They came by the thousands to Raise the Standard
**Robe of Achievement**

The Women's Society is accepting nominations for the Robe of Achievement for 1996. Please be considering a woman in your church who meets these criteria for nomination:

- Must be a committed Christian
- Must be an active member of a local Seventh Day Baptist church
- Was/is active as a volunteer in some phase of denominational effort
- Has shown evidence of special service with her family
- and/or community

A complete résumé must be submitted containing a life history including her achievements and activities. Without a résumé in hand, the committee cannot make a competent choice among many nominees. If an individual has been nominated before, and you still want that person considered, please re-submit the name as well as the résumé.

Send all nominations to:
Elizabeth Bidwell, P.O. Box 136, Shiloh, NJ 08353

Deadline: March 31, 1996

---

**Looking for a Last-Minute Christmas Gift?**

Here’s your opportunity to get a "Fitz Original Bolo." Retired minister Elmo Fitz Randolph handcrafts bolo ties out of elk or deer antler, using real leather lanyard with a variety of ornamentation. The retail value of these botos is $50 each.

Pastor Randy is offering to send you a lovingly made bolo tie for only $40—and from each purchase, he will give $20 toward The Sabbath Recorder.

You can wear a "Fitz Original Bolo" while helping to support this magazine.

Orders might not reach you until after Christmas. Call or write today!

Elmo Fitz Randolph
773 Sky Trail
Boulder CO 80302
(303) 443-3849

---

**Features**

- Keeping promises by Judy Immel 4
- Metrodome turns "Thunderdome" by Ralph Hays Jr. 6
- What is Promise Keepers? 7
- Challenged, prodded, and encouraged by Doug Lubke 9
- Guys: Answer God's call! by Steve Osborn 10
- You've gotta go! by Jon Cruzan 11
- Father and son "Raise the Standard" by Alan and Nathan Walker 11
- God's Holy Day by Lester G. Osborn 12

---

**Departments**

- Women's Society 15
- The Beacon 18
- Pears from the Past 14
- President's Page 20
- SR Almanac 15
- Local news 21
- Christian Education 16
- Family flux 24
- Focus 17
- Editorial 27

---

**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.
- 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 is our observance of the Sabbath, a holy day of rest which we keep by keeping the seventh day of the week, Saturday, holy, as a special day of worship and of sacredness. The Sabbath is a day in which we remember the creation of the world and to God's creative work, as well as a time to spend quality time with family and friends.

**Contributing Editors**


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

---

**Pastor Paul Green**
720 Hilltop Dr.
Milton, Wisconsin 53563
(608) 868-3726

---

**Holy Land Tour**

Visit "The Holy Land"—land of Jesus and the Bible—on a 10-day tour beginning March 5, 1996. Emphasis will be on sights, worship, and cultural experiences of interest to Christians. If you are interested, contact soon:

Pastor Paul Green
720 Hilltop Drive
Milton, Wisconsin 53563
(608) 868-3726

---

**Robe of Achievement**

The Women's Society is accepting nominations for the Robe of Achievement for 1996. Please be considering a woman in your church who meets these criteria for nomination:

- Must be a committed Christian
- Must be an active member of a local Seventh Day Baptist church
- Was/is active as a volunteer in some phase of denominational effort
- Has shown evidence of special service with her family
- and/or community

A complete résumé must be submitted containing a life history including her achievements and activities. Without a résumé in hand, the committee cannot make a competent choice among many nominees. If an individual has been nominated before, and you still want that person considered, please re-submit the name as well as the résumé.

Send all nominations to:
Elizabeth Bidwell, P.O. Box 136, Shiloh, NJ 08353

Deadline: March 31, 1996

---

**Looking for a Last-Minute Christmas Gift?**

Here’s your opportunity to get a "Fitz Original Bolo." Retired minister Elmo Fitz Randolph handcrafts bolo ties out of elk or deer antler, using real leather lanyard with a variety of ornamentation. The retail value of these botos is $50 each.

Pastor Randy is offering to send you a lovingly made bolo tie for only $40—and from each purchase, he will give $20 toward The Sabbath Recorder.

You can wear a "Fitz Original Bolo" while helping to support this magazine.

Orders might not reach you until after Christmas. Call or write today!

Elmo Fitz Randolph
773 Sky Trail
Boulder CO 80302
(303) 443-3849

---

**Features**

- Keeping promises by Judy Immel 4
- Metrodome turns "Thunderdome" by Ralph Hays Jr. 6
- What is Promise Keepers? 7
- Challenged, prodded, and encouraged by Doug Lubke 9
- Guys: Answer God's call! by Steve Osborn 10
- You've gotta go! by Jon Cruzan 11
- Father and son "Raise the Standard" by Alan and Nathan Walker 11
- God's Holy Day by Lester G. Osborn 12

---

**Departments**

- Women's Society 15
- The Beacon 18
- Pears from the Past 14
- President's Page 20
- SR Almanac 15
- Local news 21
- Christian Education 16
- Family flux 24
- Focus 17
- Editorial 27

---

**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.
- 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 is our observance of the Sabbath, a holy day of rest which we keep by keeping the seventh day of the week, Saturday, holy, as a special day of worship and of sacredness. The Sabbath is a day in which we remember the creation of the world and to God's creative work, as well as a time to spend quality time with family and friends.

**Contributing Editors**


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

---

**Pastor Paul Green**
720 Hilltop Dr.
Milton, Wisconsin 53563
(608) 868-3726

---

**Holy Land Tour**

Visit "The Holy Land"—land of Jesus and the Bible—on a 10-day tour beginning March 5, 1996. Emphasis will be on sights, worship, and cultural experiences of interest to Christians. If you are interested, contact soon:

Pastor Paul Green
720 Hilltop Drive
Milton, Wisconsin 53563
(608) 868-3726
Keeping promises
Men's movement sweeping country
by Judy Immel
Reprinted from the
Janesville, Wis., Gazette

Scott Kelly climbed to the top steps of the Metrodome in Minneapolis to see what would happen when a speaker called men forward to dedicate their lives to God. Thousands flooded down the aisles to the field.

But one husky young man, sporting a tattoo and earring, put his head in his hands and cried. Then an older man raised him up and led him down. Kelly saw them emerge from the tunnel and go onto the field.

The stadium filled with the sound of more than 60,000 screaming, clapping and stomping men. They are Promise Keepers, part of a non-denominational Christian men's movement sweeping the country.

Nearly 200 men from Janesville churches made the trek to the Minneapolis conference. Beloit, Footville, Brodhead, Evansville, and Fulton churches were represented, and others attended events elsewhere.

This year, 560,000 men were expected to participate in Promise Keepers conferences at 13 stadiums, most sold out two and three months in advance. The group, started in 1990 by University of Colorado head football coach Bill McCartney, hopes to have one million men involved next year.

They come together en masse to hear messages about seven promises they intend to keep, including honoring Christ and building strong marriages. Then they return home to live out those promises in their families, churches, and communities.

Kelly leads men's ministries at Bethel Baptist Church in Janesville and first attended a Promise Keepers event in 1991.

"I couldn't believe that all those men were there—not for a football game or rock concert—but to celebrate being close to God," he said. "Listening to everyone sing 'Amazing Grace' a cappella was overwhelming."

Promise Keepers helps men understand "what God wants for us as men, husbands, and fathers," Kelly said. The group also encourages men to support their pastors and to take leadership roles.

