Our awesome Young Adults
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.

The seventh day
God commanded that the seventh day (Saturday) be kept holy. Jesus agreed by keeping it as a day of worship. We observe the seventh day of the week (Saturday) as God's Holy Day as an act of loving obedience—not as a means of salvation. Salvation is the free gift of God through Jesus Christ. It is the joy of the Sabbath that makes SDBs just a little bit different.

If you would like more information, write: The Seventh Day Baptist Center, 3120 Kennedy Road, PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547-1678.
Phone: (608) 752-5505; Fax: (608) 752-7711; E-mail: sdbgen@inwave.com and the SDB Web site: www.seventhdaybaptist.org

Come to Brazil

Sessions of the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation (SDBWF) will be held February 10-16, 2003, in Curitiba, Prias, Brazil. SDBWF delegates and observers will be welcome also at the Brazil convention sessions the previous week, February 4-9.
Contact Rev. Dale Thongate, SDBWF Executive Secretary, for additional info:
171 E. Main St.
Salem WV 26426 USA
Phone: (304) 782-1727
FAX: (304) 782-4792
E-mail: sdbwf@aol.com

2003 SDB Pastors’ Conference
“He must increase, but I must decrease.”
(John 3:30)
March 19-22
Daytona Beach, Florida

The SDBWOF is accepting nominations for the Robe of Achievement for 2003. Please consider a woman in your church who meets these criteria for nomination:
• Was/is active as a volunteer in some phase of denominational effort
• Has shown evidence of special service with her family and/or community
• Must be a committed Christian
• Must be an active member of a local Seventh Day Baptist church
A complete resume must be submitted containing a life history, including her achievements and activities. Without a resume in hand, the committee cannot make a competent choice among many nominees. If an individual has been nominated before, and you still want that person considered, please resubmit the name as well as the resume.

Send all nominations to:
Robe Nominations
Audrey Fuller
906 N. Colonial Circle
Daytona Beach FL 32117
or apply on-line at www.sdbwboard.org
Deadline: March 31, 2003

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December 2002
**Of all nations!**

by Linda Camenga

SCSC Committee Chair

Members of the 2002 Summer Christian Service Corps (SCSC) chose Matthew 28:18-20 as their theme verses. If you read these verses, the reason was simple: God brought together young adults from Australia, Canada, Jamaica, and the U.S. to train and serve Him through presenting the Gospel, teaching, and baptizing (14 this summer).

The SDB Women’s Board, based in Florida, has the privilege and challenge tohear and coordinate the dreams expressed by many for SCSC training.

Two young men—Jeffrey Sinclair and Jamaal Fyffe—felt the call of the Lord to serve Him in their local church in Toronto, Canada. We were pleased to encourage and help with their planning and operation of the first-ever project there.

Their local congregation pledged support, encouragement, and means for the participation in a variety of outreach ministries. With the leadership and coordination of Phoebe Fyffe, much was accomplished and an understanding of what to do for the next project is already underway.

The years 2001 and 2002 saw the formation of a corps group in Australia. Planning and preparation is mapped out for their first project, scheduled for January of 2003. Maureen Sisto and Matthew Tori joined Karl Rudd and Donnah Ciempka for SCSC training and service in the United States. Together with Pastor Andrew Goulding, they are working out the details for Australia.

Marissa Van Horn and Nathanael Lawton are going to serve in Australia as encouragers and participants in the three camps and Vacation Bible School located primarily in the Brisbane area. They will also be provided an opportunity to get acquainted with the people and needs in the Sydney area before coming home.

We have communicated with a couple of young adults who have a similar dream for Jamaica. Last summer, Tarlike Delisser from Mountain View, Jamaica, attended training and service. We look forward to others coming during the summer of 2003. We will need to be open to God’s plan in this area and ready to meet His call.

The logo for the Women’s Board is “to serve, not to be saved...” Please pray with us as we take this challenge seriously. What does God want for the future of His kingdom building? Finances are a concern. It takes $1,000 per SCSC worker to cover the cost of transportation, food, lodging, training materials, and communication. A lot of time and individual costs are donated. This past summer, the expenses for 33 participants totaled $32,000.

The Australian project is not in the SCSC budget. Just our part of sending two young people there, prepared and ready to serve, will cost $5,000. We do know that God does not call us to do more than is possible.

We want to thank all those who have been led to support the Sydney area before coming home.

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The team worked at the Teen Center, Monday through Friday, from 6:00 p.m. to midnight. This is a place where dysfunctional families are the norm. Our team spent their time getting to know these teenagers and showing Christ’s love to them.

Every year, the Teen Center volunteers at the National Baby Food Festival. This year, we ran the middle school activities, set up the children’s activities, and picked up trash every night. This festival is a great way for our local community to see God’s love at work.

SCSC is designed to train our young adults in ministry. I think that was accomplished this summer in White Cloud. Ministry isn’t always easy, but it’s always worthwhile.

Once upon a summer

Once upon a summer there were four SCSCers: a Wisconsinite, a Saintelette, a Canadian, and a Jamaican. This fine foursome, known as Team Thunder, was sent on an amazing adventure deep into the heart of the land of surfboards and sunglasses to a California city called Riverside.

Team Thunder’s first assignment was to brave the traffic in order to travel to the Union Rescue Mission (URM) in Los Angeles. They journeyed with the Riverside SDB Youth Fellowship to learn another aspect of service—serving and assisting the staff at the Mission with cleaning, and with serving, preparing, and handing out food.

The team’s presence at the funerals was helpful to our local youth. We will need to prepare and ready to serve, will cost $5,000. We do know that God does not call us to do more than is possible.

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Touching lives in North Loup

Summer 2002 in North Loup, Neb., welcomed Team Awesome: Aubrey Appel, Emily Kandel, and Jeff Neher. Their Project Director was me, Helen Goodrich. This group of three “rookie” SCSCers and one (I’ve seen a lot in 10 years) Project Director—and the always encouraging church family in North Loup—were about to embark on another season of summer ministry. This team weathered some unique circumstances: special family celebrations which required some to miss part of training or their project, illness, injury, and one member (Jeff) submitting to surgery.

