Need direction in your ministry?

How about Short-term Missions?
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 us different.

Like other Baptists, we believe in:

- the baptism of believers, by immersion, witnessing to our salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ

- salvation as an act of loving obedience—believers accept Jesus as Savior and Lord

- the Bible as the inspired word of God. The Bible is our authority for our faith and daily conduct.

- 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 Washington, D.C., Seventh Day Baptist Church will celebrate its 55th Anniversary in 2001. If you have been a part of the congregation or have information about its history, please contact the church:

- E-mail: sdb@maranatha.net
- Mail: Washington SDB Church
- c/o Pastor Paul R. Andries
- 4700 16th St. N.W.
- Washington, D.C. 20001-4331

Phone: (202) 291-7002
Fax: (202) 726-5198

Missionary Society
Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the members of the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society will be held at the Pawcatuck SDB Meeting House, 120 Main St., Westerly, R.I., on Sunday, March 18, 2001, at 2:00 p.m. for the following purposes:

To elect voting members, a Board of Managers, and officers to hold office until the next annual meeting and until their successors are elected.

To hear and act upon the reports of the Board of Managers and officers for the fiscal year January 1, 2000, to December 31, 2000.

To ratify the appointment of independent public accountants for the current fiscal year.

To consider and act upon other matters as may properly come before said meeting or any adjournment thereof.

The Board of Managers has fixed the close of business on February 28, 2001, as the time at which members entitled to notice thereof and to vote at the meeting and any adjournment thereof shall be determined.

—Cindy L. Nadeau, secretary

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January 2001

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Helping others help themselves
by Kirk Looper

Talking about the work of the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society is one of my favorite topics. Especially when you consider that the Society is made up of all who care about the work being done in our sister Conferences and churches, both here and abroad.

Each and every one of you is important—every child who puts a penny in the Sabbath School Missions Offering, those who remember the Missionary Society in their wills, and everyone in between is needed to do the work.

All of you have done so much over the past year that it would be impossible to list every contribution on these pages. So, you will need to wait for some of the projects to be listed in future articles.

We appreciate everyone who unselfishly gave beyond all expectations. The funds that you donated helped to build churches, and assisted in buying educational materials for schools and churches, hymnals, Bibles, automobiles, computers, printers, photocopiers, clothing, food, cooking utensils, blankets and bedding, hospital medicines and equipment, and many small items. Without your collective support, we would have no mission work.

Recently, funds have been received to help the churches in Rwanda, Africa, replace their thatch roofs with metal roofs. Donations also helped replace roofs in Zambia and Liberia. Each of these metal roofs cost only a few hundred dollars and last much longer than thatch roofs.

Another advantage is that church buildings with metal roofs are considered permanent structures. Governments often require churches to have permanent buildings before they can be registered or continue meeting if already registered.

The lack of church buildings is one of the biggest stumbling blocks to outreach work in Africa—not church building equals no registration. People are sometimes reluctant to go to churches without buildings. There are still many churches without roofs, so we appreciate your interest and willingness to supply them.

The second most requested need is for printed material. A Bible costs about $6 U.S. in Rwanda and Zambia, and a little more or less in other countries. In many nations, it may take several days to earn that amount of money. Even though the cost of a Bible is not high by our standards, it is more than the people in these churches can afford. Study guides and other materials are just as expensive.

Some donations to the Missionary Society were designated for computers, printers, and photocopiers. This is so helpful because it allows the Conferences and churches in underdeveloped countries to publish their own tracts, study guides, study materials, and other pertinent literature. This also allows the Conferences to use this equipment for a business venture, such as writing letters for those who cannot write.

Fax machines are also utilized for business purposes, since they can be used to send letters and other faxes for people outside the church. Any machine that can provide income will help Conferences support themselves.

Donations have also helped our Conferences by supporting volunteer missionaries in Zambia and Malawi. These funds extend volunteer work by supplying money for buildings, medicines, and outreach. This giving is greatly appreciated, and it makes the recipients feel like they are better able to cope with the problems they encounter on the field. It is good that so much can be done through these volunteers.

"Focus" articles in The Sabbath Recorder, "Missions Notes" in Lead On, and "Missionary Reporter" for Key Workers help us to update you about new needs. If you do not receive these publications, please contact your office, and we will gladly send them.

Please continue to pray for the work in each and every one of our churches and sister Conferences. God bless all of you who are making this work successful.

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Gambian school children want to be promoted
by Kirk Looper

"Today is a day that many of the young people have been looking towards," noted a student at the Seventh Day Baptist school in Serrekunda, The Gambia. "It is the last day of the term, and everyone is anxious to see if they will be promoted to the next level in school. It has been so good to have a school so close."

For several years, the school has offered classes through the first three levels. Now the "promoted" young-sters will have to travel many miles to a different school. If the school could be expanded to include the next three levels, students there would not have to travel great distances just to continue their education.

In 1997, the SDB Missionary Society received a generous donation to help erect the school in The Gambia—one that houses preschool and the first three grade levels. Now is the time for them to expand so that the children who started school in...
1997 can stay in their own community. Some of the students who have completed the third level are not attending school at all because they cannot afford transportation and school fees.

It will cost $2,500 to construct a new building to house the next three levels, if they can use the same group of workers from the original building project. Church members did much of the work, which took many months to complete.

