Ministry or job—why not BOTH?
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:

• salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ,
• the Bible as the inspired word of God,
• freedom of thought under the guidance of the Holy Spirit,
• the congregational form of church government,
• baptism of believers, by immersion, witnessing to our acceptance of Christ as Savior and Lord.

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 loving obedience—not as a means of salvation. Salvation is the free gift of God through Jesus Christ. It is the joy of the Sabbath that makes SDBs just a little bit different.

If you would like more information, write: The Seventh Day Baptist Center, 3120 Kennedy Road, PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547-1678. Phone (608) 752-7711; E-mail: sdbgen@inwave.com and the SDB Web site: www.seventhdaybaptist.org

The seventh day

Available at Conference—

These blue and white SDB logo items will be available only at Conference. The metal letter openers will stand up to your heaviest mail days; the key chains boast screwdrivers along the edges. Bring along some extra cash and purchase these, along with logo stickers, pins, and another new feature—embroidered SDB logo golf shirts! Proceeds go to our Sabbath Promotion Committee.

Get 'em while they last!

“Roman Rhapsody,” a Bible study written by Jamie Perez, will soon be released. Within the 24-weekly lessons, this 200-page, spiral-bound study guide furnishes the historical, cultural, and religious background of the time Paul wrote the book of Romans. The self-published book is available from the author at the pre-sale price of $15.95 plus $2.95 S&H (retail price will be $22.95). Jamie is a member of the Columbus, Ohio, SDB Church and has written devotionals for The Helping Hand.

Send your order to:
Jamie Perez
PO Box 249
Ostrander OH 43061

For more information: tmgp@worldnet.att.net

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July-Aug. 1999/
A ministry or job—

why not both?

by Tim Bond

Many individuals look at career choices as black or white—a ministry or a job, with no gray in between. Several years ago, I read a tract which said that God doesn’t care what brand of car a person owns. He does care about how the car is acquired and how it’s used.

In life, we make good choices and bad choices, as well as some that fall somewhere in the middle. Yet we can be used by God wherever we are in life.

I have worked as a public school teacher, managed the parts department in a farm implement dealership, and now oversee the GED program at a Christian drug rehabilitation center. With these experiences, plus a little delving into my family’s history, I’d like to share some insight into those black, white, and gray areas related to career choices.

Your job can be a ministry

First of all, I’m convinced that with the proper attitude almost any job can be used as a ministry. (Keep in mind, however, that there are some jobs which as a matter of conscience a Christian should not take.)

After my father’s younger brother, Robert Levi Bond, graduated from Salem (W.Va.) College, he took a job as a teacher in Lumberport, W.Va. Two stories from Robert’s one year of teaching have been passed down to this generation, and one event from his subsequent career in the military stands out.

Ministry begins at home

In 1919, my grandfather, Charles A. Bond, moved his family from a farm in Roanoke, W.Va., to Salem so his eight children could have a better opportunity for a college education. Before that family was raised, the Great Depression hit in 1929.

Like many other men, Grampa struggled to feed his family and pay his bills. A local grocer in Salem extended credit to the Bond family, and over the years, Grampa sometimes gained and sometimes lost ground on that account.

While this financial drama was being played out, Uncle Robert acquired the college education that his father had made possible, and he got his first teaching job. Money that this last Bond child earned teaching paid off his family’s account at the grocery store. Our ministry should begin at home.

Be a witness wherever you are

Robert taught only one year before he was drafted into the U.S. Army during World War II. Here is a job situation which has tried many Christians. One anecdote Dad shared with me about his younger brother showed something about Robert’s character. It also illustrates that wherever you are placed, you can still make a difference.

The war was on. Robert and some other sergeants were called in to meet with an officer to receive orders for upcoming action. At the end of the session, the officer asked the men what they’d like to drink when he proposed a toast. All of the responses but one were for alcoholic beverages. Toward the end of the line, Uncle Robert asked, “Could I have a glass of milk?”

Afterwards, other non-commissioned officers came up to Sergeant Bond saying, “If I only knew you were going to ask for milk, I would have, too.”

A man never knows what affect his witness will have. I’d like to think that some of the other young men in that room were a little less willing to bend to peer pressure after that.

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Your witness can change lives

About 1967, while I was attending Salem College, I got to know my second-cousin once-removed, Leland Bond, who lived in Clarksburg, W.Va., at the time. He was a salesperson for Lederle Laboratories, and he told me of an encounter he had while on the road.

Discovering that Leland’s last name was Bond, a man asked him, “Are you related to Robert Bond?” This naturally piqued Leland’s interest because his brother was Robert Lee Bond. However, the man being referred to turned out to be my uncle, Robert Levi Bond, whom Leland also knew.

The stranger shared with Leland how he’d been on the wrong path in high school, and Mr. Bond had taken the time to talk with him on several occasions. This, the man was convinced, had made a major positive difference in how his life had turned out.

Encouraging words build lives. We can share them regardless of what job we have.

Do we have to talk about this?

And what about the rarely-discussed but definitely important factor that Christians weigh when they consider entering “the ministry”? I’m talking about money.

When many people look at career options such as the pastoral ministry or associated fields, money becomes a major factor in the decision-making process. A few years ago, a story came out of one of our Seventh Day Baptist Ministers’ Conferences. It goes something like this:

An expert on personal finances came to lecture our pastors on personal thrift and financing retirement. His advice included things such as eating in a restaurant one time less often each week and putting the money saved into a retirement account.

How do you live?

This financial expert also offered to do individual counseling with our clergy as time permitted. In a private session, one dedicated older pastor presented his financial conditions to the expert. The expert’s reaction was that he didn’t know how the man lived on what he was making nor how he could save anything toward retirement on that income.

This suggests a ministry for laymen who opt for jobs with earthly financial rewards. They can give so that those involved in a Christian ministry can function with fewer financial worries.

The financially poor pastor knew of the rewards stored up for him in heaven. But, I’m sure, he also knew of the rewards of Christian ministry right here on earth.