These are things that could have hurt team unity and ministry, but God had another plan. He used those circumstances as a refining tool for all of us. Each SCSCer came with different gifts, personalities, and expectations; yet, together, we were complete.

Through VBS, Mini-Camp, Junior Camp, and Intermediate Camp, many lives were touched by God’s Spirit. The team, the various directors, staff, and the church family were all blessed to experience what God can do in any situation.

Although I’ve “seen a lot” being involved with SCSC over the years, I learn and grow and stand amazed each year as I experience all that God does.

At the camps, the team taught classes; performed skits; and led recreation, campfire vespers, devotions, and work groups. And they still managed to maintain the majority of their sanity! With a small supply of energy but a large supply of determination, Team Thunder set about preparing for and carrying out a successful Vacation Bible School called, “The Quest for Truth.” The kids acted as a judge and jury to prove five foundational beliefs in Christ and the Bible. God definitely was working in Riverside this summer, as each of us can attest to. He proved and showed Himself in a plenitude of ways. Our hearts and prayers are with our summer church home as they continue to seek the Lord’s guidance in all of their ministries.

Shari Fyffe (Toronto, Ontario) Ginny Burdick (Seattle, WA) Chris Sinclair (Miami, FL) Amy Wright (Milton, WI)

Lifelong learner motivates others

by Randy Carlson

Althea (Green) Rood loves to inspire our youth. She was part of one of the first Summer Christian Service Corps (SCSC) outreach teams for Seventh Day Baptists in 1969. Althea joined the SCSC training staff in 1989, and has served as training coordinator since 1999. As you’ll see from this article (reprinted from the Dodge County, Minn., Independent), we are not the only ones to benefit from Althea’s gift of teaching.—Editor.

Many little boys dream of becoming professional baseball players. As a little girl growing up, Althea Rood wanted to be the first woman to play professional baseball.

She dreamed of being another Sandy Koufax, pitching in the ninth inning of the World Series. But as she grew older, reality set in. She determined that the next best occupation was to be a teacher.

Althea never was a baseball All-Star, or got to play in a World Series, but she did get recognition for a comparable honor in the teaching field: She has been selected as the Kasson-Mantorville (Minn.) School District Teacher of the Year. Althea grew up on a century farm in upstate New York. After receiving a B.A. in math from Alfred (N.Y.) University, she taught in Pennsylvania and Connecticut schools before coming to Minnesota. She ended up in Dodge County when her husband, Dale, took a pastorate at the Seventh Day Baptist Church in Dodge Center.

In spite of taking 10 years off to raise two children, Althea has taught math for 32 years. Her husband was a math major in college, and daughter Kristin, who student taught at Kasson-Mantorville (K-M), is now studying for her doctorate in math at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y.

Although I’ve “seen a lot” being involved with SCSC over the years, I learn and grow and stand amazed each year as I experience all that God does—me, in the team, in our church, and in our community. Even though a situation might look like a calamity, God wants to use it for our good.

Is God awesome? All of the time! Does SCSC make a difference? Absolutely!
God is moving in Zambia

College students visit needy country

by Miriam Lawton

The story

On August 13, 2002, Karlene Neher and I set out from Buffalo, N.Y., on our way to Zambia, Africa, for a short-term missions trip. Our main objectives were to work with the Faith Orphanage Foundation (FOF) and the Seventh Day Baptists of Zambia distributing Bibles and teaching basic Bible study skills, English, and HIV/AIDS prevention techniques. (Over 60% of the population has HIV/AIDS.)

Upon arriving in Lusaka, we were met by Faith Lyena (the founder of FOF) and her husband. They took us into their home for the first few days of our stay there. While we were with them, Karlene received word from the Kabulankashi where we worked with one of the villages and then return to the U.S.

After much prayer, Karlene decided that she would venture out into one of the villages and then return to the United States. We traveled to Kabulankashi where we worked with the Seventh Day Baptist Church and the FOF center. Every night, we had worship services that were full of people. People are continually being converted, and families are being reconciled.

Karlene and I discussed with the women how to prevent HIV/AIDS. We then returned to our more "permanent" home with Rev. Mukambo and his family in Kitwe.

Karlene left for the U.S. the following day (Justin Hibbard, her fiancé, has since recovered and is doing fine), and I proceeded to the Zambian Seventh Day General Conference in Solwezi. They had moved the Conference dates ahead a week, which made it very exciting! The last Sabbath I was there, I was able to preach at the Bushi SDB Church in Kitwe (built by Jeff Hazen and other volunteers). Having only two days left, I traveled to Livingston where I saw elephants, rhinos, giraffes, hippos, zebras, water buffalo, wart hogs, impala, and Victoria Falls.

There were 1,071 attendees at the General Conference this year, and they continue to plant new churches. The current churches have more outreach programs which include daycare centers, and community farms and wells.

I returned home on September 5. More than $1,000 was raised over and above the amount that was needed for travel, housing, supplies, etc. This money has subsequently been sent to the orphanage.

What God is doing

God is moving in the hearts, minds, and lives of many in Zambia. People are continually being converted, and families are being reconciled.

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Since Rev. Mukambo started the orphanage center, the children would then be able to support their families when they are grown. The hope is that these children will then be able to support their families when they are grown. The orphanage has purchased land and equipment to start a training center. The center would provide vocational training for orphans who have graduated from secondary school, offering hope to those who would otherwise go without. Everything is in place, including teachers, governmental approval, and prospective students.

What needs to be done

All these programs are in the planning stage, but there are not enough funds to implement them. Even those who were once able to support these ministries are no longer able to do so. Funds are needed to expand the ministry that is now being carried out. Pastors would like to spend all their time doing ministry, but they must work on their farms in order to support their families, leaving much work for the church undone.