Digging the trench for the foundation took the most time. While this was happening, cement blocks for the foundation and walls were formed in the yard. Then the blocks for the foundation were laid, followed by the blocks for the walls.

Each step was recorded on video tape and sent to the Missionary Society so that people could see the work that has been put into it. If your church is interested in a copy of this tape, we would be glad to send it. Just notify us by writing the Missionary Society at 119 Main St., Westerly, RI 02891.

Once the original building was completed, tables and chairs were purchased. School supplies and clothing were also sent to the school from individual donors. We are thankful to those in other Conferences who supplied some of the financial assistance.

School supplies and clothing were completed, tables and chairs were provided and books were purchased.

If the school could be expanded to include the next three levels, students would not have to travel great distances to continue their education.

The funds came in slowly, but the outcome was the same—a complete building ready to use. Shortly after the beginning of the first term, the Missionary Society received a background report on each student, along with a picture. Photos were also sent showing the progress of the building, as well as the students and teachers in each of the rooms and outside the building. We are excited to hear about the plans to increase the size of the school, and covet your prayers for funds to help complete this project.

It will truly be a blessing to the community, ensuring that the young-sters have a greater chance to get a higher education. Prayers are always welcomed and needed.

Top photo: A Gambian teacher opens a box of clothing sent from the SDB Missionary Society.

Bottom: Teachers and students stand in front of one of the school buildings in The Gambia.
Missions emphasis

related to the country in which they will serve. The length of the training may be as long as three weeks. Pre-training will include preparatory reading and correspondent study units.

Training will not be superficial and will involve lifetime skills. Once the individual has gone through the original training program, a short update program would suffice before travel to another project.

Training goals

Our goal is to prepare the participants to meet the specific needs of the host church or Conference by having a working knowledge and respect for the culture in which they will find themselves.

We also want to provide our missionaries with opportunities to develop Christian leadership qualities, organizational skills (including how to start and lead Bible studies), and ways to develop basic evangelistic techniques, both one-on-one and in groups. This would include the ability to effectively verbalize their personal testimony.

Providing the mission teams basic information on SDB history, doctrine, and policy is meant to increase their ability to relate to our Conferences and churches. Hopefully, this will encourage the locals to organize and develop groups where they live. Perhaps a deeper commitment to the Lord and His work will be the final outcome.

Financial costs and age qualification

Participants must raise funds to cover the cost of traveling to training as well as travel and other expenses while on the field. The Missionary Society would assume the financial costs of the training.

Expenses may vary depending on the location and length of the project.

Expenses may vary depending on the location and length of the project. If projects are located in the United States, they may cost no more than $700 to $800. Mexico or Jamaican expenses may be as little as $1,000. Africa, Indonesia, India, or Australia may be closer to $4,000. The length of time for each project will be no less than one month, unless it is within the United States. Applications will primarily be accepted from members of churches in the Seventh Day Baptist Conference, USA and Canada. We see no limit to the upper age of the participant. However, the age qualification depends upon the specific project and Christian experience of the individual as assessed by the screening board.

And on to the review board

A board composed of SDB Missionary Society members will screen these applications. This board will also act as a review board following each project. Requirements for participation will include—but not be limited to—church participation, financial freedom, and family responsibilities.

Each individual would also be responsible for his or her own health insurance. Several good insurance companies that specialize in mission work are available to issue policies. It will be a responsibility of the screening board to determine if the applicant does indeed have valid health insurance. The board will also be responsible for checking for any signs of political unrest in the project area.

If you are interested in this type of service, you can photocopy the form below, fill in the requested information, and send it to the SDB Missionary Society, 119 Main St., Westerly, RI 02891. Or, send an e-mail with this same information to sdbmissoe@edgenet.net. A detailed application form will be sent to you. May the Lord bless this new project and its participants.

Request for Worker Application form

Name: ___________________________ Age: ____ Telephone No.: ________

Address: ___________________________ Church Membership: __________

E-mail Address: ___________________________ Area of specific interests: __________

CALIFORNIA

Resuscitating the Lake

There was a "For Sale" sign on the church building, and the congregation had dropped to six. Discouragement had set in. But veteran Missionary/Pastor Leland Davis and his wife were not willing to let the work die.

After much prayer, Pastor Davis contacted the National Missions office and discussed the situation with National Extension Minister Rev. Ronald J. Elston Sr. A visit to their church in Lake Elsinore, Calif., was discussed and planned.

A short time later, Rev. Elston visited the West Coast and met with the Lake Elsinore church. He presented the Sabbath message and conducted an afternoon meeting with those interested in keeping the work going. Many issues were discussed, including the need for a younger pastor with more energy and a growth vision for the church.

Just as the group was faithful in seeking the Lord's direction, God was already in the process of providing for their needs.

During an earlier visit to the West Coast, Pastor Elston was hosted by Brother Leland Pike, a member of the Foothill Community Church in Montrose, Calif. At the time, Leland expressed an interest in the ministry. After his visit to "the Lake," Pastor Ron met with Brother Pike to explore the possibility of working with the Lake Elsinore group. There was much interest, PTL!

Meetings were held with Gabe Bejani, Director of Pastoral Services, to see if training could be provided. Then Gabe and Pastor Ron met with Pastor Davis and the Lake Elsinore church to discuss the process. Again, the Lord provided in a wonderful way.

