"We were not idle when we were with you..." (2 Thess. 3:7b)

Honoring the Senior Saints


**Upcoming Events**

- **April 20-21**
  General Council meetings
  Denver, CO

- **April 30**
  Historical Society Annual Meeting, Janesville, WI

- **May 1**
  Coordinating Leadership Team
  Dodge Center, MN

- **May 6-12**
  Pastors' Conference
  Dodge Center, MN

- **May 20**
  Sabbath Emphasis Day

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**Sabbath Emphasis Day 1995**

**A Cordial Invitation...**

- **June 12-29**
  Summer Institute
  (Sabbath Theology)
  SDB Center
  Janesville, WI

- **June 16-25**
  Summer Christian Service Corps Training
  Camp Paul Hummel
  Boulder, CO

- **August 2-6**
  Pre-Con camps, WV

- **August 6-12**
  General Conference
  Buckhannon, WV

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**...Come to West Virginia for General Conference in 1995.**

*(See details on page 21)*

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  by Gordon Kilts

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  by Marie Zwiebel

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  by George D. Bottoms

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  by Mary H. Wells

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**Who are Seventh Day Baptists?**

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

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

God commanded that the seventh day be kept holy. Jesus agreed by keeping it as God's holy day. As an act of loving obedience—not as a means of salvation—this 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) 762-7711
Senior Saints seek to serve
by Gordon Kilts

Answering the call
I first became aware of Senior Saints when an article appeared in 
Lea-Line. They were looking for volunteers to work on a project at 
Camp Joy, W.Va., in May 1990. Retired for a couple of years, I 
was looking for some way to serve the Lord. Since I had helped build 
the Schenectady, N.Y., SDB Church in the '60s, and built most of 
my own home in the late '60s, I felt I might be of some help on 
this project.

After working at Camp Joy, I 
began to look forward to the next 
project. I worked on one at Adams 
Center (building a handicap ramp), and another project at Camp Joy in the fall of 1991.

Beverly joins the fun
My enthusiasm spread to my 
wife, Beverly. She joined the Senior Saints in 1992 to help paint the in-
side of the denominational building in Janesville, Wis.

Since then, we have both partici-
pated in these projects:
- Camp Harley Sutton, Alfred 
  Station, N.Y.
- Camp Wakonda, Milton, Wis.
- Camp Holston, Battle Creek, Mich.
- Adams Center, N.Y.
- Boulder, Colo., parsonage

We have also been keeping 
scrapbooks of the various projects. These have been shared at General
Conference and with others as we 
have traveled around.

Project personnel
People from all parts of the coun-
try come together on these assign-
ments. Some have motor homes or 
trailers to stay in, and usually a 
site is provided at the project for 
electrical hook-up. Others stay in 
the camp dorms (if that's where our 
project is), or in local homes.

Some folks are highly skilled af-

and food. There always seems to be enough work for anyone willing to 
participate.

Each project gets a whole differ-
ent mix of people, depending on the 
location, specific work, and length 
of the job. While some participants 
show up at many projects, others 
may participate at only one or two. 
On larger projects, some may work 
the entire time, and others only a 
few days.

We feel that everyone involved is 
blessed through the interaction 
between the local hosts and the Senior Saints team.

The work of each person is ap-
preciated, and everybody seems to 
 enjoy the experience.

Behind the scenes
Projects may last from a few 
days to a few months. And while 
most projects involve construction, 
one task in Adams Center was 
mostly tearing down a room that 
had been added to the church some 
time ago.

On some projects, the facilities 
may not be the most modern. At 
Camp Harley Sutton, for example, we 
were putting in new rest rooms.

We were treated to the old out-
house for about five weeks! We cer-
tainly were glad to get invited to 
the locals' homes to get warm show-
ers.

However, it's not all hard work. 
There is a Bible study each day, 
which enriches our spiritual lives. 
We always seem to have plenty of 
good food. The people in the work 
area have been most generous in 
supplying cookies, baked goods, 
and other food.

We feel that everyone involved 
in the project, in whatever way, is 
blessed through the interaction 
between the local hosts and the Se-

ior Saints team.

The work schedule
The daily schedule has changed 
some over the years. On the first 
project, we had Bible study in the 
morning and another one in the 
evening, plus homework to do on 
the studies.

Since then, the Bible study has 
been changed to right after lunch. 
This gives us a little physical rest 
at midday, and a chance to get 
more work done in the morning 
when people are freshest.

A day off in the middle of the 
week was inserted in the weekly 
schedule. This provides a day to get 
clean up on laundry, a chance to 
do some sightseeing, and time to 
caught up on laundry, a chance to 
do some sightseeing, and time to 
heal some aching muscles.

A typical schedule might include 
breakfast at 8:00 a.m., with work 
beginning around 8:30. A 15-
minute break, with cookies and 
coffee, is scheduled about 10:00. 
The noon meal lasts about an hour, 
followed by an hour Bible study. 
Another 15-minute break is 
scheduled mid-afternoon, with 
supper at 5:00. A devotional read-
ing takes place after supper.

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scheduled mid-afternoon, with 
supper at 5:00. A devotional read-
ing takes place after supper.

When clean-up is completed, you 
will find people reading, talking, or 
possibly playing Norwegian rummy 
or Mexican dominos. Some nights 
we may be too tired to do much of 
anything but rest.

Rocky Mountain high
The Boulder parsonage project 
was interesting in many areas. It 
was by far our largest and longest 
project. It started the first part of 
June and was still not completed 
when the last of the Senior Saints 
left the first weekend of September.

