“A Firm Foundation”
at the 1993 General Conference
Many delegates and friends praised the Lord on His Sabbath.

President James Stagg joins in on the theme hymn, "How Firm a Foundation."

Computer Buffs!!

Kyle Pratt has uploaded several SDB tracts into the CompuServe, Delphi, and Internet computer networks. Following a strong response, Kyle envisions that other networks and regional bulletins could use the same info.

If you can help spread our SDB witness through your computer, contact Kyle Pratt at:

410 Faire Chase
Chesapeake, VA 23320
(CompuServe: 76570,2133)
(Delphi/Internet: KDPRATT@DELPHI.COM)

Like to visit the Holy Land?

Herb and Barbara Saunders are hosting their seventh tour to Israel.
March 14-23, 1994

For information write:
Rev. Herbert E. Saunders
409 Rogers St.
Milton, WI 53563

Help Support our Future

The Council on Ministry desires the best education possible for our pastors. We continue to provide financial assistance to students pursuing their Master of Divinity degree. After many years of ministry, some pastors and denominational leaders seek the challenge of even higher education in the form of a Doctor of Ministry degree. This continuing education provides challenges to the individual's thinking and ministry which will ultimately benefit the local church and Seventh Day Baptists.

There are no funds in the Council on Ministry budget to support a Doctor of Ministry education. We need your help in the form of designated giving to the Doctor of Ministry fund. Help us to help you have the best educated church leadership possible.

SDB Board of Christian Education Annual Meeting
October 24, 1993
Alfred Station, NY
(Details in the Sept. SR)

Features

Getting down to business
by Larry Graffius and Janet Thorngate

Acting Executive Secretary report
by Calvin Babcock

A CROWNING success

Revs victorious in roundball challenge

How I spent my summer vacation
by Andrew Camenga and Leann Rogers

Bible study on suffering

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Cover photo: The massive and ornate stained glass window at Memorial Chapel on the campus of the University of Redlands.

Who are Seventh Day Baptists?

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

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

The seventh day

God commanded that the seventh day (Saturday) be kept holy. Jesus agreed by keeping it as a day of worship. We observe the seventh day of the week (Saturday) as God's Holy Day at an act of loving obedience—not as a means of salvation. Salvation is the free gift of God through Jesus Christ.

It is the joy of the Sabbath that makes Seventh Day Baptists just a little bit different. If you would like more information, write: Seventh Day Baptist Center, 3120 Kennedy Road, PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547-1678. Phone (608) 752-5055; FAX (608) 752-7711
Getting down to business at the University of Redlands

(Amids all the glorious fellowship, worship, and study, Conference delegates spent some quality time attending to business. The following reports, compiled by Larry Graffius and Janet Thorngate, appeared in the Conference Crier.)

Wednesday business session

Reports from five interest committees and two coordinators moved smoothly across the Conference floor on Wednesday afternoon. Three major items remained for Friday morning's agenda: reports from the Nominations and Women's Interest Committees, and action on the tabled motion regarding when to deal with the proposed revisions to the Statement of Belief.

Major action during the session included approval of the 1994 budget ($785,904) as proposed by the General Council. The undesignated amounts ($340,463) remain the same as in 1993.

Wednesday noon, including 262 delegates who represented 49 churches. Fifty-four children were enrolled in the Junior and Junior High Conferences, plus six in the nursery. Seventy-nine people attended Pre-Conference camps; 46 in Youth, 23 in Young Adult, and 10 staff.

The Communications Committee report highly commended the new promotional video, "A Choosing People—The Seventh Day Baptist Story." The committee encouraged churches and individuals to use it for evangelism and information in homes, churches, public libraries, and local TV stations.

Conference at a glance...

Program
- President Jim Skaggs presents the theme, "A Firm Foundation."
- Seminars, sermons, studies—it is hard to remember a Conference with so many good speakers!
- T&CC report—Hilarious, but highly informative.
- The Board of Christian Education unveiled their feature personality, the "S.D. Bee," who made his first live appearance.

People
- Robe of Achievement recipient: Dorotha (Payne) Shetzel
- Teacher of the Year: Dr. Pete May
- Ten SCSC workers served in five projects: Team "CROWN."
- Ministerial accreditation: Dennis Palmer, Lake Elsinore, Calif.

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Down to business, cont. from page 4

Editor Kevin Butler, Historian Don Sanford, and Sabbath Promotion Chairman Larry Graffius were also personally commended for effective work in their ministries. A report was made of the recent documented report on the Seventh Day Baptist relationship to the old Newport Meeting House; individuals are encouraged to join the Newport Historical Society and support their extensive research and restoration work on the meeting house. (Send your $25 membership dues to the Newport Historical Society, 82 Touro Street, Newport RI 02840.)

Other commendations went to Clayton Pinder for his work in editing the General Conference account; to Kristin Rood for her dedicated service at the SDB Center; to the Christian Social Action Committee for their distribution of funds to meet needs here and abroad; to Susan Bond for her service on that CSA committee; to canoeists Saunders and Rex Zwiebel (both posthumously) for their service through the Board of Christian Education; and to Charles Graffius for his many years of work in the SCSC program.