Now, the rest of the story: The Lake Elsinore church called Leland Pike to co-pastor with Brother Davis. In cooperation with the National Extension Ministry, the church developed a Missionary Society-sponsored project of outreach and evangelism, which is scheduled for early spring.

The "For Sale" sign has been taken down, and building repairs made, including a new roof. Not one but two men are now scheduled to start the T.I.M.E. (Training In Ministry by Extension) program—Brother Pike and a new member who has also felt the call to the ministry. There is a new wind blowing over the Lake, breathing new life into the ministry of the Lake Elsinore SDB Church. The Holy Spirit of God is listening to the prayers of His servants, who are not willing to give up on the work of His Kingdom.

"I have been blessed to have played a part in God's plan for 'resuscitating the Lake,'" Pastor Elston said. "I pray that those who are going through similar problems will call upon the Lord and find Him always faithful."
New windows of opportunity open

by Ronald J. Elston Sr.

September 30, 2000, was a special Sabbath as a new church was launched in the Southeast.

Following my trip to Africa with Missionary Society Executive Director Kirk Looper, I planned to go to the Christian Stewardship Association seminar in Atlanta, Ga. Just prior to leaving for Atlanta, I received a phone call from my good friend, Pastor Alvin Bernard, who invited me to attend the launching of a new church in the Atlanta area.

I was thrilled to be a part of this exciting new group—now named Christian Family Fellowship—going public with their worship services.

The group meets in Decatur, Ga., and is a branch of the Atlanta Metro SDB Church.

Pastor Bernard did much of the remodeling, turning the structure into an attractive facility for the Lord.

Twenty-five people attended this "launching" service. It was followed by a fellowship dinner, where a great spirit of joy and sharing prevailed.

During the afternoon session, they held an organizational meeting and officers were elected.

Pastor Bernard brings many years of pastoral/administrative leadership to the new group, and I appreciate all the work that has gone into this new church. I believe we will see much fruit develop from the believers at Christian Family Fellowship.

Old Stonefort extends its ministry with three new branches

Another new church to launch on September 30, 2000, was the Marion SDB Church, a branch of the Old Stonefort (Ill.) SDB Church. Marion, Ill., is located about 22 miles from Stonefort.

The new group is led by Pastor Bob Farr, who attended Stonefort prior to starting the new branch church. Pastor Farr is the District Manager of the Farr Insurance Co. and is this year's First Vice President of the Southwest Association.

Pastor Timothy Parsley, a former planter/leader of the Royalton (Ill.) SDB Fellowship.

He is an ordained Southern Baptist minister who has worked with Youth Ministry for many years. He currently chairs the Mission Committee and is President of the Southwestern Association of Seventh Day Baptists.

Stonefort's newest branch is located in Red Boiling Springs, Tenn., and the pastor is Bobby Duffer. Pastor Burkhamer recently attended services with the new group and conducted four baptisms.

National Extension Minister Rev. Ronald Elston commented, "I commend the outreach and extension efforts put forth by the leadership and congregation of the Old Stonefort SDB Church in working with and establishing extension through their new branches."

Old Stonefort has grown and taken a new direction under the leadership of Pastor Burkhamer.
The language of love

by Jeff Hazen

Jeff Hazen in Zambia

So that's it. On December 19, I finished this mission project in Zambia. I've gone back to speaking another language: English. You folks have spoken that language to me. So many of you supported me and my work that it would fill this page if I tried listing all of you. Thank you.

Love never ceases. As Christ allows, I'll speak Bemba in Zambia again. But for now, Na li temo! (I love you.)

Pain and suffering (Praise the Lord!)

I remember my 10th grade honors English class. The first day we walked in and found our seats, Mrs. Mary Louise Thomas scribbled on the chalkboard a quote by some famous philosopher: "Life is suffering." So, the stage was set for that particular class right from the start, because she seemed to have a sort of "natural gift" to fulfill that particular philosophy. And as for the rest of life? Well, it's true. We don't go through life without being tried once in a while. Our days are often filled with adversity that we must handle. Remember, the trail is used to make you strong, just like the trials that we suffer (1 Cor. 10:13). Now, won't you agree that this is the interesting part? That God allows us to suffer "a while"?

The trials that challenge us are the opportunities and methods to distinguish our character and to learn valuable lessons. How we react to adversity will define us.

by Nancy May

One 2020 Fund Raiser

We often hear "WE WEIGH MORE THAN WE COUNT." Our Denominational Budget shows a large minus amount. So what should we do to serve our Lord?

As we strive to be God's two-edged sword?

Let's weigh in with a buck for each pound of excess. To assure that our budget goals meet with success. Dr. Pete has worries of your health, you see And your future in the denomination of SDB.

The Conference needs all SDBs to tithe. But this is a new way to let Conference revive. In August, just wait, don't forget with smiles You can each week be walking forty miles.

A weight loss fund raiser, that's something new. If you lose the weight promised, that's the cat's meow! That is healthy for you, and Conference too. Here is an address to send your money due—

I thought about double penalty if you fail to lose But I will wait until Conference and just let you choose.