Other than the Boulder people, 
there was a complete change of 
workers from beginning to end. 

The length of the project enabled us to 
give to know the local church mem-
ers much better than we could on 
short projects.

For the first time, this project also included Summer Christian 
Service Corp (SCSC) workers. Al-
though they were learning many 
of the tasks, they were extremely 
enthusiastic and helpful. The 
mixture of youth and those "with a 
few more years" proved to be successful and 
beneficial to all.

Fringe benefits
The work experience on these 
projects is somewhat different than 
you might receive in the secular 
world.

Everyone is ready and willing 
to help each other, to share their 
tools, and to share ideas and expe- 
riences. People kid and joke and 


A long way from home! Gordon Kilts applies a 
new coat of paint at the Albion, Wis., church.
Mousehole observations

by Champer Camp Mouse

Let me introduce myself. I’m Champer Camp Mouse, resident at Camp Joy. Our camp is nestled in the wild, wonderful hills of Berea, West Virginia.

Recently, a Camp Joy board member (I believe her name is Marie Zwiebel) was here measuring something she thought she’d whip up for the campers. I overheard her grumbling that she now had another job to do and write an account of Senior Saint activities at CJ (Camp Joy) for The Sabbath Recorder. Well, I figured she’d never get it done, so I decided to do it.

In all my years of observing from the mousehole and other hidey-holes around CJ, I’ve seen some sights that would curl your hair. But there have been none so astounding as those old folks who call themselves the Senior Saints!

I always thought old gray-haired people were just supposed to sit around, drink iced tea, and talk about the good old days. But in 1990, a group of them converged on CJ and really roared up the road scattering dust with their trucks, campers, and trailers. The noise made my teeth hurt and my tail quiver! I noticed they brought some young help. Heard someone say he was Andrew Kube from a place called Australia. He called himself a dedicated service worker, whatever that was.

Anyway, all that racket started up, and my family and I had to move again. When living conditions had been made impossible in the basement, we moved up to the lounge and set up housekeeping in an old sofa. This second Senior Saints visit cast us among the homeless once more.

We moved out to the foundation of the lodge basement into a boy’s dorm. Prior to their arrival, that spot was next to heaven in a mouse’s eyes! Such a dark, gloomy, damp place. My family had all the room in the world. It wasn’t long, though, before we vacated in a hurry.

The Saints installed windows, built partitions for sleeping cubicles, and built bunks into the walls. Those old folks made such a racket we couldn’t stand it!

The Saints installed windows, built partitions for sleeping cubicles, and built bunks into the walls. Those old folks made such a racket we couldn’t stand it!

Saint visit cast us among the homeless once more.

We moved out to the foundation shudders and our observations from there. I saw a Senior Saintess (guess that’s what you call a lady SS) nailing boards together. Dad said she certainly didn’t know her place. Mom took him behind the lodge for a talk, and after that, he never talked about a Senior Saintess and “her place” again.

Well, when they left that time, there was a whole new dorm area, partitioned off into sleeping cubicles. It now had built-in bunks and was handicapped accessible. I thought I’d seen the last of the Senior Saints. But I recently heard board members talking about them coming again this June to build a pavilion with gas barbecue grill a deck on the rear of the lodge, and

Senior Saints a special family

The personal benefits

by Chet and Noreen Miller

The benefits of being a Senior Saint are many and varied: the personal relationships, the spiritual guidance, the travel, and more! We have found the participants to be wonderful people. Many of them have become very dear to us and will remain lifelong friends. We feel we comprise a special family.

Following a long day of work, many evenings we sing hymns, play games, or just visit. On our days off, there are always places to go, and things to see and do in the area. Not only do we enjoy our own group of workmates, but also the local people at each project. A number of them have helped with the actual labor. They have graciously provided a place for our RVs, invited us into their homes for meals, and made us feel welcome in their churches.

One of the highlights of each workday is Pastor Chuck’s hour-long Bible study. We have gained much knowledge from both the Old and New Testaments through our many interesting and worthwhile discussions. Chuck also reads us a chapter from one of his good books as we relax after our final meal of the day.

What an experience to travel throughout our beautiful country! We have gone from coast-to-coast, visiting special people and places. Each state has its own special beauty. Being a Senior Saint is, without a doubt, the most rewarding and fulfilling thing we have experienced since we retired.

The benefits are without number. Join us!
Saints improve on necessities
by George D. Bottens

The facilities and grounds of Camp Harley Sutton, Alfred Station, N.Y., are managed by the trustees of the SDB Allegheny Association of Churches. The trustees want these facilities to meet the needs not only of the Association, but also of the denominational camps that might be held here.

When Youth Pre-Con was held at Camp Harley in 1981, it became evident that the rest room facilities were not adequate—especially when the well went dry.

That fall, the Association authorized the trustees to raise money for the proposed renovations and to have a new facility built. It was rumored that a budding organization called the "Senior Saints" might be able to help with the construction. As chairman of the trustees, I was hopeful, but doubtful. How could people who painted and did a few renovations be equal to a project such as this?

On my way to the 1992 General Conference, I stopped at Camp Wakonda in Wisconsin to talk with the Rev. Charles "(Prince Charles)" Graffius. He was on the staff at Pre-Con there. After talking with Chuck, I was completely convinced that the Saints were equal to the task. They agreed to put us on their calendar.

