Rocky Mountain High

Boulder, Colo., church dedicates new building
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. The Bible is our authority for our faith and daily conduct.
- baptism of believers, by immersion, witnessing to our acceptance of Christ as Savior and Lord.
- freedom of thought under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- the congregational form of church government.

Every church member 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 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) 752-5055; FAX (608) 752-7711; E-mail: sdbgen@imave.com and the SDB Web site: www.seventhdaybaptist.org

Class, how do you spell relief?

"Correct! Your gift to the SDB United Relief Fund provides help for medical and emergency needs both here and abroad."

Give generously to the SDB United Relief Fund through your local church on Thanksgiving Sabbath, or mail your gift directly to:

SDB United Relief Fund
PO Box 1678
Janesville, WI 53547-1678

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Please remember the United Relief Fund on November 25

To all friends of Leon Maltby:
Leon is turning 95—Send a card!

On November 26, Leon Maltby will celebrate his 95th birthday. How about making it extra special by sending him a nice birthday card?

Rev. Leon Maltby
2279 Nottingham Road
South Daytona FL 32019

Features

We celebrate with the members of the Boulder, Colo., SDB Church as they have officially dedicated their new building to the Lord.

This month's main features come from that long journey of hard work to completion. We thank Deb Skaggs for her permission to reprint stories from the church's "Flatrons Press" newsletter. Photos are by Boulder member Shari Severance and Editor Butler.

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November 2000
More than just a building
by Richard Steele

We began laying the foundation for the church under the direction of Jim August, who is very knowledgeable about such construction. Our church began to take its basic shape. Stories of the blood, sweat, and tears of the actual construction could fill many pages. We praise God for the victorious completion!

Now, the sanctuary gives us God’s presence in every way. Lovely chandeliers hang from the ceiling, where recessed lighting provides just the right amount of light for every occasion.

To sit through our services on cushioned pews is a joy. (A tremendous comfort, especially for those of us with “yelling” bones and muscles.) Praise God!

The sound system, although not quite finished, is a pleasure to those of us who are hard of hearing. I have worked with metal much of my life. Because of this, I was approached to figure out the best method of adding brass plates to the podium floor. Lots of options for a new Boulder, Colo., SDB Church facility were explored, but finally some property on East Arapahoe began to look like a feasible option.

It wasn’t long before our congregation purchased this land from the proceeds of the sale of our church facility at 900 Arapahoe.

At last! A day was set for breaking ground. This happened on a Sabbath afternoon, and many of our key members brought shovels.

A proposal to construct our new facility was submitted to Boulder County so they could allow us to build. Jim and Fran August designed and presented plans to the congregation, and the best was chosen. The final plans were then submitted to the county. It wasn’t very long before we were given the OK to build.

Early construction is sometimes frustrating to watch. I suspect that because my life’s work centered around manufacturing and finishing a metal product from a flat sheet, it provided reason enough for my frustration.

Yet, as one thinks about it, the work accomplished on any building must have a solid foundation. It is a beginning that must be solid enough to withstand extremes in weather and minor movement within the earth. Even our lives must have a solid foundation, and this, of course, is Christ Jesus!

A water well, a primary prerequisite, had to be drilled and cased so we would have water. (That’s a whole story in itself. See page 6—Editor.) In due time the excavation was started by Dick Armstead, who provided the equipment as well as labor.

where the wire runs to the sound system.

The first two plates were designed and constructed per my specs in early 1999, and a third smaller plate for under the pulpit was completed just before the start of the new millennium. Wall access plates on each side of the stage were machined for fittings as well.

Our building is complete enough to think about the spiritual needs within our neighborhood and community. Our church is far more than just a building!

Beyond the physical, though, our building is complete enough to think about the spiritual needs within our neighborhood and community. Our church is far more than just a building!

As a congregation, it is now time to move forward in the area of evangelism. Outside of our walls, people drive by, wondering what Seventh Day Baptists are like. They could be wondering how we are different from other Baptists. Which causes us to ask, “Are we willing to open our hearts and minds to those who are ‘raw’ and bring them in so that Jesus can speak to their hearts?”

What a challenge this is from our God! We must do it.

Memories, what wonderful things to have!

My most treasured memory for helping with the Boulder church is of cooking for the building crew and praying that I had not only done a good job, but had cooked enough for everyone. I have to admit it was kind of “tight” some Sundays, but it always seemed to come our okay, with help from the Lord.

One of the pictures I will always have in my mind is seeing Mary and Willard Wells working away at the specific job they had chosen to do. Willard was always working in his own quiet way, and Mary was whistling away, doing her job. What grand people!

Willard came into the kitchen one day with a badly cut hand. I fixed it up for him, and he went back to work with a cheerful smile and a big thank you.

My last but best memory of the church in progress was the day Richard and I were married in the finished basement. Our then-sanctuary on the lower level was gaily decorated by our children, and the ceremony was performed by our beloved pastor, Dave Thornagate.

In helping with the church and serving the Lord, I finally found the true meaning of Christ’s love and happiness.

—Mary Steele
The miracle at the well
by Jim August

This "miracle at the well" isn't from the Bible. It occurred at the well that supplies the Boulder, Colo., church with water. This is just one of the many miracles we witnessed during the construction of our new church and parsonage.

Before we could turn the first shovel of dirt, we had to go through many major steps with various government agencies. Here's a short outline of what we needed to do before starting construction:

1. Find and purchase affordable land that was acceptable to construct our church and parsonage. This was a miracle.
2. Since our church is in unincorporated Boulder County, we had to prove that we had a source of water to support our development. This is where our modern day "miracle at the well" occurred.
3. Design the buildings and other improvements along with their locations for the county.
4. Get approval for the overall project from the county.
5. Revise the design to meet the county's requirements.

6. Obtain a permit from the county to move dirt.
7. Obtain a permit from the county to actually start construction of the parsonage, which was to be built first.
8. Finish the parsonage, get permits for the church, build the church, pass all inspections, and get permits to actually use the completed buildings.