Successes and failures

My current ministry is with the GED program at a Christian drug rehabilitation center. In this setting, I meet rejection, failure, and success. There are students who just don’t want what I have to offer.

Some clients that I think have straightened out their lives die of overdoses shortly after leaving the program. But sometimes our nine-month program becomes the womb in which a new Christian develops and goes into the world as a witness, bringing others both to Christ and the drug rehab.

Now and then my judgmental, human self has to reevaluate based on the rewards of Christian ministry stored up for him in heaven. But, I’m sure, he also knew of the rewards of Christian ministry right here on earth.
on new data. The success rate of drug rehabs such as ours is probably about 40 percent. It's even lower for those addicts who quit early. Therefore, I frown on quitters.

This "quitter" wrote back
A few weeks ago, when a young man quit after only about two months in our nine-month program, I thought, "He had a chance and blew it." I have a feeling that God thought differently. Here are some excerpts from the letter I received.

I thought, months in our nine-month program, "He had a chance and blew it." I wrote back.

I found Alfonso's letter in my box the preceding day, weighing at breakfast, I told my wife and daughter that I had received an "extra paycheck" the preceding day, and then I shared the letter with them. I'm sure the poorly-remunerated pastor referenced earlier also received some "extra paychecks" throughout his career, and they bolstered him up just as this letter lifted my spirits.

Thank you, Alfonso

Mr. Bond,
May God's blessing be upon you.
Well, how are you, Mr. Bond? Fine, I pray, As for my life, But I felt the need to write you and tell you how much I loved being your student,
You are very inspirational to me, and I never had a teacher like you, with so much patience and compassion, especially enjoyable being in your class. I wish there was something here. But I want you to know that I learned more in that way. I could continue my studies with you while I am out two months than I've learned in my life, and I know it's

I want God to know that my life was changed, and I am grateful for the people He brought into my life, I love the Lord today, and I am pressing toward the goal my family. My wife is due any day now, and we need your God bless you.

Thank you,
Alfonso

Extra paycheck

We get paid every other Friday. I found Alfonso's letter in my box as I left work on a non-paying Friday. However, the next morning at breakfast, I told my wife and daughter that I had received an "extra paycheck" the preceding day, and then I shared the letter with them.

I'm sure the poorly-remunerated pastor referenced earlier also received some "extra paychecks" throughout his career, and they bolstered him up just as this letter lifted my spirits.

Thank that special someone

There are many things we will never know about the success of our ministries to others until we get to heaven. I'm sure Uncle Robert, who died in the Battle of the Bulge in 1945, did not know the influence he had on his student until he learned it from the Father. Sometimes we are lucky and find out here on earth, like I did from Alfonso. Why not pick up a pen or the phone and tell someone who has ministered to you how he or she has affected your life. It may be just "the medicine" that individual needs to carry on.

Tim Bond is a deacon at the SDB Church of Shiloh, N.J.

Back to the Bible

Could an entire congregation change from Sunday to Sabbath?

by Stanley F. Fox

How does a church change from worshiping on Sunday to worshiping on Sabbath?
The "why" is easier to answer than the "how."
The "why" is answered in the fact that God established the Sabbath and never changed it, and evocation of this biblical truth leads to change in obedience to His Word. However, the real struggle comes with the "how" when another tradition has been followed for so long.

When God convicts, He provides the way to change and overcome obstacles. He did this with the Abrahamic Community Church in Yakima, Wash.

January 1997 was a turning point for the church. At the beginning of the year, I felt led to preach a series of Sunday morning messages on the subjects of Evangelism, Commitment, and the Biblical Sabbath.

To my surprise, the last message provoked enough interest that a Bible study was requested. Since I had personally been convicted of the Sabbath some years ago, I thanked God for this opportunity to take a stand for this biblical truth.

The vote would need to be 100 percent in the affirmative of those present for the change to take place.

Washington State

Seattle

Spokane

Yakima

The in-depth Bible study certainly challenged all of us. It eventually brought us to a valley of decision. After a series of lengthy Bible studies on Sunday mornings, the church Board recommended that the matter be brought before the members—to actually vote on returning to the biblical Sabbath.

It was agreed that the vote would come before the church at the July business meeting in order to allow sufficient time to pray about it. The proposal was also printed in the church bulletin every week so all would be informed of the upcoming vote. The pastor or other qualified person was available for one-on-one discussion on the subject. No stone was to be left unturned in making sure that this important issue was understood.

There was a concern about such a delicate issue split-
Witnesing in Mongolia
by Doug Williams

While in Korea in 1997, I learned about the need for English teachers in Mongolia. After prayer and earnestly seeking the Lord, I decided to go there. In February 1998, I left my home in the United States. Arriving in Asia, I stopped in China to visit Tianmen Square where hundreds of peaceful demonstrators were massacred in 1989. Then I took a pleasant 30-hour train ride to Ulan Bator, the capital of Mongolia.

In Ulan Bator, I taught English to children and adults. It was hard for the school's director to understand why I refused to teach on Friday night or Saturday to honor the Sabbath, but with God's strength, I stood firm.

I flew to Western Mongolia in August and lived in a "ger" (glorified tent) for two and a half weeks. Volunteer teachers had been teaching for the local Red Cross and for teachers at the agricultural college. I also taught in Darkhan, which is near the Siberian border.

The temperature sometimes got as low as -30°F. Since I'm from South Georgia, I was not used to such extreme weather, but the Lord graciously preserved my health.

My return from Western Mongolia was by jeep rather than plane. It was more interesting than a roller coaster ride! There were no seat belts so my back was exposed to such extreme weather, but the Lord graciously preserved my health.

As the driver honked his horn at wild sheep and goats, I realized how much cooler it was than the desert.

While attending church on a Good Friday, I saw a young girl who was deaf and had a stiff leg. The Holy Spirit moved through me to get her one when I was in Korea. That I did and had it sent. We had hoped to send her one when I visited Korea in 1999, but things went as well as they did because of those prayers.

