place on a summer vacation over 10 years ago. My family and I needed a break from a stressful church situation that was beginning to affect us as individuals and as a unit. We were visiting friends and family in the New England area.

As we began the long drive home, we realized that we were going to run out of money before the trip was over. (In our rush to leave the church for the week, we improperly planned—we had about 10 dollars to our name for a 400-mile trip back!) We entered a large New England church that morning, and decided to worship and relax before God.

After the service, one of the greeters engaged me in a conversation. He took special interest in us as a pastor's family. At the end of our talk, during which I never spoke of our immediate need, he shared that God was speaking to him about helping us. He wanted us to know that all would be better when we got home. Then he handed me an envelope with enough money to get home.

We are amazed at the many times God's people have provided seemingly little things that, in reality, were large gifts. Among the "little" things were volunteer babysitters, dinner at a friend's home or at the local family restaurant, and the use of a vehicle or vacation spot.

Seventh Day Baptist laity can have a very special ministry to pastors of other churches. It's a natural for seventh day Sabbathkeepers to receive help in order to correct errors, or to put to death—through Christ—a sin problem. But remember, just as it took some time for you to adjust to your pastor, and to know he loved you with the love of Christ, I need to know that you are unswerving love and commitment from you.

Seventh Day Baptists have a strong evangelical and grace orientation to offer a place of rest for the Sunday worshipping pastor. For instance, the Verona (N.Y.) SDB Church has welcomed a number of pastors from other evangelical traditions into their fellowship. Former pastor and current associate pastor Russ John has shared about how often the church was a "hospital" and "respite area" for other clergy.

The Lord has ministered to me through His people by their honesty in love. I was in my office one day, trying to prepare my next message. (Frankly, I had been trying not to think of how I had been hurt by someone in the church; someone who had made a decision that was hurting the church deeply.) At that moment, two godly laymen came in to bring correction to me in an area which was truly one of my blind spots.

They shared that they appreciated my ministry and wanted to continue to see God use me. They had, however, seen something in me that they believed would not help me in the ministry. They were concerned about me.

I knew this because they were men who shared concern and approval of God who was at work in me. When they came in correction, there was no doubt that, whether right or wrong, they loved me. I felt as if they regarded me as more important than themselves (Phil. 2:3-4).

I have also had parishioners who felt that they had the "gift" of criticism. By that, they believed that a member should feel free to criticize their pastor at any time. I don't deny for a minute that pastors should receive help in order to correct errors, or to put to death—through Christ—a sin problem. But remember, just as it took some time for you to adjust to your pastor, and to know he loved you with the love of Christ, I need to know that you are unswerving love and commitment from you.

Witnessing the Spirit's work in the lives of my parishioners has had a profound effect on my ministry. In other words, I love seeing God's people have provided seemingly little things that, in reality, were large gifts. Among the "little" things were volunteer babysitters, dinner at a friend's home or at the local family restaurant, and the use of a vehicle or vacation spot.

Seventh Day Baptist laity can have a very special ministry to pastors of other churches. It's a natural for seventh day Sabbathkeepers to receive help in order to correct errors, or to put to death—through Christ—a sin problem. But remember, just as it took some time for you to adjust to your pastor, and to know he loved you with the love of Christ, I need to know that you are unswerving love and commitment from you.

I am reminded of the dear lady who expressed her appreciation to the pastor on his last day with that congregation. She exclaimed, "Pastors love to observe and rejoice in their people's growth in grace. We especially like to see that God has used us to make a real difference in someone's life.

I have smiled many times when the traditional "Nice sermon, pastor" was handed out at the end of the service. I know that people are usually very sincere about that sentiment. I am also aware that we often cannot pinpoint what it is that God is saying to us in the message. However, hearing Sabbath after Sabbath, "Nice sermon, pastor," can make the pastor wonder whether the Word is really making an impact.

When someone engages us on a point of our message, or says to us, "Pastor, do you remember last month when you talked about such and such?" we are more able to see the eternal effects of God's Word. Some of the most gratifying talks I've had with my parishioners were on the heels of applications they made from a point of my message. On other occasions, conversations, counseling appointments, or words I have spoken in a visit have come back from church members as a blessing to my life.

What ministers to your pastor the most? The "heart knowledge" that God is at work in your life. Pastors want the Word that is faithfully preached and taught to have a life-changing place in your heart.

Just as it took some time for you to adjust to your pastor, and to know he loved you with the love of Christ, he needs to know that same unswerving love and commitment from you.
the call of a congregation and be ordained to the Gospel ministry. He told me that my words of encouragement began the process of his going into the ministry. It was humbling and exciting to hear his account of that event.

Others began to share how God used me in their lives while I was their pastor. I had no idea that I had made such a difference. Many in the congregation had wanted me to be there that day, just to share those things with me.

Christian friend, while it is today, share with your pastor (or one of your former pastors) the special thing God has done for you because of his ministry. Be specific in your honor of that servant of God. Be sensitive to the little things that speak volumes concerning your love for him. Think on these words which Paul the Apostle addressed to the church at Thessalonica: "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. Now we ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other" (1 Thess. 5:11-13 NIV).

Richard Mark Barany is an associate member of the Verona SDB Church. Dick has served in churches of the Evangelical Free Church and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). He holds a Doctor of Ministry from Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, Calif. He and his wife, Linda, live in Sherrill, N.Y., along with their children—Mark, Christina, and Benjamin. They are currently mission candidates with Africa Inland Mission, where Dick hopes to serve as a Bible school teacher.

