Working Mothers

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Who are Seventh Day Baptists?

If you’ve never read The Sabbath Recorder before, you might be wondering who Seventh Day Baptists are. Like other Baptists, we believe in:
- the saving love of Jesus Christ
- the Bible as the inspired word of God and a record of God’s will for man. The Bible is our authority both for our faith and our daily conduct.
- freedom of thought under the guidance of the Holy Spirit
- the congregational form of church government. Every member of the church has the right to participate in the decision-making process of the church.

The seventh day

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

Is it the joy of God that the Sabbath makes Seventh Day Baptists just a little bit different? If you would like more information, write: Seventh Day Baptist Center, 3120 Kennedy Road, PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547-1678, Phone (608) 752-5055, FAX (608) 752-7711

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A "working mother" wherever she's planted
by Leanne Lippincott

"Working mothers.
I've always disliked that phrase. Today, it's used a lot—mainly to
describe women who are raising
children while working outside the
home. But to me, "working mothers"
seems silly and redundant. It's like saying, "Flying airplanes." Or "Cold ice."

Do many of us know a mother who
doesn't work?! I also dislike the phrase because it erects barriers, promotes resentment, and fosters stereotyping. Not exactly Christ-like by-products.

Stay-at-home mothers who forgo salaried jobs can end up viewing their "working sisters" as selfish, career-crazed feminists who put their needs above the needs of family. And women who have jobs from home can end up with equally warped views of stay-at-home moms. ("I'm sure Alice just sits in front of the 'tube' all day, watching 'soap' and stuffing her
clothes into the dryer.")

Christ cautioned against judging others (Matthew 7:1-5). So we should be doubly careful not to condemn a mother for opting to stay home. ("You could be earning a paycheck!") And we should be just as careful not to condemn a mother for joining the work force. ("Strangers are raising your kids!")

The decision to work inside or outside the home should be a joint decision, prayerfully reached between a woman, her husband, and her God. (Warning: Do not ask me what I think of the term, "housewife." Hint: I did not marry a house.)

In addition to homemaking tasks (which, in a few years, included childrearing), I slowly branched out into other areas. For instance, I compiled and typed the church bulletin. I also started a small craft business (wood and dried-mushroom centerpieces), and did in-home typing for the local school district.

While I was expecting our second child, I started working a few hours a day at the City Administrator’s office in Dodge Center. (The late William R. "Bob" Austin, SDB extraordinaire, was my boss.) Daughter Jennifer was 3 years old at the time.

Although I was pierced by the slings and arrows of mothers' guilt, working outside the home did have its pluses. For one thing, it helped me to be earning a marvelously 24-hour morning sickness. (I bet you didn't know that a woman could regurgitate eight times in one afternoon!!)

The job also gave our daughter the opportunity to be away from mother's apron strings for a few hours a day. And since I was already caffeinated from spending too much time with Big Bird and Captain Kangaroo, I thoroughly enjoyed the little "mad money" that I earned.

After Jay was born, I went back to work, but still on a limited basis. Denny and I both felt it was important for me to be home while the kids were small.

When we moved to Iowa in June of ‘79, our daughter was 4, and our son was 6 months. During our stay in Swea City, my primary focus was homemaking and childrearing. But I did undertake a few new "in-home" jobs: In addition to my little craft business, I began raising and selling scones. And in the fall of ‘82, I began writing a weekly humor column for the Swea City Herald.

In 1979, we moved to Janesville, Wis. Denny became a pilot for Blackhawk Airways, and I became a humor columnist for the Janesville Leader. In 1986, I began editing "The Sabbath Visitor."

My work situation was ideal. I could be a columnist and editor, and still remain a stay-at-home mom.

In 1982, when Jay began attending school full-time, I was offered the job of art director at our denominational headquarters. In all honesty, I was never totally content with the important but limited role of wife and mother. (I love to mow, but I hate to mow!) It was never a question of not loving my husband and children. I simply wanted, and needed, something more in my life. So when the job at the SDB Center "fell into my lap," I took it.

There's an old saying that declares, "God works in mysterious ways." In letter dated June 30, 1982, SR Editor/History

Whether a mother spends the majority of her time inside or outside the home, she can look to the "Wife of Noble Character" in Proverbs as a godly role model for all mothers.
Woman as Mother
by Nancy Wilson

Motherhood is in a muddle. Christian women in the ‘90s would be hard pressed to find a pattern of godly motherhood to emulate in popular American culture. Although our modern world espouses several views of motherhood, each is, not surprisingly, seriously flawed.

Motherhood—“An inconvenience” One widely held notion is that motherhood is an inconvenience: it interrupts career plans, ruins the figure; it is a royal and expensive nuisance. Obviously the abortion mill is fueled in part by this attitude.

But subtly, Christian women are not invulnerable to this viewpoint; they have heard it so much that many agree with the world that children are “not for everyone”—at least “not right now.”

Pursuit of career, financial independence, and leisure are given the preeminence instead of children. Motherhood is seen as one of many options and is easily “put off.” This is simplified by modern scientific negation; for this is a nuisance. Obviously the abortion mill is fueled in part by this attitude.

One third view of motherhood stands in odd contrast to the “children-are-an-imposition” perspective, but isn’t far removed from the experience-oriented outlook. This is the sentimental romantic view:

We see “cards for mother” by the truckload, decorated with hearts, bows, bunnies, and lots of glitter on the outside and trite verses commemorating motherhood on the inside. This reduces motherhood to an emotional state: babies are sweet and cute and adorable and always love you. This sentimentalism is dangerous because any time our emotions are driving the car, we shortly end up in a ditch. Babies wake up in the night; babies get sick; sometimes babies even die.

The tender, sweet, emotional side of motherhood is precious, but only because hard-headed reason and biblical discipline, with lots and lots of hard work, are steering the process.

The Biblical perspective Christian women need to have their perspective on mothering anchored to the Scriptures, not to our modern culture. It is imperative that they know how the Bible defines mothering, for this is a protection against the ungodly pressures to conform to the world. Christian women must learn to think like Christians about these things.

