350 years as a people

200 years as a Conference

Sessions of the 2002 General Conference in Houghton, N.Y.

President Gordon and Linda Lawton as Elder and Mrs. H.P. Green
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 life worth living. God's holy day, therefore, is a day of thanks and praise because He is the one who created the heaven and the earth. It is the joy of the Sabbath that makes the work 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.

If you would like more information, write: The Seventh Day Baptist Center, 3120 Kennedy Road, PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547-1678. Phone (608) 752-5055; E-mail: sdbgen@inwave.com

Annual Corporation Meeting Notice

Sabbath Board of Christian Education

The annual meeting of the members of the Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education, Inc., will be held at the Edgar D. and Harriet Brown Van Horn building, 992 Route 244, Alfred Station, N.Y., on Sunday, October 27, 2002, at 10:00 a.m.

The purpose of this meeting shall be to hear and act upon the 2001 Annual Report of the Board of Directors, and to consider and act upon such matters that may properly come before said meeting.

Members of the member churches of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference USA & Canada, Ltd., are members of the Corporation. Accredited delegates attending the 2002 General Conference sessions in Houghton, N.Y., are entitled to vote at this annual meeting.

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General Conference goes back to Houghton

Singing about home
by Paul Green, choir director

When I chose the anthem, "We Have One Faith" for the Conference to sing together at the Sabbath morning celebration, I wondered whether the first line would be appropriate: "Lord, for many generations we have gathered in this place."

But then I remembered that we had actually met in this very place—Houghton College—five times.

Then when August 9 was declared "Henry Clarke Day" for Allegany County, it brought into focus that we really have met here for many generations!

Our first meeting in this area was in 1830, at the Alfred, N.Y., church. In fact, we have met in Alfred 21 times over the years. In addition, we met at Little Genesee, N.Y., three times later in the 19th century, making a total of 29 times General Conference has met in Allegany County!

"Truly, 'For many generations we have gathered in this place.' Thanks be to God!"

The Week in Review — August 4-10, 2002

Statistics
- 825 registered guests
- 900+ at worship on Sabbath
- 379 delegates representing 57 churches
- 127 enrolled in Junior Conference!
- 56 at Youth Pre-Con, directed by Steve Osborn with eight staff
- 65 at Young Adult, directed by Andy Samuels with ten staff
- Women's Love Gift: $4,573
- Conference offering: $16,200
- Gallons of ice cream consumed: lost count

Elections
- President 2002-2003: George Cruzan
- President-elect: Rev. Dale Thorngate
- General Council: Wayne North

Awards/Recognitions
- Pastor David Thorngate accredited
- Women's Board Robe of Achievement: Sylvia Lindo (deceased), Toronto, Canada.

cont. on page 6
God loves variety

by Ann Pangburn, in The Conference Crier

The Voices of Praise, from Toronto, led out Monday morning.

One need only to look at Creation, the handiwork of God, to know that "God loves variety." Look at the myriad of flowers and insects; not just one, stamped out and placed everywhere. Look at the faces you pass. Each is different, like the multitude of snowflakes. God loves variety. He created it.

The same is true in worship. We bring our sacrifices of praise in a variety of forms: some voices raised, some murmuring; with organ and guitar; with raised hands and bowed heads.

The Young Adult-sponsored praise time on Wednesday night reflected this aspect of God. As expected, it started with upbeat, exuberant music. Then the Spirit led the worshippers into quiet adoration with the same voices and instruments, but with a different expression.

Keith James ended the evening with an anointed pouring out of love to God, using the "voice" of the piano as we entered into utter stillness. As each song ended, there was silence—deep, deep, silent worship and waiting before God.

No one moved, shuffled, or made the slightest noise as we stood before God.

We offered the sacrifice of praise that night as God led us in exuberant singing, in meditative singing, and in total silence. The variety reflected the One Who created it.

Our God commands us to "Be still and know." He also says, "Shout to the Lord!" Does God accept only one form of worship when He Himself ordained both in His Word?

Our Heavenly Father created variety, and He loves it! 

The Week in Review, cont. from page 5

Sabbath School Teacher of the Year:
Larry Bird, Washington, D.C.

Mary G. Clare Scripture Memorization Bowl:
New York City church

Business Action
Approved 2003 budget of $957,617 calls for $378,432 to come from current giving
At Young Adult Pre-Con there was a discussion concerning the future of the denomination; many concerns were voiced. Those present at the Young Adult Interest Committee decided that until the next General Conference meetings they would use every Wednesday as a day of prayer and fasting for renewal and growth of this denomination. All are encouraged to participate.