Women's Society page by Laura Price

The trials that challenge us are the opportunities and methods to distinguish our character and to learn valuable lessons. How we react to adversity will define us.
Our first periodical

The magazine promoted two goals: spiritual growth within the denomination, and "a charitable disposition towards differing Christians, and in removing those local prejudices which so often render the society and conversation of those with whom we differ, unpleasant and unprofitable." 1) The first purpose was to bring to view a people who have long labored under almost every species of discouragement, and in the consequence of their observation of the Seventh-day Sabbath, have not only suffered in common with their dissenting brethren, but many hardships and inconveniences peculiar to themselves; and to acquaint the public with the sentiments, and religious observances, that distinguish this people from other Christian denominations.

That year, 1821, marked the 150th anniversary of the founding of the first SDB church in America in Newport, R.I., in 1671. To our chagrin, their observation has changed little in the 18 decades since that first Missionary magazine was printed.

The editors further stated, "It may appear strange that a distinct people, professing Christianity, and practicing all the ordinances of the Christian institution, could exist within our borders ever since the publication in the magazine showed their ecumenicity. In stating that they were "Baptists who keep the scripture Sabbath," they maintained that they differed from other Baptists in the article of the Sabbath only.

As in other denominations, the views of individual SDBs on some subjects of minor importance were not always in perfect unison. It is another object of this work to cultivate harmony among our brothers; and we fondly indulge the pleasing hope of being useful to others in this point: that we may all speak the same thing, and that there be no division among us, but that we be perfectly joined together in the same mind, and in the same judgment.

4) The fourth purpose was not only to announce to the world the prominent feature of those Sabbath-keeping people, but to unite with others in "the laudable work of holding up the doctrine of the Cross—the depravity of the human heart, the necessity of repentance and the new birth, salvation by grace, and believer's baptism. And in as much as they differ on the subject of the Sabbath, not only with Baptists, but with the greater part of other Christians, it is intended that this work shall exhibit the cause of our difference, and the reason of the hope that is within us, with meekness, and fear; and freely discourse the subject of the Sabbath, in common with other religious subjects.

A total of 16 quarterly issues were published from August 1821 to September 1825. In the final issue, the editors stated, "Four years have elapsed since its commencement. In these issues, those points in which the Seventh Day Baptists differ from their brethren are exhibited, and sufficiently enforced by scripture testimony and argument for our readers to understand the reasons of our difference. So that one important object had in view in its introduction, is at least in a measure, effected."

However, from a historian's viewpoint as well as that of other readers, it is a valuable source of primary material on the religious climate and activities of the time. Its topics encompassed a host of missionary interests, not just those limited to Seventh Day Baptists.
Nurture Series lessons available

In the year 2000, the Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education published the Senior High Missions and Ministry Nurture Series and reprinted the Junior Sabbath Nurture Series materials.

More than 20 years ago, the Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education began producing lessons to help local churches teach their children and youth. We designed this material to help children and youth to grow in their Christian experience.

The lessons do not create a full curriculum. However, they do provide an opportunity for children and youth of all ages to begin to know more about the mission and ministry of Seventh Day Baptists, and to explore and understand the Sabbath.

While you can use the Nurture Series in a variety of settings, the typical use is as a quarter of Sabbath School lessons. The Sabbath series and the Missions and Ministry series provide material for several age levels. Each level works within its topic in a way that provides continuity with the other age levels. That helps to avoid repetition which can frustrate students.

Pastor Matthew Olson and Carl Greene edited the Senior High Missions and Ministry material. The student book uses 15 authors and explores the lives of Moses, Jesus, and followers of Christ. The companion teacher’s help has 31 pages. RuthAnne Peil edited the Junior Sabbath Nurture Series. This portion of the series had been unavailable for a short time because it had sold out. Both publications, along with the rest of the Nurture Series, are available for purchase through the SDB Center in Janesville, Wis., or the Board of Christian Education office in Alfred Station, N.Y.

While you can use the Nurture Series in a variety of settings, the typical use is as a quarter of Sabbath School lessons.

This letter was written by Mrs. Sosamma Philip, treasurer of the Malankara SDB Conference of Kerala, India, and one of the executive secretaries of the Red Cross Society of the Pathanamthitta Branch.

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ. We would like to give you a brief description of the projects that we have done during the past few months, especially from March 2000 to September 2000.

I have ample opportunities to get involved in social projects. This relays in getting the Conference involved in social activities.

With the help of the Red Cross, we organized an eye camp at Pathanamthitta to find the people with vision difficulties. Everything was free to the needy, including consultation, check up, operation, medicine, and glasses. It was a one-day program, with the doctors and nurses coming from Chennai, India. They cared for around 300 patients with a variety of eye problems. Glasses were supplied to 78 patients.

Medicine was given to all, and 21 patients were taken to the hospital in Chennai for cataract operations. All the operations were successful and, after one week, the patients were sent home fully cured. They were provided with eyeglasses and 500 Rupees for additional food expenses.

During the monsoon season in July, a big flood struck Kerala. Almost all the lowlands were flooded due to the land slipping in the High Range. A nearby colony, which accommodates 400 families, was hit very badly. Pouring rains poured down for one week, and many houses collapsed as the water level rose. Almost all the houses went under the water.

We, along with the Red Cross Society and government officials, rushed to the spot and helped evacuate the people to safer places, such as the community school. Life was miserable since they shared minimum space and facilities with cattle, dogs, cats, sheep, and other animals. We fed the people for one week, and supplied clothing and other needed items. Meanwhile, the government also extended help.