We didn't anticipate any difficulty proving to the county that we had a source of water because the church property is included in the Hoover Hill Water District, which is supposed to provide water and sewer service to all properties in its district.

A driller was selected and he bored a hole that was about 460 feet deep. Water did not come gushing out as expected.

After exploring many options and considering the legal costs that we would have to bear to force the city to comply with existing court orders, we decided to look into drilling a well for our own source of water.

We started the process of getting a permit from the State of Colorado to drill a well. Step one was to prove to the state that we didn't have any other source of water without a well. The city provided us this when they stated that they were afraid that the district would use the rain from our property to legally allow us to pump.

Since we were building a church on the property, we would also be restricted on the amount of water we could pump out of the well.

After developing a dual system that would use the rain from our roofs as part of the water source, and meeting other requirements such as not letting any water from our improvements run off of the property, we were granted a permit to drill a well.

We didn't anticipate any difficulty proving to the county that we had a source of water before we could actually start the application and permit process.

No one has yet been able to convince me that it wasn't the Lord who filled our well with water. He performed a miracle so that we could build a new house in which to worship Him.

There are typically two different types of well-drillers in the area. Some drill in the rock in the mountains and expect very low flows from wells, while the others drill in the dirt in the plains. Since our property is in the plain, we chose the latter.

A driller was selected and he bored a hole that was about 460 feet deep. Water did not come gushing out as expected. He was used to drilling wells several miles east of us, where aquifers provide almost unlimited amounts of water. (Mountain drillers normally get much lower flows.)

So our well-driller gave up on that hole, declaring it dry. Three days later, he dug again, this time on the lower corner of the property in the trees. We hoped to find water there since the ground is damper in that area. But the results were the same.

As part of the cleanup, the driller cut off the top of the casing pipe that he had put in the first hole and started a 460 foot well, so that was no small amount of water that appeared in the well over the weekend.

After the dry-hole driller was gone, another company came in and cleaned up the well. They tested the flow fill a 460 foot well, so that was no small amount of water that appeared in the well over the weekend.

No one has yet been able to convince me that it wasn't the Lord who filled our well with water. He performed a miracle so that we could build a new house in which to worship Him.

This is just another proof that Jesus provides the Water of Life. Praise the Lord!
Long haul for the Lord
by Jennie Wells Munn

For several years, I have been privileged to watch, wait, and pray for the dear members of my home church in Boulder, Colo., as they planned and built a new church and a new home for their pastor.

On several occasions, when I left my Texas home and visited my loved ones back in Colorado, I would find time to pitch in myself. What a joy and privilege to work with longtime friends, and new ones, too! Most of all, I enjoyed working alongside my wonderful parents while sweeping snow off the floor before the roof was on, or picking up scrap lumber and nails—odd jobs, but significant.

Then came a new challenge: using my vacation time to assist in a bigger way. The church had purchased a baptismal dish from a company in Waco, Texas, near where I live. Normal means of shipping—such as by train or truck—were going to really hike up the cost.

My mother, Mary Wells, who was chairwoman of the Building Committee at the time, talked with me several times about the problem. I told her that I would be willing to haul the baptismal dish to Boulder on my Dodge truck (mini-commercial) since I would be coming for a visit anyway. After receiving the paperwork from the church, I went to the company and worked out the details. Then I planned my trip.

Thank goodness God knows what He is doing! Every circumstance worked for His good. I just got the wonderful (at times tense and scary) job of seeing my part through.

I had to head east out of Waco, then northeast to Jacksonville, Texas, where the factory was that made the baptismal dish. So, early on a Wednesday morning, my miniature Schnauzer, Munzo, and I got in my packed truck and hit the road, with the blessings of my husband, Richard.

I took ropes and red flags, just in case the factory didn’t provide everything I needed to legally haul something longer than the vehicle. I also put a large, protective sponge on the truck bed to help cushion the fiberglass baptismal dish.

When I arrived in Jacksonville, the men at the factory seemed a little surprised. As his workers hoisted the baptismal dish on my truck, the foreman told them to secure it really good, since I had a long haul ahead of me.

In fact, he emphasized, “She’s going almost to the top of the state of Colorado, not just across the border.” He knew full well that I still had to get out of the Lone Star State. (Not that Texas is big or anything!)

By then, it was nearly lunch time. So I filled up the gas tank and headed back to the Ft. Worth area so I could get on the Interstate. Along the way, I stopped and had lunch with a friend in Mansfield, just south of Ft. Worth.

With full stomachs and rested bodies, Munzo and I were on our way west. It took all afternoon and into the evening to get into west Texas. But by the time I got to “no man’s land,” I was low on gas.

I got off the highway, only to discover that the one gas station that I could see was a “Co-op type,” so I couldn’t refuel there. A nice man pulled in and told me how to get to the only other station in that small town. “Thank you, God!” I knew that the next stretch of road would be pretty desolate until I reached Lubbock.

To make a long story short, everything went well until that evening, when I was just outside of Lubbock. A storm was brewing. Since the baptismal dish was on its side, and the open part faced into the wind, I could feel the truck rock. I had to simultaneously keep on eye on the skyline, scanning for tornadoes.

I prayed, “Lord, I need your protection now.”

Since there was no shelter, I just kept moving and tried to outrun the storm. I finally arrived in Clovis, N.M., where I could spend the night. I grabbed my dog and a few essentials, and headed through the rain to my motel room. Sometime during the night, the motel lost electrical power, but nothing else.

The remainder of the trip was unremarkable, other than the scenery God put all around to keep me company. Those men at the factory had secured the baptismal dish so well that I didn’t have to change or tighten anything on the truck the whole trip.

I pulled into the church yard mid-afternoon on Thursday and, as usual, found my parents there, working. The next day, several people came to unload the baptismal and put it inside the church.