"It was tremendous," said Larry Squire, a member of Cargill United Methodist Church in Janesville, who attended for the first time.

"The magnitude and power—it's indescribable," the Rev. Tom Zillman, associate pastor at New Life Assembly of God, said about the conference. "It's just awesome." He said the program teaches men about integrity.

"But one of the biggest testimonies to the power of this is the excitement of wives when their husbands come home," Zillman added.

Catherine Sager's husband went to his first Promise Keepers conference in 1994 and is the organization's "point man" for New Life Assembly of God.

"He has a real positive outlook," Catherine said about how Bob has changed. "And it's something that's lasted all year long. He tries to be patient, and he goes out of his way to be encouraging. And it's little things, like leaving uplifting notes that let me know I'm Number One."

Some feminists have criticized Promise Keepers, saying it moves men's movement sweeping the country. Nearly 200 men from Janesville churches made the trek to the Minneapolis conference. Beloit, Footville, Brodhead, Evansville, and Fulton churches were represented, and others attended events elsewhere.

This year, 560,000 men were expected to participate in Promise Keepers conferences at 13 stadiums, most sold out two and three months in advance. The group, started in 1990 by University of Colorado head football coach Bill McCartney, hopes to have one million men involved next year.

They come together en masse to hear messages about seven promises they intend to keep, including honoring Christ and building strong marriages. Then they return home to live out those promises in their families, churches, and communities.

"Why would you be threatened by someone who loves and honors you at the highest level?" Kelly said. "This isn't about making your wife obey. It's about building a marriage and a family, about telling your wife, 'You're the best thing that ever happened to me.'"

Bethel, concerned about racial unity in Janesville, also plans to adopt a minority church in Beloit or Madison. It hopes to invite some of the men to attend a convention with them next year, Kelly said. Promise Keepers has books and tapes, so Kelly said the question for men's groups is not what to talk about, but what issues to choose.

"They get you inspired, and they also give you the tools," Abbott said. "This isn't just something that will pass. People go back to their churches and homes excited by what God is doing."
Imagine over 61,000 people yelling, screaming, crying, laughing, hugging, and "high-fiving" each other. The seats are packed around the stadium, and the floor is also overflowing with more people. The sound of the crowd is deafening. You would probably think you were at a major league baseball or football game, right? Well, not exactly.

Last July, I went with a group of men from the Milton, Wis., SDB Church to attend the Promise Keepers conference at the Metrodome in Minneapolis, Minn. Promise Keepers is a Christ-centered ministry dedicated to uniting men through vital relationships to become godly influences in their world.

The schedule called for two days of seminars from nationally known speakers. Leading out in worship and praise were Aaron Jeffery, Scott Wesley Brown, and the Maranatha Men's Promise Band. Friday evening, soul-touching words and songs echoed throughout the stadium. Praise songs "got us in the mood" before each speaker. Dr. Tony Evans addressed the men on the need to have our brotherhood in Jesus transcend any racial boundaries. There is no describing the awesome feeling when that large of a crowd sang the hymn, "Holy, Holy, Holy." The walls trembled with mighty praise songs.

We were reminded that in order to become the men God wants us to be, we must first give our lives over to Jesus Christ. If we insist on doing it ourselves, we are doomed to disappointment and failure. An alter call allowed those men who wanted to be Promise Keepers to first give their lives over to Jesus Christ, the original Promise Keeper. Thousands of men came forward to surrender to Jesus for the first time. Applause and cheering broke out with thunderous approval.

Near the end of Friday night's events, claps of thunder and lightning entered in a passing thunderstorm. It was as if God Himself was giving His mighty approval. Pastor Jack Hayford spoke Sabbath morning on the issue of the thousands of men who rose to their feet and pledged their lives to Jesus.

As the prayer ended, a chant erupted from the crowd: "We love you, we love you, we love you." With applause and cheering, we affirmed that these leaders were indeed loved and appreciated. I doubt there was a dry eye in the whole place at that moment.

I am saddened by the negative press concerning Promise Keepers. Many groups have proclaimed that Promise Keepers teaches men how to dominate their wives and society. In reality, Promise Keepers teaches men to be servants, as the brotherhood of believers.

man, his church, and his family, and not to be promise breakers. We were taught how to love and be servants to our wives, families, children, and church family, and our brothers and sisters in Christ.

One of the many emotional moments came when Bill McCartney asked that all pastors come forward to be prayed for. Six to seven thousand men came forward and knelt at the stage. Coach McCartney reminded us that these men are our shepherds leading us to Christ, and we must not forget their sacrifice and efforts by them for us. As the prayer ended, a chant erupted from the crowd: "We love you, we love you, we love you." With applause and cheering, we affirmed that these leaders were indeed loved and appreciated. I doubt there was a dry eye in the whole place at that moment.

I am saddened by the negative press concerning Promise Keepers. Many groups have proclaimed that Promise Keepers teaches men how to dominate their wives and society. In reality, Promise Keepers teaches men to be servants, as the brotherhood of believers.

All of these principles we have addressed us about, all the way back to Galatians 6:19. I would respond to those groups with Acts 5:38-39: "If this plan or work is evil, then let it be destroyed. And if this plan or work is good, then God will establish it, because it is His (Romans 9:21)."

As a ministry, we intend to serve as a clearing house for serving any man or church who requests information, products, or resources pertaining to the above items.

The Metrodome turns "Thunderdome"
by Ralph Hays Jr.

What is Promise Keepers?

Promise Keepers is a Christ-centered ministry dedicated to uniting men through vital relationships to become godly influences in their world.

Promise Keepers vows our commitment to become promise keepers in the covenant-keeping nature of God. "God is not a man, that he should lie; nor a son of man, that he should change his mind. Doth he speak and then not fulfill? Doth he speak and not fulfill? (Numbers 23:19). "The Lord is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all he has made" (Psalms 145:18).

God is our model. Consequently, a promise keeper chooses to reflect the trustworthiness nature of His Lord. This character is summed up in the word integrity.

Integrity by definition is "a strict adherence to a moral set of values": 1) utter sincerity, 2) honesty, 3) candor, 4) not artificial, 5) not shallow, and 6) no empty promises. Actually, one could say that a man of integrity is a "promise keeper." Wives, children, churches, and communities all seem to agree that what we desperately need today are men who are promise keepers: men who won't compromise the truth, men who are true to their word, men who are trustworthy. This is why we have chosen Promise Keepers as the name for this ministry.

Christ-centered ministry
We adhere to the foundational truths of historic Christianity which are centered on the person and work of Jesus Christ. Above all else, we are devoted to honor Him in our gatherings, bringing prominence to His name. "For no matter how many promises God has made, they are 'Yes' in Christ" (2 Corinthians 1:20). Additionally, we are committed to the absolute, unchanging directives in God's written Word.

As a ministry, we intend to serve the leadership of local churches and their men by offering six ministries and resources that are designed to help men become promise keepers:

1. Conferences: These catalytic events (which include Leadership Conferences) unite men to honor Jesus Christ in the context of celebration, providing motivation, teaching, and fellowship with men of diverse heritages.

2. Educational Services: These equipping seminars train pastors and leaders to equip their men to become promise keepers.

3. Field Ministry: Our field ministry team is available to directly assist the local church to develop its men's ministry.

4. Productions: These resources include all forms of electronic media—audio and video.

5. Publications: Includes all written resources.

6. Resource Center: This is a clearing house for serving any man or church who requests information, products, or resources pertaining to the above items.