Now it was time to raise the necessary funds and draft the building plans. The Memorial Board and the Lottie Baldwin Association made commitments to help. Our Association treasurer, Bob Stohr, volunteered to head the fund-raising drive.

By August '83, we were confident that we would have all the funds needed for the project. The Senior Saints gave us a starting date of early September.

Meanwhile, we had the necessary architectural plans and building permits, and a new well was being drilled.

On September 8, the main body of the Senior Saints arrived in their vans, travel trailers, and motor homes. (They pay their own expenses to and from the projects and bring their own tools. Electricity, food, and water are furnished by the hosting group.) Those without RVs were housed in the camp dormitories.

The Saints furnished their own cooks, who used the kitchen in the main lodge. Since the existing rest rooms had been demolished, the "Little (Out)House on the Prairie" was utilized.

The day after the Saints arrived, we began excavating for the piers with a back hoe, and forms were set. In a few days, the Saints had the piers poured and backfilled. Soon after a truckload of lumber was delivered, we started to fabricate the beams. The beams rested on the piers, with floor joists erected on the beams.

Before you could say, "Jack Robinson," the plywood flooring was down and wall studs were being hammered together. The wall frames, built on the floor, were quickly raised into position. It wasn't long before the second floor was up, followed by the roof rafters. Fortunately the sunny weather held, and we were able to get the roof boards on and covered with asphalt shingles before it rained. On Sundays and some weekdays, Association members were able to help—this greatly sped up the work.

It became evident that the project could not be completed in the allotted time. A decision was made to come back in May of '94 to complete the job. So in the first week of October, the project was shut down and the Saints departed.

In early May, a new batch of Senior Saints (including some who had been here in September) arrived to finish the work. The same housing and feeding arrangements were used.

The project was completed about two weeks later, and the camp was made ready for the summer camping season. The new rest rooms offered wheelchair accessible facilities, plentiful hot and cold water, excellent lighting and ventilation, durable fiberglass wall coverings, institutional-grade floor coverings, and quarter-inch plate glass mirrors. All the campers were enthusiastic in their praise of the new facilities.

Not only did the Senior Saints build this $50,000 facility, but they also did a number of other improvements at the camp. They installed a fireplace insert, which greatly improved the comfort of the dining room. They relocated the kitchen exhaust fan, installed a new modern window in the camp office, connected the new well to the plumbing of the new facility and the kitchen, and constructed a 12' x 20' deck of pressure-treated wood to connect the new facility to the porch of Burdick Lodge.

In the early stages of this project, I was a "doubting Thomas." At its completion, I became an enthusiastic advocate of the Senior Saints. I have only praise and admiration for their work. They should be supported not only with words, but also with finances.

Special praise and thanks should go to Chuck ("P.C.") Graffius for his leadership, devotion, expertise, and tireless devotion in leading these Saints.

The trustees and Association members also thank the Memorial and Lottie Baldwin Boards for their grants, which helped so much financially.

The Senior Saints will long be remembered by Seventh Day Baptists in the Allegheny Association.
Bonding lumber and lives in Boulder

by Mary H. Wells

The first Senior Saints to arrive in Boulder last year can relate to Genesis 1:12—how the earth was "without form, and void."

Partly due to a tight schedule (thanks to Boulder County’s process of approval), we poured the concrete foundation and removed the forms only one day before the Senior Saints planned to start work. We thought the Senior Saints would want to take it easy for a few days to adjust to our higher altitude. Not so.

Dick Armstead, who volunteered to place their RVs on his land, said, "When the Senior Saints drove in to our yard with their trailers and motor homes, we were amazed at how active they were for their age."

If we had made some better assumptions about the work they would do first, we could have had the material on hand. The Saints hit the site expecting to start out at full speed!

As it was, our first arrivals found only a foundation, an approved plan, and a Porta-Potty. Until the septic system was in working order and the basement covered, the Saints could not cook their meals in their accustomed way. Surely they prided themselves on always setting up open accounts. This could have been avoided had we opened them sooner and authorized more than one Senior Saint to make purchases.

I must mention how impressed we were with the Senior Saint wives. Their cheerful acceptance of difficulty was memorable. They displayed their expertise in pioneer skills of "making do" until the gift of a range and a refrigerator arrived. Those meals served under pioneer conditions were fantastic.

In the words of Dick Armstead and his wife, Joan, "These are some of the nicest people we have met. As we got to know them, we found a bond of love that will last a lifetime. The conversation and good times we had with them we will never forget."

All of us involved in this colossal project can echo the same sentiment.

Project bridges gap

SCSCer “learns from the best”

by Matthew Berg

I felt especially privileged to be a part of this new type of Summer Christian Service Corps (SCSC) project this past summer. My team (Geremy Burdick, Nicole Peters, Chris Rood, and I) helped build the parsonage in Boulder. The most memorable part of this experience was my interaction with the Senior Saints on the building project. What a wonderful idea and experience it was!

We were able to interact with the Senior Saints, both on a spiritual level and on the roof pounding nails. I would like to thank Althea Rood and Pastor Chuck Graffius for their efforts in getting such a project off the ground.

Since I had not done any construction to speak of before the summer, the lessons I learned were memorable. They gave me much practical experience for later in life. These along with the eye-opening episodes I had with the Senior Saints, were tremendous. I would not trade them for anything.

The wisdom and experience that the Saints had to offer each one of the SCSC team was awesome, as I’m sure all of the team members would tell you. I really felt as though I was learning from the best.