In his report, Acting Executive Secretary Calvin Babcock thanked Seventh Day Baptists for raising the 1993 budget in full (103%), and highlighted the present need to "catch up" in giving to support 1993 programs.

Other admonitions from approved reports:
- We are "urged" to continue supporting the SDB United Relief Fund, and we are asked to send overseas addresses of American and Canadian SDBs to the Missionsary Society. We should also notify the Society when gifts are sent directly to foreign countries (to prevent duplication).
- We are encouraged to funnel information on current issues and concerns to the Christian Social Action Committee.

Proposed changes (in italic) to the Seventh Day Baptist Statement of Belief

The Son
We believe in God the Son, who became incarnate in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He gave Himself on the cross as the complete and final sacrifice for sin. As our Risen Lord, He is the mediator between God the Father and mankind.

The Bible
We believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God, without error in the original writings, and is our final authority in matters of faith and practice. We believe that Jesus Christ, in His life and teachings as recorded in the Bible, is the supreme interpreter of God's will for mankind.

Friday's final session
Statement of Belief change referred

Following much debate, the final action on two proposed changes to the Statement of Belief was to refer them to the Faith and Order Committee, with no specific recommendation regarding subsequent procedure. In the final business session Friday, Convention rescinded its earlier action that instructed Faith and Order to present the proposed changes, along with suggested study materials, to the churches by January 14, 1994. Wednesday's tabled motion regarding dates for a Conference vote on the proposed revisions was ruled out-of-order by the Conference President. This was based on examining previously followed procedures for handling revisions of the Statement of Belief.

An additional suggestion from the Reference and Counsel Committee, which would have created a sub-committee to assist Faith and Order in preparing the study materials, was defeated.

Members of the Faith and Order Committee are John Couard, K.D. Hurley, Kenneth Burdick, Dale Rood, C. Rex Burdick, and Leland Bond, chairman. Correspondence regarding the proposed changes (see box below) may be sent to...

The proposals have been referred to the Faith and Order Committee.

Proposed changes to the Statement of Belief:

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Delegates lined up to share their opinions regarding the proposed changes to the Statement of Belief.
Down to business, cont. from page 6

the chairman: 380 US 301 Blvd.
W., 241D, Brandonton FL 34205.

New officers elected
The complete slate of officers presented by the Nominating Commit-
mittee was elected, mak-
ing Myrna Cox of Denver,
Colo., the new President-
Elect, and Mary Jane
McPherson of the Raritan
Valley, N.J., church the
second new member of
General Council. (They
replace Myron Soper and
Corneth Lawrence.) Mrs.
Cox will serve as Presi-
dent at sessions in
Houghton, N.Y., in 1996.
New Conference Presi-
dent, Rev. Leon R. Law-
ton of Westerly, R.I., will
preside over next year's
session at Bethany Col-
lege in Lindborg, Kan.

Conference at a glance, cont. from page 4

Business
- Primary topic of debate was two
proposed changes to the SDB Statement
of Belief. These were referred to the stand-
ing Committee on Faith and Order.
- President-Elect: Myrna Cox, Denver,
Colo.
- General Council member: Mary Jane
McPherson, Raritan Valley, N.J.
- Other new faces: COSAR, Ralph Weber,
Asheville, N.C.; T&CC, Venita Zinn, Sa-
lem, W.Va.

Statistics
- Youth Pre-Con, directed by Eric Davis,
had 46 campers, eight staffers. They
presented the musical, "Friends," at
Monday evening's vespers service.
- Youth Adult Pre-Con, directed by Bernie
Wethington, was attended by 23 great
"YAs," with two staff members. Their
singing and testimony at Tuesday ves-
pers was both exciting and inspiring.
- Conference registration numbered 466.
Associated Conference had 45 enrolled,
served by eight teachers. The nursery
swelled to as many as 271.
- Women's Love Gift: $2,681.48
- Conference Offering: $23,500 plus
- Basketball game score:
  Pastors—39, Youth—35.

Acting Executive Secretary report

Conference President James
Skaggs has chosen for this year's
Conference the theme, "A Firm
Foundation," with Hebrews 12:28
as the theme verse. He has encour-
gaged us to consider various aspects
of our Foundations in the Lord
as they relate to His Word, His
strength, His Presence, His Pur-
pose, and His Promise.
"Since we are receiving a king-
dom that cannot be shaken, let us
be thankful and so worship God
acceptably with reverence and awe"
(Hebrews 12:28).

Denominational Budget
For the first time in several
years, the current giving portion
of the budget was raised 103%. This
was possible only through the extra
financial effort made by many of
you in support of the Denomina-
tional Budget. Thank you!
Raising of the budget in full,
combined with the generous special
grants voted by the Memorial Fund
Trustees, made it possible for the
boards and agencies to complete
some projects being held for lack
of funding.

Film/video
After Conference at Carroll Col-
lege in 1992, much of my time has
been spent in coordinating the ac-
tivities surrounding the production
of our film/video, "A Choosing
People." The appointed committee
went to work after Conference.

The cooperation of all boards and
agencies continues to enhance the
total effectiveness of the General
Conference. Without this coopera-
tion, many of the projects we as a
Conference have undertaken could
not be completed.