The Zambian SDB Conference could always use more money to put roofs on the church buildings, drill wells, help families cover funeral expenses, or buy food.

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Many pastors in the denomination have had no formal training. The entire Conference would benefit greatly from having one or more pastors educated at a Bible college. They then could teach other leaders what they learned.

The FOF is sponsoring more than 2,000 orphans currently, but more and more children are being orphaned every day. The organization does not have the resources to take on any more orphans or start any new programs.

Pray that the Zambian people would seek God's will and be able to carry it out. Pray that they would see an increase in the move of His Spirit.

Miriam Lawton receives a gift from representatives of the Zambian SDB Conference.
A people bathed in prayer

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus,

My name is Peter Osborn. I am a Seventh Day Baptist young adult currently living in Maryland, and I'm contacting you about our mid-week fast. For those unfamiliar with the fast, during General Conference 2002, the Young Adults decided to fast and pray for our denomination every Wednesday. For over a week now, I've been praying specifically about an idea I had day.

So, I am proposing that we set up a 24-hour prayer vigil for every Wednesday that starts Tuesday night at midnight on the east coast, and goes until midnight Wednesday night on the west coast. This way, we cover the entirety of Wednesday, coast-to-coast. To put this plan into effect, it will require all of you to participate. I am asking for only 15 to 20 minutes of your time every Wednesday. Surely everyone can set aside 15 minutes each week for some really focused prayer concerning the future of our denomination.

The current plan is to have an individual pray for 15 minutes, starting a new person every five minutes. This would ensure that, at any given time, there will be roughly three people praying at the same time. Some 365 people will be required to do this. Since I have only about 200 addresses, I am depending on you to help me find the rest of the participants. I will need everyone to e-mail me with their request for a specific time slot. I ask that you give me three options since many will have coinciding requests. When requesting times, please tell me what time zone you are in so that we're all "on the same page." You are in so that we're all "on the same page."

I'm excited and ready to get this project started. I also ask you to pass this idea along to other Seventh Day Baptists you know. The more people we have praying, the better! Here am I, Lord. Send me.

--Peter

Peter Osborn has ministered with the "Stained Glass" SDB singing group for the last two summers. Since this e-mail was circulated in October, Peter has filled most of the time slots which begin every 15 minutes. To contact him for more information, write: Peter Osborn, 9713 Crystal Falls Dr., Hagerstown, MD 21740. His e-mail is: socagmanfan@hotmail.com. Let's keep this prayer circle unbroken!
Shortage of pastors looming as seminarians rethink their calling

by Andrew Black

DALLAS (ABP)—Shane Hips is a 27-year-old student at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif. He is studying for a master of divinity degree, the credential typically sought by prospective pastors. Yet Hips hesitates when asked if he will follow that traditional route into ministry.

Hips came to seminary from Minneapolis, where he worked in advertising for about four years after college.

"I sensed a clear call to leave advertising, and I'm pretty sure I'm called to be in seminary. But that's as clear as it gets right now," he said. "Seminary is primarily an opportunity to pursue God's call on my life... and not necessarily vocational training."

Hips isn't alone. Less than a third of seminary students intend to minister in congregations, according to a study by Auburn Theological Seminary in New York.

"It's common to hear people confessing to being afraid that if they answer a call in ministry, God might confess to being afraid that if they would eventually become pastors are instead too concerned with their own institutional viability or growth.

Mitchell said many idealistic and innovative Christians who might otherwise become pastors are instead starting small businesses and non-profit organizations that give them opportunities to encounter people different from themselves. That doesn't mean they've given up on the Church. Mitchell foresees the growth of new, authentic, Christian communities out of these coffee shops, thrift stores, non-profits and similar efforts. Instead of transplanting leaders from traditional churches, however, these new congregations will arise with "indigenous" leaders from within their own subculture.

Brian McLaren, pastor of Cedar Ridge Community Church in suburban Washington, D.C., has become a minister to many young Christian leaders. His recent book, A New Kind of Christian, articulates many of their concerns.

"I think the existing Church is largely modern in its theology, not just style," says McLaren.

"Meanwhile, the rising generation is more postmodern in its thinking, and the disconnect is huge. It's about empowerment, seeking understanding, holism, pattern and layered thinking, wonder, relationships, and processes. These are huge differences. Many young Christians recognize the challenges of a tumultuous time like this and believe most churches are too busy trying to weather the storm intact to risk innovation and rethinking familiar assumptions."

McLaren said if churches want young ministers to consider congregational ministry, they must create an environment where they are "cared for, listened to, and respected."

Wilshire Baptist Church is hoping to demonstrate one way this can happen. The Dallas church recently started a "residency" program in which young ministers-to-be spend two years gaining field experience on a church staff before going on their own.

Just as medical students work in "teaching hospitals," churches can commit to "teaching congregations," providing a forgiving environment in which seminary graduates can practice ministry, said George Mason, Wilshire's pastor.

Andrew Black is a free-lance writer and theology student at Baylor's Truett Theological Seminary in Waco, Texas.

A view from the training staff

A testimony by Helen Goodrich, Summer Christian Service Corps Project Director, North Loop, Neb.

I am not a Seventh Day Baptist by birth. I learned about SDBs in college when I met Jim Goodrich, who would eventually become my husband. We married in the North Loop, Neb., SDB Church, and I later became a member there.

I first experienced the Seventh Day Baptist "extended family" at Mid-Continent Association meetings, and then at Conference. I realized how important family was when I was asked repeatedly about my maiden name and had to explain that I had no previous connection to SDBs.

Most responded that it was good to see "new blood," but I felt inferior because I couldn't trace my bloodlines back to Tacy Hubbard, or any of the other historical SDB names.

Jim and I were blessed with foster and adopted children as well as biological children. We emphasized that love and commitment—not just blood ties—was what made us a family. We all are special. We're God's adopted sons and daughters, and that's the best family ever!

