Live in Harmony

General Conference
2000
Young Adult Retreat 2001

If you are a high school graduate, plan on coming to the year-end retreat December 28, 2000, to January 2, 2001. This year's retreat will be held at the Boulder SDB Church in Colorado. The cost will be $15. Look for more details in future Sabbath Recorders.

As seen at General Conference

Baseball Caps and T-Shirts

Shirts are white with maroon lettering of Conference 2000 theme $10 plus $2.50 p&h

Hats are white with maroon bill and lettering of SDB logo $7 plus $1.50 p&h

Send order to:
June Kenyon
109 South Wade Ave
DeLand FL 32724
or e-mail: dejamie@excite.com

Pastors Wanted

Several of our churches are in need of pastoral leadership. Please check with the SDB Council on Ministry for more information. Call (909) 682-2002.

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Cover photo: Pastor Ray Winborne (left) and Conference President John Camenga during the closing hymn of our Sunday evening worship service.
Thanks for the memory (card)

Conference coverage goes digital

Most of the business of the 188th session of General Conference lived up to the theme: "Live in Harmony with One Another." Church delegates who gathered August 6-12 on the campus of West Virginia Wesleyan College in Buckhannon found themselves with more than just the last afternoon off as President John Camenga declared the business session closed by mid-morning Friday. This year's images were captured not on film but on a memory card (or two) in a new digital camera. We hope that you enjoy these snippets and snapshots of our blessed week together.

The Week in Review

Statistics
- 700 registered guests
- 850+ at worship on Sabbath
- 363 delegates representing 55 churches
- 5 official visitors: Elnora Andries (Guyana); Petrona Hemans (Jamaica); Joyce Kelley (England); Peter Kube and Dorotha Shettel (Australia)
- 74 enrolled in Junior Conference
- 50 at Youth Pre-Con, directed by Dave Taylor with six on staff
- 60 at Young Adult, directed by George Calhoun with three on staff
- Women's Love Gift: $3,600
- Conference offering: $18,500
- Belly laughs during Tract Council program: dozens

Elections
- President 2000-2001: Clayton Pinder
- President-elect: Rev. Gordon Lawton
- General Council: Norma Rudert
- Council on Ministry: Philip Bond, Kenneth Burdick
- Faith and Order: Andrew Samuels, Janet Thorngate
- Committee on Support and Retirement: Dale Green
- Tract and Communication Council: Cheri Appel, Joel Osborn
- Memorial Fund Trustees: James Goodrich, Myron McPherson, Philip Watson
- Christian Social Action Committee: Melvin Nida, John Pethel, Stephen Rogers, Edward Sutton

Awards/Recognitions
- Women's Board Robe of Achievement: Nellie Jo Brissay, Salem, W.Va.
- Sabbath School Teacher of the Year: Esther Burdick, Waterford, Conn. (deceased)
- Mary G. Clare Scripture Memorization Bowl: a tie between the New York City and Toronto churches

Business Action
- Dr. Lewis H. V. (Pete) May, Executive Secretary, announces "2020 Vision" initiative of prayer and service
- Approved 2001 budget of $859,349 calls for $376,202 to come from current giving, less than 1% increase over 2000
- Following Conference sites recommended: 2001—Lindsborg, Kan.; 2002—Houghton, N.Y.
- Other Committee recommendations:
  - From Christian Social Action—"...that the 'Standard Operating Procedures of the Christian Social Action Committee' be edited and condensed by the Standing Committee and then sent to General Council for approval."
  - From Women's Interests—"...that the Women's Board establish an ad hoc committee by Conference 2001 with the intent to spearhead an effort to address women's issues within our denomination."
Do you know the rules?

by Rascall Watt, in the Conference Crier

Pastor Christian King of Charleston, S.C., had a unique approach to his subject in the Tuesday morning Bible Study: Love as Brothers, up close and personal. We found that we are divided into groups, yet are united as children of the King. We have been commanded to love each other. Using stick pins and sponges as examples, she showed us how we can love through the Holy Spirit. Pastor King then tossed out several halls and gave us 30 seconds to play the game—but what game? It’s hard to play if we don’t know the rules.

We know the rules of love in the Bible, but we may not follow them. Love is a responsibility. When we are called to love, it must be unconditional. Love is a debt that we owe to Christ for the price He paid for us.

Our Bible Study leaders—

Chris King
Charlotte Chroniger
Paul Andries

Chris and Becky Mattison

And they came bearing gifts... Gabe Beljani (r. of podium) turned 50. We didn’t forget.

The young adults encouraged us to dump our ‘spiritual garbage’ during Tuesday’s vespers.

President Conventa welcomed our foreign visitors: Joyce Kelly from England, Peter Kubo and Dorothy Shetzel from Australia, and Elmo Andreis from Guatemala.

SDB history illuminates faith

by Thomas Goodson, Conference Crier

• provides concrete demonstrations concerning the character of the Christian faith.
• provides perspective on the interpretation of Scripture. Church history also provides a caution on those interpretations which are fraught with distortions.
• can serve as a laboratory for examining Christian interaction with surrounding culture.
• can be useful in shaping proper Christian attitudes.