It was also exciting to know that each one of me had Christ in the center of their lives. That component set apart this experience from others that one might have on a "normal" construction site. We got to fellowship with the Saints every day at the lunchtime Bible studies, and that time gave me some insight into what a wonderful group the Senior Saints are.

How fortunate we are as a denomination to have them dedicating so much of their "retired" life to our church and its growth.

I felt as though this was a unique opportunity to bridge the gap between our seniors and young adults. My feelings were fairly reserved prior to getting on site; I really did not know what to expect.

Soon after my arrival, I realized what a great opportunity this was. This group of seniors was full of life and excitement! I can truly say that I now see this group in a much different light. I’m more appreciative and understanding of the message they have for the younger generation.

I can’t say enough about what the experience with the Saints has done for my spiritual maturity. I can only hope that more such experiences will come into my life in the future.

Senior Saints—Will travel, need help

Finished products
- Renew dorms
- Build new rest rooms
- Remodel camps
- Remodel bathrooms
- Porches, decks, ramps
- New siding
- Electric
- Plumbing
- Heating

Possible future locations
- Denver, CO
- Washington, D.C.
- Camp Wakonda, WI
- Richburg, NY
- Philadelphia, PA
- Plainfield, NJ
- Boulder, CO

Character of Senior Saints
- Warm
- Loving
- Inexperienced
- Willing
- Experienced
- Sharing
- Fun-loving

Camp Paul Hummel, CO
Daytona Beach, FL
Newport, RI

Home offices of Senior Saints
Florida
Rhode Island
California
Washington
Most anywhere in between

Definition of Senior Saint
From a senior in high school to a senior by age.

Qualifications
Must have a desire to help others by doing or giving.

Need help
Another coordinator
Twelve or more anxious Senior Saints

Reply to
Chuck Graffius
R.D. #1 Box 14-B
New Enterprise, PA 18664
There are those who plan, then there are those who build

by Richard Steele

In the Old Testament, Nehemiah inspected Jerusalem's walls by night and found them in need of repair. Coming back to his peers, he had this to say: "Then I said to them, 'You see the sad situation we are in, that Jerusalem is desolate and its gates burned by fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem that we may no longer be a reproach: And I told them how the hand of my God had been favorable to me, and also about the king's words which he had spoken to me. Then they said, 'Let us arise and build'" (Neh. 2:17-18).

As we think about this passage, there are those who bring forth an idea; there are those who speculate; there are those who speak, preach the Gospel, and engage in social work. When Fanny was in her 60s, she became interested in the YMCA. In her old age, she worked among the alcoholics, prostitutes, and drug addicts in the Bowery, New York City's slum district. Fanny did not let her age prevent her from doing the Lord's work. It's exciting to see older adults continue in ministry. The SDB Senior Saints have made a big impact on the lives of our people through their unsselfish volunteerism. Seniors have much to contribute to the life and ministry of our churches. I know some local "senior saints"—older adults who have remained very faithful to the Lord. They are willing to volunteer to help if they can find a need arise. What a wonderful example they are to the rest of us.

I hope that as I get older, I will thank the Lord for the lives of the senior saints who have touched my life, who have been a living testimony of Jesus Christ. I hope that I can encourage older adults to continue in their involvement in the local church. Many older adults have the time to commit to special ministries. If health prevails through God's grace, there is no reason to stop working for the ministry of the Lord in the local church once an older age is reached.

Senior saints are greatly needed to carry on the ministry for God's kingdom. Are you a senior saint? What special ministries is God calling you to get involved in, because you don't have the monetary or time restraints of younger aged Christians?

Can you volunteer your time, your talents, your leadership skills, to further God's kingdom? What can you volunteer to do to bless your local church? 

---

There is no reason to stop working for the ministry of the Lord in the local church once an older age is reached.

"Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let each exercise them accordingly..." (Romans 12:6-7 NASB).

Fanny Crosby is one of my favorite hymn writers. She wrote approximately 8,000 hymns, including "He Hideth My Soul," "Praise Him, Praise Him," "To God Be the Glory," "Saved by Grace," "Blessed Assurance," "Rescue the Perishing," and "Tell Me the Story of Jesus." Even though Fanny Crosby was blind, she was a talented musician—playing classical music on the harp and piano—and writing songs that changed the way congregations sang in America.

She didn't allow her blindness to prohibit her from doing anything she wanted to do. She went on to dictate in the Bowery, New York City's slum district. Fanny did not let her age prevent her from doing the Lord's work.

Page 12

Main floor plans. Lower level has a large recreation room and six classrooms.
It only takes a spark!

As the old church entry was being torn down, Jess asked if he could have the stud which centered over the front door, under which every worshipper had passed during the life of that building.

Little did I realize his intent until over a year later, at the time of the dedication of the new church, Jess presented an intricate cross of interlocking pieces made from that old 2 x 4 from the former church.

Without the minister, and with Jospeh and Nina returning to the scene. Boards and timbers from the old church were carefully removed and nails pulled so that much of the old went into the new.
Sabbath School Teacher of the Year

The Sabbath School Committee of the Board of Christian Education invites each Seventh Day Baptist church to nominate one Sabbath School teacher for the 10th annual Crystal Apple Award.

The Board is seeking nominees whose outstanding teaching skills have contributed to the Christian conversion and nurture of our people. We understand that not everyone worthy of recognition will be selected from the nominees using the criteria:

1. Nomination forms were mailed to pastors and superintendents in early March. The postmark deadline is June 30, 1995. If you failed to receive a form, or wish further information, please contact the Board of Christian Education, P.O. Box 115, Alfred Station, NY 14803-0115, or telephone (607) 687-8527.