Don Ruder reads a section of the General Council report to other members follow along.
A CROWNing success
by Linda Harris

As usual, the Summer Christian Service Corps program was not to be missed. The eight young ladies who presented the program made the stage look like a flower garden. (No, the SCSC team was not entirely female again this year! One young man, Rob Crane, had to leave early for college.)

The team members introduced themselves: Nicole Peters (who worked with Rob), Team "Confidence," Erin Burdick and Heather Van Horn, Team "Reckoning;" Leah Martin and Lora Dickinson, Team "One;" Heather Spaur and Tanya Henry, Team "Whisper;" and Kim Baker and Tanya Bonser (as of Tuesday, Tanya Bond, gone on her honeymoon!), Team "Nike:"

Together, they composed Team CROWN.

In addition to a skit where "Samantha Secularist" became "Just Samantha," and "still" scenes depicting typical SCSC situations (including Tanya Henry as "Puddles, the Wonder Dog"), the team sang some wonderful songs. The harmony on "I'm Yours, Lord" may be a cooperative effort with SCSC and Senior Saints working on a project next summer (which may appeal to more young men).

As Althea commented, there is a wonderful future—and present—in these young people!

(Reprinted from the Conference Crier.)

Revs victorious in 2nd annual roundball challenge

From the opening tip-off, there was never any doubt about the outcome. The Runnin' Revs galloped to a 10-point lead and held on to win the second annual Pastors-Youth Basketball Challenge.

The Youth team had speed, they had height, they had tenacious defense, but until the start of the second half, they lacked one key ingredient: shooting. Nothing would drop through the hoop for the youngsters! Meanwhile, the Runnin' Revs (read that "Perspiring Pastors") were hitting from underneath and inside.

The game itself was played in the Owens of Hades, also known as Currier Gymnasium, making frequent substitutions necessary. This proved especially beneficial to the Revs (read that "Panting Preachers"), who were aided this year by several wives on the squad. One woman escaped our identification, but late in the second half, she really flipped her wig! (Pastor Jim Galanaugh entered the game disguised as a woman.)

The young people in the stands showed especially good sportsmanship when several fellows came over to the Revs' cheering section and displayed a human banner lettered on their torsos: "GO FASTERS!-NOT!"

It almost looked like a repeat of last year's contest as the Resting Revs (read that "Panting Preachers") tried to sit on their lead. The Youth tied the score and went ahead temporarily. But the Resurging Revs (read that "Perspiring Pastors") hung on for the win, 39-35. One observer noted that the margin of victory was identical to last year's contest as the Resting Revs (read that "Panting Preachers") hung on for the win, 39-35. One observer noted that the margin of victory was identical to last year's Youth win. So the series is exactly deadlocked. Watch out next year! ³²

(Reprinted from the Conference Crier.)
How I spent my summer vacation

Discussing and directing
by Andrew Camenga

In some ways, the word “internship” has been scary for me, but it never conjured up as much anxiety as the word “director” did. Yet, thanks to the North Loup, Neb., SDB Church, I had the chance to experience both words—and live through them!

On May 25, I arrived at North Loup and started my summer internship under the leadership of Pastor Ken Burdick. Each week, except Tuesdays, we would have two discussion sessions about topics ranging from funerals to issues of conciseness. In between those discussions, I would read assigned material to help me better understand the issues. I would also prepare for the Sabbath worship service, or get ready to direct Senior Camp at Camp Riverview.

After almost three weeks in North Loup, I went to Janesville, Wis., for Summer Institute, and then back to North Loup for the camps. I had worried some about directing Senior Camp, but with 21 wonderfully mature campers and seven outstanding staffers, the week went well. And I think most of those involved even enjoyed it.

The camping season ended, and the regular discussion sessions started again. After Conference, it was back to North Loup and the chance to see the world famous Popcorn Days. On August 25, three months after I arrived, I flew home and then headed to school.

Hard work and good fun

Summer vacation? Yeah, right!! Usually the words “summer” and “vacation” go together really well. However, that could be considered a contradiction in terms when describing my summer vacation under the leadership of Pastor Loup and started my summer internship under the leadership of Pastor Ken Burdick. Each week, except Tuesdays, we would have two discussion sessions about topics ranging from funerals to issues of conciseness. In between those discussions, I would read assigned material to help me better understand the issues. I would also prepare for the Sabbath worship service, or get ready to direct Senior Camp at Camp Riverview.

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South Carolina for Southeastern Association meetings (also known as Beach Time!!), and I was an accomplice to a “Breaking of the Bridge” performance at Camp Joy. Just being able to fellowship with the youth and adults of the Salem church during the week (not just on Sabbath) was a blast! Hey, I even got to go fishing, which I hadn’t done since I was 5. And better yet, I actually caught a fish!!

My overall experience as a Dedicated Service Worker was one of great fun and learning about the Lord. I have grown in my walk with Him, and I fully expect to return again next year. You know what they say: “You can never get too much of a good thing.” And I feel that serving the Lord is a very good thing!!

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(12):0-:0, •.