We are amazed at the many times God's people have provided seemingly little things that, in reality, were large gifts.

A new pitcher is needed

A modern parable (source unknown)

Behold, a ball team went forth to play a game. Just as the umpire was going to call "Play Ball," the pitcher for the home team arrived and took his place.

The center fielder and second baseman didn't arrive until the middle of the second inning. The first baseman didn't come at all, but later sent his regret that he had to go to dinner at Aunt Mary's. The third baseman also failed to show up, having spent all day at the golf links. The left fielder was away visiting another ball game across town. The shortstop was present, but left his glove at home.

Verily, when the pitcher entered the box, he looked around to see his teammates, and his heart was heavy when he saw many empty places in the lineup. The game had been announced and the spectators were already in the stands to see the game. There was nothing to do but go ahead and pitch, and hope for the best.

So the pitcher tightened his belt, stepped into the box, and did his level best to put the ball over the plate. But for some reason, he just couldn't get "into the swing." Some of his teammates began to ride him for a wild pitching. Loud "boos" began to come from the stands.

At the close of the game, the home team (what there was of it) was mercilessly beaten. The game produced a considerable amount of discussion, and when the rest of the team (those who weren't there at the game) heard about the disgraceful defeat, they decided something ought to be done about it.

They finally came to a unanimous decision. A new pitcher was hired. It must have been the old pitcher's poor pitching that had lost the game.

Behold, a preacher went forth to preach...

Keeping the pastor (happy)

by Lannette Calloun

"Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith... Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you" (Hebrews 13:7, 17).

I did not plan to marry a pastor. It was not one of my "lifelong dreams that hung in the rafters of my mind" as I sought a mate. I didn't have anything against clergy mind you, but being the wife of one so revered and looked up to (or down upon) scared me just a little.

Well, the big day finally came. My husband of little more than a year, the man who was planning to be a lawyer some day, broke the news to me that God was calling him into the ministry. My first thought was Africa...

When I realized that he—He was serious, I began the slow process of becoming someone that suggestions into practice. Books and conferences can show the pastor how to deal with the congregation, but not much is out there for the people who really need to un-

Books and conferences can show the pastor how to deal with the congregation, but not much is out there for the people who really need to understand and love this servant of God.

People can love, hate, need, care for, envy, despise, and look up to, all in the same day. The pastor's spouse...

The following thoughts are designed to help you take care of your parsonage family. I pray that you will take this seriously, and put the understand and love this servant of God. Here's to you, and the journey of loving your pastor.

As a pastor's wife, I know the importance of being prayed for. There have been true prayer warriors on our behalf. And most im-

Pray for his own prayer life to be productive

Find out when his devotional time is and commit to praying for your pastor during that time. Even if you can do this only once a week, it will benefit him more than you'll know. Find others who will commit to the other days. Can you imagine the change in pastors and their ministries when this kind of prayer support happens on a daily basis?!!

Pray for his family

The pastor's wife and children aren't perfect (contrary to popular belief), and they need your prayers. Pray that they will be supportive and loving. Pray that their mor-
Pray for all of the lay staff as well—musicians, etc. The prayers that you lift up for the church itself will be most beneficial. Pray for hearts to be open as Christ is shared. Pray for your town, or specific members of your congregation each day.

Need help with some ways to show appreciation? Here are a few of my favorites:

- Have a Pastor Appreciation Night. Surprise him with a potluck supper, a few jokes, his favorite dessert, and a card shower from the congregation. He’ll smile for weeks after.

- Do you use your church sign for the sermon topic only? Be creative and use it to welcome your pastor and his family home after their vacation. Let the whole town know that you missed them and appreciate their service to you. Don’t have a sign? Make a banner and string it from one side of the house to the other. Do this for birthdays and anniversaries, too. I guarantee that the smiles will last for a long time!

- How do you celebrate the years that the pastor has served your church? Or can you remember? Many churches use the five and 10-year marks as special gift times. Something special (that he doesn’t know about!) done during the service can be effective. How about a gift certificate to a favorite restaurant or store? Keep listening for creative possibilities. And don’t forget your youth when you plan special occasions.

- Are you waiting for the pastor and family to move in? Consider filling the pantry or freezer.

- Is the parsonage ready to move? Is the parsonage ready to move? Is the parsonage ready to move? Asking God to give him the rest he needs (and deserves) and the time to spend with family. Pray that other church members will be sensitive to the pastor’s need for time alone, and to respect this area of his life.

Pray for him to be encouraged

Maybe you will be the answer to his prayer. Giving the pastor a word of love when least expected is a great boost to any day. Even the simplest of phrases can mean so much when the week has been long and hard.

Giving the pastor a word of love when least expected is a great boost to any day. Even the simplest of phrases can mean so much when the week has been long and hard.

Pastors at risk

How to support your pastor through prayer, affirmation, and accountability

by H.B. London Jr., with Dean Merrill

In churches large and small, a delightful topic of conversation is always the pastoral family: what they wear, what they drive, where they go on vacation, how the kids behave, what their house looks like, etc. Though many church folks may not stop to view this from the other side, ministers have a common phrase for it: “Life in the fishbowl.” Pastors start to feel that the congregation not only holds a set of expectations but, in addition, intends to help the pastor and family live up to them. Now, that’s pressure! In more than a few churches, of course, the pastoral household never measures up. The inability to be “perfect goldfish” causes them to leave a church prematurely, or even to throw up their hands, crying “What’s the use?” and leave the ministry altogether.

What can church members do to prevent this?

The first step is to realize that a pastor is not a goldfish.