Staying in the community school became unhygienic, since there were no toilet facilities for the 400 families. So we met with government officials, the Red Cross Society, and World Vision, and discussed possible ways to improve the living standards of those who were thrown into this difficult condition. We are now in a process of constructing 50 toilets for these people.

We are happy that we could come forward to help the poor and needy, and do some fruitful social activities like this to help the public. We believe that this is a golden opportunity to step into this colony to share the love of Jesus.

Yours in Christ,
Sosamma Philip

Mrs. Sosamma Philip

FOCUS on Missions

God’s work in Kerala, India

by Kirk Looper

This letter was written by Mrs. Sosamma Philip, treasurer of the Malankara SDB Conference of Kerala, India, and one of the executive secretaries of the Red Cross Society of the Pathanamthitta Branch.

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Yours in Christ, Sosamma Philip
God vs. machine

by Aubrey Appel, Milton, Wis.

One day, a group of scientists got together and decided that humans had come a long way and no longer needed God. So they picked one scientist to go and tell God that. The scientist walked up to God and said, "God, we've decided that we no longer need You. We're going to the point that we can clone people over the Internet is true in many ways. Unfortunately, people in our society today have begun to replace God with technology. How much time do you spend at your computer? How much time do you spend in prayer or reading the Bible? I know that I am guilty of spending too much time checking my e-mail and then falling asleep when I pray at night.

Like so many things in our secular world, technology has good points and bad points. We all know how the Internet helps and harms. We have all read about how genetic engineering is both exciting and dangerous. With our growing technology, people feel more and more that they are gods.

We cannot blame technology for this problem; it is our own fault. I am not saying that we should boycott every form of technology in order to cleanse ourselves. God gave us many things to use on earth as tools for living. And, like so many of God's perfect gifts, once in the hands of imperfect human beings, things tend to fall apart.

It seems that nothing is ever "good enough" for us, and our greed and selfish nature get the better of us since we are weak. God gave us technology, and we have exploited it. But let's not give up hope. We don't need to worry about stopping technology because God is taking care of us here on this old earth.

Instead of worrying about saving the world from technology, we can put our superhero suits back in the closet and spend more time in God's presence, rather than facing a computer screen. In that way, we can remove technology from its pedestal and put Jesus, our Savior, as the number one and only God in our lives.

Unfortunately, people in our society today have begun to replace God with technology.

and do many miraculous things, so don't you just go on and get lost."

God listened very patiently and kindly. After the scientist was done talking, God said, "Very well, how about this? Let's say we have a man-making contest." To which the scientist replied, "Okay, great!"

But, "God added, "we're going to do this just like I did back in the old days with Adam."

The scientist said, "Sure, no problem," and bent down to grab a handful of dirt.

God looked at him and said, "No, no, no. You go get your own dirt."

This story that a friend sent me

What We Must Do

1. Trust (Faith)
   Ps. 25:1-2a
2. Know Him and His Covenant
   Ps. 25:14-15
3. Integrity (Commitment)
   Ps. 25:23,10

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

The President's Page

Let God lead you

by Clayton Pinder

The person who interviewed me got a call from the home office in Philadelphia to stop on his way back from North Carolina and talk to me. The Lord had prepared him, and I got a job as a result of that visit.

We moved to Nitro, W.Va., where we were active in a Presbyterian church. Here, God used me in many ways. It was during this time in Nitro that the pastor and some of the deacons told me I would be preaching.

To me, this was the farthest thing from my mind. Not long after that, I was transferred to Philadelphia. In 1971-72, God spoke to me, and I became fully committed to Him. As Scripture says, God taught me and led me, and I followed His leading.

In the latter part of 1972, I became uneasy and sensed God had something in mind for me. I felt I should go back to the Nitro area and the church I had been in. I had an interview and a job waiting for me, but God had other plans.

A call came in from Summersville, W.Va., asking if I would stop and interview for a job. As a result, on my way to Nitro, I stopped for the interview.

During this time Floyd Goodson, who was going to Crites Mountain SDB Church, was praying for someone to replace him. God got us together, and I ministered to the people on the mountain for about 15 years. We saw lives change as several people came to accept Jesus as their Savior.

The same thing happened at Salem College. I was able to tell many to TRY GOD, and again lives were saved and changed. It was during this time that we went to the Lost Creek church and worked with Pastor Delmer Van Horn on outreach, visiting many homes and telling them to TRY GOD.

If you allow God to lead, your path will be straight. He will use you, and you will receive blessings. God is good and upright, and we need to trust and follow Him. 4

In addition, retired SDB missionary and pastor Leroy Bass came over from Washington Island, Wis., to give the keynote message during the Sabbath Eve service Friday night. He spoke on the topic, "The Joy of Entering God's Rest," dealing with the practical implications of Sabbath observance in our busy world. Throughout the weekend, Pastor Bass shared a lot of material from his personal study on creationism and its relationship to knowing God today.

One of the highlights of the weekend was the installation of Pastor Jerry Johnson as pastor of the New Auburn SDB Church. It was also a wonderful time for Pastor Johnson and his family, as they were "officially" welcomed back to the Midwest.

Other high points included a forum on evangelism Sabbath...
Update from Alfred

Dear Editor: Having talked with Cynthia (Rogers) Ralph about her "Alfred Recollections" in the October SR, here are some updates to her memories and hopes.

With its bell ringing, the First Alfred (N.Y.) SDB Church continues to declare the Sabbath as a time for worship as well as rest from commerce and labor.