“Jesus the Rock of Our Foundation”
Rev. Ronald Elston, Neelyville, Mo.
“Jesus the Rock of Our Foundation”
(Luke 6:46-49)

Pastor Crouch began to address the topic of “suffering,” and our Christian response to trial. We were led through several passages of Scripture that gave historical examples of people who suffered physically, emotionally, and/or spiritually. We looked at David (Psalms 38:48-49)

2. To produce good results (Rom. 5:3).
3. Causing dependence on God (Ps. 61:3).
4. Causing focus on eternal things (2 Cor. 4:17-18). 
5. Allowing us to see from God’s perspective (1 Pet. 5:10).

Several Scriptures were presented showing that, for Christians, suffering is a “given.” It was discovered that we will have suffering in this world (John 16:33).

Hardships will be numerous (Acts 14:21-22). Married people face troubles (1 Cor. 7:29). All who want a godly life will be persecuted (2 Tim. 3:12). Suffering is standard fare for the Christian (Rev. 1:9). And don’t be surprised at suffering, but rejoice (1 Pet. 4:12-13).

In summary, three points were offered. First, we don’t need to look for suffering; it will find us where we are. Secondly, we should never feel guilty about having to suffer. It will come to us the closer we follow our Lord. Finally, Jesus learned by suffering, and we can expect to follow His example if we are truly seeking to follow and serve Him. 

The best response is to call upon God—confessing our sin, if necessary—and rely on His strength to lift us up and reestablish us on our foundation.

Bible study on suffering

“Pastor Steve Crouch led the Thursday morning study on suffering
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The following report of our Women's Banquet was written for the Conference Crier by Norma Rudert.

As our Women's Society President, Donna Bond, welcomed 123 beautiful women of all ages to the annual banquet, many of us were reminded of last year's gathering which Donna was unable to attend. How we thank God today for the healing from Hodgkin's disease He has granted her!

The President recognized many "celebrities" in our midst, all workers in God's Kingdom in a variety of ways. Donna also brought greetings from Florence Bowden, who is now in a nursing home.

Meleta Babcock reported on the distribution of this year's Love Gift, as follows:

- New Robe of Achievement: $100
- Sunshine Mountain: 150
- Maidens Hall, Jamaica, camp: 600
- Gordon and Linda Layton: 600
- Translation and printing: 300

Registration fees for conferences in foreign countries: 300
- Bibles: 200
- Bicycle parts: 150

The last four gifts will be administered through the Missionary Society Board. Any amount over the allocated $2,400 will go to Summer Christian Service Corps (SCSC). As of Wednesday night, the Love Gift was $2,388.47.

A trio of SCSC girls—Kim Baker, Leah Martin, and Heather Van Horn—musically reminded us that life circumstances may change, but "You Remain Unchanged." Heather spoke of her summers with SCSC, and how God has used those experiences to work out His purpose and plan in her life.

Althea concluded by saying that the best thing she has learned in the retreats is that getting away helps us discover God's purpose for our own lives. "God is always faithful and His faithfulness always wins out." She encouraged us to let God "clean us up" so that He can flow freely through us.

Althea and Mary-Jane expressed gratitude for the prayers that have enabled them to overcome the roadblocks of busy lives, family illness, and job changes. Three women who have attended the retreats told about the abundant blessings. Cheri Appel, Jackie Payne, and Linda Greene touched on healed relationships, grief relief, and strengthened faith.

Woman's Board was urged to continue serving as secretary, and the Women's Board was through participation in the Women's Interest Committee. Linda Camenga of Daytona Beach, Fla., chaired the committee, with Jan Graffius of Lost Creek, Va., serving as secretary.

Twenty-three women shared their ideas and concerns, and helped draft the report given on the floor of Conference. Several items from the report you need to be aware of include:

1. The Milton and Albion, Wis., women will take remaining craft items to be sold, with the profits going to SCSC. The 1990 Conference craft sale total was $428.
2. The Women's Board was urged to compare the transportation costs for SCSC and consider alternate training sites based on the location of participants each year.
3. A new Robe of Achievement was presented.
4. The newsletter will be produced alternate years.
5. Every other year, Women's Banquet speakers should include an SDB woman, or women, with outside guest speakers invited on alternate years.

A major concern for the women this year was the deficit giving toward the SCSC program. A number of ideas were discussed, and each church was encouraged to examine their individual response to this need. We were sorry to receive the resignation of Canilene Hase as business manager for the SCSC program (you've done well, Canilene!), and grateful for the willingness of Pastor Mel Stephan of the Marlboro SDB Church to serve in this capacity next year.

Other Women's Board projects also reviewed: Pen & Prayer (write Yvonne Stephen if you would like a pen pal from another state or country); Tuition Fund (remind your pastor's wife of monies available to her for special seminars, etc.); and Conference Nursery (special thanks to Patti Wethington of the San Diego, Calif., church for coordinating this year's nursery). Keep us informed of your new fall programs and projects. Please write and send me your program booklets (Charlotte Chroniger, P.O. Box 145, Shiloh, NJ 08353). We want to let each other know of new ideas and meaningful studies. Have a great fall, and keep praying for us.

Women's Society page by Charlotte Chroniger

Building on a firm foundation

Because the scheduled speaker was unable to attend due to her husband's surgery, we were blessed by our own talent instead. We don't need to "import" inspiring speakers.