Have you ever taken time to watch beautiful creatures swimming gracefully in their confine? They seem so serene, safe, and well-fed as they cruise from one side of the bowl to the other... But do they enjoy being on display 24 hours a day? What do they think of those piercing eyes of the outside world that stare at them? I was a “preacher’s kid” in a family filled with preachers, and I’ve been a pastor myself for 31 years. My parents never lived next door to the church we served, but I had grandparents and aunts and uncles who did. Even as a young boy, I could not understand why church people didn’t respect my relatives’ privacy.

It was almost as though the pastor was just the caretaker of the parsonage, and when folks needed to use the phone, get a drink of water, use the restroom—or just pop in for a chat—they did. In fact, I scarcely remember my grandfather without a tie and suit coat. He knew what the church expected of him, and so, from early morning until late in the evening, he wore a coat and tie.

The churches my wife, Beverley, and I served were wonderful to us and our two boys. They afforded us special opportunities and marvelous kindness—but I did notice that smaller congregations seemed to scrutinize their pastors more than larger ones. In my first pastorate, I remember having to get the board’s permission not only to paint the parsonage, but even what color to use. Needless to say, as soon as we (with the help of my mom and dad) could scrape up the funds for a down payment on our own home, we did. Unfortunately, that was not until our fourth year in ministry.

The care and emotional feeding of the pastor and family is often complex and confusing. Here are some suggestions that can make a big difference in the lives of ministers, and their long-term ability to guide you.
family than about any other area, with the exception of the pastor's life and spirituality. If merit raises cannot be given every year, at least a cost-of-living increase should be granted.

One of the saddest commentaries on the church is that some pastors are treated upon retirement. The horror stories that come from many of our retired elders are dreadful. If your pastor does not understand the importance of retirement benefits, please provide some reputable counsel. It is not the pastor's responsibility alone to plan for the future—"the congregation has a role to play as well. In all these areas, the point is not to make anyone rich. It is to give a pastor the freedom to minister instead of worry.

Time for restoration and relaxation

In a pastor's life, the "light" is always on. There's always another phone call to make, another parishioner to visit, a sermon to prepare, a conference to attend, a vacation to schedule—"not to mention a family to manage.

All pastors need time away with their families, as well as time alone with their God. One very popular minister compares many pastors to "wagons with their wheels coming off, heading for the ditch." If your pastor is to do better than this, free time is a must. Specifically:

A day off! Let pastors pick the best day for them, and then respect their privacy. Don't call... don't interrupt... unless, of course, there's a true emergency.

One frustrated pastor wrote to me, "The issue I believe that church people—pastors and laymen—need to hear about is boundaries. The pastor and the people need to realize that the pastor does not solve their problems. We are not God, and we are not omnipotent." You and I should have at least two weeks each year, and because they are asked to serve on so many holidays, they should also receive replacement days for those occasions. The lay leaders should not only insist on this for the pastor and family taking the vacation, but should assist in finding and funding pulpit supply when necessary.

One of the saddest stories I ever heard concerned a church board that docked the pastor for vacation time while he attended his daughter's funeral. (She had been killed in an automobile accident.) A church like that does not even deserve a pastor. All pastors should have personal and bereavement days, just like you do on your job. It is my feeling that vacation time should be determined by the number of years the pastor has served in full-time ministry—not the tenure at a particular church. For instance, someone who has been a pastor for 15 years should receive at least four weeks vacation, despite the fact that he or she may have been in the present post only two years.

Conferences and Retreats. So often, pastors go dry from giving and giving without any spiritual nurture of their own. Who pastors the pastor?

When possible, the church should provide at least one opportunity a year for its pastor to be fed. This might be a conference, a spiritual retreat, or a denomination functional. Every church will be better served if its leader is filled with new motivation.

"Diet." Spending time alone with your spouse is essential to a healthy union. Married pastors need that, too. I must confess that in the early years of my ministry, Beverly and I did not set aside much free time to be together. I am excited to hear that more pastors and their spouses are dating again—"as least once each month.

Caring parishioners can offer themselves for baby-sitting duty. It is a proven fact that when a pastor and spouse are communicating and happy in their relationship, their effectiveness in the church is greatly enhanced.

Prayer, love, and encouragement

This is an unbeatable combination! As a very young pastor, I had folk who stood beside me when I really didn't deserve their loyalty. I was inexperienced, prone to error, and frightened by the magnitude of my assignment. But people believed in me and saw the potential I could not see.

Pray for your pastor! This is, in fact, the very best thing you can do (1 Tim. 2:1-2). Not only is prayer the greatest show of support, but it is very difficult to pray for someone and be critical at the same time. I personally believe a great degree of discord in the church today results from inadequate prayer. People have allowed differences to divide them.

Prayer not only changes things, but it empowers pastors to be the persons God called them to be. Of all the phrases that thrilled me, the one that I most often repeated out of love for God and the people I served was, "Pastor, I'm praying for you."

In addition, love and encourage your pastor. Don't let little things get blown out of proportion. Sometimes this happens to the point of dividing a church and even triggering the pastor's dismissal. This results in a kind of pain that never goes away.

As a church body, we need to show the world—and one another—that good conquers evil, and that love is the greatest force in the world. Jesus said that it is easy to say, "I love you," but love needs to be demonstrated. Show it! Send a note of encouragement. Remember your pastor's birthday and anniversary. Recognize your pastor's employment anniversary each year in some tangible way (1 Thessalonians 5:11). Launch a "Pastor Appreciation Day" each year.