On Wednesday morning, members of the SDB Historical Society—Ken Davis, Janet Thorngate, Norma Rudert, Paul Green, and Don Sanford (l. to r., above)—presented reasons why we should study church history and how it can be put to use. Paraphrased from Mark Noll’s book, From Turning Points in the History of Christianity, the study of Christian history:

The study of history can be used by SDBs in outreach and witness to others. The members provided examples of ways in which SDB history has been used in this way. A high point of the presentation was the singing of a hymn from the first SDB hymn book, published by the General Conference in 1826, written by Joseph Steenett (born in 1663).

The Historical Society members believe that one of their responsibilities is to both claim and proclaim Seventh Day Baptist contributions to Baptist history as a whole. The Society continues to share our distinction—the Sabbath—and our rich heritage with others, and should be commended for their efforts.

Inventor among us

Much to the h eosment of Conference-goers, Bernie Yurke, member of the Karitan Valley (N.J.) Seventh Day Baptist Church, was often seen talking to news reporters over the pay phone outside of his dormitory.

Bernie is a research physicist employed by Bell Laboratories, Lucent Technologies. In recent years he has been working on ways to construct molecular motors out of DNA, which are 100,000 times smaller than the head of a pin. This research came to fruition during the General Conference week when an article he co-authored appeared in the August 10th issue of Nature. This article generated a lot of interest among news services.

Bernie hopes that the techniques he used to assemble his small motors will also allow one to build components that are very small and very fast.
"...into his courts with praise"
by Victoria Burdick in the Conference Crier

To sing in the combined choir of all of the SDB churches at General Conference is a thrill that cannot be matched. At first, the prospect of "perfecting" ten anthems for use in the worship services is overwhelming. In actuality, perfection is neither desired nor achieved.

Pastor Paul Green of Milton, Wis., presented an awe-inspiring list of music to the "ragtag" group that dragged in on Sunday afternoon. We were haggard from traveling but willing to croak out a few notes. I'm sure that this first practice reduced our fearless director to muttering under his breath.

The next afternoon, persevering as only SDBs do, we gathered on the stage to give it another go. Lo and behold, there wasn't enough music; the number in the choir had surpassed Pastor Paul's expectation of 60. We were all willing to share copies (although it's more difficult with bifocals and trifocals). Then we really got down to business. We used our pencils, marked our music, and practiced our parts.

It's wonderful to be in a large church choir and even better to sit next to forgiving friends who smile, giggle, and laugh uproariously when you syncopate an even phrase, ignore sharps or flats, or come in a beat early. All in all, the Conference choir experience is "user friendly," emotionally rewarding, and a blessing both to participants and listeners. Next year, come on down!

Stained Glass opens Conference with song
by Nadine Lawton in the Conference Crier

For this road-weary traveler, the Sunday evening informal praise service was refreshing. It was also a time of renewal, and a time when peace replaced the anxiety of traveling. "Stained Glass" led the congregation in songs of worship and praise. Many in the pews added to the music with rhythm instruments and even a recorder.

I'm thankful that these informal praise times are now included as part of the Conference schedule. Not only are they refreshing, renewing, and peaceful, they are less fattening than the refreshments in the dining hall.

Young organist inspires Conference
by Jane Lewis, Conference Crier editor

Brett Greene is an 18-year-old senior at Northwestern High School in West Salem, Ohio. He has been taking piano lessons since 1st grade and began playing the organ at age 12.

Two years ago at Conference, Brett was invited by Lannette Calhoun to play an organ prelude for the Sabbath morning worship service. He felt excited and surprisingly at ease in front of the congregation.

Brett was inspired to hope that one day he might be able to be the Conference organist, but he never imagined it would happen so soon. Since President John Camenga asked him last year to play for this annual meeting, it's been exciting for Brett to collect and prepare music. He is the son of Martha and Wesley Greene of the Columbus SDB Church. After high school, he plans to major in organ performance. He's still seeking a college and a scholarship to help him accomplish his vocational goal.
Youth Pre-Con retreat rings with harmony

by Julie Sias and Jessica Goodson, in the Conference Crier

Fifty campers and 10 staff convened at Camp Joy in Berea, W.Va. (beautiful, beautiful West Virginia) for more than four days of fun, frolicking, Bible study, praise, and worship. Pastor David Taylor directed the camp, Pastor Matt Olson led the Bible studies, and Pastor Dave and Christina Thorngate led the music. John Nagle, Marjorie Patrick, Margaret Taylor, and several others provided nutritious and delicious cuisine.

A highlight of the retreat was the Evening Vespers with worshipful singing, scripture and devotional readings, testimonies, and prayer. The Bible studies, centered mainly in John 14 and 16, were about the Peace that Passes all Understanding. It is the gift of peace that one experiences when you have a personal relationship with Christ. When we went to vespers, it all seemed to "click" and we felt it.

Another highlight was the Volleyball Tournament. The six teams were comprised of the five work crews and the counselor group. Team 4, Jessie's team (nana nana nana), won the tournament. It was great just to be with our friends again and have fellowship.