Dedicated to uniting men
We believe that we have a God-given mission to unite men who are separated by race, geography, culture, denomination, and economics. We refer to something much greater than humanistic unification and more powerful than political quality. Rather, we are compelled to pursue Biblical reconciliation: loving our brother as an expression of our love for God (1 John 4:19-21).

We believe that reconciliation is clearly the heart of God (2 Corinthians 5:18-19).

Therefore, we are compelled to ever see 60,000 box lunches walk away from a stadium?
proclaim the message of reconciliation: unbeliever to God, brother to brother, husband to wife, father to child, child to parent, church to church, and people to people. Jesus undoubtedly envisioned a united church when he prayed in John 17:20-25.

Through vital relationships we can embrace one another's pains and to-face covenant relationships. We believe that vital relationships among men are the foundation for helping one another become promise keepers. We contend that this is best accomplished when 

We are dedicated, then, to addressing the division that has separated the body of Christ for too long. We are committed to call men to reconcile in Christ, to live as one. Biblical reconciliation requires that we come together in our common spiritual poverty in order to receive God's riches, strength, and grace—together. It means that we allow God to replace our personal prejudice with His perspective. It compels us to accept the essential value of every believer, understanding that we need each other to be complete.

Through vital relationships

Biblical unity spawns vital relationships: life-changing, interdependent, living, dynamic, face-to-face covenant relationships. Through vital relationships we can embrace another's pains and triumphs. By this we express our honor for each other as equals while respecting our diverse heritages. We believe that vital relationships among men are the foundation for helping one another become promise keepers. We contend that this is best accomplished when

What we desperately need today are men who are promise keepers: men who won't compromise the truth, men who are true to their word, men who are trustworthy.

We are committed to calling men to the ongoing process of godliness. Promise Keepers believes that God is the one who has called us to pursue vital relationships with a few other men, understanding that he needs brothers to help him keep his promises.

A Promise Keeper is committed to supporting the mission of the Church by honoring and praying for his pastor and by actively giving his time and resources.

A Promise Keeper is committed to reaching beyond any racial and denominational barriers to demonstrate the power of biblical unity.

A Promise Keeper is committed to building strong marriages and families through love, protection, and biblical values.

Following are testimonies from men of the Milton, Wis., SDB Church

Challenged, prodded, and encouraged by Doug Lubke

What does it mean to be with 60,000 other people focused on an event that unifies everyone there? I've had that experience at sporting events, yet several unique dimensions in our relationships and work.

Years ago, I knew the Philadelphia Eagles. They won and they lost, they traveled from coast to coast, and they sometimes gathered in Minneapolis at the Metrodome. I was one of those men who went to the stadium and sat in the seats of the Metrodome. It was an event that unifies everyone there.

At a Promise Keeper conference, something amazing happens. It's a time to step back and review some important issues in my life. It's a time to balance the needs of my job, my children, my wife, my church. It's a time to focus on the issues that God wants me to focus on.

At a Promise Keeper conference, something amazing happens. It's a time to step back and review some important issues in my life. It's a time to balance the needs of my job, my children, my wife, my church. It's a time to focus on the issues that God wants me to focus on.

A Promise Keeper is committed to reaching beyond any racial and denominational barriers to demonstrate the power of biblical unity.

A Promise Keeper is committed to building strong marriages and families through love, protection, and biblical values.

Seven promises of a Promise Keeper

"Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil" (Ephesians 5:15).

Promise Keepers believe that Christian growth starts by making some promises—promises we intend to keep.

1. A Promise Keeper is committed to honoring Jesus Christ by worship, prayer, and obedience to His Word, in the power of the Holy Spirit.
2. A Promise Keeper is committed to pursuing vital relationships with a few other men, understanding that he needs brothers to help him keep his promises.
3. A Promise Keeper is committed to practicing spiritual, moral, ethical, and sexual purity.
4. A Promise Keeper is committed to building strong marriages and families through love, protection, and biblical values.
5. A Promise Keeper is committed to supporting the mission of the Church by honoring and praying for his pastor and by actively giving his time and resources.
6. A Promise Keeper is committed to reaching beyond any racial and denominational barriers to demonstrate the power of biblical unity.
7. A Promise Keeper is committed to influencing his world, being obedient to the Great Commission (see Mark 16:15) and the Great Commission (see Matthew 28:19-20).

Promise Keepers believe that Christian growth starts by making some promises—promises we intend to keep.

1. A Promise Keeper is committed to honoring Jesus Christ by worship, prayer, and obedience to His Word, in the power of the Holy Spirit.
2. A Promise Keeper is committed to pursuing vital relationships with a few other men, understanding that he needs brothers to help him keep his promises.
3. A Promise Keeper is committed to practicing spiritual, moral, ethical, and sexual purity.
4. A Promise Keeper is committed to building strong marriages and families through love, protection, and biblical values.
5. A Promise Keeper is committed to supporting the mission of the Church by honoring and praying for his pastor and by actively giving his time and resources.
6. A Promise Keeper is committed to reaching beyond any racial and denominational barriers to demonstrate the power of biblical unity.
7. A Promise Keeper is committed to influencing his world, being obedient to the Great Commission (see Mark 16:15) and the Great Commission (see Matthew 28:19-20).
Guys: Answer God's call!
by Steve Osborn
Promise Keepers '95 "set my heart on fire" (to quote rock legends Scott Graffius and Erik Henry). Remember how you used to get that big spiritual "high" every year at camp, and then go home vowing to be a different person? Promise Keepers caused that same excitement in my heart, but also equipped me to live up to my promises.

Uniting with 60,000 other men to praise and honor the only true God brought a freshness to my life. For a week, the harshness of the non-Christian (and sometimes anti-Christian) world we live in melted away for a couple of days. I felt a genuine love and support from a most unlikely source: "the fellas."

I have been in crowded football stadiums where a bunch of men were all excited about the same thing. But it was never like this. Imagine all those men, cheering and yelling about... God!?!? The opportunity to worship the only true God with 60,000 other men united for the single purpose of praising God was incredible. The fellowship, the bonding, the singing, the piercing challenges from the world-class speakers, all combined to create an emotional, spiritual high that I had not experienced in years, if ever before. I was deeply moved, and in that state was energized to make lasting and long overdue changes to my spiritual life.

You’ve gotta go!
by Jon Cruzan
In late winter, I registered for the Promise Keepers summer conference with several other men from the Milton (Wis.) church. It seemed like a good idea, and the gathering was a ways off. As July approached, I began to second-guess my March decision. My apprehension grew, and my core skepticism soared to the front of my mind. I searched for excuses but couldn’t come up with any plausible reason to back out. So, convinced that I would feel awkward and uncomfortable, I went.

Sure enough, I felt awkward and uncomfortable, but not in the way I had imagined. Despite my intent not to be, I was blown away with a powerful spiritual rebirth.

The awesome power of more than 60,000 men united for the single purpose of praising God was incredible. The fellowship, the bonding, the singing, the piercing excitement of God's men going to praise and honor the only true God brought a freshness to my life. It caused that same excitement in my heart, but also equipped me to live up to my promises.

I personally renewed my commitment to my wife.
I really am proud of my son and his commitment to Christ.