Cheri Appel shared her retreat testimony.

Kim Baker, Heather Van Horn, and Leah Martin treated the women with music.
How about some Faith and Order?

by Don A. Sanford, historian

The Commission recommended that
"a permanent committee be established for the purpose of giving continuous study to our Statement of Belief, to consider proposed changes, and to make recommendations regarding changes according to established procedures."

Pearls from the past

Both internal pressures and external inquiries in the early 1960s called for a need for stronger affirmations in the SDB Statement of Belief, particularly as it related to the Bible. At the same time, conversations were held with the American Baptists about a possible closer cooperation.

Thus, the Commission, in its 1963 report to General Conference, recommended the reaffirmation of our Statement of Belief, but also recognized the need for "a continuous effort to clarify and communicate our faith in a changing world." It recommended that "a permanent committee be established for the purpose of giving continuous study to our Statement of Belief, to consider proposed changes, and to make recommendations regarding changes according to established procedures." In that same report, the Commission highlighted the need to revise the Seventh Day Baptist Manual of Procedures. They referred these matters to the Special Conference Committee on Theological Issues which had been appointed by the Conference president. That committee acknowledged the historic function of the Statement of Belief "as a testimony rather than a test, with a guarantee of freedom of conscience which does not restrict inquiry and growth in our understanding of religious truth." Their recommendations called for the establishment of a five-person Committee on Faith and Order. The committee, composed of both laymen and ministers, would report regularly to the Commission and Conference, and would be responsible to the General Conference for its actions.

In setting up this committee, the following purposes were listed:

a. To stimulate development of an atmosphere for the creative discussion of convictions, and proposals and churches, and give them thorough study. It did, however, respond to the need for a revised Manual of Procedures which was edited by Dr. Wayne Rood and published in 1972.

In 1981, General Council recommended that a study be made of possible revisions to the Statement of Belief, particularly as it related to our Statement of Belief, under the guidance of the Committee on Faith and Order. The committee requested that churches and individuals submit any suggestions or concerns. In 1983, a suggested time-line was prepared looking forward to a reaffirmation of a Statement of Belief in August 1987, the 50th anniversary of the 1937 Statement. This involved initial committee work, submission to Ministers' Conference for input, presentation to the 1985 General Conference session, review by churches, final passage of suggested revisions in General Conference in 1986, and vote by churches in August 1987.

One of the first reports made by the Committee on Faith and Order indicated its perception as passive rather than initiatory. It was to receive any proposals from individuals and churches, and give them thorough study. It did, however, respond to the need for a revised Manual of Procedures which was edited by Dr. Wayne Rood and published in 1972.

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Their painstaking work and the involvement of individuals and churches in the process led to an affirmative vote of acceptance: 513 yes and 59 no, out of a possible 654 votes.
One wild week at California Youth Pre-Con

by Scott Graffius

It all started on Wednesday afternoon, August 4. Excited young people from across the nation began to congregate at Pacific Pines Camp in California. We saw many old friends and met some new ones as well.

It was Youth Pre-Con 1993—an unforgettable experience for all who attended.

There were nearly 50 campers plus staff at Pre-Con. It took a little while to get used to living in a "dust bowl" and breathing without oxygen. However, the campsite proved to be a great environment for us.

One of the best parts was praising God with our singing, accompanied by many guitars. Also, Gary Hemminger of the Seattle, Wash., church taught us a lot in the classes about relationships with friends, family, and God. After the classes, we broke into small groups for a time of sharing and discussion.

We journeyed to a lake on Friday where we enjoyed swimming and various other recreational activities. That evening, we shared a Communion service. On Sabbath after dinner, we went to the Riverside church for the incredible performance of "Esther, Queen of Persia."

Pre-Con ended on Sunday afternoon. We were looking forward to Conference, but our bus had brake problems causing a two-hour delay getting to the Redlands campus.

During Pre-Con, we rehearsed the musical, "Friends," featuring the music of Michael W. Smith. We performed it on Monday at Conference. Everyone was surprised to see such talent among the youth.

The musical's success was also the result of hard work by Christina Thorngate, who directed it.

The week was great! Our director, Pastor Eric Davis of the Sacramento church, introduced us to many new experiences. The volleyball was intense, the food was great, and the people were wonderful.

Make plans now to attend Pre-Con next year! $R

Young Adult Pre-Con

by Lora Dickinson

As Young Adult Pre-Conners wandered in, we excitedly greeted long-lost friends while registering. The five days proved to be a good experience, and worth all the extra energy required to drag our luggage up the stairs of East Hall to the third floor. Rob Crane expressed all of our sentiments on that day when he said, "I thank God for air conditioning!"

Throughout the five days, we enjoyed very inspirational mornings. We studied a wonderful book called, Living and Praying in Jesus' Name. Erin Burdick commented, "The book helped me a lot. I felt that it really vitalized my prayer life." During our discussions, we broke into small groups to discuss chapters of the book that we had read ahead of time.

Our director, Pastor Bernie Wethington, also led us in discussions of the different names for God. The lists of names grew as we saw God in various ways during our afternoon activities. Our mornings included a time of praise and worship which Lara Bates found "really good."