I can almost guarantee you that, in return, your pastor will give the very best to you, and the congregation. Encouragement begets faithful service.

In many ways, the laity can make or break a pastor. You have an awesome responsibility to see that your pastor can stand before you, with heart and soul prepared to open the Word of God, and deliver a message that is anointed truth. Your pastor's mind should be free of distraction and controversy.

Willingness to dream

In nearly every letter I read from pastors who describe their dreams for their congregations, I hear a cry for people committed to fulfilling the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20). Many pastors are literally at their wit's end because so many people are simply not involved in the major assignment of the body of Christ—spiritual reproduction. "Tell me how," they say, "to get my people to realize that spiritual reproduction is not an option; it is expected of every person who is known by the name of Christ."

The great mission we face cannot be clergy-driven. The clergy must teach and lead, but the laity must respond out of love for God and people. The battle against abortion, pornography, immorality, and the ever-increasing demise of traditional family values must be fought by convinced believers—not simply by committed clergy. For this to happen, there must be a 'renewal within the church. The church must repent, and feel sorrow for its unwillingness to be salt and light" (Matthew 5:13-16).

In a magazine editorial called "America's Toughest Job," Moody Bible Institute president Joseph M. Stowell writes, "Pastoring is tougher because of our culture's consumer mindset. Once, the work ethic prevail in America. People went to church...

How to appreciate your pastor

by Mark H. Brasier

I asked over 100 pastors from across the denomination (Free Will Baptists) what made them feel appreciated. Here are their top responses:

1. For the church to show stronger commitment to service.
2. To have the church honor my weekly schedule and time.
3. The third highest response was a tie between increased vacation time and a love offering.
4. Others included a gift, and a raise in salary.

Consider a sabbatical

Other things can not only keep the pastor happy, but also benefit the church by having a more qualified pastor. One idea is to provide the pastor with a sabbatical. For you and I, in some places, a pastor was expected to fill the pulpit from September through May. A radical idea? Perhaps, but imagine the impact such a schedule would have on a pastor's ministry growth, and the usual assumptions made regarding a pastor's presence is an impossible one. The church must assure him that it will allow him to do that by allowing a sabbatical.

For you and I, it is said that the sabbatical is to rest, reflect, and assist in finding and training a more qualified pastor. The church must assure him that it will allow him to do that by allowing a sabbatical.

Another idea that will assist the church is continuing education. George Barma of the Barma Research Group reports that, "Many pastors are among the most occupationally frustrated people in America," partly because 'the old strategies for ministry growth, and the usual assumptions about people's motivations, are no longer valid.'

Your pastor needs to continually grow with the changes in the ministry. Allow him to do that by instructing him to take the time and energies needed to attend quality classes, seminars, and conferences that will help him to become a better minister. The church must assure him that it will assist him by paying for educational events, and by teaming with him in ministry to give him the necessary time to be part of these equipping events.

A learning pastor will be more creative, peacemore depth, and will be more competent to handle the situations that your church may face.

Make a choice

What will you and your church do? Whatever you do, make an intentional choice, and remember that what you invest in your pastor will probably allow you to reap dividends in the success of your church. Your pastor will be happier, you will be happier, and God will receive the glory!*

* The Rev. Mark Brasier pastors Victory Free Will Baptist Church in Kansas City, Mo. Reprinted with permission from Contact, August 1992.

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Your pastor called me last night  
by Joseph Ange

Sometimes people seem to think that the pastor is free from problems and troubles. They act as if the pastor is always on cloud nine. When I was young in the ministry, I thought that if I could keep the finances coming in and the church growing, that my troubles would be non-existent. I thought that most folks would love me and my family, and show their appreciation for us.

I had a rude awakening. While being a pastor and building churches is one of the most rewarding and exciting things anyone can do, I soon learned that trials and problems come to pastors. This is true of your pastor.

Opposition

Your pastor called me last night. He was concerned about the opposition that had risen in the church. Since he is young and inexperienced, he didn't know how to cope with the problem. He was finding it easy to look for 'greener pastures.'

After counsel, he decided to be more faithful, keep winning souls, and turn the matter over to God. Will you encourage your pastor? Will you be more patient and faith­ful? Most of the time, opposition turns out to be temporary irritations that are usually overcome.

Disappointment

Your pastor called me last night. He was crushed by disappointment. Some of those he trusted the most had backslidden. They forgot the promises they made to God and their pastor. Your pastor's dreams were shattered and his plans drastically changed. He felt alone because key people had failed.

I told him that Abraham had his Lot. Paul had his Demas. Jeremiah had his dungeon. I pray that your pastor will not let backsliders and those who dishonor him rob him of his joy and effectiveness in the work. Perhaps your pastor needs a call from you today. I know he needs your prayers and faithful support. Can he depend on you?

Discouragement

Your pastor called me last night. He shared with me his discouragement and his wife's discouragement. He said even his children were discouraged.

I found out that he had worked hard. He had been faithful to his pastoral duties. Nevertheless, the people's lack of response, their coldness, and the failure of the church to grow were troubling him. His family also was troubled. Quite frankly, he was at the point of resigning.

He needs to seek out the real needs of the people and addres those needs. Like Elijah and David, he needs to encourage himself in the Lord. And I think, like Elijah, he may just need some sleep, food, and a new vision from God.

A good worry-free, all-expenses-paid vacation may be all your pastor needs to dispel the discouragement and depression. You see, your pastor has no pastor to go to when he is burdened. God may want you to meet that need today.