Father and son “Raise the Standard”
by Alan and Nathan Walker
My son and I attended Promise Keepers in Minneapolis, Minn., on July 14-15, 1995. We were part of a group of 12 men, including Pastors George Calhoun and Steve Osborn, event for me. Nathan also was overwhelmed while singing with me and thousands of other men being led by the Maranatha Men's Promise Band. Where else could from the Milton, Wis., Seventh Day Baptist Church.

This event marked the second time in the summer that Nathan and I were able to spend time together. In June, we spent a full week alone on a lake in the Canadian north woods, fishing and sharing daily devotions.

The Promise Keepers convention allowed us to focus on what the Lord wants in our lives. As Nathan quotes Tony Evans, "If you want your world to be better, you have to be a better man yourself.

I am grateful to attend the Promise Keepers convention. It has been a great time of fellowship, worship, and learning. I am thankful for the opportunity to learn from others and to be encouraged by them. I am also grateful for the leadership and support of my church and family during this time of spiritual growth.

We know that many Seventh Day Baptists attended Promise Keepers conventions across the country. Please share your memories with us for future issues so others can "Raise the Standard!"
God’s Holy Day
by Lester G. Osburn

"God’s Holy Day," first written by Lester Osburn in 1906, is now in its ninth edition. This is the fifth of seven lessons. Copies of the study booklet are available from the SDB Center for 75 cents each (plus postage). Send no payment; we will bill.

Law and Grace

The final argument of those who observe the first day instead of God’s Sabbath is to claim that “the law is done away with, nailed to the Cross;” that we are not obliged to keep the Sabbath in this day of grace. If this is true, then one might ask why should we refrain from profanity, murder, adultery, and the rest?

In discussing the subject: “Law and Grace,” we must keep in mind two important distinctions:

a. The Mosaic Code was tri-fold—Moral (Commandments, the Decalogue), Ceremonial (ordinances), and Civil (judgments). The moral law was a codification of universal and eternal principles. The other two were national and temporal, governing the religious and social life of Israel.

b. The “law,” as a set of rules, must be distinguished from “law” as God’s method of dealing with sinful mankind between Sinai and Calvary.

A. The Character and Purpose of the Moral Law

1. Psalm 19:7-11; 111:7-8; Matthew 5:18; Luke 16:17; Romans 7:12.

God’s law is perfect, complete, sure, right, pure, true, righteous, holy, just, and everlasting.


The law sets forth God’s will for man’s conduct—it defines perfection. To keep the Commandments perfectly would merit eternal life, but no one can do this. “All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.” Thus some provision has to be made for our justification.


One looks at the perfect standard, realizes that he has broken it, and thus is a sinner, for sin is the transgression of the law. The law declares us guilty and shows us our need of a Savior.

4. 1 Timothy 1:8.

The “lawful use” of the law is to convict us of sin, just as a mirror shows us our physical imperfections. It is a diagnosis, not a remedy. The remedy is the Gospel, but the diagnosis must come first.

5. James 2:10-11; 1 John 3:4; Romans 6:20a.

We might paraphrase the first reference this way: ‘He who said, ‘Do not murder,’ also said, ‘Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.’ Now, if you do not commit murder, but do desecrate the Sabbath, you have become a transgressor of the law.” This is sin, and the wages of sin is death. However, Jesus paid the penalty for us (cf. Galatians 3:10,15), so we are free from the curse of the law, which is death. But are we free to ignore the law and break it?


During the millennium, and on the new earth, the fourth Commandment will be kept.


“Law” and “Grace” are not opposing systems but component parts of the same plan: the redemption of sinful mankind. Salvation has always been “by grace through faith.” In the Old Testament, men were saved that way. God’s grace was active in the sacrificial system of the ceremonial law, so that their transgressions of His moral law might be “covered.” But grace was not fully revealed until the death of Christ. The moral law is our schoolmaster; it leads us to Christ by showing us our sin and our need for a Savior. The ceremonial law, with its sacrifices, teaches us about Christ and His atoning work, and thus “leads us to Christ.”

B. Was the Moral Law Repealed?


The “dispensation” of law ended with Jesus and was replaced by the “dispensation” of grace. But let us not think that there was no grace before Calvary. As soon as man sinned, God’s grace came into action. God provided a way to forgive sins and remove guilt as soon as the need arose.


Jesus Christ did not abolish the law, but fulfilled it. He fulfilled the moral law by perfectly obeying its spiritual meaning, and He fulfilled the ceremonial law by taking the place of all the sacrifices.


“Fulfill” does not mean “do away with.”


A schoolmaster or tutor ensures that a father’s will is carried out cont. on page 23
The closing decade of this century is witnessing a renewed sense of personal responsibility among men for the moral decay which is all too evident in our society. Millions of men have gathered in stadiums across the land in massive Promise Keepers rallies to reaffirm a commitment to Biblical principles.

In our nation's capital, thousands of African-American men and boys gathered for what was billed as the "Million Man March." Crossing many religious barriers, one of its aims was to encourage fathers and sons to take more responsibility for the plight of their families by setting examples and leading out in constructive activities as role models. This call to responsibility among men is new only in the extent of its medium across the land in massive rallies to reaffirm a commitment to Biblical principles.

While some of the illustrations are dated, and the role of women has changed during the intervening years, his basic premise remains valid.

How does a farmer make a good farmer out of his boy? Does he sit in the house day after day and say to the boy, "Richard, go and milk the cows, then go to the plowing, and then mend the hay-rack and the reaper and get ready for the harvest."

How does a manufacturer train his boys to run his business when he is ready to retire? John, you go to the shop and start the wheels going. Get the iron in the furnace."

How many skilled mechanics and how many scientific farmers are trained that way? No man with horse-sense says, "Go," but he says, "Come."

Now the fatherhood of this country must say to the boys and hired men and daughters and visitors, "Come with me to Jesus Christ and test the realities of these eternal things."

"Himself believed and his whole house."
Faithful in Bible Study in 1996

Pastor Jus Start was standing inside the church front door following the Sabbath worship service, greeting the members of the congregation.

Mrs. I.N. Decision approached Pastor Start with a question about the new Bible Study which was to begin following the Christmas season.

"You said we were to come to the first Bible Study on January 3 with a personal issue, and we would make our study schedule from those issue topics. I don't understand what you mean by an 'issue.' Why don't we just study one of the Gospels or Revelations?"

Pastor Start explained that the new Bible Study would begin with each member bringing a theological concern which the group would research using the Bible. "When each person has presented his or her topic, we will set a schedule for the quarter. At our first meeting, I hope you and others will come prepared to present and explain your study concern.

"After we set the quarter's schedule, we'll look at a general outline for investigating Scripture. What religious issue would you like to investigate in our Bible Study?"

Mrs. I.N. Decision responded, "Mr. Newmember told me that he doesn't believe that Jesus was born on December 25 and that we really don't know when Christ was born.

"He says he doesn't celebrate Christmas and doesn't think our church should have a Christmas tree in the sanctuary and a special community dinner because they're not in the Bible. He claims that the birth of Jesus is only mentioned in half of the Gospels. Is that an issue we could study?"

Mrs. I.N. Decision continued, "I talked with Deacon Faithful about Mr. Newmember's beliefs about Christmas, and Deacon Faithful says that Christmas is one of the most important holidays for Christians. He claims that it is our best opportunity to present Christ to our family and friends, and that it's up to us to share the gift of Christ with others."

"I'm confused. I've always liked Christmas. It gives me a special warmth and peace which I don't feel during the rest of the year. Pastor, what do you think about Christmas?"