2. Crystal Apple Recipients

- George Parrish
  Battle Creek, Mich.
  1986

- Shirley Cargill
  North Loup, Neb.
  1987

- Margaret Allen
  Lost Creek, W.Va.
  1988

- Helen Bond
  Columbus, Ohio
  1989

- June Johnson
  Nortonville, Kan.
  1990

- Ruth Bennett
  Battle Creek, Mich.
  1991

- Dan Richards
  Texarkana, Ark.
  1992

- Dr. Lewis H.V. May
  Riverside, Calif.
  1993

- Alan R. Crouch
  Daytona Beach, Fla.
  1994

3. Pre-Con Camp gift certificates

Know anyone who longs to attend Youth or Young Adult Pre-Con Camp but is short on cash? You may purchase a gift certificate from the Board of Christian Education for $20, $35, or $50, or the full fee. Send your check to the SDB Board of Christian Education, P.O. Box 115, Alfred Station, NY 14803-0115. We will mail the gift certificate to you or to whoever you designate. Please include the camper's name, birth date, address, camp attending, and whether you wish the certificate sent to the camper or returned to you.

Pre-Con Camp gift certificates

Don Sanford, SDB Historian, displayed the fruits of his labor and answered questions at the Columbia County Fair.

Harry the Hobo (Jim Petrow) and Ron Elston cleansing their way into people's hearts.

Ron Elston and Keith Julson conducted eight baptisms in the Portage city park and lake. What a wonderful way to conclude the project!
As the leader of a political terrorist, I once been. I trekked through the mountains, seeking solace in the wilderness, dreaming of how life had been. My life had been so successful. I had power, position, and respect. As the leader of a political terrorist sect, I was invincible.

A small gate jolted me awake and sent a sharp pain through my sore shoulders. Bracing my bare feet against the slime-covered floor, I managed to sit up. I stretched as far as my chains would allow and tried in vain to force the kinks out of my stiff muscles.

A guard strode lazily by and tossed lumps of stale, moldy bread through the bars. With renewed energy, I scrambled to grab what I could, hoping to be quicker than the bigger men. A guard strode lazily by and tossed lumps of stale, moldy bread through the bars. With renewed energy, I scrambled to grab what I could, hoping to be quicker than the bigger men.

We had plans, great plans, that were going to succeed. We would overthrow those pitiful Jewish puppets and leaders and build a new government with enough might and power to take over Rome, and anyone else in our way.

We put our plans into effect during Purim, a holiday that commemorates Jews fighting for their rights. We knew we would gain support from the people celebrated, and the holiday confusion aided our plans.

I knew we would soon be in control of the Sanhedrin, I was wrong. The officials got wind of our plans, and a riot broke out. I was the first to be arrested after I killed a leader in the temple.

I jumped out of my daze as the gate to our cell slammed open. My fingers met one hard lump, a glinting sword out of its sheaf. A Roman centurion looming in the doorway.

"Show yourself!" the centurion barked.

I watched in horrid fascination as the three men were nailed each to his cross and hoisted upright in the holes at the top of the hill. My eyes were glued to the scene, but soon I was shaking violently as the realization hit me again and again: That should be me!

Finally, I staggered back down the hill, unable to watch any longer. But I could not get the visions out of my head. I wandered around in a state of numb shock the entire day. As last, I collapsed in an exhausted heap on a quiet hillside.

Gazing in the direction of the setting sun, I was startled to come face-to-face with the three figures now hanging lifelessly from their crosses.

Three men would be crucified today. Turning toward the roar of the crowd, I cringed as the procession came up the hillside. Three men carrying crosses stumbled up the road, surrounded by the spectators hurling insults.

Turning to a man beside me, I asked their crimes. Two were robbers, and one claimed to be the Son of God was the reply. Son of God? I shook my head at the absurdity.

I watched in horror as the three men were nailed each to his cross and hoisted upright in the holes at the top of the hill. My eyes were glued to the scene, but soon I was shaking violently as the realization hit me again and again. That should be me!

Finally, I staggered back down the hill, unable to watch any longer. But I could not get the visions out of my head. I wandered around in a state of numb shock the entire day. As last, I collapsed in an exhausted heap on a quiet hillside.

Gazing in the direction of the setting sun, I was startled to come face-to-face with the figures now hanging lifelessly from their crosses.

Slowly, I approached the man in the center—Jesus, accused of claiming to be the Son of God. I knew instinctively that this was the man who had given His life for me.

"Why?" I asked aloud. "Why would you do this?"

And suddenly a single word, the answer, seemed to surround my chilled body with warmth: LOVE. The power of this revelation stunned me. I fell face down in the dirt and gave this Jesus and His God what He had given me—the only thing I had to give in return.

My life.

\n
Seeking Spiritual Maturity: PRAYER

A Bible reading on prayer

A study of the references to prayer in the book of Acts

Three prayers are recorded in the book of Acts.

1) Choosing the successor of Judas—Acts 1:24-25
2) On release of Peter and John—Acts 4:24-30
3) Stephen's martyrdom—Acts 7:59-60

To whom are these prayers addressed?

What petition are these prayers addressed?

What petitions are these prayers addressed?

What elements other than petition?

What elements other than petition?