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Can the dead witness for God?

by Clarence “Whitey” White

I travel around the country and love looking for historic sites. I find a lot of history in cemeteries, just like the one in southwest Illinois where I found Abraham Lincoln’s uncle’s grave. In that same cemetery, I found my own name on a tombstone. (The man died the same year I was born. That sure gave me an odd feeling!)

While traveling in eastern Iowa, I came across a little town named Welton and spotted this old church that is now an antique shop. As I talked to the owner about its history, he told me a story that touched my heart.

The initial building was a Seventh Day Baptist church, originally located on Seven Day Hill. Since I’m an SDB, I had an extra interest in going to the cemetery to see what history I could find.

First off, I located a monument inscribed, “1895—Welton Seventh Day Baptist Church—1946. Here maintained these grounds, built this church, and worshipped the God who gave the Sabbath to the world.”

In this day of compromise, people sometimes put a guilt trip on me and my denomination for not compromising with the majority and keeping Sunday as the Sabbath Day. As I read history, I realize most Christians have kept keeping the Sabbath—the seventh day on our calendar, which is also the seventh day of the Bible that the Lord blessed.

Walking through the cemetery in Welton, I could see several Seventh Day Baptist family names on the tombstones, like Babcocks and Hurleys. Some of the tombstones were engraved, “Asleep in Jesus.” As I took pictures, I could envision John 5:28, when Jesus said, “All that are in the graves will hear His voice.”

Even Paul, in 1 Thessalonians says, “But we would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.”

Yes, these pioneers of the Welton church will see that their works do follow them.

After locating this cemetery in Welton, I quickly contacted the SDB Center in Anna ville, Wis., to find out what other history they might have of these early settlers. The first white settlers whose names we know were Elias and Washington Wright. They came prior to 1840 from New York State and settled about one-fourth of a mile west of the present-day Welton, where the SDB cemetery is located. This Iowa territory was established in 1838 and became a state in 1846.

After this present group was established, a second exodus of folks from Ohio and Illinois settled around Welton. One history book says, “This excited the interest of the folks who were strangers.”

They noticed that these newcomers dressed in their best on Saturday mornings and gathered together for worship. The townsfolk of Welton also noticed that these people were busy on Sundays. The men worked in the fields, and the women washed and hung out the wash. The question the townspeople asked was, “What kind of people are these?”

Yes, they were a “peculiar” people who took only the Bible for their beliefs. They let others know that “the Sunday Sabbath” was of Roman origin, and they soon realized that Seventh Day Baptists were people who stood firm in their faith, on the authenticity and authority of the Bible.

As part of the Separatist movement in England, Seventh Day Baptists based their faith on the revealed will of God. With the Bible more readily available to the “common” people, they rejected the authority of a state church, whether it be from a Pope or the royal head of the Church of England. They believed that it was important for God to put the seventh day Sabbath in the Ten Commandments, and for Jesus to say that the Sabbath was for all mankind, they believed it should be followed by all Christians.

The Seventh Day Baptist Church in Welton started out with 21 constituent members. They worked hard, and by the end of the Civil War, they had 175 members. They agreed to this covenant:

1st We hold, that the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God and are all sufficient for the well ordering of the Christian Church both in doctrines and discipline.

2nd We hold, that the practice of Sabbating on the first day of the week is of Romish origin, and is a practical violation of the Fourth Commandment of the Decalogue. Therefore we Sabbathize on the Seventh Day.

3rd We hold, that immersion of believers in water is Christian Baptism. Therefore we practice no other form.

4th We hold, that the use of intoxicating liquors as a beverage is the highway to drunkenness and ruin. Therefore we have no fellowship with those who use it as such.

5th We hold, that American slavery is base violation of the law of God. Therefore we disclaim all fellowship with slave holders and their abettors.

6th We hold, that the government of the Church of Christ is a gospel "rite" administered in his name by a “highway to drunkenness” and vice, and that all liquor laws should be enforced. The church frequently had bootleggers arrested for illegal sales, but convictions were few.

This anti-liquor belief was exemplified by the story of a father whose son was near death after being bitten by a rattlesnake. When informed that whiskey was the only thing that could save his son, the father replied, “Better the boy should die than learn the taste of whiskey.” I never did find out what happened to the boy.

There were two Elders in the Welton church in 1855, Lewis A. Davis and John Davis. John felt that the field was too small for both of them. At a meeting on February 9, 1855, John was relieved of his duty and given the privilege of rechristening his standing in the Farmington, Iowa, SDB Church.

Some history books state that during the winter of 1856-57, religious interest in the area began to decline, and many became dissatisfied with the bitter winters in Iowa. Some wished to return East, and others wanted to head westward to Kansas and Nebraska. And why some wanted to head to Minnesota is a wonder!

The Welton church building now houses an antique shop.
Growing up with a different religious orientation in a predominantly Protestant, Sunday-keeping environment can be challenging. The whole process becomes a double challenge if you are a teenager and don’t have the support of your family or peers. About 25 years ago, I faced this awful predicament. I was never so confused in my life. Would I actually stand up for my beliefs and become that peer pressure was the devil’s work. I was never so confused in my life. Would I actually stand up for my beliefs and become a different drummer?  

Standing up for my beliefs  
by Dennis L. Palmer

Would I please my grandmother, my parents, and my band instructor, or would I hang onto my convictions?  

Praise the Lord! After two years of formal and informal inquiries among “our women,” the Daytona Beach, Fla., ladies have agreed to lead SDB women into the new millennium!

The SDB Women’s Society Board of Directors, located in South Jersey since 1990, will officially pass the torch to their successors at Conference 2000. (It is interesting to note that four “Daytona-ites” were present when the Shiloh Ladies Benevolent Society voted in 1988 to accept the same responsibility.)

“Be Ye Holy”—Conference Plans  
Conference President Norma Rudert challenges us to seek holiness as plans are made for women at Conference 1999. The Conference Committee on Women’s Interests will be chaired by Lorna Graffius, who brings experience to the Committee and serves as a role model for holiness (having received the Robe of Achievement in 1996).