SCSC shares similar summer experiences

by Angi Neher, in the Conference Crier

The SCSC 2000 team concept was called Righteousness. Each team took its name from one of the letters— Renewed: Angi Neher and Holly Davis Israel: Sharii Fyffe and Nicole Gilmore Grace: Stephanie Ritchie and Jamaal Fyffe Honey: Jenny Butler and Keith Ashley Treasure: Tameka Edwards and Omari Rhoden Everlasting: Jody Mclean and Mindy Barnes Overjoyed: Marissa Van Horn and Taryn Wiley Unashamed: Nathanael Lawton, Kris Bonser, and Angie Petty


The amazing thing is that 28 individual summer experiences across the United States resulted in God teaching us the same lessons. During evaluation sessions at Camp Joy, we realized that this summer we learned about patience in His timing, and waiting on the Lord for direction about what we should approach our tasks. We saw His awesomeness even in the little things. Each team selected a scripture to relate to their team identity. Stephanie Ritchie of Team Grace reports that she and Jamaal Fyffe of Toronto selected Ephesians 2:8 as their team verse: "For it is by grace you are saved, through faith—and this not of yourselves, it is the gift of God." They served in Boulder, Colo., in three camps and did some street witnessing. The church welcomed them, and God touched their lives and taught them that His plan is better than anything one might have planned alone.

Prayer of Appreciation

by Cindy Burks, Little Rock, Ark.

Written the day after Conference 2000

Thank you for love from my Christian brothers and sisters. Thank you for digital cameras, audio tapes and Kodak pictures.

Make me thankful for all that cafeteria food and for knowing when to ask: "Are you a Burdick or a Rood?"

Thanks for giving us five decades of cheer embodied in Pastor Gabe's birthday this year. Thank you for preaching and singing and prayers. Thank you for that oboe played upstairs.

The chapel was lovely; the windows were fine. Thanks for Stained Glass and that other kind which sounded so loud, but went on to make us proud by at last singing "on the same page." (This means they sang their tune in the same key together.) And, yes, Lord, we thank You for Your choice of weather.

The organ rang true; the choir was grand, exceeded only by preaching from a wee little man.

We liked shirts for sale, "SCSC emblazoned," which could even be worn overseas by Jeff Hazen. (His e-mail gave clues of African news we enjoyed and shared with each other.) Putting faith into action was not a distraction, but helped us learn to love our brother.

You gave us these days, of singing and praise, ending with hearts filled with care. Last but not least, we had time to share, ending our Conference with prayer.

The next thing to do once we rest from the pathways we've trod, is to take to our hearts (and all other parts) the new Conference theme: "Try God."

Selah.

We pause to thank You for Larry hid with You in Christ above and to send forth to Jan (here with us) our love. We miss Bro. Graffius more than words can say, and look forward to a reunion some day.

Page sponsored by faithful members of the Houston, Texas, church— September 2000/ 11
The train had just dropped a few cars off on the sidetrack. Yet, with the activity of all the people, you would think this to be a major operation. Everyone in town must have been there. I was surprised at the anxiousness on their faces as each plotted a way to attach themselves to the outside of the train. Some were helping others to wrap up in strips of cloth that would be tied to the car. Others climbed onto any overhang or grasped any protruding bar they could reach. I could see the desperation in the eyes of those around me. I sensed the fear that they were experiencing; the fear of being left behind. Getting on that train was critical for each one. The train's destination was a place everyone wanted to reach.

Then, I glanced inside the cars. With very few boarded passengers, there was room for plenty inside. Somehow I knew that tickets were available to all, but not one of those around me would ask for one, even though the tickets were freely given.

This scene played out in a recent dream of mine. The minute I awoke, it was revealed to me that this is the way of salvation. We cannot attach ourselves to the outside faith of others. Only through “the ticket”—given to us by accepting Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior—can we be permitted passage on the heaven-bound train. Is this dream intended for you? Are you trying to find your way to heaven by trusting in someone else’s faith? Christ has led the way for each of us to have our very own ticket. All we need to do is ask for ourselves, in our own heart, and we can all have that ticket on the heaven-bound train.

Lana Van Horn is a teacher in the Columbus, Ohio, School District and pastor’s wife (Robert) at the First SDB Church of Columbus.
Scripture Memory
Theme:
"Try God"

Month | Youth/Adult
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October | To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; in you I trust, O my God. Do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me. (Psalm 25:1-2)

November | Show me your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths; guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long. (Psalm 25:4-5)

December | Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in his ways. He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way. (Psalm 25:8-9)

January | Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

February | You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you. Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord, the Rock eternal. (Isaiah 26:3-4)

March | "This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time," declares the Lord. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people." (Jeremiah 31:33)

April | "If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—" (John 14:15-16)

May | "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." (John 14:27)

June | May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13).