Financial neglect

Your pastor called me last night. He was deeply hurt. He felt neglected by the people he loves the best—his own church. He and his growing family are in an unequal financial crunch. Medical bills have piled up. He is not able to pay his bills when they come due. No one seems to care.

Unreasonable demands in the face of financial difficulties, the rising cost of living, and unexpected bills with an inadequate salary have almost driven him and his family to despair. The board and church need to carefully review your pastor's financial needs. This worthy man of God could be greatly helped by a timely raise in salary.

Also, a well-planned Pastor Appreciation Day with bountiful food, glowing fellowship, generous funds, and extra love would go a long way to alleviate the burden and financial stress. He just might be able to get the car repaired, buy some needed clothes, and even take a vacation if adequate attention was given to his financial needs.

Forgiveness

Your pastor called me last night. He was concerned that some of the members had been offended and their feelings hurt. He sincerely 

7. Remember, he's human!

If you don't believe that, ask his wife (or her husband). Jesus chose 12 disciples who had many shortcomings. At various times they displayed lack of faith, lack of courage, and even lack of common sense. But Jesus used them in spite of their failings. Your pastor is no different from the rest of us; he has strong points and weak points, but God uses him anyway.

God commissions the pastor to serve Christ and His church. He also calls lay people to fill important roles. One of those jobs is to encourage your pastor as he fulfills his calling.

Volunteer to help in small ways.

Be creative. Find out how your skills and gifts can be used.

1. Be sensitive to his difficult schedule (Eph. 4:28).
   If you were to him on the street and he doesn't even seem to see you, or if he appears preoccupied or
gry. There will most often be a good explanation for his behavior. Too many people have left churches over small conflicts, real or imagined, with their pastors. Clear the air by being honest and by giving him a chance to do the same.

2. Volunteer to help in small ways (2 Cor. 9:12).
   Maybe you can do an hour or two of office work that has been piling up. If there are children (especially small ones) in the parsonage, a few hours of free babysitting might be appreciated. Be creative. Find out how your skills and gifts can be used.

3. Pray for him (2 Thess. 3:1).
   If you've been in ministry, you know that prayer is what he needs most. Pray that God will give him wisdom. Tell him you're praying for him.

4. Tell him he is appreciated (1 Thess. 5:11).
   Nothing lifts a pastor like a verbal "pat on the back," or a sincere "well done." Was this week's sermon especially meaningful? Tell him on the way out of church. If words fail you at the door, write a note.

6. Realize he can't do it alone (Eph. 4:11-13, 16).
   His job is to equip us to do the work of the church. Too often the minister is viewed as being "his job," while the rest of us are spectators.

5. Help him help the pastor.
"The Good Parson"
by Don A. Sanford, historian

The Good Parson

A parish priest was of the pilgrim train;
An awful, reverend, and religious man.
His eyes diffused a venerable grace,
And charity itself was in his face.
Rich was his soul, though his attire was poor
(As God had clothed his own ambassador); For such, on earth, his blessèd Redeemer bore.

Of sixty years he seemed; and well might last To sixty more, but that he lived too fast;
Refined himself to soul, to curb the sense;
Nothing reserved or sullen was to see:
Mild was his accent, and his action free,
With eloquence innate his tongue was arm'd;
With what he begg'd, his brethren he relieved,
By many follow'd; loved by most, admired by all,

To serve the sick, to succour the distress'd;
Tempting, on foot, alone without afright,
The dangers of a dark, tempestuous night.

The proud he tamed, the penitent he cheer'd:
Nor to rebuke the rich offender fear'd.
For priests, he said, are patterns
For, when the precious coin is kept unclean,
(The gold of heaven, who bear the God impress'd:)

A parish priest was of the pilgrim train;
An awful, reverend, and religious man.
A parish priest was of the pilgrim train;
A parish priest was of the pilgrim train;
Faith in a rock-solid God

by James Skaggs

The metaphor of “the Rock” for God has always been a powerful one for me. It conveys a sense of absolute security: immovable, unchanging, permanent, secure shelter against the elements. (It probably helps that I didn’t grow up in California.)

But this Rock is immovable and certain.

Moses used that image in his song to Israel before his death. He said:

“I will proclaim the name of the LORD.
Oh, praise the greatness of our God.
He is the Rock, His works are perfect,
and all His ways are just.
A firm foundation is built on the Rock.

And David, again and again:

“The Rock”

Faith in God is faith in Someone Who is utterly reliable—Someone Who can be trusted absolutely.

A firm foundation is one built on the Rock.

Faith in God is faith in Someone Who is utterly reliable—Someone Who can be trusted absolutely.

While traveling across Africa this fall, I was pleased at the way we were welcomed. Even in the hotels and businesses, the people were warm and friendly. They appeared to go out of their way to help and advise me. I thank God for His presence and protection throughout the journey.

I was also pleased that we were able to communicate with the people. God always supplied us with an interpreter, or the people spoke English. In many of the places, the people between the ages of 10 and 30 knew several languages. Thankfully, English was one; it is taught in school.

In the Netherlands, we stayed with Pastor Fris Nieuwstraten. His children spoke Spanish and German, as well as English and Dutch. It was quite an eye-opener to see what young people can do when expected. (I wonder why we expect so little of our children in the United States?)

In every country we visited, we found tremendous needs for any amount of finances that we could part with. I could have spent the total budget of the Missionary Society in Kisii, Kenya. The church and its buildings needed a lot of help. That was the way it was all over. However, I did notice that the people attending our churches were no worse or no better off than those around them. In fact, if you looked at their smiles, you might say they were better off in their attitude, if not materially.