When a young woman marries, her identity changes radically: she is no longer a daughter, but a wife. Her name changes, she has a new head, and new responsibilities as her husband’s helper. Then when she becomes a mother, her body changes and with it often her emotions. A little person comes into this world who is completely dependent upon her.

All these changes require a biblical frame of reference to enable a woman to anticipate, understand, and appreciate who she is in God’s world and what her duties and responsibilities are in her roles as wife and mother. The Scriptures illumine this for her and provide security in the midst of so much modern folly.

A learned skill Good mothering is a learned skill. Titus 2:3-4 commissions older women to live holy lives so that they can be fit to teach younger women, “to love their husbands, to love their children.”

Christian women cannot learn mothering from talk-show hosts, from magazine articles at the check-out stand, or from classes on self-esteem. A healthy godly view of mothering must be taught from the Scriptures, and it must be learned.

Always a blessing? Scripture teaches that it is not an automatic blessing to be a mother. Solomon says, “A wise son makes a glad father, but a foolish son is the grief of his mother.” (Prov. 10:1). Being a mother can be, and often is, a grief. “A foolish son is a grief to his father, and bitterness to her who bore him.” (Prov. 17:25).

However, raising children to righteousness is a blessing: “The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice, and he who begets a wise child will delight in him. Let your father and your mother be glad, and let her who bore you rejoice” (Prov. 23:24-25).

The future impact A wise mother realizes she can have a tremendous impact for good on future generations through her children. Knowing that God desires godly offspring (Mal 2:15), she faithfully teaches her children His ways. “My son, hear the instruction...”

Christian women cannot learn mothering from talk-show hosts, from magazine articles at the check-out stand, or from classes on self-esteem. Mothering must be taught from the Scriptures.
They’ve done it both ways
From Sesame Street to the front of the class
by Lannette Calhoun

The decision to be a stay-at-home mom was an easy one. I had read that part of Proverbs 31 where it says “her children shall rise up and call her blessed.” I thought that sounded great and didn’t want to miss a day of it, except that it never happened. My children would just rise up and call me!

Yes, there were those days in between diapers and feedings that I said things like, “What’s it all about, Alfie?” But nap time would come, and I would look at those angelic sleeping children (all three under the age of 4) and feel incredibly blessed. My own mother worked outside of the home, and I remember her saying often that she wished she hadn’t worked all of those years. She felt as though she had missed out on some things. I don’t think that my decision was based on that, however. Though I was taken care of by my grandmother, great-grandmother, and aunt, I didn’t have the luxury of having relatives live close enough to care for my children. To help make ends meet when our children were small, I took care of other children, taught piano lessons, and held Sunday organist/choir director jobs. I never felt less of a person just because I was home with my children. I was there to see their first step and witness those magical moments that can’t be programmed into a particular time slot.

We never had a lot of extras, but we always had enough, thanks to my parents and our church families. Adult conversation was certainly a little infrequent at times. Since George was in seminary or busy with church things, I began to feel like I had a Sesame Street mentality. I was always a little discouraged when Snuffy wasn’t on the show that day. (Only mothers or pre-schoolers will understand this!)

The Lord provided, however, and didn’t want to miss a day of it, except that it never happened. My own mother worked outside of the home, and I remember her saying often that she wished she hadn’t worked all of those years. She felt as though she had missed out on some things. I don’t think that my decision was based on that, however. Though I was taken care of by my grandmother, great-grandmother, and aunt, I didn’t have the luxury of having relatives live close enough to care for my children. To help make ends meet when our children were small, I took care of other children, taught piano lessons, and held Sunday organist/choir director jobs. I never felt less of a person just because I was home with my children. I was there to see their first step and witness those magical moments that can’t be programmed into a particular time slot.

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In some ways, I think I’ve had the best of both worlds. Being in music has allowed me to free-lance; to take on jobs at times of the day or week when George would be available at home. When we moved to Battle Creek, Mich., I accepted a teaching position at a public high school for one hour per day. That got me out of the house long enough to make me want to go back home in a hurry!

As that job gradually increased in time, Joshua gradually increased...
From Sesame Street, cont. from page 9

in age and went to a pre-K program at the Christian school where Ben and Sarah were enrolled. I was able to teach music at that school part-time in exchange for tuition. I didn’t go to work full-time until three years ago. Our children were in school all day, and I felt that I was ready. I found, however, that it was a major adjustment for me and my family. I didn’t realize how exhausted I’d be because I’d never taught all day before.

My husband came to the rescue and began to use a talent that we really didn’t know he had. He’s an excellent cook, and he’s still at it Monday through Friday. We organized more intricate chore responsibilities for each child to help with the housework, including (yes!) the laundry.

Do I regret working full-time? Sometimes, but being on a school schedule, like my children are, helps a great deal. I don’t know if I’d be working if I weren’t a teacher.

Do we need the money? We could make it on one salary, but the pros-pect of three college students at the
dren’s needs are high, and I feel that I’m able to help meet some of them.

Whether they work in or out of the home, I’d recommend to any mom to stay at home as long as she can. It’s a decision that she’ll never

Is this where God wants me to be right now?
Yes, I think so. I work in a school where the children’s needs are high, and I feel that I’m able to help meet some of them.

From-out-the-door, cont. from page 9

have eaten up a big chunk of my income as well.

That’s not to say there haven’t been lean times. There have been plenty. To help ease financial pressures from time to time, I have provided child care for others, given piano lessons, or done other part-time jobs. But overall, I have been at home with our children.

When our third son, Phillip, was born, I really began to be thankful for our chosen path. I couldn’t imagine getting Matt off to school, Neil and Phillip off to the sitter’s, and myself off to work. I would be exhausted before I even got there!

Instead, I could use that energy to make breakfast and read to them. I could take the other two hours to see the world through their eyes, help them learn, and do all the other things that moms need to do. Sometimes it’s important just to be available to them. That time has been so precious!