• Petition: Acts 6:6,13:3,14:23
• Forgiveness: Acts 1:25,6:6,13:3,14:23
• For safety of Peter, Acts 12:5,12
• For safety of Peter, Acts 12:5,12
• "Receive my spirit," Acts 7:59
• Consecration, Acts 6:6,13:3,14:23

Study the above passages for prayer as associated with: fasting, breaking of bread, laying on of hands, with eating, with song, with the Holy Spirit, with saying goodbye.

Answers to prayer.

Study the passages for direct and indirect answers to prayer, boldness, power, safety, light, earthquakes, Holy Spirit.

Concluding suggestions and applications.

1) Common prayer—Acts 4:24
2) Intercessory prayer—Acts 7:60
3) Committee for prayer—Acts 13:3,6:6,14:23
4) Committing prayer—Acts 7:59
5) Habitual prayer—Acts 10:2

Who is a saint?

by Myrna Cox

When I think of someone as a "saint," I usually think of older people who have their life together. They do not seem to have an identity problem, and they are content with their station in life.

Webster's Dictionary defines a saint more specifically as "a person of great holiness."

Using Webster's definition of "holiness," I would like to tell you about my stepfather. His name is Vernon Williams.

Vernon married my mother 10 years ago. We have affectionately referred to him as a "saint" through the years.

He is a man with not an inability to sin, but ability not to sin. He has not had freedom from temptation, but power to overcome temptation.

His judgment is not infallible, but he earnestly and honestly endeavors to follow the higher wisdom.

He has not had deliverance from infirmities of the flesh, but his uncomplaining way and genuine smile makes you believe he will always conquer his ailment.

He has not been exempt from conflict, but maintains victory through conflict.

He is a person who talks little and does much, without caring to be seen.

As I reflect on his life, I can see that Vernon is an older person (he is 86 years young), he is one who has his life together, and does not have an identity problem. (I guess that means my definition of a saint applies.)

I can also see that he is a holy person because saints are persons who make it easier for others to believe in God. His faith is simple, but tried and true.

We are focusing on Senior Saints and their projects in this issue of The Sabbath Recorder. I know that joy can begin with your decision to attend, Then it will be strengthened by your participation at Conference—based on thorough prayerful preparation.

Getting there

The Host Committee is making every possible arrangement to assure your comfort and convenience when you arrive in West Virginia. But to enjoy the full benefits of Conference means that you must first get there.

If you plan to fly in, it is too soon to investigate schedules and possible summer bargain rates. Please make reservations through the Conference site, West Virginia Wesleyan College.

If you come in an RV, there will be special parking spaces available on campus with electrical hook-ups and access to bathroom facilities in an adjacent building.

Have you made a firm commitment to come to General Conference this year?

It is not too soon! We are already into the final Conference "count down"—August 6-12 in Buckhannon, W.Va., will be here before we know it!

Conference President Myrna Cox has selected a very practical theme: "Joyfully Serve..." (1 Peter 1:8).

That joy can begin with your decision to attend. Then it will be strengthened by your anticipation of the event. And ultimately brought to fulfillment by your active participation at Conference—based on thorough prayerful preparation.

Answers to questions

You will undoubtedly have questions. Look for the answers in the May Sabbath Recorder.

All of the registration materials will be in that issue, along with names and addresses of Host Committee members and other key people you may need to contact to finalize your plans. (And, when you register for Conference '95, you will be pleasantly surprised to receive a special financial discount!) Your spiritual enrichment can be augmented by enjoying the natural beauties of "wild, wonderful" West Virginia. You can garner information right away by calling, toll free: 1-800-CALL WV (1-800-225-5989).

I get suggestions about what to see and do. Inquire about state parks and campgrounds. Ask about accommodations, including the names and addresses of motels in Buckhannon—if you are interested in staying off-campus during Conference week.

Have some descriptive brochures sent to you. And ask for a map of West Virginia so you can locate SDB-related places like Greenbrier, Middle Island, Berea (Camp Joy), Lost Creek, and Salem. Make these places a part of a "heritage tour" in connection with Conference.

The tourist bureau characterizes West Virginia as living "almost heaven." Of course, the truly "heavenly" feeling will result only if you come to General Conference. Come with an open, inquiring mind, seeking God's directives and expecting a blessing—in Joyful Service! ë

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Finalizing Conference plans with joyful anticipation

from the Publicity Committee

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If you come in an RV, there will be special parking spaces available on campus with electrical hook-ups and access to bathroom facilities in an adjacent building.

If you drive your car, you can count on ample parking near the dormitories and meeting places. Incidentally, you can drive all the way to Buckhannon on four-lane super highways. It is now easy to get into and travel around in West Virginia.

Something for everyone

Whatever your age or special interests, there are Conference-related programs and activities for YOU. For example, the young adults and the youth have Pre-Con meetings especially for them. They will have exciting discussion topics, revealing Bible studies, and interesting activities. Junior Conference for the youngsters runs parallel with the regular Conference sessions.

Board and agency executives provide not only special exhibits but share information from their areas of denominational work.

Some youth—and, perhaps, older delegates who are young-at-heart—would like to volunteer for occasional duty in the nursery or provide assistance wherever needed.

Musicians will look forward to singing in the choir and more!

Answers to questions

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Adding more saints to the Kingdom

by Ron Elston

Plainfield—making a difference

In November of 1993, at the request of Pastor Joe Samuels, I was invited to assist with a series of evangelistic meetings at the Plainfield, N.J., Seventh Day Baptist Church. This proved to be quite an experience, as we witnessed many coming to know Jesus.