Verses—2000-2001

Junior
To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; in you I trust, O my God. Do not let me be put to shame... (Psalm 25:1-2)

Show me your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths; guide me in your truth and teach me... (Psalm 25:4-5)

Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in his ways. (Psalm 25:8)

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. (Proverbs 3:5)

Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord, the Rock eternal. (Isaiah 26:4)

"...I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people." (Jeremiah 31:33)

"If you love me, you will obey what I command."
(John 14:15)

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you... Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." (John 14:27)

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him... (Romans 15:13)

Primary
To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; in you I trust, O my God... (Psalm 25:1-2)

Show me your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths. (Psalm 25:4)

Good and upright is the Lord... (Psalm 25:8)

Trust in the Lord with all your heart... (Proverbs 3:5)

Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord, the Rock eternal. (Isaiah 26:4)

"...I will be their God, and they will be my people." (Jeremiah 31:33)

"If you love me, you will obey what I command." (John 14:15)

"Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." (John 14:27)

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him... (Romans 15:13)

"If you love me, you will obey what I command." (John 14:15)
When my 8-year-old granddaughter, Elizabeth, was faced last spring with open heart surgery for a defective mitral valve, she found great comfort in the 23rd Psalm and the knowledge that she is God's lamb. A sheep cote (shed) is located just a short distance from her house, and she and her sister, Tacy, enjoy petting the little lambs and observing their trusting dependence upon the care they receive.

One day, while searching through the Historical Society archives, I found a little booklet written in 1924 by Mrs. E.J. Van Horn, a good friend of my mother. I shared the booklet with Elizabeth and feel that it deserves to be shared with others, for the stories of how the good shepherd served to be shared with others, for the knowledge that she is God's lamb.

Little Baba
Of the Bethlehem Hills

He leadeth me, O blessed thought,
O words with heavenly comfort fraught

"Nestle closer, Baba. The night is chill." Baba, the white lamb, moved nearer to the side of its mother, and gave a soft little cry of contentment. The stars were very bright above the sheepfold and a young moon hung low in the western sky. The dew was heavy in the walled enclosure, and occasionally a sheep stirred restlessly in sleep. Mostly it was very quiet on the hillside, and only the watch-dogs were awake. Even the shepherd dozed in a corner of the fold, his staff near at hand, in case the dogs warned of danger to the flock.

"Mother, how good it is to rest," sighed little Baba. "I was so tired when we came home at twilight."

"It is good to rest in safety after the day's journey, my child," answered Marah. "But we have had a pleasant day. Our good shepherd has taken the best care of the sheep today, as always. He loves us. Now rest and be refreshed for the morrow, little one."

The shepherd chooses the right path for the sheep, and when they follow him he will bring them safely through.

"Yes, mother. Only tell me again the story of how the good shepherd boy cares for us. And be sure to put in the part about the dark valley."

The Lord Is My Shepherd, I Shall Not Want.

"In the morning, dear one, we shall be quite refreshed by the night's slumber. And he will lead us out to find pasture. The hillsides hereabout are bare and rocky. It is the shepherd's task to seek green fields for us. He searches out the best places where the grass is green and tender. You need not fear, little Baba. He will provide for all our need."

All morning the shepherd goes before us, to show the way. He walks quietly and slowly, for the lambs are tender and they soon grow tired. Some of the sheep are careless and they wander from the path. You must learn, Baba, to follow close to the shepherd. He will lead you safely. Heed his gentle voice, always, my child."

He leadeth me to lie down in green pastures.

"How weary and thirsty we were at midnight! Just when we were ready to faint with the heat, we came to a gurgling brook. But the sheep were frightened by the noise of the rushing waters, and they would not drink. The shepherd beds us down, and we obeyed. He dipped from the stream and filled the long stone water trough. Then he called us and we drank and drank our fill. How good it was."

He leadeth me beside the still waters.

"Once when I slipped on the rocks and almost fell, his rod was quickly there to help me up. It was such a comfort to know that the shepherd was there to look out for us. After the first few moments of dread I was not afraid. When we pass that way again I will not be fearful."

He restoreth my soul.

"Yes, mother, I hid my face in the folds of his robe till we were safe. When we reached the shepherd's place he had prepared for us."

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

"Afterwards we followed him along a narrow path which wound down the mountainside to a dark valley. Often the paths are so many and so crooked that the sheep cannot tell which to choose. But the shepherd chooses the right path for the sheep, and when they follow him he will bring them safely through. It is a matter of pride, among the shepherds, to have the name of being wise and faithful."

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

"The path today crossed a chill and fearsome valley. O Mother, how frightened I was..."

"Yes, Baba, till our kind shepherd lifted his arms, and carried you in his bosom."

"O yes, mother, I hid my face in the folds of his robe till we had passed through that awful place."

I will fear no evil, for thou art with me.

"Well, Baba, he watched over the rest of us too. The way was difficult, and strange to us all. But it was necessary to pass through, in order to reach the place he had prepared for us."

Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

"Once when I slipped on the rocks and almost fell, his rod was quickly there to help me up. It was such a comfort to know that the shepherd was there to look out for us. After the first few moments of dread I was not afraid. When we pass that way again I will not be fearful."

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies.

"Yes, mother, I hid my face in the folds of his robe till we were safe. When we reached the shepherd's place he had prepared for us."

In his hand he held a horn of healing oil, and as the sheep came, one by one, he watched for the bruised and torn.