As I look back on these and many other memories, I realize I have really seen the work of God in His people. Many times my mother would ask me to pray for certain needs and concerns that came up in the Building Committee, and I gladly did.

There were happy times and sad times, personality times and human times involved in all of the labor that went into the building. There were financial times, political times (governmental rules and regulations), impatient times. But, as Scripture says, our awesome God “worked good in those that love Him...” and they stayed focused on the goal.

For the most part, my memories are from a distance. But when we step back, sometimes we can see more clearly.

And what did I see? Fellow brothers and sisters in Christ putting in many, many hours of doing exactly what Paul speaks of in Romans 12—they are living sacrifices, pleasing to God, each staying focused on the one goal of bringing their own gifts, talents, faith and love.

Is that easy? No. Is it possible? Yes. Praise God!}

“Sentiments”

Truly it was a sentimental fulfillment to serve on the Boulder Church Building Committee for our present facility on Westview and Arapahoe. My father had served on the committee for the 9th Street church. Seldom in one family does God use three generations in the same manner.

There was the day heavy snow fell on the sub-flooring. My husband was not too enthusiastic, but Pastor Thorngate and the two of us shoveled and saved the floor. Now Pastor Thorngate and I can look back and laugh.

There was the evening when Pastor August and son, Scott, were up by the cross. Darkness came before they were through, and her husband, Jim, asked everyone to direct their car lights toward the spot.

I recalled seeing an unused medicine chest in the clover of the passages basement. Unlocking the door, I brought the chest to increase the reflection from the headlights. I apologized to Pastor for trespassing, but I grew up on the saying, “Necessity is the mother of invention.”

This church has been blessed by so much sacrificial labor, planning, and insight or vision, that it would be hard to enumerate. God has led us this far. He will lead in the future if we remain faithful to Him and His Word.

—Mary Hunter Wells

November 2000/9
A church's dedication
(in many ways)

New church building dedications do not come that often, but when they do, they are very special. The last time the Boulder SDB Church had one was some time in 1928, almost three-quarters of a century ago. For our September 1st Sabbath eve service, Pastor Rod Henry spoke on "God's Omnipotence plus Our Obedience." This eloquent pastor from the Denver SDB Church did his homework and spoke of our church's past, pointing out the character and dignity which was evident at our last church at 9th and Arapahoe Streets. Rev. Henry spoke about God moving us to this place, with its good ground for construction. Now that willing hands have built our church, we must look into what God wants us to accomplish here.

A number of church members testified about what this construction meant to them. Our pastor, David Thorngate, spoke of the indirect lighting in our sanctuary. Several people told us that this would be impossible to accomplish, but Jim August found a way to do it. Lighting may take much time, but what is important, remembering its special resonance from previous years.

Pastor Kevin Butler, editor of the Sabbath Recorder, used Numbers 13:26-14:4 for his dedication message, "Standing on the Banks of Tomorrow." He brought out some very solid points concerning those who would cause us problems.

More than anything, we too often overestimate our enemies; just as most of the Israelite "spies" did in their report from the Promised Land. These disobedient people blew everything out of proportion as they described the people they had encountered. They were not allowing God to be their "pi-lot." Along with overestimating, people often idealize their past as the "good ol' days." But as we think about it, what definition could be applied to that term? We had obedient people among us to finish our building program. But no matter how each of us faced it, we were glad to have our church at 9th and Arapahoe Streets. The choir sang a second anthem to which we say, "Amen!" Our choir sang a second anthem for our Sabbath afternoon dedication program. "Family of Christ" was very fitting for the occasion. After the hymn, we had a unison prayer of dedication (see box).

Just when we thought the service was over, we were told to go outside on the top level and make a large circle in the parking lot. In a few minutes, several large plastic sacks filled with helium balloons were distributed to people standing in the circle. At the proper time, these large sacks were opened and dozens of balloons floated into the heavens. We watched them follow a gentle breath of southeasterly wind until they disappeared. What a beautiful sight!

A man then stepped forth with a container of white doves. Individual birds were given to members of our congregation and all were released upon command. Most flew westward, but one that started to go south, then east, turned and flew west with its peevish eyes. Even a bird might pause in flight to know by its God-given instincts where it should return. This lovely experience closed with a fitting benediction by Pastor Elmo Fitz Randolph. Praise God for our new sanctuary dedicated to Him!}

A number of church members testified about what this construction meant to them.

by Richard and Mary Steele, co-clerks

A number of church members testified about what this construction meant to them.

David had collected. He placed them in the temple treasuries as trumpet- ers and singers joined in unison to give praise and thanks to God. At the dedication ceremony, Solomon prayed to God, Who in turn sent fire from heaven to consume the burnt offering and sacrifices. With this, God informed the Israelites that if they would humble themselves and pray, He would hear from heaven, forgive their sins, and heal their land. Are we that much different before our God?

We too, must approach Him as little children. In such obedience, God will work wonders as we give ourselves in evangelism to bring others into His sanctuary. Their cleansing may take much time, but what is
20/20 Vision for 2020

Friends, it’s time for us to look ahead!

Many of our churches have young pastors with new traditions, and church members with old traditions. Older SDBs are disappearing. The new SDB looks to the future, not just the past.

WE NEED TO LOOK AHEAD.

Here is your chance to share in the long range Vision for Seventh Day Baptists. I’d like you to send me your Spirit-led ideas!

This is not to usurp the jobs of any committee or Board, nor to steal anybody’s thunder. (This is also not a program to commiserate over everyday problems, personal problems, in-church problems, or General Conference problems.)

This is for looking and planning ahead for the positive witness of SDBs to North America and the world!

20/20 Vision is not a plan just to tell someone what they should do or be doing. This is to open our hearts and hopes to each other, looking for a Holy Spirit-guided understanding of what God wants us to do together.

Follow-up is important. As your correspondence comes in to me, it will be read, sifted and shared with our Executive Secretary Pete May and laymen in a network of ideas, plans, and insights sent to the Executive Secretary.