I believed in the concept we taught, but my childhood fear of not being adequate, of not being found acceptable, was still in the back of my mind.

Our involvement in church led me to many ministry opportunities over the years. In 1993, God allowed me to participate in a ministry that changed my life.

Being an SCSC Project Director was a terrifying experience but one that God knew I needed. The time PEs spend at training is full—with

Time and again, we're reminded that it is in our weaknesses that God makes us strong.

I struggled in this area, writing and rewriting. Little did I know what God would do in and through me as I stepped out in faith and began sharing from my heart. God has opened many doors, and I have experienced more of His power in my life by allowing Him to work as He sees fit.

For the past several years, I have been on the Training Staff of SCSC. Each time we gather, it's amazing to see how God has been preparing us through the battles we fought throughout the year. Time and again, we're reminded that it is in our weaknesses that He makes us strong.

God has used my SCSC experiences to mold and shape me, to heal...
Looking for room to work

One of the pleasures of historical research is encountering unexpected detours that can open up whole new chapters in other fields of interest.

The year 2003 marks the 150th anniversary of the American Baptist Historical Society. To celebrate this event, the June issue of the American Baptist Quarterly will be devoted to their century-and-a-half of history. This will be followed by a September issue devoted to a dozen other Baptist historical societies. I've been asked to write the review of the Seventh Day Baptist Historical Society.

After over a century of collecting and communicating history, our Society was incorporated in 1916 to obtain the extensive Julius Sachse collection of the German Pietists and their cloisters at Ephrata, Pa.

Thanks to some previous research, I recalled that the safe storage of this valuable collection was a problem. I turned to the November 19, 1917 issue of the Sabbath Recorder. Here were recorded some of the findings of the Denominational Building Council which met to consider the subject of "a new denominational building for the housing of our publishing interests for offices, and vaults for the safekeeping of our denominational files and literature."

A tour of those old facilities in Plainfield, N.J., revealed the following:

"Almost every square yard of space is filled with tables, cases for type, and other apparatus, while quantities of stock for use in printing have to be stored here and there as little space can be found for them.

"Before these rooms were com[


t on page 26"

\[\text{The cramped quarters of the Recorder Press in Plainfield, N.J., before the construction of a new publishing house and denominational building in the 1920s.}\]
The ENDS that define the means

God causes growth. The apostle Paul told us this. "What then is Apollo? And what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, even as the Lord gave opportunity to each one. I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth." (1 Corinthians 3:5-6).

Paul and Apollos were working for the purposes of God. They wanted people to believe, to grow, to become mature. Yet, each recognized that their own hard work did not produce the growth; it merely prepared the way for God to cause the growth. This was a point that Paul wanted to make clear. Immediately following verse 6, he said, "Neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth."

Scripture makes it clear that God is the One who produces everything we consider good. We do not produce conversion in others; God does that. We do not produce fellowship; God does by providing love. We do not produce ministry or service; each act that fits into the good work of others is produced by God. We do not produce maturity; God does by providing love. We do not produce conversion; God does by providing love. We do not produce growth; God does by providing love. We do not produce leadership; God does by providing love. We do not produce conversion; God does by providing love. We do not produce growth; God does by providing love.

While knowledge is important, we are to act and to help others act in God's love. In fact, God calls us to think carefully about how to "spur one another on to love and good deeds" (Hebrews 10:24). Seventeenth Bapists have recognized this call to maturity by stating the Church will perform certain actions ("worship, fellowship and service, practicing and proclaiming common convictions") while striving to grow "in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

Evangelism, Nurture, Discipleship, and Stewardship

At its annual corporation meeting in October, the Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education, Inc., considered the call that God has placed on our lives, the Seventh Day Baptist Statement of Belief, and the purposes and activities to which the Board is committed. Following that consideration, four marks of Christian maturity were chosen as areas that the Board will highlight and encourage.

These areas are Evangelism (teaching out to the world with the purpose of presenting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior), Nurture (including other people in God's love and plan—fellowship), Discipleship (teaching and learning the will of God in personal and corporate situations), and Stewardship (working to preserve and increase God's Kingdom). The result of this meeting was the adoption of the following statement as policy for the Board:

The Board of Christian Education will promote the local church preparation of Christians for maturity by encouraging and modeling specific, active commitment to evangelism, nurture, discipleship, and stewardship.

Let us all strive for maturity. Evangelism, Nurture, Discipleship, and Stewardship: the ENDS that define the means.

We praise God for the many contacts who have found us through encyclopedias, reference books, and the internet. We cannot help but believe that God is opening up new realms of witness and evangelism for SDBs throughout the world.

A section of Yugoslavia known as Serbia has invited Rev. Rod Henry to their country in an effort to recombine the independent Sabbathkeeping groups that exist there. We are currently working towards that goal. (Rod, a former missionary to the Philippines and past director of the Council on Ministry, is currently the pastor of the Denver, Colo., SDB Church. He struck up a relationship with the Serbs after they translated his book, The Sabbath: God's Creation for Our Benefit.)

In 1919, some people separated from Serbia's Seventh-day Adventist denomination. This movement eventually gave birth to three churches in the summer of 1923:

- The Seventh-day Christian Church, which is basically Seventh Day Baptist except that they keep the Old Testament food laws.
- The Church of God Seventh Day Christians. They are similar to Seventh-day Baptists, but they do not keep the food laws.
- The Seventh-day Adventist Reform Movement.

Until 1942, these three churches were grouped under the name, "The Small Community of Sabbatharians." (Many still call them "Small Community.")

The Seventh-day Christian Church is currently undergoing a transition. Although they are the third largest Sabbathkeeping church in Serbia, they are not satisfied with their situation and are starting a "reformation" movement in their church.

One change they are considering is uniting with The Church of God Seventh Day. This church is made up of very small groups which have no more than 40 members, only three of whom are men. If these two parties merge, the clean/unclean food doctrine will not be an official part of their beliefs.