Pastor Jus Start clarified that the new Bible Study format would provide opportunity for study and discussion of such topics. He mentioned that the new Bible Study was initiated by the Diaconate to support the Seventh Day Baptist program, Seeking Spiritual Maturity: Faithful in Bible Study in 1996.

Deacon Faithful, who had joined the two, commented, "The emphasis on Bible Study in 1996 comes at an opportune time for our church. We've added many new members to our congregation over the past year or so. We need to have more relaxed opportunities for sharing our Scriptural convictions, and I feel our new Bible Study is a perfect start."

Mrs. I.N. Decision replied as she left the church, "I'm excited already. Maybe I'll get to know why we do things the way we do and learn what we believe as a church. I'll invite Mr. Newmember to join the Bible Study. Merry Christmas!"

The Philippines

A letter recently arrived at the Missionary Society office requesting a set of medical books for one of the churches in North Davao, the Philippines. This church is entering our denomination under the leadership of Pastor Malachi T. Galing.

Pastor Galing hopes that medical books would be available to help with the ill, as the group is far from the hospitals, clinics, and doctors. These potentially life-saving books could be sent directly to Pastor Galing. Please contact the Missionary Society office for the address.

Encouraging reports come from the Baptist Theological College, Cebu City, concerning Pastor Al Payapa, son of the president of the Philippines' SDB Convention. Pastor Al is now in the last stages toward his theological degree.

For his internship, he works in a church setting under the supervision of another pastor or one of his professors, similar to the internship a teacher or doctor has. I am sure he is anxious as he approaches his last year of formal education.

We praise God for Pastor Payapa's dedication to continue his education while he ministers and does his church responsibilities. May God grant him the strength to continue the good work.

Tanzania

Henry Kamwela has been in contact with us. He works in the Botany department at the University of Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania. Mr. Kamwela is starting a group in Dar-es-Salaam and is doing very well. With no pastoral training nor education in Seventh Day Baptist, polity and history, he has already sparked a small group of believers into action. Praise God for those convicted about the Sabbath and willing to step out in faith.

Mr. Kamwela is requesting funds to attend seminary or a Bible college. He would really enjoy visiting other SDB churches to see how services are held and to meet other SDbs. He has been invited to visit Malawi to see the Bible College in Makapawa. We pray that funds will be made available for him to do the studies and visits.

Drilling for life

Great need for water in Malawi

Seventh Day Baptists have a strong witness for Christ in Chipho, Malawi. However, there is not a strong source of water. Thousands are suffering disease from contaminated water. The Metro-Atlanta (Georgia, USA) SDB Church has raised part of the funds needed to drill a new well, but we're asking you to help with the rest. The original price of $2,000 - 2,500 has recently doubled.

Could you help our Seventh Day Baptists in Malawi find good physical water, so they can spread the Good News of Living Water?

Every dollar will be received with thanksgiving. Please send your gift (designated for "Chipho Well") to:

SDB Missionary Society, 119 Main Street, Westerly RI 02891

December 1995/ 17
The happiest Christmas of all
by Phyllis Mattison

When I was a little girl, in the early days of the Great Depression, my momma told me that Santa Claus was just as needy as everyone else. There was a big possibility that he wouldn't bring me any toys that year.

However, in the toy section of the big Christmas catalog was a colored picture of a spinning top with music notes floating around in the picture. The description momma read to me said it sounded like an organ as it spun around.

"Mommy, if I could have that organ music played like an organ as it spun around. Wouldn't it be grand?" I went to Church in Alfred Station, N. Y., Seventh-day Baptists and wished. My older sister called to me and asked, "Do you see the spinning top when a knock came from the front door?" I ran to the window and sure enough, there was no one there, just boot prints! I only had a pair of shoes with my name on it on the outside of the package. And what was inside? My momma told me that it was the happiest Christmas of my life.

---

Youth Pre-Con
Wow, was it hot?
by Betsy Boyd

Camp Joy was packed as 53 youth from around the country were reunited on August 2, 1995, for Youth Pre-Con to have fun and, more importantly, to praise God's name.

"Wow, is it hot!" was the reaction of all campers and staff on the afternoon of August 2. The humidity almost killed us off before we even started! We were blessed, though, with cooler weather the rest of the week (not cool, just cool!).

Camp Joy, like a large Christmas catalog, was empty! We were reunited on August 2, 1995, with coolER weather the rest of the week. We had quite a bit of fun this afternoon of August 2.

The humidity almost killed us off before we even started! We were blessed, though, with cooler weather the rest of the week (not cool, just coolER).

For the staff, we were blessed with a wonderful staff this year that consisted of Amanda Snyder, director; Nelson Snyder, Pastor Scott Hauersath, Heather Spaur, Dan Ruo, Becky Mattison, and Pastor Chris Mattison. Four other staff members were extremely important to Pre-Con—the cooks! They were Cheryl Hodge, Beth Boyd, John Nagel, and Noreen Miller. Talk about wonderful food! It almost made me wish I could take at least one of the cooks home with me.

---

We were blessed on Sabbath Day by the visitation of six of the General Council members. Each of them told us why they are SDBs and what their jobs on the General Council entailed. For example, Mary Jane, how do you like the tradition of singing for letters? One night, the guys were stirred from their beds to watch and listen to some songs the girls threw together in five minutes or less. We did fairly well, considering we didn't practice at all. But, it was fun anyway. Not long after the females were back in bed, two gentlemen named Steve Graffius and John Mark Camenga came and sang their famous Camp Joy duet, "Shut up, we're glad they didn't come any earlier. Room 37. That refrigerator might have got ten lonely a little too early, don't you think?"

Finally, I just want to say that the Lord was definitely present during everything we did. He never left Camp Joy, and I strongly believe that He'll never leave us no matter where we go or what we do. I think I speak for everyone when I say thank God and everyone else who made Pre-Con '95 a wonderful and uplifting experience.

---
Seventh Day Baptists have a kinship system, and we have to have a strong family system. Unfortunately, our families are in crisis. Not just our families in the SDB church—we’re probably healthier than most—but in all the families of the world. That’s why they’re writing articles that kinship systems are having a very difficult time because the nuclear family is beginning to fall apart.

When a nuclear family falls apart, the entire kinship system is threatened. It isn’t just that family that hurts; the whole system hurts. We all hurt.

When I hear about someone going through a divorce, I don’t condemn them; I hurt with them. And I hurt with their children. That’s what I deal with in my office everyday. People come in and one spouse says, “I’m leaving.” The other spouse is crying, and we have to begin healing. It’s not just that family; the whole system begins to hurt. We hurt and we ache with that family.

It also begins to change the pastor’s role. Often we go along and pretend as if the families are still working. If the families are not functioning well, and Sabbath School classes about what it means to conduct yourself as a Christian. You’re going to have some families that are functioning, and some that are not. Those that are functioning are going to be offended, and how are you going to deal with that? And if you don’t deal with it, you’re going to lose an entire generation.

Dr. Ernest Bee’s position is going to be incredibly important in the years ahead as we struggle with this. As the resources go down, as the pool which we draw from is drying up. At the same time, entire corporations are laying off people and downsizing, and people don’t know what to do.

You have dual-career families, and there is no Bible study time. Both spouses come home, and they both need a wife. I say, “You both need a wife, don’t you?” and they say, “Yes. Someone to love me, someone to fix dinner.” I tell them it’s going to be okay. And there isn’t one; they’re both working.