Being a “stay-at-home mom” has its frustrations, too. There have been bad days when I wished I could go to a job just to get some peace! But for all of those times, there are so many more when I’m glad to have the opportunity to nurture our children’s lives at home.

I have a strong belief that if one can stay at home while the children are growing up, they ought to give it a try. Yet I know this isn’t for everyone. There are many things which are harder on the family than Mom’s employment. We all have to do what we feel is best, and then give it our best.

To those moms who yearn to be at home, give it a chance! Trust in the Lord, for He will supply your need. You may find it not only to be possible, but to be the most rewarding thing you have ever done.

Everyone’s lives seem to be so hectic these days, ours included. Not one of us, if given time to re-

Bright gems in His crown

by Vivian McNeve

“Children are poor men’s riches,” the English proverb goes. If you are a Christian and have been blessed by God with children, then you surely know that your children are the riches of heaven, bestowed on you for a short while, the splendor of your marriage, and the only earthly treasure you may take to heaven with you. How then, do we live our lives with this spiritual “capital investment” of inestimable value? Many in the world squander it, bury it in the ground. Many Christians do, too. Let’s face it, we’ve been fairly well indoctrinated in the ways of the world; we watch a lot more TV than we read the Truth of God’s Word, and it is reflected in our parenting.

Now I do not claim to be a perfect mother, nor do I claim to have perfect offspring. But I share some of my observations in the hopes that you will find something of use to you here. May God receive the glory and eternal benefit (Mal. 2:14-15), and may you receive the reward (Prov. 17:6, 10:1; Psa. 127:3-5).

I propose that the issue is not really whether moms are working in or out of the home. (I think we all work wherever we are.) The question is whether our children are being parented in the home or out of the home. Until the day they leave the home, they are being parented by someone—whether it be you, the school, the Sabbath school, the neighbor, day care, relative, or some other substitute.

God has given us the responsibility of bringing up our children, and I hope we know what the final goal of this responsibility is (Mal. 2:15). It is not for our mere personal satisfaction, or for grandchil-

1996/11

July-Aug.
world's view—in the world, in the church, and in your own heart—in order to value your child and your responsibility for him as God does. When you come to this realization, there is internal peace. You are fashioning a vessel fit for the Master to use.

What He has entrusted to you, you feel a great desire to maximize, to the best of your God-given ability. You find an abhorrence toward the worldly view that you might bury your treasure—until upon finality desiring to retrieve it, you find that it has rotted and moldered and maybe even stinks (Matt. 25:30-35, Prov. 15:20).

Is your husband's income insufficient? Ask yourself: He is too focused on income or material possessions, or too lazy to do what it really takes to meet his family's basic needs? Pray extensively for him every day, and as far as it lies with you, be more generous toward God. Encourage, but don't nag, your husband to do likewise.

For your husband to work a second job is not a viable option. God has made him the head of his home, and entrusted him with the charge of his children's spiritual welfare. This can hardly be fulfilled when he is gone all the time. Ask yourself if there are habits you should change or sacrifices you can make that will help. A household budget will help with finances in ways you can't imagine.

Are you a single mother (or father)? If you are widowed or are Biblically divorced, consider remarriage (1 Tim. 5:14). Pray that God will provide you with a truly godly mate. If you are not Biblically divorced and your spouse has not remarried, seek reconciliation (Mal. 2:13-16). God will help you do what's right to mend your marriage.

Seek out one, or if possible, several (Prov. 15:22) mature Christian women to point you to the Bible for the answers to your questions and problems (Tit. 2:9-10). It's hard to find truly mature Christian women, but don't settle for less. You know you have found her if you admire her family and have high respect for her in the Lord. You are better off looking for her than paying someone you hardly know to fill your head with psycho-babble, rather than the pure milk of God's sufficient Word (2 Cor. 12:9-10, 2 Tim. 3:16-17, 2 Pet. 1:4).

If these options are unavailable, I would suggest to a single mom to look first to her relatives for help (1 Tim. 5:16). If she cannot asist you with your true needs, look in your church for a mature Christian family. Ask if they can provide room and board for you in return for help around the house and yard, and/or some sort of help in the church's ministry, or some worthy cause of righteousness.

You might find someone very grateful for the help at home, or glad to help you help others in a way they cannot. I suggest that whatever is expected of either party be written out in a fair amount of detail, so there will be sure everyone understands exactly what the other said and to head off problems from garbled communication.

You will need to be willing to accommodate yourself to the home, compromise easily, adapt, and be agreeable in any area that does not go against God's laws. Let this mature Christian family help you with your budgeting so that you may begin to provide for your family through some sort of home business, or work out of the home, and eventually get out on your own. In this situation, your children can remain with you under your godly influence. If your children are not well-behaved or respectful of other people's property, read a book such as Richard Punzal's What the Bible Says about Child Training (indispensable for any parent), so that your children will not be a disruption and a curse in your home.

The children should learn household responsibilities and chores, and if old enough, earn income to help provide for your family.

Strive to live at peace, and do not abuse the kindness of your host family in any way. They do not owe you anything, whether it be lodging, transportation, or child care. All they owe you is Christian love, and in that, looking out for you and your best welfare as unto God.

Don't hesitate to go to the family of God for genuine needs which you or your host family simply can't provide. But be willing to give back in return, even if it is future return, so that others may also be helped.

Now a question for the family of God: Are you willing to open your hearts and homes to the mother who needs this kind of help—especially if she is your relative? Are you willing to help her through the long haul and hold her accountable for her finances and lifestyle? Will you support her if she desires to educate her children herself rather than thrust them into a godless education just so she can be elsewhere earning money which will never go into eternity with her? Will you give her advice from the Word of God, or evade this sometimes difficult task?

Do we believe that her children, and our children, are the choicest investments in righteousness, meant to be "bright gems in His crown"? How do we answer this question will determine many of the secondary issues in our lives.

"Put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity, and let peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called into one body, and be thankful" (Col. 3:14-15 NASB).