The bell in the 90-foot steeple rings each Sabbath morning as the worshippers enter. All of us need reminders of times for worship, not just the "absent-minded professors" in this two-college town. Each week, the bell echoes through this frenetic, over-populated valley.

Since 1922, two congregations have regularly used the church's baptistry for immersion of newly-committed Christians. Its use arose when Alfred University's President Booth C. Davis voiced concerns for worship facilities for faculty, their families, and students. (Davis had left the Alfred pastorate in 1895 to become president at Alfred University, a position he held until 1933.)

Davis and the congregation arranged for a non-denominational church to worship in their spacious sanctuary on Sundays. For many years, the two congregations also depended on the facilities of the SDB Women's Society's Parish House for educational and social programs. The baptismery continues to serve both congregations. In the weekly services of the two congregations, worship is richly enhanced by the Rosebush pipe organ. Its tuning and upkeep are managed by professionals hired by the SDB trustees, and the Union University Church shares that and other costs.

Our skilled organist, Claire Randolph, plays on Sundays whenever she and her husband are here, and Diane Davis is hired for other times. (Trained pipe organists are rare.) Cynthia Rudolph's "Alfred Recollections" will continue to remind us of God's Sabbath. They will also help us remember the wonderful people who serve Him through this House of God and in their neighborhoods and work places.

For student use, but many of us would like to help them to train on our organ.

Alfred University's music department's choir, chorus, and chamber orchestra have performed seasonal concerts in our sanctuary for many years. These have filled our hall, foyer, and nursery to overflowing.

Church members use the Parish House for all kinds of social groups, and hundreds of people visit the Opportunity Shop to buy used clothing and household goods. Donors also come to the Parish House, where the town's Food Pantry is housed and supervised.

Cynthia Rudolph's "Alfred Recollections" will continue to remind us of God's Sabbath. They will also help us remember the wonderful people who serve Him through this House of God and in their neighborhoods and work places.

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William Grove

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Ernest K. Bee Jr., transition pastor
Joined after baptism
Patrick Hibbard
Robert Parrish Jr.

Joined by letter
Arlene J. Bee
Rev. Ernest K. Bee Jr.

Birth

Loofboro.--Esther C. Loofboro, 89, passed away on April 6, 2000, at Knapp Haven Nursing Home in Chetek, Wis. She was born on December 25, 1910, in North Lopez, Neb., the daughter of Raymond and Jennie (Loofboro) Bee. She graduated from Kearney State Teacher’s College, where she received a Bachelor of Science degree. She taught math and English in town and rural schools in Nebraska and Wisconsin. 

On August 22, 1945, Esther married Ralph Loofboro and worked for a short time at National Lock in Rockford, Ill. The couple moved to New Auburn, Wis., and she became a homemaker and mother.

Esther was a member of the New Auburn Seventh Day Baptist Church and taught Bible classes at different levels for many years. She loved the Lord and served Him most of her life. Survivors include one daughter, Susan Anderson of Little Genesee, nieces, nephews, cousins, and other relatives and friends. She was predeceased by her husband and four infant brothers. Funeral services were held April 9, 2000, at the New Auburn SDB Church, with Rev. Dale Small of Pawcatuck officiating. Burial was at the New Auburn Cemetery.

Parry.--Pauline H. Parry, 85, died on July 6, 2000, in the Wellsville (N.Y.) Manor Nursing Home following a long illness. She was born on June 6, 1915, in Wadestown, Vt., the daughter of Ray and Enza (Wilson) Hought. She was married to Ralph E. Parry, who died in 1974. Pauline was employed for many years in the bridal department of Bradner’s Department Store in Olean, N.Y., retiring in 1974. She was a member of the Little Genesee, N.Y., Seventh Day Baptist Church. One son, William, survives. In addition to her husband, she was predeceased by one son, Charles.

Services were held on July 18, 2000, at the Schaffner Funeral Home in Bolivar, N.Y., with Pastor Gordon Lawton officiating. Burial was in Wells Cemetery, Little Genesee.

Waite.--James Glenson Waite, 96, of Hopkinton, R.I., died on September 2, 2000, at the Westerly (R.I.) Hospital.

Mr. Waite was born in Stonington, Conn., in 1904, the son of Loren G. and Dr. Anne (Langworthy) Waite.

After living a short time in Avondale, R.I., his parents bought property in Bradford, R.I., and relocated to what became the Waite Farm. He graduated from Westerly High School in 1923. After attending Milton (Mass.) College, he graduated from Alfred (N.Y.) University in 1927.

After his father died in a farm accident in 1920, he and his mother collaborated in many activities, including a trip across the country in a Model A Ford in 1929-30. It was an experience he loved to recall and share with friends.

In 1931, Mr. Waite married Helen E. Kenyon Coon, a partnership that was to span 57 years and ended with her death in 1989. With family help, he continued to operate the Waite Farm as a truck garden, growing and distributing fresh produce to the local community.

In the 1940s, he joined the war effort by working as an inspector at the Hamilton Standard Propeller plant in Pawcatuck, R.I. Over the years, he supplemented the farm’s income by working at the Bradford Dyeing Association, Eccleston Construction, Main and Dufour Plumbing, and Ashaway Line and Twine, from which he finally retired in 1958.