The merged group would strive to include more people in church activities. This would give "new wind" to the church, building a generation of believers who will be able to take responsibility for the church's life and growth. Their wish is to have believers willing to serve in the church, rather than believers who want to be served by the church.

For more than 60 years, Serbia's Sabbathkeeping churches functioned in the shadow of a Communist regime, and many members were afraid to minister openly to the world. Understandably, these older members still have some hesitancy and thus need to make the newly-proposed transition slowly.

These churches do not force tithe among their members, although many are very generous in their giving. It is believed that some give more than 20 percent of their income.

Pastor Dranko Denovic is the only person connected with these churches who has some theological education. Hopefully, one or two young people from the churches will soon begin attending a Bible School in Serbia or the Evangelical Theological Seminary.

Pastor Dranko has prepared a correspondence course for non-believers and placed it on the internet. He is also leading a seminar on deacons since it is vitally important for people to be prepared for service.

He has also translated the writings of Rod Henry into Serbian. These are used in their education program and distributed to potential members. All independent Sabbathkeeping groups have received the books and studies with enthusiasm.

Serbia has approximately a 0.8% Protestant population, which is recognized by the government as a sect. Half of these Protestants are Sabbathkeepers, including 14 Sabbathkeeping denominations, churches, and movements, besides the Adventists, which is the main Sabbathkeeping group in the country.

Rod and Camille Henry plan to visit Serbia this coming March. They will spend the week teaching the pastors, speaking at the local evangelical school, and looking for ways in which SDBs in the U.S. and elsewhere can be of help and support. There is a real need for funds to help with the translating, printing, and publishing of materials for study and evangelism.

We praise God for this new field and the workers who are willing to cultivate it. For more information, write the Missionary Society Office at 119 Main St., Westerly, R1 02891. Phone: (401) 596-4326; Fax: (401) 598-9494.
“When times are easy, prayer is hard; when times are hard, prayer is easy.”

Does anyone else feel this way? When everything is easy, it’s so tempting to coast through life, to take things for granted and forget God. Then things turn around and blow up in your face and you go, “Hey, God!! Remember me?” Of course, He does, even though it’s been months since your last conversation. When everything clears up, all of a sudden God disappears and blow up in your face and you take things in stride and not remember God.

When everything is easy, it’s so tempting to coast through life, to take things as they come, to forget God. But we do have difficulty doing that. Why? Because we’re busy finding for ourselves.

Have you ever lost something and never found it? We need to make time for God, not simply squeeze Him into our schedule. We need to set aside a time each day when we can talk with Him and be with Him in our daily lives.

I know I have trouble making time for God. Kevin [Butler, SR editor] might add making my Beacon deadlines. (But at least I know that I need to work on it!)

Sometimes, you can’t just say you’re going to do something. Thinking about it doesn’t count, and listening to Christian music while doing homework doesn’t count either.

So, instead of saying, “I’m going to read my Bible,” or “I’m going to say a prayer,” or “I’m going to write the Beacon,” I’ll set aside a time every day when I know that I can be with God. (Like “alone time/devotion time” at camp.) Then I’ll work my schedule around the time that I specifically set aside for Him. That way, I’m getting my priorities straight as well as getting my work done.

If you have any tips for getting your priorities straightened out, e-mail me at sdbbce@educatingchristians.org, and I’ll put your suggestions on a web site we are developing.

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Making your priorities
by Eowyn Driscoll

Reflections
by Leanne Lippincott

Wimpier winters

When
December 29 to January 1
Where
At Camp Wakonda, Milton, Wis.
Director
Pastor Nate Crandall. Cost is $15.

All Youth eligible to attend Pre-Coo next year are invited. Contact Pastor Andrew Camenga for more information sdbbce@educatingchristians.org

18 The SR

December 2002

Large oak tree. It was nighttime, and the air was deliciously clear and cold. Suddenly, I saw it, and it literally took my breath away.

There, peeking through the bare branches of that old oak, was the most brilliant star I had ever seen. It hung high above our home like a gigantic, teardrop diamond, all glitter and sparkle.

Is that the Star of Bethlehem? I thought excitedly. Of course, I knew it couldn’t be; Christ had been born years and years ago. But I felt a thrill just the same. Is that what the shepherd saw? I finally crossed the street and walked up our driveway. The hard-packed snow squelched beneath my boots as I approached the back door.

The yellow glow radiating from the living room windows made me feel warm and safe. I knew that Mom and Dad were inside, and that they loved me.

As I opened the porch door, I took one last look at that brilliant winter star. Once again, I felt warm and safe. I knew, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that God loved me, too.

Our theme this year is "I am in Christ." We usually prefer to think about "Christ in me." So, what do I mean by being in Christ? How does that differ from Christ being in me?

Jesus said, "I do the works I do because I am in the Father and the Father is in me." For this Conference year we are emphasizing being in Christ (as He is in the Father).

This month I want to focus on being in Christ in our worship. I have often equated worship with church attendance. We go to church and we worship. Why do you go to church? To sing praises? To lift your spirits? To catch up with friends? To teach others? To worship God? These can all be done as a routine, ritual, or in Christ.

God is not concerned with where we worship or what our rituals are. When Jesus confronted the woman at the well about her spiritual condition and a right relation with God, she tried to change the subject — should one worship in Jerusalem (as the Jews did) or "on this mountain" (as the Samaritans did). This could obviously lead to an unending discussion on worship rituals, sin, and sacrifice, and lead away from her spiritual condition.

Jesus turned her diversion into a statement regarding true worship. He said, "God is spirit, and true worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth." God wants us to worship Him in spirit and in truth to become closer to Him, so we can be better ambassadors for Him. In all we do, we should be in Christ, as He is in the Father. $R$

Thursday night at Conference will be an opportunity for you to contribute to worship in Christ. The program will consist of songs, skits, and readings that portray the theme of being "in Christ." If you have something that you or your church, group, or choir would like to present, please let me know directly or through the SDB Center at Janesville.
Sixty-five years and counting!
by Jasmine Lynch

Pastor William and Roselyn Vis celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on September 28, 2002, at the West Palm Beach (Fla.) Baptist Seventh Day Church. This was a special occasion for the whole church family.