Gertrude Davis will be leading the Women's Interest Committee. All SDB women are encouraged to participate in this committee, for it's here that the major issues of the Women's Board ministry are dealt with. It's here that some of our policies are discussed and changed or amended.

At the Women's Interest Committee meetings, you will decide where the Love Gift will go. (The Love Gift offering will be collected at the Women's Banquet.)

Mrs. Wooten comes to us as a highly-recommended motivational speaker and workshop leader who uses her personal experiences and humor to minister to her audience.

You won't want to miss the presentation of the Robe of Achievement to one of our dear SDB women who has served her Lord in an exemplary way.

The big event for our women is the Women's Banquet, set for Wednesday, August 7. Our guest speaker will be Debra Wooten of Tacoma, Wash.
Offenbarung 14 12

man-English Dictionary and discovered that the word had a number of different English translations: "manifestation; publication; disclosure; unfolding; revelation."

The word "revelation" was the clue for which I was looking. I verified it by bringing out from the Historical Society vault the old German Bible from the Irvington church. It was a Martin Luther translation printed in 1591 in Wittenberg, Germany, and purchased by Pastor Schmid around 1943 for the equivalent of $6.00.

As I had hoped, the last book in the Bible, The Revelation of John, was labeled Offenbarung. As best I could decipher, the old German text of chapter 14 and verse 12: "Hei jest geltet der Heiligen. Hie sing die Halten Hie Gebol und den Glauben en Jesus."

The verbs, articles, and conjunctions I easily recognized, but I found it much easer to go to the English translation: "Here is the patience of the saints. Here are those who keep the commandments and God and the faith of Jesus." (KJV).

"Keeping the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus" was a key phrase in a number of our early churches.

"The Church of Christ keeping the Commandments of God and the faith of Jesus Christ living in Fiscataway & Hopewell in the Province of New Jersey being assembled with one accord..."

The covenant of the Newport, R.I., church, founded in 1671, did not use the exact wording of that verse from Revelation. The minutes of the Fiscataway Church begin with the words: "The Church of Christ keeping the Commandments of God and the faith of Jesus Christ living in Fiscataway & Hopewell in the Province of New Jersey being assembled with one accord..."

With my limited knowledge of German—remembered from a college course of 46 years ago—I was able to decipher most of the content. It identified the church as being a German Seventh Day Baptist Community with Worship Service on Saturday, Sabbath School at 10:15 and Sermon at 11:00.

But "Offenbarung 14 12" drew a complete blank in my mind. The nearest I could come was some sort of offering announcement, but that would not be posted on a permanent sign. So I consulted our Ger-

Pearls from the Past by Don A. Sanford, historian

One year ago—July-Aug. 1995
Rodney Henry and Don Sanford write on the theme, "Interim Pastors."
Pastor (Gary Hemminger) and church member (Doreen Davis) share their perspectives on an interim pastor situation in Seattle, Wash.
"Pears" column lists many early SDB pastors who served bivocationally.
President Myrna Cox presents the Conference lineup of speakers, worship and seminar leaders, and musicians.
Verona, N.Y., church plans for 175th anniversary in August.

Five years ago—July-Aug. 1991
Pastors Gene Smith, Leland Bond, Robert Harris, and Harold King bear witness to their career changes in ministry.
Ordination statement for the diaconate presented by former SDB editor Scott Smith.
Royal Mkandawire reports on flood disaster in the Phalombe Plains, Malawi, Africa.
Rev. A.H. Lewis profiled in "Pears" column.
Good meetings reported from the Eastern Association and the Wisconsin/Minnesota Semi-Annual.

10 years ago—July-Aug. 1986
World Federation Conferences highlighted: England, Jamaica, Mexico, and the United States and Canada.
Local church news comes from Plainfield, N.J.; Westerly, R.I.; Washington, D.C.; Salenville, Pa.; Miami, Fla.; and Texarkana, Ark.
Matthew Olson named new Director of Youth Ministry.
Harmon Dickinson honored at his ministerial retirement.
New pastorates: Harold King in Nortonville, Kan., and George Calhoun in Battle Creek, Mich.

25 years ago—July-Aug. 1971
Emphasis issue (in blue ink) highlights the Women's Society.
Preparations finalized for General Conference in Amherst, Mass., presided over by Dr. Stephen Thorngate. Special presentations honor the 300th anniversary of the first SDB church in America in Newport, R.I.
Leon Lawton reports on his trip to Malawi.
Longtime Memorial Fund worker, Adelbert Whitford, passes away in June.
Elizabeth Maddox and Steve Crouch report on their visits to Dayton Beach, Fla., evangelism ministry (done with Peter Morrison and Carol Soper).

50 years ago—July-Aug. 1946
Thirty pastors attend Ministers' Conference in Alfred, N.Y.
Rev. Earl Cruzan accepts call to Dodge Center, Minn.; Luther Crichtol installed at Washington, D.C., church.
Milton, Wis., prepares to convene General Conference on August 20.
Changes announced within the faculty of the School of Theology in Alfred.
Guest editorial by D.G. Decherd warns readers of "summeritis"—failing to support the work of the church over the summer. "Morbus Sabbaticus" (Sabbath sickness) also diagnosed.
"Gremlins" set small fires in the basement during morning worship at Westerly church. No serious damage occurred.

...where are we headed?

Pray for—

• churches in interim pastor status
• this year's Conference in Lacey, Wash.
• pastors and leaders facing ministry moves
• a strengthening of our kinship linkages
• our board and agency leaders and workers
• summer ministries to bless all involved
• the protection of all churches from arson
Resolution of Appreciation

The Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education, Inc., is grateful to Daryl D. and Barbara J. White for over five years of service as originators and coordinators of Natural Evangelism Training (NET) Retreats, 1990-95.

We deeply appreciate their commitment to our Lord Jesus Christ, their enthusiasm for the work of teaching others to be witnesses for Christ, and their love for all God's children.

Resolved this twenty-eighth day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred ninety-six, that we, the directors of the Board of Christian Education, and on behalf of all Seventh Day Baptists, express our admiration and love to Daryl and Barbara.