As the year went by, I would receive updates from church members and Pastor Joe about the progress of those who had made a decision for the Lord. I was hearing about changed lives and how many were now working for His kingdom in various ministry efforts. What a joy to hear of lives changed for the Lord!

Well, that joy continues! This past October, a Ministry Support Team from Battle Creek, Mich.—Errol and Plo Spells, and Jerry and Joyce Wait—returned to assist the Plainfield church with another series of evangelistic meetings. My assistance was also requested. We were so blessed by what we witnessed. Many of those who had made decisions for the Lord in 1993 were now active in outreach ministry. Some were doing personal street evangelism, some distributing tracts and flyers, while others were going door-to-door witnessing for Jesus.

One couple attended the meetings in 1993 and had accepted the Lord. They were both baptized, joined the local church, and were subsequently married in the church. To me, that is ministry! Lives changed for the Lord—a living testimony.

Some who lived on the street in '93 now have jobs and are living a different life way. We were so blessed by what we witnessed. Many of those who had

Kirkwood church hosts “Our Godly Heritage” Seminar

Last June, the Kirkwood church hosted a Christian rally and seminar called “Our Godly Heritage.” The church, under the leadership of Phil Frankford, put together a program of Bible study, music, and worship.

SDB Historian Don A. Sanford presented a wonderful program on Seventh Day Baptist history. Don was also available during a “free” time to talk with representatives of several denominations about his books and his work.

Rev. Ron Elston Sr. assisted with the planning of the program and was in the St. Louis area prior to the seminar to help set up the rally. Rev. Elston, who works for the SDB Missionary Society as Regional Field Minister, presented the morning message and assisted during the afternoon sessions.

There were 80 present during the seminar, with several denominations represented, from Seventh-day Adventists to Church of God. There were several independent Sabbathkeeping churches, as well as members of the Promise Keepers.

Several good contacts were made as a result of the rally, and we continue to keep in contact with those interested. This David Barton video, “Our Godly Heritage,” was viewed, also with good response.

The Kirkwood church continues to reach out into the St. Louis area with their V-Com voice mail. The members were of great help networking with area churches and government agencies during the recent flooding in the Midwest. They desire your prayers for growth in the St. Louis-Metro area.

Remembrances... (from the memorial service)

by Calvin Babcock

I remember a man of God who, with his family, served the Lord with joy.

I remember a man who had been my pastor two times, and he was my pastor when I was ordained as a deacon.

I remember a man who cared for people. It didn’t make any difference if these people were very rich or very poor—he would go out of his way to help them.

I remember a man who was not afraid of work. In Little Rock, when we were rebuilding a church there, many Sundays were spent laying on our backs digging dirt out from under the church to make a drain- age way.

I remember a man who loved to share God’s Word. He was a great user of tracts. Anytime he had the chance, he would hand out a tract, or slip one inside a bill payment.

I remember a man who enjoyed computer communication. He loved to do fair booths where he could hand out literature, and keep the computer mailing list up-to-date.

I remember a man who I was proud to know as a Christian friend and as my pastor.

by Marilyn O. Davis

Lester and Grace Osborn had three boys, and they wanted a girl. There were two young babies who were available for adoption in Kansas. The phone call came and they said they'd be right over to choose one of them. "Come on, Paul. Go with us!" Paul climbed up into one of the cribs, and said, "This is my if-ter! We're gonna take her home!" I remember Paul's "if-ter." I am also known as "Brat-head." He could call me that; you can't! There were reasons.

All through elementary and high school, we had many of the same teachers. And those teachers would

Dedicated pastor and leader at peace

The Rev. Paul B. Osborn, 67, of Albion, Wis., went to be with the Lord on March 12, 1995, at University Hospital in Madison, Wis. Pastor Paul was born on February 9, 1928, in Verona, N.Y., the son of Lester G. and Grace (Muney) Osborn. He married Muriel Sholtz on August 31, 1945, in Verona.

Paul was a Seventh Day Baptist pastor who served churches in Niles and Richburg, N.Y.; Marlboro, N.J.; Little Rock, Ark.; Kansas City and Nortonville, Kan.; Dodge Center, Minn.; and Albion. He was ordained to the gospel ministry at Niles in 1953.

Paul was a member of the American Sabbath Tract and Communication Council (formerly the American Sabbath Tract Society). He was president of the SDB General Conference in 1972, and a member of the SDB Commission.

Surviving are his wife, Muriel; four sons, Phillip of Frederick, Md., Joel of Cottage Grove, Wis., Timothy of Dodge Center, and Stephen of Milton, Wis.; one daughter, Karon Paye of Glenmont, Minn.; one sister, Marilyn Osborn Davis of Oneida, N.Y.; and 10 grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Loren and Kent; and two grandchildren, Shawn Payne and Jessica Osborn.

A memorial service was held on March 11 at the SDB Church in Albion. Memorials may be made to the Tract and Communication Council, the Albion SDB Church, or the American Diabetes Association.

April 1995/23
The spirit of money

by Gary Moore

I received a letter from a good friend recently. He has been one of our nation’s leading voices proclaiming that our economy faces very difficult times ahead. He spoke of a “bad economy” and wrote, “I see the economy from the perspective of the average family—whose real income has declined nearly 7% in the last decade.”