After selling the farm, he relocated to Hopkinton and moved into a house he had helped to construct.

Mr. Waite was a lifelong member of the First Seventh Day Baptist Church of Hopkinton, Ashaway, R.I. He served that church in many capacities, including president, trustee, and deacon.

In recent years, Mr. Waite most enjoyed traveling and visiting. He was on a motor home trip to Alaska as he passed his 95th birthday and outlined many vehicles used to make his “drop-in” calls on the many friends he made over the years. A unique character has left us, and the community will miss him.

Survivors include one daughter, Barbara Anne Barber of Dunns Corners, R.I.; one son, James, of Hopkinton; one stepdaughter, Connie Coon of Belmont, N.Y.; nine grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. In addition to his wife, he was preceded in death by one stepson, Philip Coon.

Funeral services were held at the First Hopkinton SDB Church on September 9, 2000, with Pastor Scott Smith officiating. Burial was in the First Hopkinton Cemetery.

Anderson.--Evelyne E. Anderson, 88, died on September 14, 2000, in Jones Memorial Hospital, Wellsville, N.Y., following a brief illness.

She was born on May 20, 1912, in Little Genesee, N.Y., the daughter of Jacob and Ida (Baxter) Eaton. On October 12, 1940, she married William Anderson, who died in 1991.

She had three children, including Evelyne E. Anderson, James and Nancy. Judy.

Evelyne was a member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Little Genesee, Little Genesee Sunshine Society, and the 4Cs Senior Citizens Club in Bolivar, N.Y.

She had many troubles in the last few years of her life, including a fire which destroyed her home, the frustrations of replacing that home, the loneliness of widowhood, and the need to give up driving. Through all cont. next page

Pastoral Changes

Ernest K. Bee Jr.
to Central, Md.
craftsmen (Transition Pastor)

Alvin Bernard
to Decatur, Ga.

Nathan Cran dall
to White Cloud, Mich.
(Associate Pastor)

Eric Davis
e in Riverside, Calif.
(Senior Pastor)

Jenner Johnson
to New Auburn, Wis.

Steve Osborn
to Milton, Wis.

Leland Pike
to Lake Elsinore, Calif.
(Associate Pastor)

Dale Smalley
to Adams Center, N.Y.

David Taylor
to Vision Christian Fellowship Pawcatuck, Conn.

Marriage

Elliott - Andries.--Dr. James Elliott and Te-Ann B. Andries were united in marriage on October 21, 2000, at the Berwyn Presbyterian Church, Greenbelt, MD.

Pastor Joe Samuel officiated and Pastor Paul R. Andries, brother of the bride, coordinated.

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Current Giving 2000

Pastoral Changes

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Obligations

Current Giving 2000

Current Budget for 2000

Current Giving for Year short $37,710.59

0 50,000 100,000 150,000 200,000 250,000 300,000 350,000 400,000 450,000 500,000 550,000

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of this, her spirit remained strong.
She was a woman who loved her family deeply.
Services were held at the SDB Church in Little Genesee on September 19, 2000, with Pastor Gordon Lawton officiating. Burial was in Wells Cemetery, Little Genesee.

Niles.—Randy Wayne Niles, 44, of Dodge Center, Minn., died on September 21, 2000, at his home. He was born on April 27, 1956, in Unionville, Mo., the son of Gary and Shirley (Wood) Niles. He attended school in Little Falls, Minn.
On January 13, 1990, Randy was united in marriage to Barbara Sby in Sioux Falls, S.D. After living in Claremont, Minn., they moved to Dodge Center in 1995, into a home across the street from the Dodge Center Seventh Day Baptist Church. Randy was a truck driver, who later became disabled. It was during his disablement that he accepted Christ as his Lord and Savior.
On September 12, 1998, both he and Barb were baptized and subsequently became members of the Dodge Center SDB Church. He suffered greatly from depression, and yet loved his Lord, had a genuine faith, and was regular in his church participation.

In addition to his wife, survivors include their children, Julie Maas of Dodge Center, Minn., and Randy Jr.; and two children from a previous marriage, Shanna Niles and Matthew Niles of Lake Mills, Iowa. He is also survived by his father, Gary Niles of Little Genesee, Minn.; one brother, Roger, of Owatonna; one sister, Connie Niles of Nashville, Tenn.; and two grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his mother, Shirley Niles. Funeral services were held on September 24, 2000, in the Dodge Center SDB Church, with Pastor Dale E. Rood officiating. Burial was in Riverside Cemetery, Dodge Center.

Severance.—Howard Douglas Severance, 88, of White Bear Lake, Minn., passed away on October 19, 2000, at Maplewood Care Center. He was born on August 19, 1912, in Dodge Center, Minn., the son of Burton and Anna (Osborn) Severance. He graduated from Milton (Wis.) High School in 1931 and attended Whitewater (Wis.) State College. On September 20, 1936, he married Mildred Kerr in Milton.
Howard served in the U.S. Army during World War II. In 1947, he began his career with the Mutual Service Insurance Company. He was appointed district sales manager in Racine, Wis. In 1950, he was transferred to Fond du Lac, Wis., where he remained as district sales manager. In 1962, the couple moved to White Bear Lake, where he was appointed advanced services supervisor. On September 1, 1974, Howard took early retirement after 27 years. He spent many of his retirement years golfing and bowling. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge and former member of the Elks Club.