We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, because we have heard of your faith in Christ and of the love which you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven (Col. 1:3-4, RSV).

Amanda S. Snyder, President
Max L. Bottoms, Secretary
Ernest K. Bee, Jr., Executive Director

Have you seen the new brochure about our latest missionary effort? These brochures are being sent to every SDB church, fellowship, branch, and group in the United States. Some are also being sent to our sister Conferences and churches.

If you have not yet seen the brochure, contact your pastor, missionary keyworker, or a member of the Missionary Society. (For additional information, you can check the February '96 Sabbath Recorder.)

We are excited as we see how God is putting this new missionary project together. Where are we going? Mexico!

A lot of work goes into preparing for a trip to a mission field. Pastor Luis Lovelace and his wife, Joanna, have been called to this particular field. Presently, Luis pastores the Metro-Atlanta Seventh Day Baptist Church in Georgia. He also works in the graphic department of Ario Ideas and Design, Inc.

Joanna is a busy housewife and mother who has her hands full raising four boys. (Another child is on the way.) She home-schools her children, and plans to continue this work while in Mexico.

In my travels around the United States, I've been asked over and over, "When are we going to have missionaries on the field again?" This is an area of outreach that we previously felt we couldn't afford.

Now we have a reason to place a missionary on the field. Pastor Rosalio Camacho has requested that we send a missionary to the Mexico Conference to help bring the churches together, recognizing them as our contact in Mexico.

Individual SDBs are urged to place the brochures in prominent places in their home churches to inform people of the plan to send the Lovelaces to Tampico, Mexico, in October. The success of this project will be determined by the amount of supporting funds received during their initial 12-month stay. This time limit was set by the Mexico Conference. Another year of service will be considered near the end of the term.

If you need additional information or have questions, feel free to call the Missionary Society office in Westerly, R.I. That number is: (401) 596-4256.

Right now, we need to ensure that everyone knows the "good news" of this missionary project. However, it is also necessary to spread the word that it takes a great deal of money to place missionaries on the field. It will cost $45,000 to complete one year of the Mexico project. This sum takes into consideration all that Pastor Lovelace needs to complete the goals of his trip.

The Missionary Society needs donations to help defray these costs. We have set aside $10,000, but we are depending upon the members of our Conference to help with the rest of the expenses.

Let us all keep this young family in our prayers as we prepare them for their new adventure. We hope that they will be able to attend General Conference in Washington state this August. Hope to see you there, too.
Association Youth Retreat held at Little Genesee
by Barb Welch

Allegheley Association senior high youth gathered April 19-21, 1996, at the Little Genesee, N.Y., Seventh Day Baptist Community Center for a retreat. Twelve youth and three adults came from Toronto, Canada; two youth came from Hebron, Pa.; and one was from Little Genesee. There also was one guest.

The weekend included a wide variety of activities: a campfire, treasure hunt, video, singing, a study of the Psalms, and lots of recreation and food.

For spiritual emphasis, the youth studied several Psalms to identify a pattern practiced by David in coping with difficult circumstances. The youth discovered an effective tool to help them deal with unpleasant circumstances in their lives by "dumping," focusing on the character of God, and gaining faith and trust. This was followed by praise and thanksgiving for God's comfort and strength.

Every youth participated in a treasure hunt, video, singing, a variety of activities: a campfire, study of the Psalms, and lots of recreation and food.

Through the swift currents and roaring rapids.

The weekend included a wide variety of activities: a campfire, treasure hunt, video, singing, a study of the Psalms, and lots of recreation and food.

My prayer is that I do what's best for me.

The life I lead is the one led by my waterwheel.

The Waterwheel
by Kellie Mazza, Shiloh, N.J.

The waterwheel keeps on turning,
Pushing and shoving in the right direction.
I'm anxiously awaiting the journey it will bring,
As I prepare for the next splash of the paddle.

It's the waterwheel that has brought me here,
Through the swift currents and roaring rapids.
I have conquered the waves with laughter and tears,
I'll take these memories with me as the wheel keeps on turning.

The waterwheel will lead me to my destiny,
Each rotation brings a new adventure.
My prayer is that I do what's best for me.
The life I lead is the one led by my waterwheel.

My waterwheel is my Lord and Savior,
I am the water He turns and protects.
We are all in an ocean with rapids and waves,
May He take you in and make the water behave.

May God be the waterwheel that keeps your life turning.

Throughout the Bible, God used dreams to carry out His plan, giving them His special gifts to do His work. Today, God continues to give these gifts to women in order to help them carry His gospel message throughout the world.

Vendors of the Lord, a six-session Bible study from Concordia Publishing House (CPH), helps women focus on how they can serve God using the gifts He has given them.

Miriam, Deborah, Hannah, and Esther are just a few of the women who demonstrate the gifts God gives today, such as faithfulness, patience and persistent prayer, courage, boldness, zeal, and humble service.

Each 60-minute session includes the following:

- Opening worship
- Objectives
- Theme
- Scripture reading
- Questions
- Prayer

Each chapter encourages women to apply what they've learned to their life for growth of the heart, mind, and soul.

Does God speak through visions and dreams?

God used visions and dreams to communicate with many throughout the Bible, from Abraham (Gen. 15:1) to John (Rev. 1:9-11). But there was no regularity to these events. Apparently God communicated through whatever means served His purposes— including visions, angels, prophets, the written Word, and even a talking animal (Num. 22:21-31).

God still can communicate in any way He chooses. Some believe He continues to send special revelations, especially to those with the gift of prophecy and that these must be interpreted within strict guidelines (I Cor. 14:26-33). Others believe that the need for such revelations stopped after the early days of the Church, when every Christian began to be guided personally by the Holy Spirit and the written Scriptures (John 16:13).

Does God speak through visions and dreams?