The land was beautiful, even in the arid area of Kenya. If you have ever lived in that type of climate, you will understand. God placed beauty in every area of His creation. The people care for their land and preserve most of its natural beauty. They are proud of their land and thankful for what it provides them.

I had the opportunity to talk with many of the pastors and lay preachers. Most of them did not ask for money. Most of them asked for study materials, tracts, or clothing for their churches and family (even used clothing we throw away). So, if you need a ministry, just use your funds to purchase study materials, Bibles, counseling guides and books, and clothing to send to the pastors. I will be glad to make a list of names and addresses available to anyone wanting to help. I would recommend you work as a church group, since pooled funds go so much farther.

Tools were another need. But, the nationals can usually purchase their tools more economically in their country. Some of them have very specialized tools for their particular area and crop. Again, we would be happy to transfer funds to these churches.

Most of the churches are meeting in what they call “temporary houses.” The walls are made of inside and outside frames composed of bamboo or other sticks. The space between the frames is about 3 or 4 inches. This is then filled with mud and allowed to dry. Water proofing (if done at all) is a white-wash painted on.

I believe all of the churches we visited planned to have permanent buildings. These were mostly made of fire-baked blocks. The blocks are made by hand, employing the same process used in Malawi. The metal roof is the largest expense.

Is it not interesting that everywhere we go the needs are the same? Maybe, if we just looked around at our own neighbors, friends, and fellow citizens, we could see what is needed in other countries. Maybe, just maybe, we could see our way to help those close to us. Let’s reach out to those less fortunate, and help—not support—but help them.

Meeting needs, near and far

by Kirk Looper

Faith in God is faith in Someone Who is utterly reliable—Someone Who can be trusted absolutely.
Christian Education by Ernest K. Bee Jr.

A pastor's dream: Christian service

Sabbath School Superintendent Ed Christian settled comfortably into the large lounge chair in the parsonage living room and asked Pastor Jus Start, "Would I be able to join the Caregivers group? Do I have to be a member of the diaconate to be eligible?"

Pastor Start replied, "Ed, the Caregivers are those who wish to join in a special ministry of support, prayer, and friendship for other members of the church. Caregivers include others in addition to the deacons and deaconesses.

"We would love to have you join the group, but do you think you would have the available time? You're doing such a terrific job with the Sabbath School!"

"You are always at the church 30 minutes before Sabbath School begins. You adjust the heat, turn on the lights, and check the rooms for sufficient supplies, like markerboard pens or chalk. You check with the Sabbath School teachers when they arrive concerning their special needs for the day.

"You greet the visitors and help them find an appropriate class. You provide 'missed you' cards for the teachers to add a personal note to those who are absent, and then you mail them. I, personally, know that you frequently go with the teachers to visit their students' homes.

"Ed, you substitute during emergencies and chair the bi-monthly teacher's meetings. You provide me with a Sabbath School report on attendance and any special concerns each Sabbath afternoon. Under your supervision the Sabbath School is a growing, well-run, exciting experience.

"Ed, if all our members were as dedicated as you, this church wouldn't need a pastor. You make my tasks in the church a real joy."

"Every since my wife, Grace, died last year, I've tried to keep busy. I don't know what I would do if the folks at work, at Sabbath School; Deacon Willing; and you, Pastor, weren't here for me. I like to keep busy.

"It's lonely, you know. I just thought I could help out. You give your time and energy to our needs, and I know some of us don't really help all we should. We let you carry too much of the ministry load of the church."

"I remember the night Grace died. Pastor, you and Deacon and Faith Willing stayed through the night. You all stayed and cried and prayed with me.

"I'll never forget what you did for me, and for Grace, too. I wanted to help you in return."

"Ed, if all our members were as dedicated as you, this church wouldn't need a pastor. You make my tasks in the church a real joy."

Superintendent Christian looked at Pastor Start and explained,

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SUPERINTENDENT CHRISTIAN looked at Pastors Start and explained,
Riverside sings praises
by Marilyn Merchant

Greetings from Riverside, Calif., the "Shake and Bake" capital of the country this past summer. It has been a strange year for us, but our blessings have so outweighed our disappointments that we can only praise our Lord for them.

With Christmas fast approaching, our choir director decided to present excerpts from Handel's "Messiah." Also planned is the children's Christmas play, "Three Wise Kings."

We elected Dr. Steven Packard as president of our congregation during our annual business meeting, George Tichy, M.S., was appointed Minister of Missions, a new position resulting from our many planning sessions. Cheryl Petti and Tami Royer were commissioned as deaconesses at a Sabbath morning worship service.

Poor economic conditions have hit us, like the rest of the country. Our attendance fluctuated some, but with the coming of fall, many of the vacationers returned. Because of the need for financial responsibility, we have again decided to share our facility with another church. They will use the building on Sunday, with separate offices on the premises.

Twice this year, we have been blessed with special father/son happenings. The Rev. Dale Thorngate was present to participate in the ordination of his son, the Rev. David Thorngate. It was a most moving experience to witness the blessing of this beautiful family in our Lord's service.

Our second occurrence was in the form of a miracle. After extensive brain surgery on one of our young fathers, the physicians were sure that he was not going to make it. This was a prognosis our church just wouldn't accept—unless it was God's will. We really pulled together in prayer, fasting, anointing with oil, all of which the Bible tells us is the proper pattern to follow.

God won! Charles "Chip" May has been back for Sabbath morning services. He has much therapy yet to go through, but on the morning he returned for the first time, there were few dry eyes as the members rose to their feet and sang the doxology—"Praise God from Whom all blessings flow..." We joyfully acknowledge it.