On Thursday, we went to Laguna Beach for an afternoon of sun and sand. While some explored the beach, others played volleyball and basketball for Jesus. According to Myron Samuels, "Serving God on the beach was the greatest. Serving the volleyball was pretty good, too."

Next on the schedule was a cookout and time to discover Laguna. "Singing and praising the Lord on the beach by moonlight was the kick in the pants we [Kim Baker and Leah Martin] needed."

Friday also turned out to be a time of finding God in new places. It was off to the mall for some, and time for sports on campus for others. Later, our Sabbath welcoming service included an "Agape feed," a new experience for many.

Joy Wallstrom said that Pre-Con was "very spiritually uplifting." That definitely describes the worship service we attended at the San Diego SDB Church on Sabbath. After the service, some stayed for another afternoon at the beach while others returned to Riverside to see the play, "Esther."

Overall, we had a terrific time during the 1993 Young Adult Pre-Con. Many thanks to our director. "Bernie is great!" says Cory Remick. $R

(Reprinted from the Conference Crier.)
Christian Education

Sabbath School Teacher of the Year

Dr. Lewis H.V. May of the Riverside, Calif., SDB Church received the Crystal Apple Award and certificate as the 1993 Sabbath School Teacher of the Year. The presentation took place during General Conference at the University of Redlands, Redlands, Calif.

The Rev. David S. Clarke, chairman of the Sabbath School Committee of the Board of Christian Education, presented the eighth Crystal Apple Award and certificate. In his remarks, Chairman Clarke noted that Dr. "Pete" May (as he is known to his many friends) has taught and directed many camping events and has been a source of inspiration to many people for decades.

Dr. May served on the Commission of the General Conference when he was Conference President in 1968-69, and is currently a member of the SDB Council on Ministry. A native of Salem, Va., and the son of the late Homer and Hallie (Van Horn) May, Dr. May married Nancy Carskadon 40 years ago. They have four sons and five grandchildren.

Dr. "Pete" May heads toward the stage to accept the Crystal Apple Award.

1993 Scripture Memorization Program—additions

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Jamaica update

It was so exciting to receive last month's letter from Jamaica. It was loaded with news about their Conference projects.

Concerning the plantation project: "It has been decided to plant on a 'phase' basis. One thousand coffee seedlings have been bought. We had planned to plant during May-June. Guess you heard that we had very, very, heavy rains. The road which leads to where the coffee seedlings are sold was washed away so that no vehicle could pass through; that prevented us from planting the scheduled 1,000 seedlings in the first week. We were able to get the seedlings a long time after, but by then, that kind of weather was not good for planting. It is said that September is a good time, so we are anticipating such time. The field is already prepared and the seedlings have to be watered regularly to ensure it is okay. We are grateful for the financial assistance sent us. Obviously, they are anxious to start the work that will enable them to continue providing services and activities to the churches in Jamaica. This will also give them a chance to develop new programs and, prayerfully, place their executive officer on the field full-time. They do appreciate your help on the project, and I hope that you will continue to donate to it. They still need to raise $4,000. The funds sent to Jamaica from the Women's Society went a long way to help protect and beautify the property, and improves its appearance. Plans are still being made to repair and improve the Maiden Hall Camp. This will include repairing the large store building that was used as a dormitory, and the building close to the church. Some funds have been coming into the Missionary Society office, but that much money is needed. This is a big undertaking. It will involve making arrangements for grants to be given to churches as a campsite and as a training facility for their future leaders. Again, we greatly appreciate those who have shared their blessings. Many thanks! Could you possibly find some way to help? Please remember the following projects and activities in your prayers. Funds are needed to enable all of them to be completed—and finished in time to really help these sister Conferences.

Bibles, tracts, and hymnals are needed.

People can minister more effectively when provided with the proper outreach "tools."

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The President's Page

His Will for His Way

by Leon Lewton

"For God is at work within you, helping you to obey Him, and then helping you do what He wants" (Philippians 2:13 TLB).

Many church members act as if their daily decisions and manner of living had little or nothing to do with their theology. "Who's telling you what's acceptable and what's not?" Seventeen answered. Parents were mentioned by five and teachers by three. Others? "I listen to myself. "Nobody tells me what's OK." I do whatever I please." Only one spoke of the Bible.

Though problem found in our churches? A recent mailing quoted from two books.

In No Place for Truth: Whatever Happened to Evangelical Theology? by David F. Wells, professor at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, he says, "I have watched with growing disbelief as the Evangelical Church has cheerfully plunged itself into astounding theological illiteracy. Many taking the plunge seem to imagine that they are simply following a pattern to success, but the effects of this great change in the evangelical soul are evident in every incoming class in the seminaries, in most publications, in the great majority of churches, and in most of their pastors."

In How the Evangelical Mind Has Changed, Lodger G. Whitlock, Jr., President of Reformed Theological Seminary, cautions: "In an earlier Evangelicalism of this century, there was a compulsion to be faithful, to hold on to the truth, regardless. Pleasing the Lord was more important than pleasing people. Contemporary Evangelicalism seems to have become more concerned with what works, what attracts people, and what succeeds. To the extent that pleasing others—or not offending them—takes priority over pleasing God, evangelicals will eventually lose strength."