To seek God's view
- identify the real problem
- search the Scriptures
- continual prayer, and sometimes fasting
- seek input from the pastor, parents/friends, elders, mentors, and professionals
- wait patiently, accept God's answer, and act on it

Associations youth leader Barb Welch was assisted by three adults: Charlene Lyons and Natasha from Toronto, and Kevin Kenyon from Hebron.

Everyone had a great time on a beautiful weekend. We are looking forward to another retreat in the fall.

Bible Q & A:

God used visions and dreams to communicate with many throughout the Bible, from Abraham (Gen. 15:1) to John (Rev. 1:9-11). But there was no regularity to these events. Apparently God communicated through whatever means served His purposes—including visions, angels, prophets, the written Word, and even a talking animal (Num. 22:21-31).

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Writing people's claims that they have had dreams or visions from God must be done carefully. The Law of Moses demanded the death penalty for false interpreters of dreams who tried to mislead God's people (Deut. 13:1-5). Even Daniel knew his abilities were limited; he had to ask God for the meaning of Nebuchadnezzar's dream (2:18-19) and needed help to interpret his own visions (7:15-28).

Does God speak through visions and dreams?

Seeking Spiritual Maturity: BIBLE STUDY

Study explores God's gifts to women throughout history

Each 60-minute session includes the following:

- Opening worship
- Objectives
- Theme
- Scripture reading
- Questions
- Prayer

Each chapter encourages women to apply what they've learned to their life for growth of the heart, mind, and soul.

Paperback, 83.30, 64 pages, Stock #29-2801. Available directly from CPH (1-800-325-3040) or through your local Christian bookstore.

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Does God speak through visions and dreams?
Revival stirs up Ashaway
by Virginia Crandall

April 10-13, 1996—What a wonderful four days we had at the First Seventh Day Baptist Church of Hopkinton, Ashaway, R.I. We wanted to hold revival services in order to get people into the church—to "sit things up," so to speak. Pastor Harold King got in touch with Don and Charlotte Chroniger of the Shiloh, N.J., church, and they agreed to conduct the services. Things at the church began moving immediately. Vivian Leeper rounded up the congregation for a vote of approval. Prayer sessions followed, and the schedule drawn up was followed to a "T." (Pretty much!) "At the Crossroads" served as the revival theme. We distributed fliers around town, along with posters, ads, postcards galore, church inserts, and personal invites. Whew! And the excitement never dulled.

Each session conducted by Pastors Harold and Don was attended by people from nearby towns. The congregation was thrilled with the messages and the music, which kept us jumping. Jessica and Bethany Chroniger sang like little angels, holding microphones and keeping time to Charlotte's lively piano accompaniment. Cookies and punch were offered each night and after church on Sabbath.

A pizza party in the parish house was part of the "round-up" Sabbath night. Salads and sweets were also served.

The result of our revival was perhaps not exactly like the revivals of the "old days." But it has opened our doors to hope for future sessions where everyone can meet and sing and pray together to the Joy of the Lord. 🙏

Alfred Station hosts Association
by Mae L. Bottoms

Conference President John Peil delivered the sermon during the Sabbath morning worship service as the Allegheny Association of SDB Churches met at Alfred Station, N.Y., on May 5-6, 1996. Using the parable of the lost coin from Luke 15:1-10, President Peil reminded the worshipers that life is a series of choices—we should choose and then focus. We were created for a relationship with God; He sent His Son to search for us.

Several musical selections added inspiration to 166 people from the six Association churches joined in worship. The Alfred Station chime choir, directed by Juan Ellis, performed at the Association choir, opened the worship service with "Surely, the Lord Is in this Place." The Association choir, directed by Amanda Snyder, presented the anthem, "Heavenly Father, Wonderful Savior." Amanda Snyder and David Hauber, Association moderator, sang, "The King of Love My Shepherd Is." On Sabbath afternoon, President Peil led a discussion on issues and challenges facing Seventh Day Baptists. This all related to his Conference theme, "At the Crossroads." He emphasized the need for lots of communication within the SDB kinship system.

As he raised several questions, he divided the congregation into small groups to brainstorm possibilities, emphasizing the need to take very small steps as we introduce changes. Two of the questions discussed were: How do we communicate love and respect? How do we make Association meetings meaningful and rejuvenating events again?

Members of the Richburg, N.Y., church opened the meetings with vespers on Sabbath eve. Young adults, directed by Susie Batte, led the vespers service at the close of the Sabbath.

Summer Youth Bible Quiz followed, with competition among youth of the Association churches. This year the quiz focused on Acts 1-14, with Ernest K. Bee Jr. serving as quiz master. Following this event, the young adults gathered for a gym night at Alfred Almond Central School, and junior and senior high youth enjoyed an overnight at Camp Harley Sutton. Delegates from Central New York Association, Michael and Leona Burdick of the Leonardsville-Brookfield church, led the devotions on Sunday morning prior to the Association business meeting. 🙏

New parsonage in Plainfield
On April 14, 1996, members and friends of the Plainfield, N.J., Seventh Day Baptist Church joined Pastor Joe and Joyce Samuels for the dedication and housewarming of the church's new parsonage at 222 Murch Place in Plainfield. Attendees gathered on the front lawn of the parsonage for a welcome and prayer by Pastor Joe. This was followed by a reading from Matthew 7:24-27. The president of the Board of Trustees "officially" presented the house keys to Pastor Joe, who gratefully accepted them on behalf of himself and his wife.

The doors to the parsonage were then opened, and all went inside to sing "Bless This House." A prayer and the act of dedication followed. Pastor Jeanne Yurke offered the closing prayer.

Attendees enjoyed refreshments to the Association business meeting. 🙏
Music, memories shared at Old Stonefort's 125th

by Jeanette Appel

The 125th anniversary celebration of the Old Stonefort (Ill.) SDB Church began on Friday evening, May 17, with a light supper at church, in anticipation of weary travelers.

Our evening worship schedule was changed drastically when we got word on May 15 that Deacon Leland Lewis, our speaker for the evening, had fallen, breaking his hip. Bill Bethel led us in congregational singing and a testimonial service.