WE NEED TO LOOK AHEAD.

I foresee that this 20/20 Vision will involve all Board members, pastors, and laymen in a network of ideas, plans, and insights sent to the Executive Secretary.

A 20/20 Vision is not a plan just to tell someone what they should do or be doing. This is to open our hearts and hopes to each other, looking for a Holy Spirit-guided understanding of what God wants us to do together.

Follow-up is important. As your correspondence comes in to me, it will be read, sifted and shared with our denominational agencies. Will it “die” in a flood of paper and e-mail?

Or, can we positively share our hope and be a body of Christ working together? I believe we can!

I invite you to study your suggestions, pray about them, and send them to:

Dr. Pete May, Executive Secretary
269 W. Wistaria Ave.
Arcadia, CA 91007

Or, e-mail me at phvmay@aol.com

Let’s start our evaluation, then identify our common options of service to our Lord. I believe that He will be faithful and grant us His power to serve His people.

New and old Seventh Day Baptists have a future! Be a part of that future. Invest your time in lives. Have your heart checked and have your vision checked.

The Lord is waiting to give us our 20/20 Vision!
Learning to walk

This is Mukumbo. He’s the youngest son of Faith Liyena, who is the founder of the Zambia Orphanage Foundation and daughter of Rev. Edwin Mukumbo (my host). I took this picture of little Mukumbo because it was the first time I saw him walking.

The growth stages of children are exciting moments. Each stage—whether birthdays, learning to walk or talk, or graduating from high school—gives us reason to celebrate.

Churches are like children. The SDB church in Zambia is still a "baby"; Rev. Mukumbo founded our sister denomination just ten years ago. The Conference has grown from one family to about 30 churches in the last decade, but it still lacked the ability to train its pastors in SDB doctrine and to publish literature.

But now they are starting to walk, and who knows where they will soon go?

With a church/Conference headquarters that now has a roof, a church truck that promotes the question “What is Seventh Day Baptist?” and a computer, printer and photocopier to publish literature, the church is starting to "use its legs." What remains is the training to manage this powerful equipment, which is my prayer and goal for my last couple months in Zambia.

The Conference center in Kitwe still lacks the funds to finish and furnish the building. Without that, who will want to congregate in an unfinished building with no pews? The Zambian churches have vision for more centers, like mobile clinics, pre-schools, conference centers and offices for the various SDB associations.

If God has blessed you with resources, please think about teaching these people how to walk without stumbling.

You may send your gift to the SDB Missionary Society, 199 Main Street, Westerly RI 02891.

Pearls from the Past by Don A. Sanford, historian

The Lyceums live on

Before the advent of modern media, this assembly was copied by hundreds of communities throughout the country. In 1904, a court in Chautauqua plan was developed in which lyceum bureaus supplied programs of lectures, music, drama, and travelogues to both large and small communities. The revival of the "Sabbath Olympics," which is my prayer and goal for my last year here, is my reflection. Today there is a season for those of you who were such a vital and contributing part of the mission of the Dr. Grace Missionary Society."

So, SDB ladies, there is still plenty of work which needs to be done as we are able and willing with God. We salute all who have so diligently worked in the service of our Lord. And our prayers will continue for one another, that we might—In humility, faith, and love—meet the challenges and changes that God allows.

"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven" (Eccles. 3:1).
2000 Sabbath School Teacher of the Year

Esther A. Burdick of the Waterford, Conn., Seventh Day Baptist Church, was the recipient of the Crystal Apple Award as the 2000 Sabbath School Teacher of the Year.

As the Sabbath School Committee chair, Rev. Gordon P. Lawton presented the posthumous award to Esther’s pastor, Rev. Leon R. Lawton, during the summer’s General Conference ceremonies at West Virginia Wesleyan College in Buckhannon. (Esther died on July 25, 2000.)

Each year, the Sabbath School Committee seeks one teacher who exhibits the qualities of faith and teaching demonstrated by our Lord, and who currently serves as a Sabbath School teacher of the nominating church. This teacher is recognized as the Sabbath School Teacher of the Year and awarded a crystal apple.

While the Board of Christian Education has chosen to recognize only one individual each year, we encourage every church to recognize and support their teachers.

Esther A. Burdick served as the Women’s Sabbath School Class teacher for the last 15 years. Members of her group stated that her class was “cheery.” One person wrote, “As a women’s Sabbath School teacher, Esther used all sorts of maps, teaching aids, references, and resource material in teaching her class. She used challenging questions as outlined in The Helping Hand, asking each woman to try to answer.”

Class members also described her as a woman of prayer and dedication. She served many years as the moderator and Sabbath School Superintendent for the church. Her faith was also known beyond the church walls. A colleague wrote about her influence on troubled individuals: “She would very quietly drop a pebble of wisdom into the dark water, and over time you could see concentric waves of influence and learning very subtly fan out and take shape. Esther positively influenced the lives of many people.”

Esther positively influenced the lives of many people.

The growth and development of the Nigerian Conference is in our thoughts and prayers. We pray that the Lord will bring safety and commitment to the work that has already been established.

We also pray that they will be able to present the Gospel in a way that changes hearts, so that the Muslims will tolerate Christians and allow them to express their beliefs and worship God.

Recently, a devastating storm ravaged the coast of Nigeria, extending up past Oneiga and leaving many buildings in shambles. Pastor Marcus’ church happened to be one of those buildings. The roof was torn off, and the walls were damaged. The houses of several church members were also affected.

Their pastor requests help in rebuilding the church. Apparently, the funds that could have been used to repair the church were used to ensure that members were safe and housed. (The pictures on this page show the congregation and the extent of the storm damage.)

There are rumors of converts being dragged from their homes and killed. Muslims believe strongly that they are the only ones to be saved. They often lose everything. Sometimes when a spouse refuses to convert, these new Christians even lose their families. And they lose their property and other possessions as well. In some of the countries of Northern Africa, they even lose their lives.