We are on our knees, literally, each week seeking the Father's will for us as a church and as a family.

—Marilyn Merchant

New deacons, new building in New York
by Linda Anderson

Sabbath and Sunday, May 29-30, 1992, were two special days for Pastor Richard Evans and members and friends of the New York City SDB Church, Brooklyn, N.Y.

On Sabbath, the Ordination Service for our deacons and deaconesses took place. They are: Brother Leonard Stewart, Brother Harold Smith, Sister Vera Stewart, Sister Rose Henny (now residing in Atlanta, Ga.), Sister Wilhelmina Powell (now living in Florida). May God continue to guide them as they minister in His holy name.

On Sunday, May 30, we celebrated the Dedication Service for our church building. Kirk Looper, Executive Vice President of the SDB Missionary Society, delivered the dedication address taken from Haggai 2:1-9, in which he admonished us to continue building "the temple."

Refreshments were served at the end of the service, thus concluding two historic days for the New York City SDB Church.
The old philosophy of a pastor “suffering for Jesus’ sake” does not hold water, especially if the people are able to provide for the pastoral needs.

Your pastor called, cont. from page 12

• Most important of all, your pastor must be committed to personal holiness. So many clergy are successful, but they are burned out, worn out, frustrated, and fatigued. If ever there was a time when pastors needed to know they are viewed not with a critical spirit but with encouragement and affirmation, it is now. As Aaron and Hur held up the arms of Moses when he grew weary, every pastor should have the stabilizing forces of a family and an extended church family—colleagues who will stand alongside in understanding and compassion.

As I look back at my life in the pastoral ministry, I have few regrets. I do wish I had studied more, traveled less, and given my family more time, but I can’t do much about that now. I can, however, try to help churches, pastors, and their families realize their hopes and dreams. As a pastor, I have tried to do my very best calling. You are the people. The people must love their pastor.

Second, the pastor must respect the congregation. The people must respect their pastor.

Third, the pastor must be a responsible man in word and deed. The church members must respond to the pastor’s leadership lovingly and faithfully.

Fourth, there is the matter of faithfulness. A faithful pastor will try effective. These four apply to the pastoral leadership.

Your pastor called, cont. from page 12

wished to know what to do. According to God’s Word, I said that the pastor and people need to learn how to say, “I am sorry. Please forgive me.”

The pastor and the people, I said, must realize that offenses will come. These offenses must be settled by the Scriptures. This means that loving, personal contact must be made between your pastor and the offended church member. Love and forgiveness will prevail when applied.

As I said to the pastor, “Problems will come. Expect them. Please don’t create them. By God’s grace, solve them.”

The other side

Your pastor called me last night. His exuberance, joy, and excitement blessed me. The church had surprised him and his family with a Pastor Appreciation Day, honoring his faithfulness to God and his leadership to the church. He told me about all the wonderful things the church had planned for that day.

These included a “This is Your Life” presentation, and heartwarming testimonies from many friends, old and new. They also presented gifts from various departments of the church, including the keys to a new automobile and a trip to the Holy Land. They flooded him with cards, letters, and personal gifts. Your pastor and your church will profit from such an outpouring of gratitude and love.

The pastor went on to extol the church for their spirit of cooperation, faithfulness, and steadfastness. He emphasized the great help that the second-milers, the prayer warriors, and the soul winners had been to him. The conversation didn’t end without him sharing the ministry of two faithful deacons who had held high his hands during his entire ministry there. They were his Aaron and Hur.

Four principles

Your pastor called me last night. He is your pastor; you are his people.

There are four outstanding aspects that make the pastoral ministry effective. These four apply to both pastor and people.

First, the pastor must love his people. The people must love their pastor.

Second, the pastor must respect the congregation. The people must respect their pastor.

Third, the pastor must be a responsible man in word and deed. The church members must respond to the pastor’s leadership lovingly and faithfully.

Fourth, there is the matter of faithfulness. A faithful pastor will try effective. These four apply to the pastoral leadership.
Accessions

December
- Daytona Beach, FL
  - John Comenga, pastor
  - Joined after baptism

Phyllis Thompson
Christine Francis
Joined after testimony
Thelma Stevens

New York City, NY
Richard Knox, pastor
Joined after baptism
Lorraine Calame
Maureen Richards
Kathryn Venner
Joined after testimony
Grace Dinnall
Ann Granville
Lorna Saunders
 Joined after baptism
Lorna Saunders
Joined after testimony
Mary Lou Beers

Miami, FL
Andrew Samuels, pastor
Joined after baptism

Westerly, RI
David Taylor, pastor
Joined by letter
Betty White

October
- Chatawa, MS
  - Ralph Hays, pastor
  - Joined after baptism

Stephanie Lee
 Joined after testimony
Jackie Miller
Emmert Mackley
 Dennis Walker
Joined after testimony
Dean Green
Mary Keister (assoc.)

JUNE
- Ft. Worth, TX (Grated)
  - Harley Harkins, pastor
  - Joined after baptism

Clayton Corman
Paula Corman
Karen Petrie
Joined after baptism

BIRTHS

Holmes.—A son, Elliott Donald Holmes, was born on July 19, 1992, to Darlene Holmes, and Summer Holmes of Grove City, OH, on June 23, 1992.

Perez.—A daughter, Manuela Darlene Perez, was born to Ray and Jamie Perez of Columbus, OH, on August 4, 1992.

Shavers.—A son, Darren Shavers II, was born to Darren and Brandi Shavers of Battle Creek, MI, on August 13, 1992.