We recommend that the COM require the Director of Pastoral Services occupy and utilize the offices in Janesville that are designated for use on a daily basis and that this would be accomplished by General Conference 2004.

From Reference and Counsel:
To adopt from the General Council Report: The General Council recommends that the following statement be added to the Manual of Procedures (in Appendix 2-J): Guidelines for Calling a Pastor: "When a church considers calling a candidate who is not currently a Seventh Day Baptist to pastoral leadership, it is strongly recommended that the congregation seek the advice and counsel of sister churches within the Association. Sister churches are encouraged to provide honest counsel to any member church requesting such counsel."

We recommend that the Committee on Faith and Order establish investigative procedure and recommend By-law revisions that address the discipline or dismissal of a church "displaying conduct which is no longer in harmony with the distinctive faith and practice of Seventh Day Baptists." (A Manual of Procedures for Seventh Day Baptist Churches, 1999-E)

In response to the directive of General Conference to address the issue of the First Seventh Day Baptist Church of Alfred, N.Y., the Committee recommends that the General Conference refer this matter to the General Council, instructing it to make a recommendation to the General Conference in 2003.

And this commentary:

The Reference and Counsel Committee understands that the actions of the First Seventh Day Baptist Church of Alfred, N.Y., in calling a Mormon to serve as pastor and in accepting a Mormon as an associate member, have damaged the witness of all Seventh Day Baptists. We acknowledge the steps the church has taken in correcting this situation and call on the church to repent completely of its actions. We also understand that neither the General Council nor our local churches responded to this situation in a timely and decisive manner. We strongly urge the General Conference membership to pray for all our churches and to be forthright, speaking the truth in love, when any of our churches fails to conform to our beliefs as Seventh Day Baptists.
Pastors cheat!
by Eowyn Driscoll
in the Crier

Have you ever seen Andrew Camenga in shorts? Well, at the Youth vs. Pastors surprise blanket volleyball game, he made an appearance on the pastoral team. I don’t know if you’ve ever seen blanket volleyball (or both of Andrew’s feet leave the ground at the same time), but it’s just like regular volleyball. Only you have to catch and throw the ball using a folded blanket. I know it seems a little odd to read about, but it’s even odder to watch.

The whole point of this article is to comment on the behavior of the pastors. Who knew that they have a downright childish side! Like Nate Crandall kicking the ball to get it to stay on the blanket? For shame! Apparently, it’s also an outrage for the ball to go out of bounds. (Hint to the pastors: Throw softer).

All in all, the game was rip-roaring fun, with a few delightful saves by the youth, and a couple of hecklers in the stands shouting, “Wrong side of the net!!”

Who won? Well, an hour into the first game, we-in-the-stands couldn’t sort out the scores. Nate said that the pastors won the first game. But in the final match, “Team Jackson” of the Youth took the honors by a score of 5-4. Go, Youth!

Seminars cover music, fasting, growth

Dannette Montague points out some strategies for church growth.

What do you mean you’re not sure if you want to go?” Dale Thorngate promoted February’s World Federation sessions in Brazil.

Gwen Bougyer looks up the music while Bill Bougyer finds the story behind the next requested hymn.

“And that’s what really happens at SOSC training,” says Helen Goodrich.

Kay Samuels (left) asked Sarah Calhoun to share her testimony on fasting.

Kristi Camenga praised the Lord in her seminar on worship.
Pre-Con spurs on Young Adults
by Jenny Butler, in The Conference Crier

Around 70 Seventh Day Baptist young adults from around the world arrived early at Houghton, N.Y., responding to the call to further develop their godly character.

Young Adult Pre-Con Director Andy Samuels, along with Pastors George Calhoun and Scott Hausrath, provided stirring messages, often based on biblical characters like Job, Solomon, Jonah, and Moses.

Job did not blame God for his misfortune, and Solomon found that only God—not earthly pleasures—could give meaning to his life. Jonah found that his lack of devotion to God’s plan got him in trouble, and God is the one who chose him as the medium to deliver a message. These lessons of faith were sandwiched between sessions of praise and worship songs.

The variety of presentations was remarkable.

The final showcase was a medley of praise and worship songs. Acoustic guitars, piano, electric bass, congas, tambourine, mime/sketch, and choir movements accompanied the beautiful harmonies. The audience was brought to their feet in enthusiastic participation with “I Command My Hands (Feet, Mouth, Body) to Praise the Lord!”