"But our shepherd has gone on before us. He has killed the ugly snakes, uprooted the poison grasses and driven the wild beasts away. Here was our 'table' spread out before us, and our enemies could not harm us."

Baba shuddered a little at the thought of these dreadful foes. Then he remembered, "The shepherd was with us. I will trust him."

"That is right, my child," said Marah. "He will guard us, even at the risk of his life."

Thou art anointest my head with oil. Thou leadest me all my days.

"Toward evening the shepherd called us and we turned homeward. As we came near to the sheepfold, he stood in the doorway. In his hand he held a horn of healing oil, and as the sheep came, one by one, he watched for the bruised and torn. My knee was bleeding from the fall among the rocks, so he poured oil upon it, and bathed my face and head."

My cup runneth over.

"A brimming cup of cool water was ready to quench my thirst, and I was comforted."

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.

"The watch dogs have followed us all day and are guarding the fold tonight. It is good to lie down in his care and rest."

Let us never be willful and stubborn. When we have such a tender, loving shepherd, we will always follow him. Hark, Baba, do you hear him singing? Sleep sweetly now my little lamb."
The time is 6:30 EST. I wake up groggily in my quarters and wipe the sleep from my eyes. The sun shines brightly through the room portal. It's the first day of Conference... aboard a luxury cruise liner in the Bahamas.

As I pull on a bathrobe and gather up some toiletries, I come awake instantly at the sound of people already bustling in the hallway outside. I make my way down to the next deck to the showers. There, most of my friends are already finished and ready for breakfast in the huge, luxurious mess hall.

I hurry to catch up with them, taking a five-minute shower. I'm still pulling my shirt on as I stumble out of the lavish locker-room-type bath facility and hurry into the mess hall.

Lunch is held outside on the aft pool on the main deck, he tries not to get too close and fall in. From there we go immediately to the spacious Chapel for the morning service, where Pastor Andrew Samuels is giving a sermon on how to focus on God in the most distracting situations. We sing hymns, accompanied by a full orchestra, all dressed in white robes—very magnificent.

After the service, we talk and say "hello" to old friends, hug relatives, and generally "catch up" before going to lunch.

Lunch is held outside on the aft deck on what doubles as the playing field (fake turf, of course). I look at my menu. Whatever "fillet de sole" with crushed herbs in a lemon-butter sauce is, it sure sounds interesting. So I order that.

The tables are small; room enough for only three people. I look at my tablemates. Jonathan Mackintosh can't seem to decide what he wants, and Donna Packard has ordered a small salad. I tell Jono, "When in doubt, always order the lobster." I think he has ordered a large water. A few tables over, I notice Scott Packard's personal advisors. Ginny showed him that if he gave out all the "bug fixes" at once, people would be a lot happier. And happy people equal more profits. Heather headed his public relations board and got things straightened out there.

We all express amazement as we learn how Mr. Gates supplied the $50 million dollars it took for all the accommodations of this Conference. It was his way to say "thanks" for getting him out of legal hot water. We hope that next year's fund raising committee can do as well.

We all pray really hard and set goals... in the afternoon, we have fun exploring this awesome vessel and get approval to have the youth activity after dinner and the service. The service is incredible, very vibrant as Pastor Gabe Bejjani delivers a message along the Conference theme of "Humility."

The evening youth activity is the culminating event of the day. A Youth Pool Party is held in and around the ship's pool, complete with Chinese lanterns and mini-palms, set to the backdrop of a red sun sinking into the sea. Deck chairs are set out and Caribbean music plays as people dive into the water and socialize on the sides of the pool.

Garcons go around offering drinks (non-alcoholic, of course) and little fruit dishes. Games of Twister and limbo spring up all over the place. It is great! There are even random acts of comedy and a live performance by the Supertones (flew earlier— by helicopter).

I am going to sleep well tonight I believe, because there is more to look forward to tomorrow. Ah, well, good night and God bless. SR
Rwanda needs “permanency” by Kirk Looper

The churches in Rwanda cannot hope to grow if they are unable to show that they are permanent and stable. Along with the legal problems, there are other denominations which would just as soon not have SDBs in Rwanda.

Rev. Nduwayesu asks that I plead with our Seventh Day Baptist members and friends to raise enough funds to cover all the SDB churches that are currently without roofs. They also need to secure a building for an office. The total bill comes to about $15,000.

The churches in Rwanda cannot hope to grow if they are unable to show that they are permanent and stable. Along with the legal problems, there are other denominations which would just as soon not have SDBs in Rwanda.

Rev. Edwin Mukumbo is dealing with a similar situation in Zambia. SDBs are expected to have a permanent office, and the churches are expected to have permanent roofs.

God has blessed the Zambian Conference with Jeff Hazen, who has been helping to build a Conference office and has worked on some of the churches. They will be in fairly good condition, building-wise, when Jeff returns home at the end of the year. He would be thrilled to have you join him in supporting the building efforts in Zambia.

As we continue to spread the Gospel by establishing Seventh Day Baptist churches, we are going to find that more and more of our sister Conferences and churches will need permanent structures and office buildings. It is our prayer that those who are led to help in this tremendous undertaking will open their hearts and help us to secure the Conferences in the African countries.