The pool we pour from has become dry. At the same time that is going on, our own children are moving to the city. They aren’t moving in mass anymore, they’re moving one at a time. It’s happened since the turn of the century. And they’re disappearing, one at a time. I know they are, otherwise the 70 or 80 churches we have would have 10,000 members apiece.

Our children are moving to the city. But we have one inmate relief as a kinship system. We believe with all of our hearts that our children will one day come home. It’s been eighty years since some of our first children moved to the city. I don’t think they’re coming back.

What does that mean? How do we begin looking at the church in a period.

We will need Kevin Butler and Dr. Ernest Bee’s position is going to be more than just the SDB church. We believe pastor’s role. Pastor Nick has a wealth of experience in campus ministries, from his first positions ministering to students, to his rise to National Field Representative of Chi Alpha, where he taught and organized other students to minister to students. Most recently, he planted, organized, and pastored the University Church in Boston and its Chi Alpha ministry.

North Central meets and plans

The Battle Creek, Mich., Seventh Day Baptist Church hosted North Central Association meetings on October 6-7, 1995. Pastor Nick spoke on his theme, “Freedom in Christ,” was taken from John 8:36. During vespers on Sabbath eve, the Battle Creek worship team of Anthony Singleton, Kory Geeske, and Jack Minnear led the joyous singing. Pastor Nick Fatato gave a message on the freedom God gives us to choose our way.

Having a larger group made the Sabbath worship particularly inspirational to the audience. We grew from our Bible study for all ages during Sabbath School and Pastor Nick’s message from Ephesians 3:16-21.

Following a bountiful meal-of-sharing, Conference President John Peil spoke on his theme, “At the Crossroads.” Children of all ages enjoyed programs by Battle Creek’s two clown teams, SEVOL, and SWAT with Queen of Hearts, Speedy, and Errol and Flo Spills. Everyone gathered together again for supper and another time of praising the Lord followed by the business meeting. Particular items of business included the Association’s give of money targeting the two camps in the region, youth Pre-Con attendees, an Association-wide youth retreat, and evangelism/revival meetings that could be held at individual churches. The Association voted to offer funds for each of these areas in order to encourage and facilitate the Lord’s work in this part of His vineyard.

Local church families housed our guests, and the Hospitality Committee and Ladies Aid did a wonderful job of keeping us physically fueled. The worship team and Pastor Nick kept us alive to the Spirit. We all look forward to meeting again as an Association next fall in Milton, Wis.

Fedor, (Fatato) Hoehoke and the late Eugene Fatato. Though serving elsewhere, Nick has remained a member of the Battle Creek church. After graduating from high school in 1978, Pastor Nick ministered as a member of the SDB traveling musical group, Light Bearers. He attended classes at Ferris State University, and served as campus minister there during two separate tenures. He received a B.A. in sociology and Western Michigan University. He pioneered campus ministries there and at the University of Michigan. In 1986, Pastor Nick was ordained by the Assemblies of God denomination after going through a five-year ordination process, culminating with a degree from the Berean School of the Bible.

Pastor Nick has been a speaker at retreats and conferences from local to national levels, speaking in more than 500 churches. He counts teaching and preaching as his strengths.

In 1984, he married the former Georgina Escobedo. They have three children: Andrew, 8; Aaron, 5; and Natalie, 2. Gina works as a dental hygienist. The family is settled in at the parsonage, and the two oldest children are enrolled in school.

A special welcoming luncheon was held for the family after the worship service on September 16. On October 7, others in the North Central Association were able to meet Pastor Nick, who served as host pastor for those meetings.

Fatato returns to Battle Creek

Rev. Nicholas Fatato of Arlington, Mass., has accepted the call to pastor the Battle Creek, Mich., SDB Church. He began his duties there on September 16, 1995.

Pastor Nick is no stranger to the congregation, having grown up in the church which his father pastored for eight years. He is the son of Freda (Fedor) Hoehoke and the late Eugene Fatato. Though serving elsewhere, Nick has remained a member of the Battle Creek church.
Westerly women play important role
by Nadine Lawton

From The Pawcatuck Post, newsletter of the Pawcatuck SDB Church, Westerly, R.I.

On September 6, our Women’s Society ladies gathered at the Nick Owen restaurant in Ashaway. We enjoyed a time of fellowship, a good meal, and all joined in to wish Margaret Taylor a happy birthday. It was also time to rebuild our secret pals and pick new ones for this year.

Our October meeting was held on the first, at the church. The 20 in attendance enjoyed hearing about Eric Fallon’s job as a firefighter in the city of Providence. We were amazed to see all of the equipment that Eric has to carry into the building to fight the fire. It was surprising to see all of the pockets a firefighter has in his turnout gear, to hold all of the useful little things they need. At one point it was like watching a small boy clean out all the toys in his pockets.

Eric also demonstrated some of the lifesaving equipment. He emphasized that the most important thing that each firefighter depends on is the brotherly camaraderie among the firefighters. We also enjoyed viewing a tape of the Providence Fire Department.

Eric then allowed all the children in attendance to try on his helmet. The Women’s Society would like to thank Eric for taking time out of his busy schedule and from his family to come and inform us about his profession.

During our business meeting, we discussed what part we felt the Women’s Society has in the ministry of the Pawcatuck church. We feel that this group is a very important part of the church’s ministry.

Just a few of the things that we do to help are: sending flowers to those who are sick or in the hospital, remembering our shut-in members (especially at Christmas and in the spring), making sure that there is someone to take care of the Sabbath morning flowers and the monthly fellowship luncheons, helping make the parsonage a suitable home for our pastor and his family, and taking care of little details in church building.

Some examples of these details are: drapes in the fellowship hall; a larger refrigerator for the fellowship hall; decorating the ladies room; making sure the kitchen has the utensils, pots, and pans that might be needed, as well as making sure the things are easy to find and ready for use; and trying to keep the kitchen clean enough for all to use.

At our November meeting, we made pies for our annual apple pie sale.

God’s Holy Day, cont. from page 12

until his son comes of age. Then the boy is directly responsible to his father, and does his will. He now obeys, not because he fears the schoolmaster, but because he loves his father.

Under the law, obedience was demanded. But under grace, it is “written in” (see Hebrews 10:16). We keep the principles of the law because we love God, who is our heavenly Father by the new birth. The old system is done away with, but the moral requirements of the law remain.

5. Romans 10:4-5.

We do not obtain righteousness by observing the law. We obtain it by faith in Christ, whose righteousness is imputed to us. This does not mean that the principles of the Decalogue are now invalid. It simply means that we are not enabled to be “made right” by observing them. Because of God’s indwelling Spirit we do those things which the law requires. Christ is not “the end of the law,” nor “the end of righteousness,” but the end of striving to earn righteousness by observing the law. (Cf. Luke 23:37 where we read that Christ is the “end of the prophecies”—i.e., He is the purpose and object of them.)


“The handwriting of ordinances,” including the ceremonial sabbaths, was nailed to the Cross. The weekly Sabbath was not an “ordinance” nor “against us” (cf. Mark 2:27). It was the system which was abolished—the method God used to deal with sinful men between Sinai and Calvary.

7. Ephesians 2:14-16.

The “dividing wall” consisted of the “ordinances”—the Jewish ceremonial system which did not include the weekly Sabbath. The ordinances were part of the definition of sin.