The Women’s Banquet on Wednesday evening will feature Patti Wethington as keynote speaker. Patti, I’m told, has a “stirring testimony” and will bes assisted by youth from the White Cloud, Mich., Teen Center.

Don’t forget to bring/send your crafts for the annual Craft Sale. Proceeds from this sale have ranged from $200 to $1,200 since 1988 and have played a significant role in funding the Summer Christian Service Corps.

If you have enjoyed reading news of other women’s societies on this page, please bring 50 copies of local Highlights from your own Ladies’ Aid. Remember: we can’t print news without a word, I slipped on my Sabbath clothes. The issue was settled.

Sabbath. From that point on, people knew where I stood on the Sabbath issue, and the toward their North Dakota Heritage Center and the North Dakota Capitol Building.

Ruth also contributed an article about SDB women’s activities to the NABWU semi-annual publication, The Tie that Binds. (Keywords: don’t “file” the spring issue without reading and sharing page 5 with your constituents!)  

Summer Christian Service Corps
As you read this page and prepare for Conference, 25 college-age SDBs are assisting 12 churches across the country with their summer programs.

Plan now to speak with some of these young people about their experiences. Pray that they will promote holiness among our children and teenagers and that God will show them how they can further develop the new skills they are learning. Pray, too, for those whose lives are impacted by the SCSC program.
The Holiness of a Call to Ministry

No, I never have supposed that I have inherited a tendency to the ministry. My nearest ancestor in the ministry was a great uncle. My brother, Nathan, followed me, after nine years. The giving of myself to the Gospel ministry was the result of God's dealing with me. evening we were as David and Jonathan. We were members of the Dodge Center [Minn.] Church of which Rev. G.M. Cottrell was then pastor. After some time I talked with him of my conviction and received much encouragement. I also told my parents

The thought came to me as a possible duty, even after my conversion in my 15th year. The thought made me unhappy and so, from time to time, I put it away, as I had the public acknowledgment of Jesus as my Savior.

About the time I became of age, this question of the ministry came up so frequently and with such force that I was in deep trouble. Just why I rebelled so fiercely I have never been able to see. But I knew I was very incompetent and could not see how I was to acquire the knowledge I believed every man should have before attempting to preach the Gospel.

I had no means and my people were poor. I told no one of my trouble, until one evening Brother Eugene Ellis (of blessed memory), for whom I was working, discovered me in the barn praying and weeping. He insisted on knowing the cause of my trouble. He was so kind and sympathizing that I told him, and when he prayed with me and urged me to trust the Lord, I felt better. From that and received their blessing. Many of my friends also urged me forward. At 23 years of age, and with only about $175, I entered Milton [Wis.] College. After five terms, I went to Alfred [N.Y.] University because our Theological Seminary was there.

About this time I was licensed to preach by the Dodge Center church. I soon transferred my membership to the First Alfred church and was there ordained soon after receiving my B.D. from the university. I had been given the degree Ph.B. two years before.

Since that time, my study has been limited chiefly to the Bible and the problems pertaining to the welfare of our missionary churches. The strongest influence on my life has been the consciousness of God's goodness and power, and my greatest weakness the lack of implicit trust in God, and of a willingness to seek the counsel of my friends. The Dodge Center church is, I trust, in a fairly good condition, spiritually, and we hope will furnish her sixth candidate for the ministry in the near future. 

One year ago—July/Aug. 1998

Cover feature asks, "What to do with Buck?" Many readers wonder the same thing.

Feature highlights the George Barna seminar, "Nine Habits of Highly Effective Churches."

Pastor Ed Sutton recalls his dog "Appi" having a run-in with a skunk at Camp Joy.

Nadine Lawton asks, "Can the Old Testament relate to today?"

Riverside, Calif., church lists recent activities and ministries.

Colorado Springs fellowship honors faithful servant Doris Barber.

Five years ago—July/Aug. 1994

Features look at new building projects at Shiloh, N.J.; Boulder, Colo.; and Milton, Wis.

Daryl White reflects on the Natural Evangelism Training team's teaching experience in Jamaica.

Hendersonville, N.C., church pays tribute to recently deceased pastor John Thompson.

West Palm Beach, Fla., church active in community improvement.

Paint Rock, Ala., and Tupelo, Miss., churches hold first joint gathering.

10 years ago—July/Aug. 1989

The topic of education is discussed by RuthAnne Peil (Christian schools), Jim Skaggs and Lannette Calhoon (Christians in public schools), and Jane Mackintosh (home schooling).

Dr. Wayne Root's inaugural address for the Rex Zwiefel Lecture on Christian Education is printed. The address was given in Alfred Station, N.Y.

Board of Christian Education presents Resolution of Appreciation to E. Donald Van Horn for his many years of service to the Board, and his donation of the Board office facility, now named the Van Horn Building.

Page highlights the life and recent passing of Rev. Francis Saunders.

25 years ago—July/Aug. 1974

Doug and Jane Mackintosh now serving as missionaries to Jamaica.

General Conference to be held at Salem (W.Va.) College. Several tours of SDB interest are listed.

Pastor Elmo Fitz Randolph hosts the "Creative Camping Project" at Camp Paul Hummel in Boulder. Thirty SDBs from across the country come to enrich their camping programs back home.

Alton Wheeler continues his Ambassadors mission with a visit to SDB churches in South Africa.

Battle Creek, Mich., church involved in "Project Philip," a Scripture distribution and Bible correspondence school program.

50 years ago—July/Aug. 1949

General Conference held in Riverside, Calif., with Loyal Hurley presiding.

Pastor Ralph Cook of the Richburg and Friendship, N.Y., churches uses a telescope and stargazing to point to God.

K. Diane Hurley promotes Pre-Con at Pacific Pines Camp.

Planning to re-enter the pastorate, the Rev. Victor Skaggs presents his resignation as corresponding secretary of the Tract Society.

Pastor Kenneth Stickney ordained in Piscataway, N.J.

...where are we headed?