There are rumors of converts being dragged from their homes and killed. Muslims believe strongly that they are the only ones to be saved. They view non-Muslims as worthless and treat them cruelly.

Against these odds, it is exciting to find that the Christian faith is growing in Nigeria, and that Seventh Day Baptist churches are being established. Within the past few years, they have opened four centers in the country. The most recent is located in Oneiga, Rivers State.

This center is led by Pastor C.U. Marcus, who is very active in this area. They have been a hub of outreach and development, and have also been aiding Rev. Uchegbun in his travel and teaching.
Last winter, the youth groups from Portland, Oregon (as in OR-GAIN, not Or-a-GONE, for those of you who mispronounce it), and Seattle, Wash., went camping. Our theme was "Spam"—even though no one who was camping knew it! Definition of Spam: a whole lot of stuff put together!

After church on Saturday, we Port­land kids went to Camp Magruder. We got to our cabin and set things up, while waiting for the Seattle Youth to show up. BOY DID THEY TAKE FOREVER! (Ha-ha! Just kidding!) They got to camp around 5 or 6 at night and got situated. Then the fun began. Everyone explored the camp. Our theme was the "Majestic Water Buffalo." Well, if you haven't gotten it yet, Heather Hemminger, Griny Burdick, and I were the Water Buffalo.

My brother, B.J., was the host of this well-informing documentary about the habits of water buffalo. Once we noticed what was going on, we three girls ran at the future filmmakers with full force. It made the documentary quite interesting. So, tired, cold, and ready to break the video camera, we headed back to the cabin for bedtime.

The next morning after breakfast, we got to play on a swing (a rope tied to a tree). There was a bit of elastic in a loop where you put your body and held on. Yup! ALL of us this time—no discrimination here! It was quite the experience. I was scared at first, but once Griny got the guts to try it, I had to go. I couldn't look like a wimp, could I?

We were all really sad that we had to leave each other so soon. We said our goodbyes, and made plans for the next time we would get together, and headed our separate ways.

All in all it was a great weekend. Among everything else, we got to see pictures of Conference and talk about good times with our friends. A great reason for getting together with fellow Christians is the love you know you'll receive. All of you who go to Pre-Con and Conference understand what I mean. You are accepted for who you are. You are loved no matter how weird, or smart, or funny you are. You are not compared with any­one else.

During school, I am teased for my accent. It's hard to fathom, yet it was so special. I feel stronger. As the Bible says, "You are loved no matter who you are. You are loved no matter how weird, or smart, or funny you are." So, we got warmed up and went out again. A few of us laid on the beach and pondered. My main thought was how small we are compared to the brilliant stars. Yet, we are so special. God made the stars for us. It was hard to fathom, yet it made me smile inside to think how special Tracy Bruce is to our Lord. Well, while I was pondering, I noticed a red light in the distance. What could it be? A lighthouse? No ... A boat? No ... What was it? The rest of the youth! They were making a documentary of "The Majestic Water Buffalo." Well, if you haven't gotten it yet, Heather Hemminger, Griny Burdick, and I were the Water Buffalo.

After we had regained our energy, we went on little hikes. The trail was dark, and I think we had one flashlight, and it was really quiet. I personally was ready to scream, but I held myself back. Well, we made it back to the cabin alive, and hadn't been scared yet.

So, we got warmed up and went out again. A few of us laid on the beach and pondered. My main thought was how small we are compared to the brilliant stars. Yet, we are so special. God made the stars for us. It was hard to fathom, yet it made me smile inside to think how special Tracy Bruce is to our Lord. Well, while I was pondering, I noticed a red light in the distance. What could it be? A lighthouse? No ... A boat? No ... What was it? The rest of the youth! They were making a documentary of "The Majestic Water Buffalo." Well, if you haven't gotten it yet, Heather Hemminger, Griny Burdick, and I were the Water Buffalo.

My brother, B.J., was the host of this well-informing documentary about the habits of water buffalo. Once we noticed what was going on, we three girls ran at the future filmmakers with full force. It made the documentary quite interesting. So, tired, cold, and ready to break the video camera, we headed back to the cabin for bedtime.

The next morning after breakfast, we got to play on a swing (a rope tied to a tree). There was a bit of elastic in a loop where you put your body and held on. Yup! ALL of us this time—no discrimination here! It was quite the experience. I was scared at first, but once Griny got the guts to try it, I had to go. I couldn't look like a wimp, could I?

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The President's Page

What God will do

by Clayton Pinder

And that leads to the third part of what we receive: Blessings. Read Romans 15:13, John 14:27, and Psalm 25:13. Three of the blessings God gives us are peace, joy, and prosperity. In my life, that's the order they came to me. While living in Baltimore, Md., I did everything I thought would give me these three things. I had graduated from Wharton with my MBA, taken a new management job with Montgomery Ward, and we had just had our third child. We were living in a nice house and thought things were going okay.

What God Will Do

1. Salvation
Ps. 25:5-7
2. Teaching (Follow)
Ps. 25:4-5, 8-9
3. Blessings
Rom. 15:13, John 14:27, and Ps. 25:13

and then committed to Him, what will God do?

First, we receive salvation. We get to be with Jesus through all eternity. See what it says in Psalm 25:5-7. What a blessing to have God in our lives! To know Him, to know He's watching over us; that He's forgiven me of my sin and made me a new person; that I have the Holy Spirit to comfort and guide me. But in Psalm 25:4-5, 8-9, God says He doesn't let us do it alone. He teaches us, shows us the right paths to follow, leads us in Truth. He instructs us sinners in the way (His way). As a result of following Him and His teachings, we get to know Him and enjoy His many blessings.

Seeking Spiritual Maturity: through Sabbathkeeping

The habit that will change your life!

As an annual emphasis of the SDB General Council

From Larry Graffius' "True to the Sabbath, True to Our God," chapter 14, pages 149-152.