Besides his wife, survivors include one son, Phil; and two grandchildren, including three sons, Kenneth and Ronald of Janesville, Wis., and Glen of Beloit, Wis.; one daughter, Anamarie Bennett of Evansville, Wis.; one brother, Roy, of Wisconsin Rapids, Wis.; eight grandchildren, and one great-grandson. He was preceded by a brother, Gerald; a sister, Marga­ret York; and two grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on October 25, 2000, at the Milton SDB Church, with Pastor George Calhoun officiating. Entombment was in Milton Lawns Memorial Park, Janesville.

Britland.—Lois E. Britland, 73, of Westerly, R.I., died on November 11, 2000, at her home. She was born in Westerly on February 23, 1927, the daughter of Fred and Marion (Arnold) Brayman.
Mrs. Britland was employed at the Stillwater Textile Mills of Ashaway, R.I., and Douglas Randall of Stonington, Conn. She was a member of the First Baptist Church in Ashaway, and a past president of its Ladies Aid Society.
Lois was also a member of Westerly Senior Citizens, Westerly Song­birds, Ashaway Garden Club, the Deborah Hope and Grand Chapters of the Order of the Eastern Star, and the Carolyn Rebekah Lodge 30 of Hope Valley, and a past Noble Grand. She was a member of the Oddfellow Family organization and a Mayflower de­scendant.

Survivors include five children, Kelsee James of Bethlehem, Pa.; Larry Spencer of Caribou, Maine; Diane Spencer of Narraganset, R.I.; Cathy Park of Charleston, R.I.; and Paul Spencer of Westerly. She is also survived by three sisters—Hazel Hall of Walsfield, R.I.; Virginia Higgins of Wastewyck; and Geneva Farrar of Florida. She was preceded by three brothers—Daniel, Kenneth, and F. Arthur Brayman.

Services were held on November 14, 2000, at the First Hopkinton SDB Church, Pastor Scott Smith officiat­ed, assisted by Rev. Edgar Wheeler. Oak Grove Cemetery in Ashaway is the interment site.

Any type of Christian mission involves travel—whether that be local, global, or even electronic.

Part of my "mission" as editor involves travel, certainly to General Council meetings and Conference sessions, but also to seminars and Christian press conventions. And I consider it a great joy and privilege to make local church visits to preach and talk about the Tract Council and Conference ministries, or to attend special church celebrations.

My family and parishioners exhibit great patience and understanding at my being on the road or in the air. Yet some who do not have the opportunity to get away from home tend to view my travel as "glamorous."

Now, please don't let me get wrong, I'm thankful for the health and resources to travel, but just exactly where is the glamour in flight changes, gate changes, time zone changes, delays, cancellations, and airline worker strikes? Sometimes it is just plain hard work to "get there from here."

Living in the upper Midwest adds another major factor for travel—the unpredictable weather. (I'm writing this Korner during a 4-hour weather-related delay in Chicago. You would think that O'Hare would have better mall­type shopping as in other major airports. Maybe the officials here thought that people like me would be less distracted by the winter weather, and that I could get some work done. And if that's true, you would think they would provide more outlets for my computer... I know; gripe, gripe.)

The Lord has blessed me more than once by "turning around" what could have been an aggravating travel predic­ment. Several times a flight cancellation has resulted in a later booking in First Class. (I know; gripe, gripe.)

One particular trip stands out for me. I was once again in Chicago, waiting for a flight to Miami, with a connec­tion to Raleigh, North Carolina. My bus to O'Hare arrived in plenty of time, so I made my way to the assigned gate and started on some work.

The time to board grew closer. I glanced toward the counter. It showed a different destination! I had not heard the gate change announcement.

As I strolled toward the new gate, I noticed a large crowd and a bit of commotion. "They've canceled the flight to Raleigh," someone groaned. So I dutifully took my spot at the back of the line.

Then I overheard a man who just "happened" to mention, "Boy, I hope you're not planning to go to Miami. The direct flight from here is totally booked!"

"Why me? I gripped to myself.
I started to head toward the customer service desk, then remembered that it was no longer at that concourse. I turned around to look for an available ticket agent.

"Here's a gate to the left. No, they look too busy. Oh, here's another one to the right."

They were just finishing the boarding process for the next flight.

"I don't know if I can re-book you here," the friendly but preoccupied agent told me. "Maybe you could call the toll-free number..."

As I rolled my eyes, they froze at the sign above her head: West Palm Beach.

"This flight is going to West Palm?" I stammered in disbelief. "Are there any available seats?" (I was to stay with church friends in Boca Raton—shouldn't have...)

She checked the computer. "Well, let's see..."

I sat for a couple of minutes, then heard my name called. I was heading directly to Florida!

It wasn't until we reached cruising altitude that a few "details" hit me, like what about my lug­gage, and the rental car I reserved out of Miami?
To make a long story short, the car company didn't charge extra for the different drop-off site, the airlines bought me a new outfit in case my luggage from Miami didn't arrive before my meetings (it did), and all was well.

What if I had been at the correct gate for Raleigh in the first place? I could have been stuck in a line of angry peo­ple and not able to check out other gates. What if I had gone to the left and not the right? What if I hadn't looked up to see another Florida destination so close to where I needed to go?

When you say prayers for traveling mercy, sometimes they cover all the bases. Thank you, Lord!
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