Linda Camenga spoke of the year-round leadership training and ministry these young adults have been involved in preparing for their service. The Women’s Board, SCSC Committee, and the SCSC Training Staff were recognized, along with the 12 Project Directors for the summer. Linda noted that a variety of skills and levels of maturity in Christ were challenging factors in bringing this large group together as a unit.

As individuals were recognized for their years of service, a large group of “rookies” stood with one year under their belt. However, there were many...
Losers and winners (part 1)

by Dennis L. Palmer

When I opened the April Sabbath Recorder, I was interested to learn that Casey FitzRandolph, an athlete with Seventh Day Baptist roots, won a gold medal in the 500-meter speed skating competition at the 2002 Winter Olympics. Casey, however, was not born a winner; he did not simply sit back and do nothing to achieve victory. Vigorous training and endurance is necessary to compete. Athletes who finish first do so because they seek it with a great deal of resolution, hard work, and determination. No gold medals are handed out on a silver platter to those who do not work hard to win them.

There was another type of race 2,000 years ago. But unlike today's Olympic games, the winning team never stepped up to the starting line; in fact, it never even officially entered the race. In contrast, the losing team ran like the wind but fell flat on its face.

These two teams represented two great classes of people—the Israelites and Gentiles—who had the same great need: to be perfect (righteous) before God.

God was not pleased with the strident efforts of the team that ran hard in pursuit of righteousness and stumbled over the Cross. The other team, not exonerated with rules and regulations, "did not pursue righteousness" (Rom. 9:30). Instead, they acknowledged their deficiencies and trusted the fair promises of heaven. They took the "faith route," never attempting to gain righteousness. In the end, they were the ones who won the heavenly prize, eternal life.

Using Romans 9:30—10:7 as our guide, let us consider this "race for righteousness." Why did the loser, Israel, fail to achieve righteousness? Picture Israel running the Olympic 4 x 400-meter relay. Each leg of the race, depicted by the passing of the baton, represents reasons why Israel lost her pursuit of righteousness and why the winners, the Gentiles, obtained righteousness. As we look at both the winners and losers, let us not see ourselves simply as spectators. We should be participants, overwhelmed by the grace, love, and mercy of God.

The first leg of Israel's defeat
They pursued righteousness by works rather than by faith.
As they prepare for the 4 x 400-meter relay, we see the Scribes and Pharisees walking up to the starting line with their long flowing garments. With flags waving and an extraordinary mix of hype, Israel—plundered with good works from circumcision (Acts 15:1) and a reliance upon the Law "compelling Gentiles to live as Jews" (Gal. 2:14)—charges from the starting line with all the hopes of completing an impresive first leg.

Works are piled upon works in the hopes of winning a life-and-death race to gain eternal life. (Note that in Romans 9:30—22b; 10:4—7, Paul denounces Israel's attempt to gain righteousness by works.)

The Gentiles did not obtain righteousness by works; in fact, they did not pursue it at all. They attained the "righteousness which is by faith" (Rom. 9:30). By contrast, Romans 9:31 says that Israel pursued a "law for righteousness." In other words, Israel sought to obey the Law in order to achieve a right standing with God.

About SCSC
Summer Christian Service Corps has helped many young people (age 17 and up) over the years to mature spiritually and emotionally. However, SCSC is not designed to help troubled young people work out their problems. It is an intensive training program to prepare young people to be servants of the Lord Jesus Christ.

For the team members, SCSC training is designed to 1) make sure you have a right relationship with Jesus Christ, 2) equip you with skills needed for the project, and 3) challenge you to continue spiritual growth even after your project.

The outlines: B.C.—Before Christ; Conversion—Sharing how we came to Christ (so others can do so, too); A.D.—Since we became Christians.