Conclusion

The “Law” was indeed done away with in Christ. But it was the method, the system, the “dispensation” which was abolished, not the standard of conduct contained in the moral law. These principles were not changed nor abolished. Through faith, we have a new relationship to them.

It is foolish to say that “the moral law was done away with.” In that case, there would be no sin (cf. Romans 6:1-2, 14-15). This would result in anarchy, since sin is lawlessness (1 John 3:4).

Seeking Spiritual Maturity: PRAYER

A prayer for every season
by Rev. A.J.C. Bond, November 29, 1906

We Thank Thee

We thank Thee for the springtime.
When sun and gentle showers
O'er meadow field and woodland
Change buds to opening flowers.
For youth, O Lord, we thank Thee.
When aspirations rise:
With dream bravely
Of fame that never dies.
For summer, too, we thank Thee—
Long hours we spend afield;
Gay songsters lighten labor
As they glad the heavens.
With slow and sleeping pace:
A hope born but in heaven
Shines from the furrowed face.
So thus in every season,
In every time of life.
We bring a glad thanksgiving
To Thine abundant grace;
For sunshine and for shadow;
For toil and Sabbath rest;
For tears I'll send it,
For what Thou givest is best.

No less for fading autumn
We lift a voice of praise,
When earth and sky are grayest—
The time of shortening days.
For ripe old age we thank Thee,
With slow and sinning face:
A hope born but in heaven
Shines from the furrowed face.

December 1995/ 23

Walk the walk!

About a week ago as I was driving toward Almond, I noticed that a local church had the following biblical quotation from Psalm 1 on its sign: “In His law do we meditate day and night.”

As I read the sign, the Spirit of Sarcasm overwhelmed me. I thought, “No you do not! When was the last time you had a worship service on God’s Sabbath? When was the last time you ceased from your labor on the seventh day of the week? What are you doing to promote observance of the fourth commandment? Sure, in His law you meditate day and night!”

The sign was there boldly declaring: “In His law do we meditate day and night.” At that point a Spirit of Repentance came upon me. I asked myself: “How often in my Christian walk have I committed false advertising? How often have I set out a sign (maybe even with a neon arrow pointing at it), advertising something I was not doing?” As believers, we need not only to talk the talk but also to walk the walk. The Scripture has emphasized this principle repeatedly. Following are some examples:

Look carefully how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise.
Ephesians 5:15

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the father through him.
Colossians 3:17

Seeking Spiritual Maturity: PRAYER

A prayer for every season
by Rev. A.J.C. Bond, November 29, 1906

We Thank Thee

We thank Thee for the springtime. When sun and gentle showers O'er meadow field and woodland Change buds to opening flowers. For youth, O Lord, we thank Thee. When aspirations rise: When hopeful hearts dream bravely Of fame that never dies. For summer, too, we thank Thee— Long hours we spend afield: Gay songsters lighten labor As they glad the heavens. For manhood's tasks we thank Thee, When stoutest hearts are tried; Fond parents for fond children Tol'bravely side by side.
Obituaries

Taylor.—Kenneth C. Taylor, 72, of Ashaway, R.I., died on July 16, 1995, at Lawrence and Memorial Hospital, New London, Conn.

He was born in Hopkinton, R.I., on August 28, 1922, the son of Byron and Vera (Langworthy) Taylor. He was a graduate of Westerly, R.I., High School, and attended the University of Rhode Island and Georgia Technical Institute. He was married to Marian Stiller, and owned G.E. Wheeler & Co. in Westerly for more than 25 years. Prior to retiring, he was employed at Imperial Wallpaper in Ashaway for more than 25 years. He was an active member of the Body of Christ in Ashaway.

In addition to his wife, Marian, he is survived by three sons, Byron and Bruce, both of Falmouth, Maine, and Donald of San Francisco, Calif.; four stepdaughters; one brother, Daniel, and one sister, Theobe Loezter, both of Florida; and 22 grandchildren. He was predeceased by one daughter, Joslyn.

Burial was in Oak Grove Cemetery, Ashaway.

Beebe.—Clara Gertrude (Lewis) Beebe, 98, passed from this life on August 31, 1995, at Daytona Beach, Fla.

She was born on March 19, 1897, in Little Genesee, N.Y., the daughter of Clarence L.E. Lewis and Extella (Buten) Lewis. Her mother died when Clara was 16, and she helped raise her younger brothers and sisters. Following her mother's death, the family moved from their farm home to Alfred, N.Y.

Clara attended Alfred University, majoring in home economics. On August 18, 1922, she married Clifford Beebe, a student at Alfred School of Theology. Shortly after their marriage, the Beebes moved to Fiske, Ark., where Clifford pastored the Seventh Day Baptist Church and both taught in the local SDB academy. This began a long series of pastorates in many states, with Clara faithfully working beside her husband. In 1965, they were the first SDBs to undertake a missionary field trip to meet with Sabbatarians in Mexico.

Clara served on the Women's Board and the Young People's Board of General Conference. In 1967, she received the Robe of Achievement from the Women's Society.

Clara was a housewife who stayed home and cared for her children—except for a few years during World War II when teachers were in short supply. She maintained a lifelong love of poetry, which she passed on to her children. She was active in ministry with her husband, and together they established three youth camping programs. She was particularly active in work with children and young people, and taught innumerable Vacation Bible Schools, Sabbath Schools, and summer camps.

At the time of her death, Clara was living in Daytona Beach. Sadly unable to attend services in recent years, she maintained a lively interest in both the local congregation and in the broader work of Seventh Day Baptists.

Survivors include one daughter, Anne Lastinger, of Daytona Beach; and one son, David, of St. Louis, Mo. She also leaves behind, in glory in her Christian teaching and example, 15 grandchildren, and many great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by a twin son, Paul, who died in 1971; and by one great-grandson.

A memorial service was held at the Daytona Beach SDB Church on September 4, 1995, with Rev. John H. Camenga officiating. On September 9, 1995, a committal service was held at the SDB cemetery at Caraway, near Palatka, Fla.

Adams.—Georgeola (Whipple) Adams, 89, died on September 22, 1995, in Bishopville, S.C.

She was born on March 18, 1906, in Yonkers, N.Y., the daughter of Herbert George Whipple and Elsa (Hamilton) Whipple. She was baptized at the age of 10 and grew up in the New York City Seventh Day Baptist Church. After graduating from the Yonkers public school system in 1923, she attended Alfred University, graduating in 1927.

While attending college, she met Robert Adams Jr. In December of 1928, they were married in her parents' home. Georgeola and her husband lived in Scotts Plains, N.J., before moving to Fanwood, N.J., where they lived most of their married life.

Georgeola was active in the Fanwood-Scotts Plains Women's College Club and served on the board of the Visiting Nurses Association of Plainfield, N.J. Five years ago, she and Robert moved to South Carolina to live with their daughter, Barbara.

Survivors include four daughters, Barbara Jean Austin of Bishopville, Judith C. Downing of Fanwood, Kathleen H. Livesey of West Friendship, M.D., and Diana B. Durance of Wauchula, Fla.; five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband in 1993.

Funeral services were held on September 26, 1995, at the Memorial Funeral Home in Fanwood. Officiating was Pastor Jeanne Yurko of the Baritan Valley SDB Church, Bridgewater, N.J.