Ron Brooks played two trombone solos, accompanied by Marla Agin. Beulah DeVard, age 97, shared some early church history, and Editor Kevin Butler each gave greetings from the Milton, Wis., church and SDB Conference.

Sabbath morning worship began with a medley of familiar hymns on the organ and piano. We then sang several hymns, including our theme song, "Church in the Wildwood.

Bethel-Buchanan family sang medley of familiar hymns on a Singspiration. The Brooks-Buchanan family sang "Jesus is Coming Soon." Brent Winter, candidate for Congress, and Editor Kevin Butler each gave short inspirational messages.

A local group, the Echoes of Calvary quartet, brought inspiring music. Our new member received the right hand of fellowship. Greetings were read from former members Mrs. Robert (Ruth Wells) Wilson; Mae (Randolph Lewis) Bottoms; and Dr. Ford Lewis, Sacramento, Calif. Ford took us back to his early childhood memories and shared a lot of history. (Thank you, Ford!) Several shared their joy at being present for the occasion and were thankful that God has brought us this far.

After the quartet and dismissal, we again met in the basement to share in a special 125th anniversary cake provided by Sue Bethel. Several pictures were taken of Pastor John and Marilyn with our oldest member, Beulah, and youngest attendee, Blake Jordan Buchanan. Pastor says Blake (nearly 3 months) can already say "Amen."

May 18 was a very high Sabbath for Old Stonefort. We are grateful to those dear saints who planted pictures were taken of the children's message. Pastor John and Marilyn with our oldest member, Beulah, and youngest attendee, Blake Jordan Buchanan. Pastor says Blake (nearly 3 months) can already say "Amen."

May 18 was a very high Sabbath for Old Stonefort. We are grateful to those dear saints who planted the seed for the church and thankful we are part of the harvest. May God continue to guide and direct us for many more years.

SR Reaction

Dear Editor Kevin:

I'm in complete agreement with Edward Hansen 'A Sabbath Romance,' May '96 SR about church business meetings. We never have those on the Sabbath and concur with the author that they should be held at other times. We held our annual business meeting on a Sunday afternoon in January. Our quarterly business meetings are on Sunday nights.

However, I disagree with Mr. Hansen about fellowship meals on the Sabbath. A small group of us have a fellowship dinner-potluck—after Sabbath School. It's entirely optional. Some of us who do eat at the church are single, as I am, and would have to eat alone on the Sabbath otherwise.

I don't like to eat alone on Sabbath day, and thoroughly enjoy our time together. I applaud those who take time to bake hot dishes for us. I always cooperate by taking brownies. Once a month there's a Meal of Sharing for the whole church, but that, too, is optional. The offering goes often for denominational causes. Those who do not wish to stay usually cooperate, though, by putting money in the collection. There's usually plenty of time to relax at home later.

As far as being with God at McDonald's or anywhere else, I would be remiss not to think we all need to spend more time with God, but frankly, I would rather pray with others than alone. Single people are alone a lot of the time as it is.

Very Sincerely,
Betty Balandr
Milton, WI

I think that you should request that anyone who is interested in receiving The Sabbath Recorder should write to you. You could have an article in one or two issues and maybe a page to return if they are interested in being on the mailing list. They should not be required to make a donation to the SR.

Anyone who is really interested in receiving it would gladly respond to this request. Many of our churches have people on their membership lists who have become inactive or not interested. I think that many of your magazines are mailed to people who never read them or care if they even receive it. (Donation enclosed)

Kent Kenyon
Coudersport, PA

SR Reaction

Opinions do not necessarily reflect the views of the SR or all SDBs.
Letters may be edited according to space and editorial style.
**Accessions**

Doniphan, MO
Ronald Elston, interim pastor
Joined after testimony
Elizabeth Bridges
Joey Bridges
Shawn Bridges
Mary Lou Brown
Amanda Butler
Nick Butler
Daniel Collier

Chris Gray
Don Owen
Stephen Vincent
Steve Whaley
Joined after baptism
Bobby Elder
Paint Rock, AL
John Beach, pastor
Joined after testimony
Lorraine Riebe

**Churches, Members and Friends**

Please remember the needs of your General Conference over the summer. Send your August Conference offering gift soon!

Thank you for helping us so that we can help all of our churches.

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**Denominational Budget 1996**

**Current Giving Budget**

![Graph of Budget]

- **Current Giving Budget**: $146,746
- **Giving Year to Date**: $134,223
- **Short Year to Date**: -$12,523
- **Current Giving Year to Date**

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**Marriages**

Yoneda - VanHorn.—Theodore Ken Yoneda and Cheryl Colleen VanHorn were united in marriage on March 17, 1996, in Hilo, Hawaii. Rev. Dale Thornqvist of the Salem, WV, SDB Church officiated.

Stecele - Balash.—Richard L. Stecele and Gwen A. Balash were united in marriage on April 7, 1996, at the Woodburn (OR) Seventh Day Adventist Church. Jerry Vaught, pastor of the Portland, OR, SDB Church, officiated.

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**Obituaries**

Davis.—Bernice Mae (Malbey) Davis, 91, died on March 14, 1996, in Middletown, R.I. She was born on April 18, 1904, in Adana Center, N.Y. She was one of six children and the only daughter of Norris Lee and Clarissa (Saunders) Malbey.

Bernice graduated from Milton (Wis.) College, and taught English and French in New York State schools for eight years. Upon her marriage to David S. Davis in 1935, she moved to Shiloh, N.J. She later taught third grade in Alaway, N.J., retiring in 1965.

In 1966, Bernice and her husband moved to Daytona Beach, Fla. He died in 1982. In August 1995, she moved to Forest Farm Health Care Center in Middletown to be near her daughter, Christine.

Bernice was a lifelong, active member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church, and held several church offices. She was also a dedicated worker for the Woman's Christian Temperance Union for many years, serving on the local, state, and national level. For 21 years, she was a director of the Local Temperance Legion, the children's group of the WCTU.