Once we recognize the importance of establishing Sabbath keeping as a habit, making it a top priority behavior pattern in our lives, we then need to take the steps necessary to make it happen.

If you are not already a "habitual" Sabbath keeper, how do you become one? And if you already consider yourself to be a Sabbath keeper, is it a lifetime commitment? Is it your own decision? Are you faithfully, consistently obedient to God in this area of your life?

Habits are formed as a result of choices. Habits are based on actions that have been tried, experienced, processed and found to be workable or comfortable to us. Once tried, we evaluate the action and the way we feel about it. If that action or behavior tends to conform with what is valuable or important to us, we will likely be open to trying it again. In other words, a habit is a commitment that we repeat. And that, too, is an excellent description of Sabbath keeping.

Let me say, parenthetically, that I recognize that many of you who are reading this... are already firmly committed Sabbath keepers. And for you, it may not be necessary to make many adjustments in your life in this matter of setting aside the seventh day.

But I also want to speak to those who are not yet strongly consistent in their ways. I want to encourage and offer some guidance to those who may have only recently come to their belief in the Sabbath. And I would also seek to reinforce and restore those who may have once been more faithful in their Sabbath keeping, but have, for one reason or another, gotten out of the habit.

If you are ready and willing to make the Sabbath a powerful pattern in your life, here are some basic steps in building a new habit:

1. Make a strong start. You do this by first of all committing your goal to God in prayer. It is God's will that you keep the Sabbath Day holy, and He is ready to respond to your commitment, even before you are!

2. Establishing a lifelong pattern of Sabbath keeping could be the most spiritually beneficial thing you ever do as a Christian. The habit of Sabbath keeping is an indicator of a lifestyle committed to obedience. Keeping the Sabbath is a habit that will change your life!

To order your copy of Larry's book, send $11.50 ($9.95 plus S/H) to:
Seventh Day Baptist Center
PO Box 1678
Janesville WI 53547
Checks payable to TSCC

November 2000/ 21
Cooperation of Church and State!

by D. Scott Smith

Over 450 students from the Ashaway, R.I., Elementary School practiced what they would do in the event of an emergency at their facility. The children walked the one block to the First Seventh Day Baptist Church of Hopkinton and entered the sanctuary all within ten minutes. Principal Linda Perru discussed the reasons for the drill with her "standing room only" crowd of students.

New branch church in R.I./Conn.

by David Taylor

I would like to introduce you to Vision Christian Fellowship. We are a new Seventh Day Baptist Church which began meeting at the Rockville, R.I., SDB Church on June 3, 2000. The Rockville congregation, which meets at 3:00 p.m. Sabbath afternoon, graciously gave us use of their meeting house and parish house, and in July voted to accept us as a branch church. We used their facilities for four months and will be forever grateful for their love and support.

On October 7, we moved to the United Congregational Church in Pawcatuck, Conn. That facility will allow us to expand our Sabbath School and do other ministries the Lord is calling us to be involved in. We also have a handicap-accessible bus which transports young and old to our services. And we have made that bus available to other churches in the area who might need it.

In September, we were accepted into New England Yearly Meeting membership as we met in Newport, R.I.
New members

Bridgewater, NJ
Jenae Yurke, pastor
Joined after baptism
Ryan Clare

Dodge Center, MN
Dale Roed, pastor
Joined after testimony
Alane Medcraft
John Medcraft

Lake Elsinore, CA
Leland Davis, pastor
Leland Pike, associate pastor
Joined after testimony
Meg Schenck
Lyn Smith
Scott Smith

Philadelphia, PA
Kenroy Cruchikshank, pastor
Joined after baptism
Leighton Lewis
Rohan Lewis
Stacy-Lynn Lewis
Joined after testimony
Ulett Lewis

Waterford, CT
Leon Lebton, pastor
 Joined after testimony
Anthony DiBlasio
Denise DiBlasio

Marriages

Camenga - Rood. — Andrew Camenga and Kristin Rood were united in marriage on June 30, 2000, in the Dodge Center, MN, Seventh Day Baptist Church. Pastor Dale Rood, father of the bride, and Pastor John Camenga, father of the groom, officiated.

Biermann - Greene. — Mark Biermann and Lisa Greene were united in marriage on September 30, 2000, in the chapel of Ironwood Christian Ranch, Stewartville, MN. Pastor Dale Rood officiated.

Births

Meyer. — A son, Caleb Daniel Meyer, was born to David and Joy (Wallstrom) Meyer of Gilbert, AZ, on October 16, 1999.

Lucas. — A son, Matthew Robert Lucas, was born to Matthew and Heather Lucas of Battle Creek, MI, on June 3, 2000.

Noyes. — A daughter, Johanna Christine Vivace Noyes, was born to Charlie and Melodie Noyes of Kent, WA, on August 17, 2000.

John Medicraft

Are you moving?
We need to know...

Please remember to send us your new address. The post office will not forward the SR. In fact, they send it to us and charge us 50 cents for each copy.

Send your change-of-address to:
Seventh Day Baptist Church
PO Box 1678
Janesville WI 53547-1678
or e-mail: sdbmedia@inwave.com

Obituaries

Johanson. — Dr. Ellis C. "Doc" Johanson, 93, died on June 30, 2000, in the Baptist Retirement Home of Maywood, IL.

He was born on May 14, 1907, in Chicago, Illinois, the son of Dr. Benjamin F. and Beatrice (Thomas) Johanson. He graduated from Battle Creek, Mich., Central High School in 1924, and attended Milton (Wis.) College. In 1931, he graduated from the Chicago College of Dental Surgery.

Doc went into dental practice with his father. Working as a civilian contract dentist, he cared for hundreds of men working at Fort Custer in the Civilian Conservation Corps. On November 6, 1934, he married Mary Louise Clarke. She died in 1990.