Pray for—

• highly effective church ministries
• Summer Christian Service Corps
• Christians involved in education
• the Maiden Hall project in Jamaica
• churches with building projects
• our Conference President and Host Committee
• our summer camping programs
PRE-CON CAMPERS

1999 Youth Pre-Con Camp

Dates: July 28, 4:00 p.m. - August 1, 1:00 p.m.
Campers: Ages 15-18 (or completed grade 9)
Location: Camp Manitou, 15787 McKenzie Road, Cassopolis, Michigan
Theme: Dare to Be Different
Director: Pastor Andrew Samuels, Miami, Florida
Staff: Pastor Larry Graffius, Marlboro, New Jersey
       John Pethel, Salem, West Virginia
       Christina Thorngate, Boulder, Colorado
       Pastor David Thorngate, Boulder, Colorado
Fee: $80.00 (Medical Form required)

1999 Young Adult Pre-Con Camp

Dates: July 28, 4:00 p.m. - August 1, 1:00 p.m.
Campers: Ages 18-29 (or in SCSC)
Location: Hope College, Holland, Michigan
Theme: Let's Rock the House!!
Director: Pastor Scott Hausrath, Montrose, California
Staff: Pastor Eric Davis, Riverside, California
       Anna Santiago
Fee: $130.00

This page sponsored on behalf of the Alfred, N.Y., church

FOCUS on Missions

Forgotten workers

by Kirk Looper

"Tragedy struck the Gold Coast (Ghana), West Africa, mission in the death of Peter H. Velthuysen in 1902, less than three months after his arrival on the field as missionary and teacher. Born in Haarlem, Holland, son of Elder Gerard Velthuysen, the early Dutch leader, he had prepared for service at the Alfred (N.Y.) Theological Seminary. His untimely death was widely felt across the denomination, and memorial services were held at Alfred and at the anniversary of the Missionary Society held in connection with the next General Conference" (from Seventh Day Baptists in Europe and America, Vol. 3, p. 85).

A tragedy? Yes. But a worse tragedy is the fact that this man, as well as several other SDB men and women, gave their lives in the service of God and His Son, and nobody remembers them. Since they were "on the field," we cannot easily relate to their ministries or the effect they had upon the work being done at the time.

How tragic!

Today, our young people look everywhere for heroes and examples to follow. And we are missing a great chance to share with them the dedication and sacrifices that so many gave for the work of Seventh Day Baptists worldwide.

Peter Velthuysen was a young man. He had not been out of seminary very long before he volunteered for the work on the Gold Coast. He had barely heard of the life-threatening environment that existed in the African countries, and no doubt spent hours praying over his decision and how it corresponded with God's perfect will.

Going to Africa would mean that Peter would be away from his family, friends, and home ministries for a long time. He would be in a hostile territory rampant with disease, beast, and pagans. It would be a far cry from the life of relative ease experienced by missionary workers in the United States and Holland.

How long did it take for Peter to come to this decision? Actually, not long.

Peter's training was not "skimpy." In fact, he had a lifelong preparation as a pastor's son. As noted above, his father was Rev. Gerard Velthuysen, missionary pastor of the Haarlem church and its branch in Amsterdam. He was nurtured in the love and dedication for Jesus Christ, which resulted in his willingness to sacrifice all for the work of God's Kingdom.

Peter was in the United States to present his father's report to the Missionary Board when he volunteered for the mission on the Gold Coast. After he discussed the mission with the Board, he returned to Holland to bid his parents and friends good-bye.

After spending a short time at home, he boarded a ship for the Gold Coast and started a trip which lasted weeks. Severe seasickness and the hot equatorial climate left him weak and exhausted. On October 20, 1902, he died of tropical fever. His ministry had lasted only three months after his arrival on the field.

Peter was a true missionary. He had prepared for service at the Alfred (N.Y.) Theological Seminary. His untimely death was widely felt across the denomination, and memorial services were held at Alfred and at the anniversary of the Missionary Society held in connection with the next General Conference."
Wednesday night R.A.W.
by Aubrey Appel

When it comes to pride in a small town's youth group, my enthusiasm is tough to beat. Every Wednesday night at half past six, 20-50 teenagers gather and worship at the Milton (Wis.) Seventh Day Baptist Church. We aren't all SDBs, or even all Baptists. We're a mixed collection—from those who have been Christians for as long as they can remember, to those who have been Christians for 2-3 months to come. For the good of everybody, we have elected a new set of officers so that somebody can take charge of the different activities undertaken by the young people, with the help of other youth.

Dear Sister Aubrey Appel,
Holy and sincere greetings in the name of our Heavenly Father.
Thank you for featuring my report in The Beacon last February.
Over the past months, the Cebu City, Philippines, SDB youth group has been involved in some church activities and in making plans for the months to come. For the good of everybody, we have elected a new set of officers so that somebody can take charge of the different activities undertaken by the young people, with the help of other youth.

Our brothers and sisters here in Cebu City encourage all the young people to participate in any activity for their spiritual growth, and to experience the abundant life that Jesus promised.

Levi Zafra, went to Anda, Bohol, to hold a Bible study and spread the Word of God. And we were happy that the people were very receptive to His Word. Through God's grace, Pastor Zafra was able to baptize three souls in Anda, and another five souls in Cebu City. In the month of May, 18 were added to the Cebu City SDB Church.

I pray God continues to bless our youth group so that we can spread the Gospel everywhere.

Yours in Him,
Angela Catayen
Cebu City, Philippines
The President's Page

Conference week at a glance
by Norma Rudert

Here's the lineup, folks. Please be in prayer for all of these activities, planned to encourage us to "Be holy in everything we do."