The celebration started during the worship service’s Prayer and Praise time. The couple received gifts, and individuals told them how much they have enjoyed their company, teaching and preaching over the years.

Following the service, a special surprise luncheon was held in the fellowship hall. Some members of the Miami SDB Church joined in the celebration.

The couple had been next-door neighbors and were just 21 when they exchanged vows in Paterson, N.J., on September 26, 1937.

William and Roselyn have lived through the terms of 16 U.S. Presidents. They’re too young to remember anything about World War I, but their memories of WWII remain vivid. William especially remembers the bombing of Pearl Harbor and living through the Great Depression.

Pastor Vis did not complete high school but went on to get his GED and a BA degree in Library Science. He worked as a librarian in public schools in New Jersey. After “retiring,” he began pastoring the Paint Rock, Ala., SDB Church.

He served Paint Rock for three years, then “retired” again in West Palm Beach. He spent the next two years helping to build up the Miami church. When Pastor Andy Samuels began ministering at Miami, William helped start the West Palm Beach church. He has been volunteering his services there ever since.

Roselyn was an only child, born in Paterson. An epileptic seizure kept her from completing high school, but she found work in factories and as a waitress. When she accepted the Sabbath, her mother disowned her, but she held firm to her convictions.

It’s so refreshing to spend time with this couple. Pastor Vis’ sense of humor, memory, wit, and teaching skills are envied by all who know him. He preaches at least two Sabbaths each month, and frequently teaches Sabbath School.

Roselyn, who is a great encourager, loves to do interior decorating. She also paints quite well and is very creative. Until asthma prevented her from singing, she had a beautiful, pure soprano voice and often sang during Miami’s worship service. It is our prayer that William and Roselyn live to see many more anniversaries. They are role models at a time when marriage is often viewed as temporary or simply convenient.

Pearls from the Past

Our responsibility in missions ............ Jan.
A “leisurely” trip to Conference ... Feb.
Improved transportation to Conference—1835 March
A legacy from the past .................. April
When obedience overrides convenience May
Choosing our grandparents ............ June
Looking for room to work ............. Oct.

Christian Education

Workshops to build up Christ’s body Feb.
Publications for sale .................. March
This is Christian Education ......... April
Pre-Con forms ......................... May
Nominate a teacher .................... June
Get involved at Conference .......... July-Aug.
2002 Scripture Program ............. Oct.
2003 Sabbath School Teacher of the Year Nov.
The ENDS that define the mission Dec.

Semi-Annual Meetings of the northern Wisconsin and Minnesota churches were held on September 27-29 in Portage, Wis. The Outreach Bible Church, Baptist of the Seventh Day, hosted the gathering in their new meeting house.

The theme, chosen by Darcy Julson, was “In God We Trust.” Participants gathered from the member churches of the Semi-Annual Fellowship: New Auburn, Wis.; Dodge Center, Minn.; and the church in Portage.

Pastor Michael Burns and his family from the Albion, Wis., SDB Church also attended. In recent years, Mike and Jill have been regular participants.

The meetings began on Sabbath eve with a testimonial concert by singer/composer Judy Turner, a Portage resident who is legally blind.

Julie Clark, a pastor’s wife, spoke at the worship service and in the after­noon. (She also spoke at the Wo­man’s Retreat near Milton, Wis., in May.) She noted that trusting God is easy to say but difficult to do. The key is living the same way all of the time.

A karaoke night of songs and skits closed the Sabbath. The evening began with a Bible game styled after the TV program, “Family Feud.”

Portage hosts Semi-Annual

by Pastor Dale Rood

During Sunday’s business meeting, we decided that the mission offering should go towards famine relief in drought-ravaged Malawi. The Missionary Society will determine the best use for the funds—whether to buy medicines for the SDB clinic, purchase seeds, or fund other relief. We also set up a pulpit exchange among our “Semi-Annual” churches, with a tentative date of February 1, 2003. (February 15 was chosen as a “snow date.”) Pastor Burns will join in the exchange.

From the Dodge Center church’s “Joyful Newsletter.”

Women’s Society

Visiting the Heifer Projects in China .... Jan.
Study the Bible and have faith March
Serving in SCS? April
Remembering God’s seventh-day Sabbath May
Guard your heart June
Are you guilty? July-Aug.
SCSIC testimonial Sept.
Sharing God’s love Oct.
Look, listen, and learn Nov.
A view from the training staff Dec.

The Beacon

“Generation Excellent” .......... Jan.
What is real love? Feb.
“Today is” March
Welcome to judgment day April
The devil made me do it (?) May
Spring Retreat 2002 June
A rhymin’ retreat July-Aug.
Youth Pre-Cong 2002 Sept.
The 4-1-1 on Conference Oct.
Stand up for Jesus Nov.
Making your priorities Dec.
Birth

Elliott.-A son, Bodior Alexander Elliott, was born to James and Te-Annd (Andries) Elliott of Bowie, MD, on May 19, 2002.

Marriage

Shepard - Thomas.—Morgan D. Shepard and Katherine A. Thomas were united in marriage on October 13, 2002, at the Pawcatuck Seventh Day Baptist Church in Westerly, RI. Revs. James Mendels and Dale ThornGate officiated.