Most finish the summer with a deeper personal relationship with Jesus and new friendships that last a lifetime.
### Scripture Memory

#### Theme: "I Am In Christ"

#### Verses—2002-2003

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Youth/Adult</th>
<th>Junior</th>
<th>Primary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>Christ is all, and is in all. Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. (Colossians 3:12-15)</td>
<td>As God's chosen people... clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. (Colossians 3:12)</td>
<td>Christ is all, and is in all. (Colossians 3:11b)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. (Colossians 3:13-14)</td>
<td>And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. (Colossians 3:14)</td>
<td>Forgive as the Lord forgave you. (Colossians 3:13b)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. (Colossians 3:15)</td>
<td>Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts... And be thankful. (Colossians 3:15)</td>
<td>Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts. (Colossians 3:15a)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. (Colossians 3:16)</td>
<td>Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly... as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. (Colossians 3:16)</td>
<td>Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. (Colossians 3:16a)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Colossians 3:17)</td>
<td>And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus. (Colossians 3:17a)</td>
<td>And whatever you do... do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus. (Colossians 3:17a)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. (Colossians 2:6-7)</td>
<td>Just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him... strengthened in the faith as you were taught.... (Colossians 2:6-7)</td>
<td>Just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him. (Colossions 2:6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>Yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live. (1 Corinthians 8:6)</td>
<td>Yet for us there is but one God, the Father... for whom we live and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ... through whom we live. (1 Corinthians 8:6)</td>
<td>For us there is but one God, the Father... and... one Lord, Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 8:6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. (Ephesians 5:1-2)</td>
<td>Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us. (Ephesians 5:1-2a)</td>
<td>Live a life of love, just as Christ loved us. (Ephesians 5:2a)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. (1 John 4:11-12)</td>
<td>Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.... If we love one another, God lives in us. (1 John 4:11-12)</td>
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The Legacy of Joseph Davis, edited by William Henry Black in 1869, provided the background for an article by Timothea L. Larsen subtitled “A Case Study in Gender and Ecclesiology in Early Nineteenth-Century English Dissent.” In it, Larsen posed the question, “How many sisters make a brotherhood?”

Larsen noted that a wealthy linen draper named Joseph Davis had established a charitable trust to help support several Seventh-Day Baptist churches in England. Davis was particularly interested in the Mill Yard SDB Church, which was named after the property on which it was built. This Trust became the major support of the pastor’s salary at Mill Yard, and was to be managed by the church’s Board of Trustees.

William Henry Black recorded the content of the will of Joseph Davis of Middlesex County, dated 5 May, 1706: “I give unto the poor of the Church of Christ, which was named Slater’s, ten pounds, or fifty shillings yearly, as my friends interested in Mill Yard, shall see in what he termed convenient.”

Black’s wife was a descendant of Thomas Slater Sr., one of the original contributors to the building of the Meeting House, and also one of the first trustees appointed in 1700. Davis’ will specified that the qualifications of a trustee were, “such person only as agree in religious profession with the said Congregation, and enjoy its confidence.” However, there had been no duly-qualified trustee since 1825.

That year, Harriot’s cousin, Joseph Slater Jr. (son of her uncle Joseph), “having malice against his uncle and minister, her father, and out of opposition to the religious principles of the said Congregation, and with a view to the annoyance and detriment thereof, filed information against her said father, aunt, and mother as Reitnor, forsook his Membership in the said Congregation, and conformed to the Church of England, nevertheless retaining his Trusteeship; and after his father’s death, procured his own private friends to be appointed Trustees, not one of whom belonged to, or was known or friendly to the said Congregation, and who manifested the most bitter hostility to the said Congregation and its interests and kindred institutions, and have used every endeavor for many years past to discourage, annoy, subvert, and ruin the said Congregation and institutions, to which the said Estates were given and funded to maintain.”

In succeeding sections of his book, Black traced the changes in the trustees of the Mill Yard church and death took its toll. In what he termed “the Memorial to the Charity Commissioners dated 15 February 1855,” he identified himself as a Memorialist, along with his wife, Harriot Slater Black.

Although Black pastored the Mill Yard congregation, he never permitted him to act as a trustee. All documents and information touching on the affairs of the Trust were withheld from him, “even when required for the legitimate use of the Congregation, and for the purpose of history.”

Black’s wife was a descendant of Thomas Slater Sr., and so the original contributors to the building of the Meeting House were his kin. Thus, he was known as the Slater of the Meeting House, and also one of the first trustees appointed in 1700. Davis’ will specified that the qualifications of a trustee were, “such person only as agree in religious profession with the said Congregation, and enjoy its confidence.” However, there had been no duly-qualified trustee since 1825.

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In his book, Black gives no account of any resolution of the conflict. But he does show some hope that “a change in the Public Advoce of Charitable and Religious Foundations, they will no longer permit such a scandalous state of things to continue, in a free and enlightened country, but will boldly take the case into its own hands, at once.”

By 1830, the Mill Yard church had dwindled to the point that all of its remaining members were women, who had no voting power. Therefore, the Board of Trustees, a self-perpetuating body, declared that the church had ceased to exist. They promptly appointed trustees who were unsympathetic to the church.