Living by conviction, not by convenience by Larry Graffius

General Conference is a time for recharging our spiritual batteries and making fresh commitments to God. Following the news of the recent exile, God's people were similarly challenged.

In this excerpt from Pastor Larry Graffius’ book, we reflect on Nehemiah’s stand for obedience and our own response to God’s call for faithfulness.

From Larry Graffius’ True to the Sabbath, True to Our God, chapter II, pages 111-112, 114.

Convenience store mentality

Sabbath keeping is not very convenient. Not then (in Nehemiah’s day). Not now. But then, keeping the Sabbath was not something you do for the sake of convenience.

The people of Jerusalem had said into a convenience store mentality: Don’t make me go out of my way. Don’t make me wait. Don’t put me to extra trouble or bother. I will be willing to pay more, to give you more money. I can have what I want now, without any sacrifice or waiting. I want what I want when I want it. That is the convenience store mentality.

Consider this list: Instant foods, microwave meals, preassembled products, electronic banking, telephone transactions, FAX communications (so that a message can be conveyed today), e-mail (so that a message can be conveyed this minute), the shopping network, microwave meals, preassembled products, electronic banking, telephone transactions, FAX communications (so that a message can be conveyed today), e-mail (so that a message can be conveyed this minute), the shopping network, and business activity and the commercial activity. It will be a day of rest, worship and devotion to God. We, as members of the Body of Christ, are a covenant people. We pledge to God, and to each other, to keep the Sabbath.

Nehemiah makes it clear to us that keeping the Sabbath holy means no buying, or selling, or trading, or marketing. No more commercial activity. We won't be going to the mall on Sabbath afternoon. We will not be out grocery shopping on Sabbath. We will not be taking care of business; we won’t be going to the office or calling on customers. The Sabbath is holy time. From Friday evening to Saturday morning it is not just a time to stop. To desist from what you are doing. And then to devote that day, that 24-hour time period to God.

Consequently, Nehemiah responds: “When evening shadows fell on the gates of Jerusalem because of the Sabbath, I ordered the doors to be shut and not opened until the Sabbath was over” (Nehemiah 13:19).

It is important that we understand and believe this about the Sabbath: It is not just a day of the week that we take time out of our busy schedule to go to church. It is not just a time when we allow God to interrupt our crowded agenda and list of errands for a couple of hours. It is not a time when we “work God into” our schedule. It is a holy day, God’s holy day. It is really time that does not belong to us, but to God.

But on the other hand, the Sabbath is a time when we give our full attention to God. We don’t do other activities. We are living by convictions, not by convenience.
Picnic, VBS, and growth in Old Stonefort

by Pastor Doug Burkhamer

Greetings from the Old Stonefort, Ill., SDB Church!

On the third Sabbath in May, we celebrated our 125th year as a Seventh Day Baptist Church. We are proud of our SDB heritage.

This year it was our honor to ordain Alice Brooks, and Carolyn and Sue Bethel as deaconesses. We licensed Bob Farr as a minister of the Gospel.

Brother Tim Parsley has helped to establish a branch church of Stonefort. They have three families meeting on Sabbaths in an auction house on Market Street in Red Boiling Springs, Tenn.

On June 24, we held a church picnic at Bellsmith Springs following our Sabbath service. From June 25-30, we hosted a Vacation Bible School at our church. The theme was the acronym POGG—"Fully Rely On God." S

Marlboro adopts road

The Marlboro SDB Church outside of Bridgeton, N.J., has adopted a section of highway near the church. Here are the helpful hands who pitched in during the July clean-up.

L to r: Ryan Cruzan, Janet Peterson, Kim Cruzan (with Sarah), Marie Davis, Sharon Davis, Randy Dickinson, and Jeanne Dickinson.

Life Lessons from Zambia

by Jeff Hazen

What are some of the things I see in Zambia, which are hard habits for me to learn?

1. To spend time visiting and talking with people during business hours.

2. To give money even when it’s not asked of you.

3. To walk a long (hour-long) distance for a short (one hour or less) meeting.

4. That making a friend is worth more than the money you get from that person.

5. Not to worry when the phone line gets cut, there’s no food in the house, and you haven’t worked for months, but to have faith in God.

6. To share with others, even when it seems that you don’t have enough for yourself.

7. To visit the sick (and bring something for them) and attend funerals of people you don’t know.

8. To not complain when your things are missing or used up by living with a large family.

9. To be determined and continue in the path God gave you at the start, even when authority figures tell you that such a path is impossible.

10. When you don’t have the money for something, to simply pray and wait.

In Zambia, I see that people come first. Generally, people are generous beyond their means. Guests often get treated better than family members. People will accept too low a payment from someone, just to make a friend.

It’s difficult to know what lessons to learn. One might say, "Well the reason people are so poor is because they’re too generous with the wrong people, and they don’t plan out their time and expenses." However, there is a joy, strength, and goodness among the Christians here that I hope to gain from living with them. S

Note: For more information about my project in Zambia, some of the needs that have been expressed to me, or just to find out more about myself, e-mail me at phazan@aznet.net. Or write Phil and Ruth Hazen, 320 Highview Rd., Tracy’s Landing, MD 20779. My mailing address: PO Box 23168, Richey, Zambia.