Obituaries

Stoodley.—G. Kent Stoodley, 94, died on January 5, 2002, in Mercy of Northern New York, Watertown, N.Y. He and his wife, Mildred, lived there since September of 2001. He was born on September 15, 1907, in Adams Center, N.Y., the son of Clark A. and Margaret (Greene) Stoodley. He married Mildred E. Northrop on October 7, 1934, at his parents' home in Adams Center. After taking the short agricultural course at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y., Kent became a milk tester. He worked in Jefferson County from 1926 to 1939, and in San Luis Obispo, Calif., in 1939. That same year, he took over ownership of the farm family and operated it until retiring in 1990. He also worked at Pine Camp (now Fort Drum) in 1941-42, and was a bus driver for Adams Center Central School from 1947 to 1950. Kent joined the Adams Center Seventh Day Baptist Church in 1920. He was a deacon and over the years served the church as moderator, Sabbath School Superintendent, and church historian. He also volunteered at the Adams Center Public Library, and enjoyed reading and local history. In addition to his wife, survivors include four sons, Jeff Gunning of Eldorado, Ill., and John, Raymond, and Roger Gunning, all of Harrisburg, Ill.; three daughters, Deborah Hollerson of Stonefort, Theresa Moore of Carrier Mills, Ill., and Dianne Quick of Newburgh, Ind.; one brother, Jimmy Bowers of Centralia, Ill.; three sisters, Zella Jean Bowers of Norris City, Ill., Mavis Duckworth of Benton, Ill., and Dean Peas of Alabama; 23 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held on August 13, 2002, at the J.M. Weiranch Funeral Home Chapel, with Pastor Bob Farr officiating. Burial was in the Joyner Cemetery in Stonetof.

Bowers.—John William Bowers, 63, of Stonefort, Ill., died on August 10, 2002, at his residence. He was born on January 17, 1939, in Norris City, Ill., to Mr. and Mrs. John Bowers. On May 3, 1960, he married the former Christine Bethel, who survives.

He worked as a truck driver and was a member of the Old Stonefort Seventh Day Baptist Church, where he was a deacon. In addition to his wife, survivors include four sons, Jeff Gunning of Eldorado, Ill., and John, Raymond, and Roger Gunning, all of Harrisburg, Ill.; three daughters, Deborah Hollerson of Stonefort, Theresa Moore of Carrier Mills, Ill., and Dianne Quick of Newburgh, Ind.; one brother, Jimmy Bowers of Centralia, Ill.; three sisters, Zella Jean Bowers of Norris City, Ill., Mavis Duckworth of Benton, Ill., and Dean Peas of Alabama; 23 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held on August 13, 2002, at the J.M. Weiranch Funeral Home Chapel, with Pastor Bob Farr officiating. Burial was in the Joyner Cemetery in Stonetof.

Van Horn.—W. Sheldon Van Horn, 92, of North Loup, Neb., died on October 3, 2002, at the Good Samaritan Center in Ravenna, Neb. He was born on December 22, 1909, in Farnam, Neb., the son of William and Alice (Adams) Van Horn. When he was a youngster, the family moved to a farm five miles south of North Loup. He attended various schools as his family moved, including Union Ridge School, Pleasant Hill School, and Barker Rural School. In 1927, the family moved back to a farm near North Loup, and he graduated from North Loup High School in 1929. He farmed outside of North Loup until moving into town in 1939.

In April of 1942, Sheldon entered the U.S. Army and served until September of 1945. He returned to North Loup and worked at the I.J. Kyle popcorn business until 1947. From 1947 to 1954, he lived in California, Kansas, Texas, and Alaska. In 1954, he moved back to North Loup and again worked at the popcorn plant. In 1958, he purchased a fertilizer business. On Oct 19, 1956, he married Lois (Barber) Swenson in North Loup. He became manager of the Blevins Popcorn company and continued with his fertilizer business until retiring in 1977. He was a member of the North Loup Seventh Day Baptist Church; the American Legion (for over 50 years); the Ord, Neb., Elks Lodge; and the North Loup Lions Club. Survivors include nieces and nephews. His wife died on June 29, 1982. He was also predeceased by three brothers, Lloyd, Elwood, and Ray Van Horn; and two sisters, Hazel Ingraham and Elma Walkup. Funeral services were held on October 8, 2002, in the North Loup SDB Church, with the Rev. Christina Mattison officiating. Burial, with military rites, was in the Hillside Cemetery, North Loup.

Death Notices

Looking for room, cont. from page 14

pletely inspected, the visitors began to say, "Indeed, we do need more room." But the visit was not over until other places in connection with our work were seen. In the city ... the visitors found quantities of paper for printing stored, sometimes to its damage. Two doors up the street they were shown where Recorder stock was stacked away in a vacant storeroom for later use. They saw the storage place for bound volumes of all our publications, plus the office of the corresponding secretary of the two societies. Across the road, they visited the editor's office, which is in his own home, made into a workshop. There, with the help of his wife, he does the work for the Sabbath Recorder.

Diaconates enlarged at two churches

"With PERSEVERANCE Set Your Goals High" was the theme of the Mid-Continent Association meetings held in North Loup, Neb., on October 11-13, 2002. Delegates came from Colorado (Colorado Springs, Boulder, and Denver); Nortonville, Kan.; and North Loup.

Brice Severance, this year's Association president, planned and implemented the program. Jan Ehlers of the Babcock Building was worship leader on Saturday morning, December 13, 2002, at the Daytona Beach, Fla., SDB Church. The morning worship celebration was led by Rev. John Camenga, with special music provided by John Markham and Cathy Camenga. Guest speaker from the General Conference was Rev. Kevin Butler, editor of the Sabbath Recorder.

A short time of fellowship and refreshments followed, before church members and friends reentered the sanctuary for a blessed service of ordination. Four candidates to the Daytona Beach diaconate shared their statements of Christian experience after the congregation sang each candidate's favorite hymn. Sharing their statements were James Jacob, June Kenyon, Michael Spearl, and Patricia Thompson-Gordon.

Aaron Price, deacon from the SDB church in Palatka, Fla., presented the charge to the candidates. Deacons Shirley Morgan from Miami gave the charge to the church, and her pastor, Andrew Samuels, led in the laying on of hands and dedication prayer. Partaking in the Lord's Supper concluded the service, with the new deaconate members assisting in serving the elements. With their spirits well-fed, attendees partook in a bountiful fellowship meal.