She was honored for her many years of service to the Rose Marie Bryan Children's Center in Daytona Beach, and for her 17 years as president of the Daytona Beach WCTU.

She was a participant in many farm organizations. She was also an active member of the Verona Seventh Day Baptist Church. Over the years, she served the church in many capacities, including church clerk, pianist, deaconess, and Sabbath School teacher.

Survivors include two sons, Roger and Olin; one brother, Floyd Sholtz; 11 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews. In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by four sons: Donald, Willis, Kenneth, and the Rev. Duane Davis.

Funeral services were held on April 8, 1996. Interment was in the New Union Cemetery, Verona Mills, N.Y.

Fox.—Dean Stanley Fox, 97, died at his home in Milton, Wis., on May 1, 1996.

He was born on August 8, 1898, in Dodge County, Minn., the son of Frank and Elsa (Franklin) Fox. He married Belva Severance on June 23, 1922. She died in 1984.

Stan was employed by the Burdick Corporation in Milton for 43 years, and was on the volunteer fire department for many years. He was a member of the Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church.

Survivors include two daughters, LaVerna North of New Auburn, Wis., and Barbara Johnson of Milton; one son, Dean, of Sacramento, Calif.; 10 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren. In addition to his wife, he was preceded in death by a sister and brother, two daughters, one granddaughter, and one great-granddaughter.

Funeral services were held on May 3, 1996, at the Milton SDB Church, with Rev. George Calhoun officiating. Burial was in the Milton Cemetery.

Obituaries cont. next page

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*July-Aug. 1996/* 25
Westcott.—Edith (Thomas) Westcott, 92, of Pittsgrove, N.J., died on May 7, 1996, at her home, following an extended illness. She was born in Shiloh, N.J., and lived there her entire adult life. Since 1994, she had lived with her daughter, Florence. She also had lived three years in Vineland, N.J., with another daughter, Marion. She was the wife of Winfield Brooks Westcott, who died in 1965. Edith was a licensed practical nurse who worked for many years at the former Cumberland County Hospital in Hopewell Township. She also worked several years for Dr. John Gould in Shiloh. She was a member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Shiloh.

Survivors include three daughters, Florence Kincaid of Pittsgrove, Marion Crescielli of Vineyard Haven, and Frances Walton of Morris Plains, N.J.; 14 grandchildren; 29 great-grandchildren, and four great-great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by three brothers, Roland, Edward, and Newton Thomas; and by two sisters, Reba Crane and Abbie Gordon.

Funeral services were held on May 10, 1996, at the Shiloh SDB Church, with Rev. Donald L. Chongrier officiating. Interment was at Laurel Lawn Cemetery in Upper Deerfield Township.

Harris.—Clora S. (Stanley) Harris, 85, of Westerly, R.I., died on May 14, 1996, at the Watch Hill Manor Nursing Home in Westerly. She was the widow of Rev. Everett T. Harris.

She was born on November 5, 1910, in Jackson County, W.Va., the daughter of Thurman C. and Lucretia (Mollines) Stanley. She had been a bookkeeper at the Thermo Credit Union in Norwich, Conn., and the Cottrell Employee Credit Union, Westerly.

Clora was a member of the Pawtuck Seventh Day Baptist Church in Westerly, and had been a volunteer at the Westerly Hospital.

Survivors include three sons, Dr. Lawrence Harris of Greenville, N.C., James of Cranston, R.I., and Everett Jr. of Wakefield, R.I.; one daughter, Ruth Ross of Kent, Wash.; 11 grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by one brother, James Stanley, and a sister, Edna Tid. A memorial service was held on May 17, 1996, at the Pawtuck SDB Church, with Rev. David Taylor officiating. Memorial gifts may be made to the church, or to the SDB Missionary Society.

Offenbarung 14:12, cont. from page 14

Church of God made a major shift in its teachings. It declared that the statements of Jesus concerning the commandments did not refer to "the" commandments, but to "these" or "my" commandments; that is, the commandments given in the Sermon on the Mount, not those given to Moses. John, in his distinction when he said:

"Think not that I have come to abolish the law and the commandments, but to fulfill them and teach them to be called great in the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:17-19).

Historically one of our most important distinctions has been the acceptance of all the Ten Commandments as a loving response to God's great gift of salvation in Christ.

pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Whoever then reaches one of the least of these commandments and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but he who does them and teaches them shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:17-19).

Perhaps we, as Seventh Day Baptists, may be accused of being too legalistic in the matter of the Sabbath. But historically one of our most important distinctions has been the acceptance of all of the Ten Commandments as a loving response to God's great gift of salvation in Christ. Many of our early churches came into existence when they saw the inconsistency in those who affirmed a biblical faith, but made an exception concerning the Fourth Commandment. It would be well to again affirm Offenbarung 14:12:

"Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus." (Revel 14:12.)

There is an appointed time for everything. There is a time for material wealth, and a time to pursue the greater riches of the soul.

There is a time to go to work, and a time to turn your heart toward home.

A time to plant, and a time to reap. A time to network with your peers, and work situations.

There was a time to strive for a life of balance? Yet these authors wisely contend that life is a series of events that demand imbalance. We must take the time to handle certain issues while letting others go for awhile.

The women close their book, as I close my page, with a wonderful paraphrase they wrote of Ecclesiastes 3.

Hang it on your fridge—if you can find a balanced, empty spot!
Important Memo:

TO: FRIENDS OF THE SABBATH RECORDER
FROM: EDITOR KEVIN BUTLER

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE SABBATH RECORDER IS FUNDED BY YOUR GIFTS? YOUR DONATION TO THE SABBATH RECORDER IS PART OF THE TOTAL SDB DENOMINATIONAL BUDGET.

I HOPE THAT YOU HAVE BEEN ENJOYING THE MAGAZINE DURING THIS PAST YEAR AND WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE A TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION TO THIS PART OF OUR SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST CONNECTION AND OUTREACH. MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND THANK YOU.

GRACE AND PEACE,

Kevin

YES! I want to help the ministry of The Sabbath Recorder!

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