Conference in 1980 at Denver, when the late DDAs president, had the theme: "Pleasing God In Every Way" (Col.1:10) In 1981 at Houghton, N.Y., Atlee Roed's theme was "Called To Obedience" (Rom.1:5). These both spoke to the truth that God does have a specific way for us to live as His children, finding His guidance for personal decisions and His Will for our lives.

Henrietta Mears, the founder of Scripture Press, wrote in Dream Big Will is the whole man active. I cannot give up my will; I must exercise it. I must will to obey. When God gives a command or a vision of truth, it is never a question of what He will do, but what we will do. To be successful in God's work is to fall in line with His will and to do His work. All that is pleasing to Him is a success."

From creation, God has expressed Himself and expressed His will in many ways. He made mankind with a free will—the privilege of choosing and making personal decision. Adam and Eve chose to disobey, to not follow God's will for them. Thus sin came into the world. And I buy the definition of sin as being "Anything that is outside of God's will for my life."

The Lord's words to Cain speak to this: (Gen.4:7) "If thou dost well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou dost not well, sin lieth at the door." God gave moral guidelines in the Ten Commandments to clearly express His will for mankind. These are very certain, though many seek to explain them away. But is it the non-moral decisions facing us that bring the most questions. What vocation should I follow? What school should I attend? Whom should I marry? Maybe I should purchase a home... which one? etc. We face decisions daily and need to be aware that God is interested. He has an answer to our questions and a "more perfect way" than can be known by himself.

Thus throughout the Word of God there is this revelation to His people through the prophets stating, "I will..." "I will..." But often the ears were closed. And even when God's promises were conditional, His chosen people did not walk in His way.

During the coming year as we look into God's Word and better understand His Will for our way, I trust that the fulfillment and joy of walking in His Way, through finding His guidance in our decisions, will reflect in our lives, our homes, our churches, our work places, our schools, our communities, and our societies.

Our text, Philippians 2:13, can shape our thinking on this vital theme: "His Will for His Way: Knowing and Doing."

(Next month: To know and do God's will.)
Teens want parents to communicate with them

Scientists have learned that families who keep lines of communication open are able to handle the challenges of adolescence. The Talented and Gifted English class at James Madison Memorial High School in Madison, Wis., listed some ways they'd like their parents to communicate:

1. Don't pressure us to achieve all the time. Remind us from time to time to slow down or goof off.
2. Praise us if we do okay. Sometimes it seems like nothing we do is good enough.
3. Tell us you love us—even if we act like we don't want to hear it.
4. Be honest with us. Sooner or later we will find out the truth, and it makes us feel dumb if we are lied to.
5. Don't yell! Nothing makes us want to fight back more.
6. Let us form our own opinions about some things. Chances are they'll be a lot like yours.
7. If we have a major problem, help us solve it—don't solve it for us.
8. Give us a chance to disagree with you without telling us that we're "talking back."
9. We love to hear about when we were little, and we like to hear about your teenage years as well. These stories don't always have to teach a lesson. They're fun.
10. Never stop talking to us. You are the only ones we can count on for reassurance and love.

Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. For more reading on parent-teen communication, ask for the following at your local bookstore: "Who's Listening," by Jerry Johnston; "How to Live with Your Parents without Losing Your Mind" and "How to Live with Your Kids When You've Already Lost Your Mind," both by Ken Davis; and "Helping the Struggling Adolescent," by Les Parrett III.

"Shepherd's Fold Ministry" in Blountville

One year ago, Pastor Ed and Marietta Sutton rolled into Blountville, Tenn., with two large trucks, all of their treasures, and their hearts full of faith and excitement. They followed the Gospel call to the Tri-City area to begin a new Seventh Day Baptist work for him. Throughout the year, they have grown in spiritual strength and have increased their faith by applying it on a moment-to-moment basis. God has "Shaken the Branches" and tested their trust in Him.

At our first official worship service on June 19, 1993, the new work was named, "Shepherd's Fold Ministry." Since that day, they have worshiped every Sabbath except August 7, when Pastor Ed and Marietta went to Virginia (on the 6th) to son Mike's graduation, and then on to Florida (on the 7th) to son Ken's wedding.

Director of Extension Russ Johnson came for his fourth visit on August 28. We had our first communion service, followed by a fellowship dinner.

On October 16, we will hold our first annual Harvest/Homecoming Day, with a covered dish "feast."

Choosing People book reviewed in England


The first known Seventh Day Baptist church seems to have arisen in England in the 1850s. Their foundation idea, like other Baptist groupings, was that they should reconstruct the organization and life-style of the churches of the Apostolic age. This they took one step further than other Christians by insisting that God's true church and ministry of the Seventh Day Baptists, were quick to point out—to a form of legalistic Christianity against which the apostle Paul had struggled ("Judaizers") in the first century. However, the term "Judaizers" is far from being a fair description of those responsible for the on-going teaching and ministry of the Seventh Day Baptists as their story, especially in the USA, has by Don Sanford been clearly shown. Certainly the first five chapters of this book are of very considerable interest to British Baptist readers. Nevertheless, the remainder of the book, which is largely concerned with the American side of the story, is also interesting in its own right.