Donations address: c/o SDB Missionary Society, 119 Main St., Westerly, RI 02891-2112

To Kevin Butler:

I see from the July-August issue of the SR that once again Seventh Day Baptists are wrongly accused of putting more emphasis on the Sabbath than they place on salvation.

The Great Commission is what we should all want to obey, but a person should not ignore some of what Jesus said in the Great Commission.

For example, teaching them to observe all things that I commanded you” (Matthew 28:19-20). Making disciples, baptizing those disciples and teaching those disciples oil that Jesus commanded.

The Great Commission also includes teaching new disciples about keeping the Sabbath, which most churches do not do. Just as the Lord put the Sabbath command right in the middle of His Ten Commandments, part of the Great Commission says that new disciples were also to be taught not to steal or kill or break the Sabbath Commandment.

If we claim that salvation is more important than obedience to God, we had better remember Jesus’ words of warning: “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven, that same will I say unto him in that day, Lord, Lord, art we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? and then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity” (Matthew 7:21-23).

John Conrod, Lakewood, CO

Dear Editor:

I appreciated Kevin Chroniger’s letter to you, saying that he had left the Seventh Day Baptist denomination, but even more so, his reasons for doing it.

It is true we emphasize the Sabbath in our Recorder, on our web site, and in many of our tracts for outreach. But it is, after all, our most distinctive difference from the majority of other denominations.

When you buy a car, you take it for a test drive. You have full use of it, and the ability to see it. When people move from one church to another, most do not test drive them. They might say, “I see that people come first.” That is why they are worshipping on the Sabbath.

I love my wife (of 57 years). Always have. When our last child was born, he get all the attention possible during his first night home from the hospital. And I noticed something else: my wife didn’t get a bit angry or upset when I got up to attend to the baby.

When I changed him and brought him to her in bed to be nursed, she understood this to be an act of kindness and concern. It was what I could do to show my wife that I cared about her and our son as well.

I want Jesus to know that I love Him. He said, if you love me, keep my commandments..." It seems to me that keeping the Sabbath holy is one positive thing that I can do. The burden He gives us are light.

Ben Peil, Apple Valley, CA

Dear Editor:

It was with concern and sadness that I read Kevin Chroniger’s letter to you, saying that he had left the Seventh Day Baptist denomination, but even more so, his reasons for doing it.

It is true we emphasize the Sabbath in our Recorder, on our web site, and in many of our tracts for outreach. But it is, after all, our most distinctive difference from the majority of other denominations.

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Ben Peil, Apple Valley, CA
church and move to new territory, they are too busy, too tolerant, too hesitant, or too afraid to share the message of the Sabbath for fear of rejection.

In Matthew 5:19, Jesus says, "Whenever a break of one of these commandments and teaches men so, mankind shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever keeps and teaches them, shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."

Ruth Bottoms, Little Genesee, NY

Dear Brother Kevin:

The July-August issue of the SR just arrived, and the contents were delightful. Ken Camp's article on creativity in worship should be of great help to pastors. Just a few days ago, I listened to a speaker who avoided using one word if ten words sufficed.

But my favorite article was "New Number 32" by Jerry Vanfleur. It reminded me of when new pews were being considered during a business meeting in my home church years ago. One member spoke of the historical significance of the old ones—"The pioneers of our congregation have sat in these pews," she stated. "It would be sacrilege to replace them."

"But," another member shot back, "they didn't have splinters in them then!"

Keep up the good work with The Sabbath Recorder. Blessings to the staff.

Yours in His work,
Eugene Lincoln, Hagerstown, MD

Accessions

Marboro, NJ
Joined after baptism
Melissa Rankin

Milton, WI
George Calhoun, pastor
Joined after testimony
Darlene Leidel
John Lima
Sarah Lima

Joined after baptism
Jamie Dutcher
Joined by letter
Angie Osborn
Steve Osborne

Paint Rock, AL
John Beets, pastor
Joined after baptism
Jon McClary
Sherrie McClary

West Palm Beach, FL
William Via, Alcott McClay, co-pastors
Joined after testimony
Cecil Bell
Donna Lynch
Ivy Mullings

Obituaries

Samuels.—Rudolph T. Samuels, 73, died on July 24, 1999, at Robert Wood Johnson University Medical Center in New Brunswick, N.J.

He was born on April 11, 1926, in Manchester, Jamaica, West Indies. A resident of the Plainfield, N.J., area in recent years, he formerly lived in Pottstown, Pa., and Gary, Ind.

He married Vivian Fields on May 22, 1953.

Mr. Samuels was a security guard for the K. Hovnanian Company in Edison, N.J. He was a trustee and head usher at the Plainfield Seventh Day Baptist Church.

In addition to his wife of seven years, survivors include one daughter, Corrine Marie Chuihard of Randle, Wash., two sons, Lynden of Randle, and Myron of Boca Raton, Fl.; eight grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, three step-grandchildren and numerous step-great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his brother Archie.