General Conference 1999 — “Be Ye Holy”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
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<tr>
<td>6:30 am</td>
<td>MORNING PRAYER IN THE DORMITIES</td>
<td>Breakfast—7:00-7:30</td>
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<td>Breakfast—7:00-7:30</td>
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<td>7:30 am</td>
<td>Bible Study and Children's Conferences—8:30-9:30</td>
<td>Breakfast—7:00-7:30</td>
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<td>Breakfast—7:00-7:30</td>
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<td>9:30 am</td>
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<td>Memorial Board</td>
<td>Missionary Society</td>
<td>Historical Society</td>
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<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>General Council</td>
<td>Board of C.E.</td>
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<td>Executive Secretary</td>
<td>Interest Committees</td>
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<td>Business</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30 am</td>
<td>Pastors' Wife</td>
<td>Woman's Business</td>
<td>Lunch—11:30-1:00</td>
<td>Pastors' Lunch</td>
<td>Post Presidency</td>
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<td>12:30 pm</td>
<td>Youth and Young Adult Bible Studies—12:30</td>
<td>Pastors' Lunch</td>
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<td>Pastors' Lunch</td>
<td>Post Presidency</td>
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<td>1:00 pm</td>
<td>Interest Committees</td>
<td>Seminars</td>
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<td>Interest Committees</td>
<td>SCOC Evaluation</td>
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<td>Organ Program—2:00</td>
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<td>5:00 pm</td>
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<td>EVENING WORSHIP—7:30-9:00</td>
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<td>8:30 pm</td>
<td>Fellowship</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 pm</td>
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Make final plans for Conference!

From the Conference Host Committee

It's not too late for final arrangements to attend General Conference at Hope College in Holland, Mich., August 1-7, 1999. (See the May SR for registration and housing information.)

Arrive early and worship with us

The college campus will provide a perfect setting for our meetings, and Michigan and Holland are beautiful in the summer! If you can plan your arrival for Sabbath, July 31, both Michigan churches invite you to worship with them. White Cloud is about 90 miles northeast of Holland, and Battle Creek is about 60 miles southeast.

If you're driving

If you drive to Conference, Holland is located right off Interstate 196. From I-94 in southern Michigan, near Benton Harbor, take I-196/US 31 north. Continue to Holland, going on US 31 when it splits from I-196 just south of Holland, past the Business I-196/US 31 exits, to 16th St. Turn west one mile to College Street, and then turn north six blocks to the Hope College campus.

Planes, trains, and buses

Those arriving by air should make flight reservations to Kent County Airport in Grand Rapids where the Host Committee will pick you up and provide transport to Holland. Please be sure to list arrival and departure information on your registration form. Bus and AMTRAK service is available right to Holland, and again the Host Committee will see you to the campus.

Y'all come!

Make every effort to come to Conference; you'll be glad you did! For the children to the teens to the seniors and all in between, President Norma Rudert and the Host Committee are planning a very special time of fellowship, learning, and worship of our Holy God. See you soon!

Judy Parrish, Publicity Chair
Home: (616) 956-9085; Work: (616) 345-0053
SDBs in the market

The Foothill Community Church (SDB) of Montrose, Calif., has done some other outreach besides their punk rock concerts (see June 29). Via the SDB pastors' network, Pastor Scott Hausrath logged this praise report about the Family Festival in Montrose:

"It's a farmers' market/community fair which occurs weekly in the main shopping district of town. We finally got the opportunity to host a church table there on April 29. The community received us very well; maybe only three or four negative reactions.

"We gave away about 275 helium balloons with 'Join Jesus' printed on them, and also gospel coloring books for the kids. We were able to make contacts with a few community members, giving out salvation tracts and SDB literature. Some were interested in where our congregation meets.

"It was a fun time for us, and we're planning to do it again."

Let's encourage the Foothill church through our prayers.

Portland camps out

Weather permitting, the Portland (Ore.) Area SDB Church was expected to hold a camp outing over the July Fourth weekend, with a worship service and potluck dinner at the camp. This is an annual event—taking place for the past seven years—which everyone looks forward to.

This year's outing was at Hoover Campgrounds at Detroit Lake, just east of Salem, Ore. Pastor Jerry Vaught's clan and one other family usually stay for a couple extra days. According to Pastor Vaught, the weekend is a time of fishing, swimming, boating, hiking, exploring, and just plain relaxing.

"As with our SDB Conferences, we have more people join us for Sabbath than we do for the actual camping," he explained.

"Mostly it is a time where the church family can have fun and fellowship in a camp setting, and all of the kids love it," Pastor Jerry pointed out. "The adults do, too," he added, "but the kids are more expressive about it!"

Conference Youth activities planned

Hello, I'm Miranda Mackey, the Youth Secretary for the 1999 General Conference. I'm from the Battle Creek, Mich., Seventh Day Baptist Church.

The Youth Committee has planned many fun activities for Conference. Some of these activities include a movie, which will cost $3 per person; a trip to Craig's Cruises, which will cost $6 per person; and a bowling trip, which will also cost $6 per person. Another possible activity is a trip to Lake Michigan.

Our Youth Group has been having fund raisers monthly and would appreciate it if other groups would join us in the efforts. If each group could raise at least $100, we know that everyone could participate in these activities.

Mr. Butler,

I read The Sabbath Recorder fervently, word by word. I want to be assured that I'm being led by God's will and not by my own desire. Like a spiritual vacuum, I inhale and savor it. Then, taking no chance on missing something, I re-read it.

I cried great volumes of spiritual tears as I read the article edited by you on page 5 of the May issue. I cried tears as I read the article.

I'm being led by God's will and not by my own desire. Like a spiritual vacuum, word by word. I want to be assured that Mr. Butler,

church through our prayers.

This page sponsored by a faithful couple in Albuquerque, N.M.—July-Aug. 1999/23
Current Giving 1999

- Asheville, NC
  Donald Fox, pastor
  Joined after baptism
  Christine Taylor
  Laura Taylor
- Dayton Beach, FL
  John Camenga, pastor
  Joined after testimony
  Elton David
  Margaret David
  Marie Ward
- Houston, TX
  Joined after testimony
  Mary Lou Broadway
  Linda Ziganay
- Miami, FL
  Andrew Samuel, pastor
  Joined after baptism
  Cortney Charlery
  Richard Davis
  Cassandra Murphy
  Thad Williams
  Loretta Sweeney
  Pamela Wilson
  Joined after testimony
  Noel Currey
  Marcia Livingston
- Palatka, FL
  Jack Morgan, pastor
  Joined after baptism
  Steven Sykes
  Maruey Webster

Accessions

- Ewart Rose
- Ava White
- Kiny Wilson
- Leonie Wilson
- Theonathan Wilson
- Milton, WI
  George Calhoun, pastor
  Joined after baptism
  Rick Mullen
- Shilo, IN
  Don Chroniger, pastor
  Joined after testimony
  Andrew Vicente

Marriages

- Vicente - Dixon. — Andrew Vicente and Danielle Dixon were married on April 10, 1999, in the Shiloh, NJ, Seventh Day Baptist Church, with the Rev. Don Chroniger officiating.