I’ve heard that statistic several times lately—usually from those who used to worry about high unemployment (which has now turned into a labor shortage for businesses to worry about), and the federal debt (which seems less of a crisis now that conservatives have regained the Congress). I expect it will become the new topic of talk-show hosts who need something to cause their audiences to worry. But before you become even more anxious by focusing on yet another negative, you might look on the bright side as well. It is true that real incomes have slipped during the past decade. But we elected Ronald Reagan to stop inflation—and one dimension of that was wage inflation. He succeeded. Now we’re upset. But there have been some great blessings from it as well.

Remember the 16% mortgage rates we were paying a decade ago? We’re paying about half that today. That’s the type of “bad economy” I can live with.


Hickman - Cruzan.—Douglas John Hickman and Anna Marie Cruzan were united in marriage on January 28, 1995, at the Marlboro Seventh Day Baptist Church in Bridgeton, NJ. The Rev. Everett Dickinson officiated.

Currey - Sweeney.—Neil Currey and Paulette Sweeney were united in marriage on January 29, 1995, at Coral Baptist Church in Coral Springs, FL. The Rev. Andrew Samuels officiated.

Currey - Sweeney.—Noel Currey and Paulette Sweeney were united in marriage on January 29, 1995, at Coral Baptist Church in Coral Springs, FL. The Rev. Andrew Samuels officiated.

Nortonville news

by Reba Wheeler

Members of the Nortonville, Kan., Seventh Day Baptist Church were guests at a Valentine Banquet on February 18 in the church basement. The Social Committee, consisting of Lois Birt, Mike Graves, and Kent Wheeler had charge of the arrangements. Mike was the chief cook of chicken, ham, and vegetables (delicious!), assisted by Pastor Robert Harris; Lois was in charge of the decorations, rolls, salad, and baking the potatoes; and Kent was in charge of the program.

Pastor Harris and his wife, Linda, made and served the dessert—cherry cheesecake. The young people serving the meal were: Lillian George, and Lynn Graves; Joanna Harris; and Maggie Dodson. During the evening, Steve and Irene Saunders entertained with numerous piano duets, and Steve led the singing of several “old-time” songs. A male quartet—Edwin Johnson, Steve and David Saunders, and Kent Wheeler—sang several selections, accompanied by Irene. Linda Harris read a couple of poems. It was a delightful evening and greatly appreciated!

Several projects are in progress, including the installation of a new sink and cabinet top in the parsonage kitchen. Steve Saunders is doing the repair work. Steve also presented the church with a new public address system.

Accessions

Lake Elsinore, CA
Leland Davis & Lee Goode, co-pastors
Joined after baptism
Vasil Kabachenko

Lost Creek, WV
Larry Graffius, pastor
Joined after baptism
Larry Nida

Westerly, RI
David Taylor, pastor
Joined after testimony
Dawnell Hagerty

Texarkana, AR
Myron Soper, pastor
Joined by letter
Adam Crabtree

Births

King.—A son, Karim Ian King, was born to Owen and Heather King of Miami, FL, on February 17, 1995.

Obituaries

Peat.—Pastor Albourne L. Peat of the Mill Yard SDB Church, London, England, fell asleep on November 22, 1994. Pastor Peat came from Jamaica (where he served as a pastor) to England in 1958. He served in the Mill Yard church since then, and was appointed pastor of the church in 1970 following the retirement of Pastor J. McGahey. In September 1994, he marked a total of 24 years as pastor of the Mill Yard church. He is mourned by his six chil-
A special Senior Saint

Kevin's Korner

We'd no longer see that smiling face, that ready joke, that glint of mischief remaining in his one good eye. But we also knew that we'd no longer see the stains on the kitchen table from his blood sugar tests, his weakening body staggering down the hallway, his bruised arms and face. The ravages of diabetes was over.

I could rejoice in that release. But I couldn't move.

"Rev, you're even a shirt-tail relative to both Paul and Muriel!" I prodded myself.

"There, his sister just finished; you could have a perfect intro saying you are his 'if-ter's' nephew!" (See page 23.)

But I couldn't move.

"Hey, you're standing up—oh, just to let someone else in the pew get to the microphone... No, don't sit down; now's your chance!"

But I couldn't go forward. Paul was so many things to me that every time the words came to my mind, the journey to my mouth got sidetracked into tears. My lips would quiver, my voice crack. I couldn't do it.

"Come on, man. You've had to lead at other functions—get a grip! Even his son, Steve, could get through this beautiful solo. You could at least say something as a friend."

But I couldn't move.

Looking at the Council directory, I couldn't help but notice the lines concerning Paul: "Term expires 1996."

That reminded me of the sign Paul had in his church office: "The more you complain, the longer God lets you live." He did not complain much. Even to the end.

"What about saying something as a co-worker at the Center? As a co-pastor? As a former prayer partner?" I couldn't move.

Responding to this year's spiritual emphasis on prayer, all the local SDB pastors meet monthly to pray for each other. Our scheduled meeting for March was the 2nd, the day of Paul's passing. I immediately felt a void among us.

Paul was "Mr. Tract," handing them out by the hundreds. He served on the Tract Society Board ever since it moved to the Midwest in 1982. After 10 years as first vice-president and Publications Committee chairman, he said it was time to step down. He felt we should get some new blood and fresh ideas. The Council reluctantly agreed.

"Term expires 1996."

But I couldn't move.
Join us for Conference at Wesleyan College in Buckhannon, W.Va.

**August 6-12, 1995**

**Host Committee Contact Persons**

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<th>Role</th>
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<td>Treasurer:</td>
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<td>Physical Arrangements:</td>
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