Funeral services were held on May 31, 2000, at the Morton Chapel of the Brown Mortuary, with Pastor Thomas Mitchell officiating. Interment was at the Morton (Wash.) Cemetery.

Babcock.—Flora Elizabeth Babcock, 91, died on June 13, 2000, at Berlin (Wis.) Memorial Hospital.

She was born on March 16, 1909, in Rome, N.Y., the daughter of Thomas Smith and Carrie Palmer. She graduated from high school in Verona, N.Y., and from Milton (Wis.) College. On August 14, 1935, she married Kenneth Babcock in Verona. She lived in Milton until moving to Berlin two years ago.

Flora was a member of the Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church. She was also a member of the Sojourner Truth Group, Milton Historical Society, Milton College Alumni Association, Milton Women's Club, and the Ripon Garden Club.

She was survived by her husband, Kenneth; two daughters, A. Jeanette Freigang and Sue Foster, both of Saginaw, Mich., and Virginia Field of Berlin; two sisters, Agnes Marquardt of Huntington, N.Y., and Anna Davis of Columbus, S.C.; one brother, G. Allison Smith of Verona; eight grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held on June 18, 2000, at the Milton SDB Church, with burial in the Milton Cemetery. Pastor George Calhoun officiated.

Williams.—Ada Jessie Williams, 89, of Boulder, Colo., and Seattle, Wash., died on June 21, 2000. She was born in New Auburn, Minn., on April 19, 1911, the daughter of Wells and Jessie (Bebee) Crosby.

She first married Elmo Davis, who passed away in 1979. On September 1, 1984, she married Vernon D. Williams of Denver, Colo. He preceded her in death.

Ada graduated from Wheat Ridge (Colo.) High School and Barns Business School. She worked as a secretary for the U.S. Bureau of Mines until retiring in 1979. She was a founding member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Denver.

Survivors include three daughters, Katherine Spreadborough of Benton, Wash., Myrna Cox of Englewood, Colo., and Beverly Wells of Sandusky, Ohio; one son, Gary Davis of Lakeside, Wood, Colo.; one brother, Kenneth Cosby of Tucson, Ariz.; 10 grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren.

The memorial service was held on July 8, 2000, at the SDB Church of Boulder, with Rev. David Thorngate officiating.

Saunders.—Dorothy Margaret Saunders, 77, of Boulder, Colo., and Seattle, Wash., died on June 21, 2000. She was born in Joliet, Ill., on May 22, 1923, the daughter of John and Elizabeth (Wilson) Saunders.

Sarah Saunders was a teacher in the Los Angeles, Calif., public schools. She had a special interest in the history of the Seventh Day Baptist Church in California. She was married in 1944 to John H. Saunders, and was the mother of three children.

She is survived by her two children, John H. Saunders and Richard Saunders; her two grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.
She served as a chaplain in New York, California, and pastored churches in Rhode Island. He also ministered at Congregational and Baptist churches in El Cerrito, California, and Berkeley.

During World War II, Wayne served as a chaplain in New Caledonia and the Solomon Islands. On July 4, 1945, he participated in the last offensive action of the war, and was among the first Americans to occupy Tokyo.

He left the Army as a Major and became an Associate Professor of Historical and Systematic Theology at Alfred University. From 1952 to 1981, he was Professor of Religious Education at Pacific School of Religion, and continued as Adjunct Professor of Theater and Theology until 1996. He also taught at the College of Divinity degree from Alfred (N.Y.) University's School of Theology, a Master of Religious Education from The Hartford (Conn.) Seminary Foundation, and a Doctor of Theology (magna cum laude) from the Pacific School of Religion (PSR) in Berkeley. During two sabbatical years, he was a student at Oxford University in England.

He was ordained by the River-side Seventh Day Baptist Church and pastored SDB and First Baptist churches in Rhode Island. He also ministered at Congregational and Presbyterian churches in western New York, and at Swedenborgian and Baptist churches in El Cerrito, California, and Berkeley.

During World War II, Wayne served as a chaplain in New Caledonia and the Solomon Islands. On July 4, 1945, he participated in the last offensive action of the war, and was among the first Americans to occupy Tokyo.

She was a member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Boulder, and was well known for the youth messages she gave to young people during worship services over the years. Dorothy was always willing to help others in need until health difficulties prevented it. She was also always ready with treats to give the children. Whether it was gum or a piece of hard candy, she was always there to sweeten someone’s life. Survivors include her husband, Bill Saunders of Boulder; two sons, Carl of Lafayette, Colo., and William of Superior, Colo.; one daughter, Harriet Newnham of Lafayette; one sister, Brenda Sweet of Concord, N.C.; four grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by one brother, Walter Moore.

A memorial service was held on June 4, 2000, in the SDB Chapel, Berkeley.
Cynthia Culise accepted the Robe of Achievement for her mother, Nellie Jo Brissey, who is recovering from heart surgery.

Sabbath morning worship in Wesley Chapel.

Linda Camenga receives a bouquet from Dean Fox and our new president (far right), Clayton Pinder.

Is this kids' program ever going to end?? Hunter and Kansas North from New Auburn, Wis.