Robert and Emma Greene of Centralburg, OH, are the adoptive parents of Morgan L. Shavers, who was born to Sherry Shavers and Robert Shavers on July 16, 1992.

Ross.—A daughter, Chantelle Patricia Ross, was born to William and Luan Ross of Fort Lauderdale, FL, on September 5, 1992.

Worm.—A daughter, Abigail Worm, was born to Kurt and Debra Worm of Battle Creek, MI, on September 24, 1992.

McNemey.—A son, Jeremy Riordan McNemey, was born to Steve and Vivian (Bass) McNemey of Somers, MT, on October 6, 1992.

MARRIAGES

Williams - Lonowski.—Kevin Williams and Ann Lonowski were united in marriage on July 10, 1992, at Fort Hallauff, NE. The Honorable Judge Pauline Grooms officiated.

Borer - Dutcher.—Keith Borer and Nora Kay Dutcher were united in marriage on August 15, 1992, at the North Loop (NE) SDB Church. The Rev. Don Gillette officiated.

Robinson.—Susan E. ("Susie") Robinson, 86, of Friendship, N.Y., died on May 4, 1991, in St. Francis Hospital, Olean, N.Y., after a lingering illness. She was a member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Friendship (Nile). After her death, she became a member of the Richburg (N.Y.) SDB Church. She was a member of the Richburg SDB Church and was a member of the choir in Nile. Paul was a longtime political figure in Allegany County and the Town of Wirt.

Survivors include one son, R. Rogers Baker of Hamden; one sister, Evelyn Derr of Lucerne, Calif.; seven grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at the Richburg SDB Church on July 24, 1991, with the Rev. Stephen F. Saunders officiating. Burial was in the Richburg Cemetery.

SDB Church.

Baker.—Paul C. Baker, 97, of Hamden, N.Y., died on July 18, 1991, in his home. He was a veteran of World War II, and was a member of the Battle Creek Post 64 American Legion.

He was born on August 7, 1903, in Kings Run, Cerro, PA, to Chester H. and Barbara (Schroll) Baker. On December 31, 1918, he married the former Hannah E. Perkins in Little Genesee, N.Y.

She died in 1989.

Paul was a dairy farmer all of his life, and owned and operated a farm in Friendship, N.Y., until 1960. He had lived in Friendship for 72 years before moving to Hamden in 1980 to live with his son.

He was a 70-year active member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Friendship (Nile). After his death, he became a member of the Richburg (N.Y.) SDB Church.

He served as church moderator, temple, and Sabbath School teacher, and was a member of the choir in Nile. Paul was a longtime political figure in Allegany County and the Town of Wirt.

Survivors include one son, R. Rogers Baker of Hamden; one sister, Evelyn Derr of Lucerne, Calif.; seven grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

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Obituaries

Lukein.—Emma Leo Lukein, 89, died on May 18, 1992.

The youngest of five children, she was born on April 5, 1903, to Herbert and Emma Greene of North Loop, Neb. She married Lloyd C. Lukein on May 23, 1927.

Leo was a charter member of the First SDB Church of Columbus, Ohio. Baptized at North Loop, she was first a member of that church, then the Battle Creek church; and, finally, the Columbus church. She was a charter member of the First SDB Church, and was a charter member of the Richburg SDB Church.

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The SR

May graduated from Milton (Wis.) College in 1939 where she studied English literature and music. She married Ralph Winch of Milton Junction, Wis., on June 8, 1936, and then joined him in Madison, Wis., where he was a graduate student.

The Winches moved to Williamstown in 1931. Mary taught piano and was active in the First Congregational Church, serving as a deaconess and in the Sunday School. She served on the Williamstown School Committee, and on the Williamstown Housing Authority. Mary was a volunteer at Recording for the Blind, the Girl Scouts, and the Women's Exchange.

Survivors include one sister, Roger Winch of Stanton, Calif.; two daughters, Martha Asher of Williamstown and Katherine Wrigley of Tustin, Calif.; two brothers, Roger Johnson of Tucson, Ariz., and Edwin Johnson of Nortonville, Kan.; four grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and nieces and nephews. Her husband, Ralph, died in 1980.

A memorial service was held on September 17, 1992, at the First Congregational Church, Williamstown.

Shaw—Leland C. Shaw, 95, died on October 8, 1992, at Memorial Community Hospital, Edgerton, Wis.

He was born on March 3, 1897, in Milton, Wis., the son of Dr. Ed-

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The Cross Road

From the manger and the straw,
In that simple barnyard stall,
Where the shepherds stood in awe;
My Lord Jesus came!

Gently moved by light of day
To a home along the way,
Where the Magi knelt to pray;
My Lord Jesus came!

 Forced to flee to Egypt land,
To avoid an iron hand,
Knowing God was in command;
My Lord Jesus came!

Early training as a lad,
Living, learning with his dad,
Sometimes laughing, sometimes sad;
My Lord Jesus came!

Visiting the priests and seers
Clarifying for their ears
Wisdom far beyond His years;
My Lord Jesus came!

Miracles along the line;
Changing water into wine.
Caring, sharing—love divine;
My Lord Jesus came!

Teaching, healing, doing good
Demonstrating brotherhood
Doing what His Father would;
My Lord Jesus came!

Traveling the cross-bound lane
Never flinching from the pain
Knowing He must rise again;
My Lord Jesus came!

From the manger to the tree,
Down the path of life for me,
Jesus came and set me free;
Praise His holy name!!!

—Owen H. Probasco