- Hampton - Johnson. — Charles Hampton and Glenda Johnson were united in marriage on May 27, 1999, in Florence, Ala. The Rev. John Bevis of the Paint Rock, AL, SDB Church officiated.

- Tank - Smalley. — Paul Tank and Debbie J. Smalley were united in marriage on May 28, 1999, at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Merrimac, WI, with Pastor Dale Smalley officiating.

Births

- Meyer. — A daughter, Rachel Elizabeth Meyer, was born to Jason and Shari (Smalley) Meyer of Portage, WI, on January 5, 1999.

- Aulita. — A daughter, Rebekah Angelina Aulita, was born to Mark and Debbie Aulita of East Berne, NY, on March 22, 1999.

- Murphy. — A daughter, Mary Jennie Murphy, was born to Buddy and Audrey Murphy of Ashaway, RI, on March 30, 1999.

- McKay. — A son, John Delmar McKay, was born to Brian and Kim (Ellis) McKay of Moriah, NY, on April 7, 1999.

- Nadeau. — Twin sons, Adam Christopher Nadeau and Patrick James Nadeau, were born to Donald and Cindy (Hays) Nadeau of Pawcatuck, CT, on May 3, 1999.

- Coffin. — A daughter, Emily Rose Coffin, was born to Matthew and Jorlyn Coffin of Colorado Springs, CO, on May 24, 1999.

Fitz Randolph. — Sandford

- Fitz Randolph, 85, of Bridgeport, W.Va., died on February 24, 1999, in Ruby Memorial Hospital, Morgantown, W.Va. He was born in Salem, W.Va., on April 5, 1913, the son of Norma Randolph. On December 26, 1935, he married Virginia Thompson. Sanford earned B.A. and B.S. degrees from Salem College, where he later served on the Board of Trustees for over 27 years. Following college, he worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture/Treasury. He also sold group health insurance, owning the Randolph Insurance Agency in Clarksburg, W.Va., from 1939-1953.

- During World War II, he served in the U.S. Navy. Afterwards, he worked as a part-time service officer for American Legion Post No. 13 in Clarksburg. With National Homes Corporation, he sold and supervised the construction of many homes in central West Virginia.

- In 1955, Mr. Randolph began a career with the cable TV industry as General Manager of the Clarksburg cable and was a founding member of the Pioneer Cable TV Association. He was hailed as a "cable TV pioneer" and was active in many business and civic organizations, including the March of Dimes and United Way.

- Sandford had been a member of the Salem Seventh Day Baptist Church since his baptism there in 1926. His several offices included trustee of the church and of the Randolph Terrace Apartment complex. He also attended the Bridgeport United Methodist Church.

- In addition to his wife, Virginia, survivors include one daughter, Karen Randolph Auman of Drums, Pa., and five grandchildren. He was preceded in death by 27 years. Survivors were held on April 28, 1999, at Memorial Park Cemetery in Battle Creek.

- Piccolo. — Edna Margaret (Coon) Piccolo, 88, of Westerly, R.I., died on April 30, 1999, at the Westerly Nursing Home. She was born on Chase Hill in Ashaway, R.I., on January 2, 1926, and was the daughter of Robert Lee and Mabel (Ellis) Coon. She was the widow of Arthur V. Piccolo.

- Mrs. Piccolo graduated from Emerson College in Boston, Mass., with a bachelor's degree in literary interpretation. She continued her education at the University of Rhode Island, the University of Connecticut, and Rhode Island College while teaching in local schools. She retired from teaching in the classical school system in 1979.

- She was a member of the First Hopkinton Seventh Day Baptist Church in Ashaway, where she had been a member for 77 years. Survivors include one son, Scott (Bottoms) Butler. She graduated from New Hope High School and received her B.S. degree from Alfred (N.Y.) University.

- Butler. — Mary Alice Butler, 73, died on May 2, 1998, at Huntsville (Ala.) Hospital.

- She was born on July 18, 1925, the daughter of Robert L. and Almira (Bottoms) Butler. She graduated from New Hope High School and received her B.S. degree from Alfred (N.Y.) University.

- At age 12, she publicly professed her faith in Christ and was baptized. Some years later, she found a deeper spiritual experience and was rebaptized. She was self-sacrificing and dedicated to what she felt was God's will for her life, and held strongly to what she believed to the end.

- Mary's first job was as secretary at the Seventh Day Baptist headquarters in Plainfield, N.J. She later served in secretarial positions and taught at various levels in Alabama, California, Tennessee, and Georgia. She returned to Scottsboro, Ala., for retirement.

- Survivors include three sisters, Nancilu Burdick Rankin of Orchard Park, N.Y., Ruth Potts of Florence, Ala., and Betty Pearson of Aragon, Ga.; two brothers, Gilbert of Guin, Ala., and Dan of Woodville, Ala.; and 10 nieces and 10 nephews. She was preceded in death by two brothers, James E. and Robert L. Jr.

- Funeral services were held at the Paint Rock, Ala., SDB Church, officiated by Pastors Luis Lovelace, John Bevis, and Dennis Salley. Burial was in Bethel Cemetery, New Hope, Ala.
and Board to send a missionary to them. They pledged $175 toward a missionary supply and also voted to ask L.A. Davis to accept the appointment of the Board as their missionary. This kept up the congregation's spirit and apparently uplifted the church.