The day was not over! Over 20 representatives from Florida's SDB churches met in the late afternoon. Inspired by a training program going on in the Plainfield, N.J., area, a planning committee voted to begin a new "Florida Church Leadership Training Institute." More details of this exciting project will follow.

Kevin's Korner

When I first started working at the Center, I never imagined that I would make an announcement like this on my "Korner" page. But, here we are, 14 years later, and here's the announcement: Welcome to my 150th issue as editor of The Sabbath Recorder!

("I just can't bear to lose that's why I'm not saying goodbye."

Yes, the Recorder used to be a weekly newspaper, then a smaller weekly journal. They also had a huge staff of writers and pressmen to run their denominational papers and commercial press.

Today, it's pretty much two of us who have the hands-on responsibility of designing and getting this "baby" to a contracted printer every month. But there are many more dedicated people involved.

I thank Calvin Babcock for overseeing the management of the SDB Center and the Memorial Fund (and for all SDBs who gave sacrificially to provide this wonderful building). Thanks to Jan Ehlers for writing the checks and handling the mailing list and keeping me informed of our finances. Thanks to Rosie Geske for fulfilling requests for our printed material and for sending out our bulk mailings. Thanks to Jeremy Howard for running our bulk mailings. Thanks to Leanne Lippincott. Even with our perfectionist tendencies, I think that we've got this work-flow pattern down. Leanne just celebrated her 20th year of working here at the Center, and I couldn't do this job without her.

Leanne and I have lived through oodles of technological changes over this tenure, and I can remember most of them. Like when we got our first article sent by fax machine (I had to run to the local bank to pick it up; the Center hadn't installed a fax yet). Now we get updates and articles and even quality photos by e-mail. And don't even mention the word "darkroom" to Leanne. All these words and graphics used to be hand-pasted onto big "boards" and personally delivered to a printer outside of Madison, Wis. That gave us all an too-convenient excuse for a monthly lunch out in the big city. (We still celebrate each month's blessed event, locally, and Leanne swears that she used to be skinless. Please don't look at my photos of a decade ago.) Now, everything is computerized and sent to a printer in Canada via cable modem.

How about deadlines? Well, not to brag, but with all of this help and with the Lord blessing us, we haven't missed a Recorder deadline in these 14 years. I believe the closest call came early last year when we were still sending it out on a computer disk. I frantically speed over to the overnight delivery office (just one street away), sprinted toward the door at one minute before 5:00 p.m., when I noticed that they were open until 6:00... May the Lord inspire us all to support this work—one of the oldest continuous religious periodicals in America. I pray that He will allow more good words to come from these aging computers, and editors.

My biggest THANK YOU goes to Janet Davis Butler, a true servant and miracle worker. Without you, honey—"holding down the fort" at home, putting up with me (even around deadlines), putting up without me as I travel to the churches and meetings—this work would be impossible. I honor you and cherish you for these 14 years of support, and for all 23 years of a marriage made in heaven. As I proudly proclaim on our license plates: KEV J AN!
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<td>New SDB church in Birch Hollow, NY</td>
<td>Jan.</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Ron Elston)</td>
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<tr>
<td>No longer strangers and foreigners!</td>
<td>July-Aug.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>(Denton Lotz)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nortonville church rededicated</td>
<td>April</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Jean Jorgensen &amp; Reba Wheeler)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Of all nations! (Linda Camenga)</td>
<td>Dec.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Once upon a summer</td>
<td>Dec.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plainfield hosts training (Joe Samuels)</td>
<td>May</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reaching out—to the world (Jayne Osborn)</td>
<td>Feb.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reflections of Grace (Susan Bond)</td>
<td>July-Aug.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shortage of pastors looming (Andrew Black)</td>
<td>Dec.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Starting over in Mexico (Kirk Looper)</td>
<td>Jan.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer in ‘the Cloud’ (Michelle Crandall)</td>
<td>Dec.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teaching on purpose (Andrew Camenga)</td>
<td>Nov.</td>
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<td>The General Council “Pre-Con”</td>
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<td>(Andrew Camenga)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The peaceful inferno (Heidi Kinnicutt)</td>
<td>July-Aug.</td>
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<tr>
<td>This corner near heaven (Maria Jimenez)</td>
<td>July-Aug.</td>
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<td>Touching lives in North Loup</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Helen Goodrich)</td>
<td>Dec.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Understanding what God has said</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Paul Manuel)</td>
<td>March</td>
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<td>Violence in schools—what to do?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>(Wayne North)</td>
<td>April</td>
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<tr>
<td>What ever happened to it? (Charles Graffius)</td>
<td>April</td>
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<tr>
<td>What’s a deacon to do?</td>
<td>Nov.</td>
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<tr>
<td>What’s in your Bible? (John Conrod)</td>
<td>March</td>
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<td>Why study the Bible? (Liz Green)</td>
<td>March</td>
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<td>World’s best counseling service—and it’s free</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Stefan Kube)</td>
<td>March</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kevin’s Korner</th>
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<tr>
<td>Finding an open channel</td>
<td>Jan.</td>
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<tr>
<td>A bowl of hot soup</td>
<td>Feb.</td>
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<td>The first thing to go</td>
<td>March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Give kids a chance</td>
<td>April</td>
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<td>Thankful, or taken for granted?</td>
<td>April</td>
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<tr>
<td>Keep it short</td>
<td>June</td>
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<td>We’re family</td>
<td>July-Aug.</td>
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<td>What did that stone mean?</td>
<td>Sept.</td>
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<td>Another Conference program</td>
<td>Oct.</td>
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<td>Oom-pah for Jesus</td>
<td>Nov.</td>
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<td>My sesqui-whatever issue</td>
<td>Dec.</td>
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