Marriage gifts may be sent to the Herbert George Whipple Scholarship Fund, Alfred University, University Relations, 26 North Main Street, Alfred, NY 14802.

Shepard.—Nedra (Davis) Shepard, 82, died on September 30, 1995, in Visalia, Calif.

She was born in North Loup, Neb., on February 6, 1913, the daughter of David and Minnie Davis. Her family moved to Colorado when she was a teenager. She was a graduate of St. Luke's Nursing School in Denver, Colo.

As a member of the Denver Seventh Day Baptist Church, Nedra was a Sabbath School teacher and church clerk for many years. She was also a member of the church's Ladies Aid, but her first love was being a homemaker.

Nedra was an active Grange worker. She returned to the Maple Grove Grange in West Ridge, Colo., and was secretary of the Colorado State Grange for several years. In 1984, Nedra and her husband, Richard, moved to Visalia.

Survivors include her husband; two sons, Robert of Clovis, Calif., and Richard of Richmond, Texas; one daughter, Phyllis Zauoe of Santa Clara, Calif.; one sister, Donna Hastings of Parachute, Colo.; six grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

A memorial service was held on October 3, 1995, at the First Baptist Church in Visalia.

Accessions

Adams Center, NY

Andrew Camenga, pastor

Joined after baptism

Colleen Hatch

John Hatch

Terrance Sanders

Joined by letter

Thelma Hall

Ashaway, RI

Harold King, pastor

Joined by letter

Helen Hill

Central, MD

Lawrence Watt, pastor

Joined after baptism

Samantha Chreniger

Riverside, CA

Gabriel Bejjani, pastor

Joined after testimony

Mark Williams

Melinda Williams

Mandy Lemereaux

Eric Davis

George Barber

Danny Lee

Danna Lee

Salem, WV

Dale Thorsne, pastor

Joined after baptism

Jessica M. Grace

Marie N. Martin

Melissa M. Martin

Charles R. Meshbel

John W. Neabib

West Palm Beach, FL

William Vis, pastor

Joined after testimony

Kedina (Emie)

Silva Menees

Current Giving 1995

Budget Amount for Year

350,000

300,000

250,000

200,000

150,000

100,000

50,000

0

Short for Year

-19,238

Current Giving Budget

$289,068

Giving Year to Date

$269,830

December 1995/
All honor to the faithful, noble women who are trying so hard to patch up the church and missionary finances with thirty-cent supers which sell for fifteen cents, and working with needles in sewing circles, twenty women working on an article six hours each—total 120 hours for which someone pays a dollar. Five-sixth a cent an hour! Eight and one-third cents a day of ten hours! Say, men, aren’t you proud of that? How long will it take to convert the heathen with such finances?

The church needs your business wits and energies and self-denial consecration. Successful men have business rules and they have pride in them and they insist on every workman attending to the ticks of the clock of business. Nothing slack allowed. No protesting of notes. No delays. Things have “Got to go” as they say.

The greatest business in all the universe is serving God and attending to the details of His work. 

What about business principles, promptness, honor, everything on the “get there” order in the church of Christ?

...The direct application of the text also means that men must understand and appreciate the fact that they are to shape the visions or intellectual conceptions of the young people, especially young men. Where does a boy or young man get his views on religious matters? How is his attitude toward the Church of Christ shaped?

Mostly from his father. Every day of his life a man is either molding the shape of the children he bears, and that the Father was smiling with me.

What do you say to him? Noth-

American noblemen, your families are sick, your sons are spiritually dying. Your households are divided. And they need to know that the head of the house has faith in Jesus Christ.

house, “Jesus Christ in the heart, mind, home, business, social life, is what is absolutely essential for the true success and true manliness, and true enjoyment in all occupations.” If men say that, all the house believes it.

When I see a church where the building needs new steps and new paint and better windows and a better pulpit and lighting, and it goes year after year in a shameful condition, I feel that that church has some mighty lazy men. If they have dwelling-houses and barns and offices and shops in that shape, they are financially ruined. It must be they do not advertise their business much, or they say to a few hired men, “Go,” and not, “Come.”

It is certain however that they are advertising their church and religion and many are reading the ads. They read, “Business not profitable in these parts. Times dull. No skilled workmen in our plant. Wages very low and never paid when due.” My! What an ad that is! But it is seen and read and hence there is no spiritual trading done there.

Brethren, we do not have to be “upper tens” or millionaires to make this business of Jesus Christ boom. Practical, spiritual and up-to-date offices in which to carry on the business simply needs working faith, Christ-like executive ability, which any man can have by thought and effort, by good judging.


After reading this month’s testimonies from my Milton church friends, I had to say, “Amen!” The Spirit-charged atmosphere at the Metrodome was overwhelming.

Our trip alone was worth much. Four guys, crammed into a compact car, riding six hours. One way. Then, thanks to my penny-pinching move, the four of us shared the same room (and bathroom) at the hotel.

Needless to say, you can learn a lot about a guy after spending concentrated time together.

There were so many powerful memories. Like running through downtown Minneapolis in a torrential downpour, trying to find our hotel shuttle bus. We finally pilled into a taxi. Then we ended up trying to dry out our soaked sneakers.

But the ultimate memory was having one of our guys go forward to accept the Lord. That alone was worth the long ride, short nights, fast food, and wet shoes. Praise the Lord!

Oh, the baseball analogy?

When Coach Bill McCartney called for all the pastors to come forward on Saturday night, I knew what would happen next. But I could not be prepared for the overwhelming feelings that took over.

Since I’m pastoring a church, I went toward the stage. As I looked up at the screaming throng of 60,000 men, I could identify with the pro athlete, expected to perform while all eyes are on him.

Coach McCartney gave the “pitch.” He cried, “Come on, let’s hear it for these pastors! We love you guys!”

The audience proceeded to deliver the “grand slam”—a rousing ovation, many minutes long. Gathered there on the stadium infield were some shepherds who had perhaps never experienced such a loving affirmation.

We were driven to our knees, not just by the sound, but by humility. We felt that we were in the presence of something awesome and special, and that the Father was smiling down on us.

Pastors and lay leaders alike left the Metrodome ready to make a difference for the Lord. Yes, Promise Keepers was a “hit” with me.

It’s not too early to think about

SR Appreciation Day

In February, each church will have the opportunity to collect a special offering—at a fellowship meal or worship service—and designate it for your denominational magazine. Let’s keep this monthly connection running strong!
Seventh Day Baptist
Week of Prayer
January 7-13, 1996

"The Kingdom of God" prayer booklet by Dale Thorngate has been sent to each Conference. Let us begin the year on our knees.

World Federation Sabbath
January 13, 1996

We suggest that each church take an offering for the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation to go toward costs of the July 1997 sessions to be held in Jamaica.

Surprise your favorite Valentine!

For a suggested contribution of $14 (as in February 14th), you can honor your special someone for Valentine’s Day.

Word limit: 25 words or less (or four lines of poetry)  Deadline: December 30, 1995

Let’s fill a page in the February SR with tender memories!

For example:

Roses are red
Daisies are yellow,
Here’s to my Honey Bear—
A Valentine “Hello!”

Dear __________,
Thanks for these many years of warm togetherness.
May you have the happiest of Valentine’s Days.
Love, __________

YES! Sign me up!

Name
Address
City
State Zip Code
My contribution

Here is my Valentine message:

Send your Valentine message and donation to:
The Sabbath Recorder, PO Box 1678, Janesville WI 53547-1678