This is a volume which should be found upon the shelves of all Baptists who care about the sheer variety of their history, and can be widely read and enjoyed by them. In addition, there is a useful bibliography which any serious readers and especially Baptist historians will greatly value.

Can you help this new work?

If anyone is interested in contributing to this work, the following items are needed:

• Lumber and insulation to "winterize" the church
• Hymn books
• Communion cups
• Folding chairs
• Funds for a sign
• Cassette tapes of hymns, played by a pianist, that our congregation can sing with

Funds for a sign
(Note: The Youth Fellowship at Little Genesee, N.Y., has donated $172.25 to buy the insulation for the ceiling of the beautiful cathedral-type barn roof. Isn't God good?? This gift is a good example of how God has provided our needs on a daily basis in the last year.)

We sincerely want to thank all who have demonstrated His love through support in many forms. We love you all!

May the Arms of God Enfold You!
Pastor Ed and Marietta

How to Teach Children a Household Skill

• Be familiar with the skill you are going to teach.
• Develop a logical way to present it.
• Take the children with you to get materials so they will be able to find them alone later.
• Name what you are going teach.
• Give the children your full attention.
• Present the lesson carefully and precisely.
• Use no more language than is necessary.
• In general, move from left to right.
• Let the children join in the task as soon as they are ready.
• If children make a mistake, don't draw attention to it.
• Stay with the children until you are sure they can work alone.
• Allow the children to work as long as they wish at this new skill.

Source: Do I Have To? by Patricia H. Sprinkle (Zondervan, 1993).
Kevins Korner

On my flight to Conference this year, I was seated next to a woman who looked 40-something, and kind of wired; you know, like when you're on your way to the dentist? Yes, a "first-time" flyer.

I tried to offer her some advice and reassurance. She wasn't buying it.

The more nervous she got, the more nervous I got. Thankfully, when the flight attendant invited us to move forward to some empty seats, I jumped at the chance. The "first timer" never budged. She preferred her aisle seat near the back, where she couldn't see out the windows. I pointed her out to the attendant who was able to help.

When we have "first timers" coming to church, or to Conference, do we always figure that the "professionals" will do the job of welcoming and answering the usual questions?

I had the privilege of worshipping with the San Gabriel, Calif., group right before Conference. Pastor John Pei was the first SDB pastor I had met (in Verona, N.Y.), so it was fun to be in his church again.

Their Sabbath School time was another great experience that opened my eyes. The class, taught by Ruth anne Pei, was full of older teens and young adults.

The topic? SDB beliefs. Several times, Ruthie methodically, lovingly, and patiently led the class through some very basic biblical teachings. At first, I thought, "This is so elementary. Let's move on!" But I soon realized that if we did, we would leave several students behind in the spiritual "dust."

They needed to be guided, step by step, through these basic truths because they were "first timers" in the faith.

How often do we speed right through the "simple" matters and dive into meatier topics? With new people, we need to slow down and make sure they are still "with us," or they will eventually NOT be with us.

This year was a Conference "homecoming" of sorts for me. The 1982 Conference at the same Redlands campus was my very first. So much has happened in 11 years! It's like—

Now: Sitting on the General Council. Then: What's a General Council?

Now: Editing The Sabbath Recorder. Then: What's a Sabbath Recorder? (I really did know that...)

Now: Figuring out angles to take the photos. Then: Figuring out General Conference!

As a "first timer," I really could have used a patient spiritual guide in '82.

The Redlands campus itself has seen changes with some new buildings. And during the week, we noticed new delegates, new churches, new pastors.

Even with all these changes, so much remains the same. We have the same good concerns, the same desire for exposure and growth. We have many of the same faithful delegates (who have since become good friends). We have the same Gospel, and the same "Foundation."

As we trust in that same foundation, and spread the same Gospel message, more people will come to the faith. And how we handle these "first timers" will determine our future—and how all of us may change.

Are we too anxious to "switch seats," avoiding the opportunity to help others and build teaching/learning relationships? May we be patient and loving, with open arms and helping hands. God will bless His people as we build on His firm foundation.

P.S. A special "Thank you" to Michael Peters and Jennifer Lewis Berg for helping out with the Conference photos this year.

The SR Needs Your Help

As we approach our 150th year of ministry, the technology to produce the Recorder has changed dramatically—so has the cost.

Please help us to continue bringing you the special reporting found nowhere else: "News for and about SDBs."

Do what you can today. Send your gifts to:

The Sabbath Recorder
P.O. Box 1678
Janesville, WI 53547
Shelley Shobe (r.): "I must have chocolate chip!"
Pete May (c.): "We're out of chocolate chip!"
Linda Manuel (l.): "Just decide. It's melting down my arm..."

Hey son, you said it was your turn to play!" (Chuck and Larry Graffius)

Kim Baker at the Young Adult program.

As the "S.D. Bee" buzzed outside, the kids were sure to follow.

A large crowd of about 600 gathered in the University of Redlands chapel for Sabbath morning worship.

"Hey son, you said it was your turn to play!" (Chuck and Larry Graffius)