He joined the U.S. Army Dental Reserve in September 1933, and was promoted to captain and called to active duty in June 1941. On D-Day plus 30, his division landed on Omaha Beach, and he helped care for the wounded. The division took part in five campaigns, including the Battle of the Bulge.

He left active duty in 1946 and returned to Battle Creek, where he continued his dental practice until retiring in 1986. He retired from the Army Reserve in 1967 with the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Doc was a member of the Battle Creek Seventh Day Baptist Church for 54 years, where he served as church moderator, trustee, choir director, and organist. He was also a member of the Battle Creek Exchange Club and dressed up as Unde Sam for parades, outing American flag. For many years, he played the alto saxophone and clarinet in a number of musical groups. He was a life member of the American Dental Association and the Southwestern Michigan District Dental Society, which he served as president.

Survivors include one daughter, Ruth E. Davis of Des Plaines, Ill; three grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. In addition to his wife, he was preceded in death by one son, Robert, and two sisters, Ilja B. Heinz and Marilyn Johanson. Funeral services were held on July 6, 2000, at Bachman Heuble Funeral Service, Battle Creek, with Rev. Harold King officiating. Burial, with military honors, was in Memorial Park Cemetery, Battle Creek.

Jewett. — Virginia "Ginny" (McCarthy) Jewett, 69, of Earlingsville, N.Y., went to meet the Lord on September 8, 2000.

She was born on October 14, 1930, in Oneida, N.Y., the daughter of Myron J. and Florence (Ingalls) McCarthy. She graduated in 1948 from Stockbridge Valley High School in Munnsville, N.Y. On October 15, 1950, she married Granton J. Jewett at the Verona, N.Y., Seventh Day Baptist Church.

The Jewetts lived in the Oneida area until 1961. She enjoyed showing Registered Brown Swiss cattle with her father-in-law. In 1961, she and Granton purchased their current home and farm on Earlingsville Road. She enjoyed working beside her husband on the farm, and in 1970 started Jewett's Cheese House.

Ginny was active in community work wherever she lived, and in SDB churches in Verona, Brookfield, and Leonardville, N.Y. She was the Women's Chairman for the Madison County Farm Bureau, and worked with the farm bureau on the state level. She was a member of the Poolville Home Bureau, and served on the Board of Directors of the Madison County Farm and Home Center in Morrisville, N.Y.

Ginny was a loving wife and caring person who helped many elderly friends and neighbors in times of need or sickness. Survivors include her husband of nearly 50 years, Granton; two daughters, Terri Larkin of Poolville, and Patti Dowse of Perkasie, Pa.; two grandchildren, and several cousins.

Funeral services were held on September 12, 2000, at the Burgess Funeral Home, Earlingsville, with Rev. Rex Erdick officiating.


He was born on September 5, 1947, in Battle Creek, the son of Charles H. "Heb" and A. Ruth (Bird) Bennett. He graduated from Battle Creek Central High School in 1965 and attended Kellogg Community College for a year. He was a member and past trustee of the Battle Creek Seventh Day Baptist Church.

At the time of his death, he was the business manager and host of Camp Holston. From November 1967 to August 1971, Al served in the U.S. Marines during the Vietnam War, receiving the Vietnamese Service Medal and the National Defense Service Medal.

Since 1992, he worked as a night auditor at Knights Inn in Battle Creek. Previously, he managed Sizzler restaurants in Texas and Florida, sold cars at Horner-Coppin, worked as a salesman for Kirby Vacuum, and managed the Kentucky Fried Chicken franchise in Kalamazoo, Mich. He was also the co-owner of the Butcher Block for four years.

Al was a member of VFW Post 565, Battle Cats Booster Club, and Calhoun County Red Cross Clowns. He attained the rank of Life Scout. He had a clown ministry and was an avid sports fan.

Survivors include his mother, Ruth; one brother, James, both of Battle Creek; two sisters, Lorrie J. Bird of Alexandria, Va., and Marilyn K. Discher of Battle Creek; one niece, and one great-nephew. He was preceded in death by his father in 1990.

Obituaries cont. next page

Page sponsored in memory of Virginia Jewett by her loving family — November 2000/
Obituaries, cont. from page 25

Funeral services were held on September 14, 2000, in Bachman Heckle Funeral Chapel, Battle Creek, with Pastor Harold D. King officiating. In-terment, with military honors, was in the Fort Center National Cemetery, Battle Creek.

Davis.—Margaret Jane Davis, 87, died on October 2, 2000, at Surrey Place, Bradenton, Fla., following a prolonged illness. She was born on January 27, 1913, in Colorado Springs. In 1934, she graduated as a Registered Nurse from the Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing in Denver, Colo. She was the daughter of John and Flora McCartney.

She was a member of the Denver SDB Church and, along with her husband, was active in the Braden-ton SDB Church for several years. The couple was instrumental in the organization of both churches. Survivors include one daughter, Sheila Noon of Half Moon Bay, Calif.; one son, Phillip, of Bradenton; three granddaughters, and two great-grandchildren. In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by two brothers and a sister.

A memorial service was held on October 5, 2000, at the Bradenton SDB Church, with Pastor Leland Bond officiating. The National Cre-mation Society, Sarasota Chapter, was in charge of arrangements.

Cosgrove.—Eleanor Brooks Cosgrove, 72, died on October 8, 2000, at Lawrence & Memorial Hospital in New London, Conn. She was born on October 3, 1928, in New London, the daughter of Albert and Mary (Smith) Brooks. On August 2, 1941, she was baptized and joined the Waterford, Conn., Seventh Day Baptist Church. She married Harold Cosgrove, who died in 1989. Mrs. Cosgrove was a foster grand-mother for five years at Ballestrail’s Daycare Center in Waterford. She and her husband once owned and operated Larry’s Chatterbox, a res-taurant in Albany, N.Y.

Survivors include one daughter, Elizabeth Tenczar of Latham, N.Y., and two grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on October 11, 2000, at the Waterford SDB Church, with Rev. Alan Scott and Pastor Leon Lawton officiating. Burial was in West Neck Cemetery, Waterford.