In April of 1861, L.A. Davis headed to Illinois. It seemed wise to choose a successor, so on December 29, 1860, Davis resigned, and they installed Elder Charles A. Burdick. I counted 16 or more pastors until 1946, the year when Seventh Day Baptists "ceased to be" in Welton. When the Delmar, Iowa, newspaper reported that the Welton church was for sale, Perley Hurley asked the Missionary Board to temporarily secure the buildings so that they could try to build up the church again. At the 1944 Conference in Alfred, N.Y., the subject of the Welton church came up, and the SDB pioneers can no longer communicate with us, they left us a legacy that even though these early missionaries did not continue to grow, they visited the scattered members and held a Sabbath School made up of some non-Sabbathkeeping children. Even though there were weekly services, they held a Sunday evening service as well. Apparently, most of the Welton church members moved out of the area for employment reasons, so money was a vital issue. It's unclear whether the members who were left failed to support the church. In any event, the couple returned to Berlin in the fall of 1945, and the Welton church officially closed in 1946. For some unknown reason, the seeds planted by the Welton SDB Church didn't continue to grow.

I felt led to write this story to show that even though these early pioneers can no longer communicate with us, they left us a legacy to strengthen our own faith. And for that, all of us should be grateful. Their works followed them, and the trail they left of the Bible Sabbath will continue to affirm our faith.  

[Editor's note: Historian Don Sayford adds that Perley Hurley was born in Welton and served two years as president of General Conference. Hurley's son E. Drane was editor of The Sabbath Recorder, president and Executive Secretary of General Conference, and president of Salem College. Five native sons of Welton became prominent Seventh Day Baptist ministers: T.J. Van Horn, Edgar Van Horn, James H. Hurley, Eli Lothrop, and Charles S. Sayre.]

Three attend Institute
by Leanne Lippincott

Two Seventh Day Baptist pastors and one seminary student attended Summer Institute at the SDB Center in Janesville, Wis. The course on Sabbath Theology was held from May 31 to June 16 and was taught by Rev. Rodney Henry, Director of Pastoral Services and Dean of the Council on Ministry.

The course included 38 hours of lecture and discussion time, with required reading assignments and a major paper.

"That paper is an articulation of the student's personal Sabbath theology," Henry explained.

This year's Institute attendees were Matt Berg, L.B. Lee, and Tom Mitchell.

Berg is a member of the Riverside SDB Church. Currently, he's a bi-vocational student at Regent College in Vancouver, British Columbia.


Canada, where he's working on a Master of Divinity degree. He works three days a week as a vocational counselor for the British Columbia Paraplegic Association (he has a Masters in Vocational Rehabilitation from San Diego State) and spends the other two days at seminary.

Tom Mitchell pastors the Centralia (Wash.) SDB Church and lives in Vancouver, Wash., with his wife, Bonnie. This fall, he plans to re-enroll in Multnomah Bible College in Portland, Ore., where he'll be a junior. Upon graduation, he'll have B.S. degrees in Bible and Pastoral Studies. The third Institute attendee, L.B. Lee, pastors the SDB Church in Colorado Springs, where he lives with his wife, Angela. They have three daughters: Kristen, 10; Lauren, 8; and Brandy, 4. He has completed the New Worker Orientation program and is currently in the T.I.M.E. program.

Kevin's Korner

Timing

Five years ago, a dear friend of this ministry offered to help pay my way to the Baptist World Congress gathering in Brazil. He felt that I would gain much by the experience and was willing to support that idea monetarily.

Timing. The World Congress meets every five years, so the meeting dates are set far in advance. Our week of General Conference coincided with part of the World Congress, so I needed to decline the generous offer. (Seems that some folks expect me to attend Conference for some reason, bless their hearts.) My friend still sent a large gift so I could attend that year's Associated Church Press convention.

Well, those five years rolled by quickly, and Baptist delegates from around the world plan to meet in Melbourne, Australia, this coming January.

Timing. I wondered if my friend had seen the meeting announcements and would be willing to help me get Down Under to represent SDBs. (Seems that our Conference will not be held in January next year...) After several weeks of pondering and praying, I mustered up the courage to give him a call. He was not in his office. I stumbled through a voice-mail message and got on with the day's work.

Later that morning, a phone call quizzes me on how much the airfare was to Australia. It was my generous benefactor. I told him the current cost (much more than his offer of five years ago), and without missing a beat, this wonderful man said, "The check will be in the mail.

I nearly fell off my chair!! While blathering out my thanks, he interrupted by asking, "What about your wife?"

What about my wife?? I thought, Well, she's beautiful and I love her very much...

"If she is willing to go, he said, "I will pay her airfare as well."

Silence. Do you ever have those dreams where you can't speak or move your body? My friend added that he would be out of town (Paris!) for awhile and I could tell him of her decision the following week.

Timing. Being a loving and conscientious mostly-at-home mother, getting Janet to go on even a state-side trip with me can be like pulling teeth. Add an extra dozen-plus hours in the air, soaring over a billion-plus gallons of ocean, and my vision of her accompanying me appeared fuzzy.

Yet, when I presented the offer, she was immediately interested! After hearing friends and our own children encouraging her, she said "yes! We now hold two tickets to Melbourne.

Timing. Was it God's will for me to go to Brazil? Probably not. Since then, I have had five more years of ministry experience, been in close contact with national church leaders through the Baptist Joint Committee, and our youngest has doubled in age.

Is it God's will for us to go to Australia? Sure looks like it. Especially since receiving a letter from our friend who he thanked me for giving him the opportunity to support us, and credited the loving SDB church in Verona, N.Y., for teaching him the importance of sharing.

When is God good? ALL the time.

Oh, and...

G'day, mate!
Why is Sabbath keeping a significant principle for believers?

What does it mean to keep the Sabbath Holy?

How do we practice Sabbath keeping today?

True to the Sabbath, True to Our God by Rev. Larry Graffius, is a fresh, relevant Bible Study of God’s command to “Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.” You will discover new meaning and practical application of this often overlooked principle of Christian living.

God has designed the Sabbath as a day of rest, worship, blessing, and service. As you explore these exciting topics, you will be challenged to a deeper level of consistency and commitment in your spiritual life.

***

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