White Christmas—2000
The following are suggestions for “White Christmas gifts.” Donations may be sent to the SDB Missionary Society, 119 Main Street, Westerly RI 02891.

• Bicycles for leaders and pastors in most of our countries. These bicycles will cost from $200 to $400 depending upon the country. Countries included are Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Malawi, Rwanda, Zambia.

• Medical supplies and medicines are needed for Rwanda, Malawi, Zambia, The Gambia, and The Cameroon.

• School supplies, books, and equipment for The Gambia.

• Funds to purchase uniforms for the ladies in Zambia, Malawi, and South Africa.

• Sewing supplies and material for Zambia, Malawi, The Gambia, Ghana, Rwanda, and Nigeria.

• Blankets for the refugees and camps in Rwanda and the hospitals in Malawi.

• Bibles and study materials, including The Helping Hand for our sister Conferences and churches.

• Children’s Bibles in The Philippines.

• Church roofs in Rwanda, Zambia, Malawi, and The Philippines.

• Funds to help ship boxes of clothing and supplies to different countries.

• Leadership materials and supplies for most of the sister Conferences and churches.

• Funds to send Mrs. Ndayawanza for an English course so that she can better communicate with the members of other Conferences ($500).

• Keyboards for many churches in our sister Conferences. These will cost between $400 and $800.

• Hymnals for the churches in Guyana, Zambia, and Rwanda.

• Funds to support the outreach literature in most of our churches.

• Computers and printers for our churches and Conferences. (These will need to be purchased in the country in which they are to be used, since the amount of duty taxes make you end up paying almost as much as it costs there anyway. Plus, repairs and upgrades are more easily available when you purchase it in the country.) Need over 10.

• Photocopiers for our churches. (Advice same as the computer.) Need over 17.

• Scholarships for Makapwa Bible School, $500 per semester.

• Funds for building plots in Zambia, $2,000 to $5,000.

• Funds for building plots in Rwanda, $200 to $500.

Kevin’s Korner

It was a study of stark contrasts, laden with many similarities. Within a span of three weeks, I had the honor of speaking at the dedication of a brand new church building in Boulder, Colo., then headed to Rhode Island and got to preach inside our oldest existing SDB church building in Newport.

What were the differences? In Boulder, we were surrounded by modern conveniences: beautiful ceiling fans and chandeliers, fancy indirect lighting, an electronic organ, and a state-of-the-art sound system.

In Newport, we had a Dickens of a time finding a power outlet for the portable hymn machine.

In Boulder, we found plenty of open parking spots adjacent to the building.

In Newport, we made several trips around the block to find an open space on the street. (It didn’t help that the annual “Taste of Rhode Island” was being held there the same day.)

In Boulder, we marveled at the view of snow-capped foothills in a country setting.

In Newport, we could see the facades of other buildings crammed into a tiny area.

So, did I have a totally different experience at each church? Hardly.

At each place, God’s Word was lifted up. Beautiful people with beautiful smiles sang out His praises. Brothers and sisters of the faith shared testimonies and prayed away from the Lord. We all enjoyed the fellowship around the tables at the noontime Sabbath meals.

Seventh Day Baptists are “family,” no matter where you are.

Next month will be special!

Chances are, you won’t recognize your December Sabbath Recorder.

We are working on a full-color outreach issue which will guide readers through our Statement of Belief in an entertaining story fashion. There will be no regular Board pages or family news, which means the 2000 year-end index will appear in January. Happy reading!
The Rev. Orville Wells Babcock, beloved Pastor Emeritus of the White Cloud, Mich., Seventh Day Baptist Church, passed away peacefully on September 2, 2000, just 12 days short of his 91st birthday.

The son of Rolla and Hattie (Green) Babcock, Orville was born on September 14, 1909, on a Nebraska farm homesteaded by his Grandfather Babcock in the 1870s. One of his ancestors, James Babcock, had emigrated in the 1640s from England, where he was a member of a Sabbathkeeping church. Orville estimated that he was the 14th generation of Sabbathkeepers descended from James.

After graduating from North Loup (Neb.) High School in 1928, Orville heeded the wishes of his mother and his own inner urgings and prepared for the ministry. He entered Milton (Wis.) College, financing his education with a variety of odd jobs, including washing the science lab windows and tending a residential coal furnace.

During his college years he was a member of the Glee Club and a male quartet. He was also on the football team, lettering all four years and serving as captain his senior year.

In the fall of 1932, Orville enrolled in the Alfred, N.Y., School of Theology. He shared a house with three other ministerial students. One of them, Al Rogers, became a lifelong friend and preceded him in death by only a few days.

In 1934, Orville became pastor of the Adams Center, N.Y., SDB Church. He transferred to the Presbyterian Seminary in Auburn, N.Y., and received his Bachelor of Theology in the spring of 1935.

Orville married Mabel Butts of Adams Center in 1937, and she became his first baptismal candidate. (Due to his inexperience or her apprehension, Mabel used to claim that he held her under the water a little longer than necessary!) Their only child, George Richard was born in 1940.


Orville's pastorates include Salemville, Pa.; Milton Junction, Wis.; and White Cloud. In 1957, he resigned the pastorate to become a full-time science teacher in the White Cloud Public Schools. He retired in 1972.

He was a charter member of the White Cloud Rotary Club and served many years as president of the Newaygo County United Way Board of Directors. He had a lifetime interest in music and directed a local community chorus for several years. His fine tenor voice was a welcome addition to the United Methodist Church choir.

Orville's sense of humor and kind, gentle manner endeared him to many. They were immeasurably blessed by having known this faithful servant of the Lord.

Survivors include his son, George, of Allegan, Mich., and three grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted at the White Cloud SDB Church on September 6, 2000, by Pastor Bernie Wethington. Burial was in the White Cloud Cemetery.