That small remnant of women protested the Board’s action, declaring that they were, indeed, “a true church.” All parties agreed to arbitrating the case, and the General Body of Protesting Ministers, a ministerial society comprised basically of Independent, Baptist, and Presbyterian ministers who lived in or near London.

For several days in 1831, many of the prominent “Nonconformist” ministers sat in judgment of this small, relatively obscure religious group, debating its theological legitimacy. They discussed the dissenting attitudes of the day concerning the relationship between gender and the very nature of the Christian Church. It is doubtful if such an issue by such a small minority would have been considered by the Foundation if it had not been a battlefield for a larger theological question within the Church. The case turned on the question of whether or not the male gender was essential to the nature of a true church.

Josiah Condor argued that, by definition, a local church is a group consisting of “a competent number of visible saints” and that an entirely female congregation is inherently a collective. He continued on page 25.

In May, attacking rebels forced the General Secretary, Dr. Pah, and others out of the country. During the couple of weeks that they were under fire, many pastors were killed. Apparently, they continue to live under crisis conditions.

Presently, Dr. Pah is recuperating from a house fire that destroyed many of his possessions and hospitalized his daughter. They would appreciate funds to help pay their hospital expenses.
Youth Pre-Con 2002
by Eowyn Driscoll, in the Crier

"Hear O Israel, Love the Law.
your God with all your heart,
and with all your soul, and with all your
strength." (Deut. 6:5)

This verse was the theme of the
Youth Pre-Con 2002 Retreat led by
Associate Pastors Steve ("Steve-O")
Osborn of the Milton, Wis., SDB
Church, and Nate Crandall of White
Claw, Mich.

The retreat was directed by the
Lord, Who, through the work of
these men and His presence at Camp
Harley Sutton, brought many hearts
to Christ, some for the first time.

God's power and grace could be felt
throughout the camp from the
very start, but especially on the final
time they had together at
Camp
Harley Sutton. As Pastor Nate gave the
campers a chance to recommit their
lives to Christ, Nate challenged the
campers to move forward in their
Christian lives, and to return to Con­ference as better Christians. Pastor
Steve reinforced this challenge with
Bible studies on how to live better
Christian lives.

One of the campers, Jessie Kandel,
had a special experience:
"Many of us stood and acknowled­ged that Jesus is—and has been—
our Savior, but now we wanted Him
to be the Lord of our lives all of
the time, not just when it's easy.

The service ended with prayer, and
most of the campers slowly
headed up the hill for evening activi­ties. I stayed in the chapel with a few
others who were praying and crying.

Katie (Neo) and I walked back to
the altar and knelt before it. With our
heads bowed before the cross, we felt
God's grace pour down on us, and we
realized that God wanted to forgive
us. Suddenly, we both felt the peace
of forgiveness. As we walked back
up the hill—back into the world—we
were ready to face any obstacles to
Christian living."

When the campers weren't lift­
ing their souls to the Lord in wor­ship, they were running around like
madmen. They enjoyed a multitude
of activities, ranging from Ultimate
Frisbee to crazy campfire games
like "Ride the Rhythm" and a sign
language game called, "Who Has?"

Two of the highlights of this year
were slip-and-sliding in the rain,
and swimming in an icy river. We
headed up the hill—back into the world—we
realized that God wanted to forgive
us. Suddenly, we both felt the peace
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of activities, ranging from Ultimate
Frisbee to crazy campfire games
like "Ride the Rhythm" and a sign
language game called, "Who Has?"

Two of the highlights of this year
were slip-and-sliding in the rain,
and a game new to most campers,
"Persecution."

Other activities included a trip to
Snow Brook Park, where we enjoyed
a hike through waterfall-filled terrain
and swimming in an icy river. We
also made up skits to represent those
values we thought most important
in a relationship with God. Later, we
presented some of these skits during
Conference at the Youth Morning
Worship Service.

God moved through the Pre­
Conners' hearts, minds, and souls,
giving them strength in the short
time they had together at Camp Har­
ley Sutton. As Conference continued,
they asked attendees to remember to
"Love the Lord your God with all
your heart, and with all your soul,
and with all your strength." 

2002 has been a "banner year" for
birthdays in our family; my daugh­
ter turned 30, a sister-in-law turned
40, a brother-in-law turned 50, my brother turned 60, my mother-in-law turned 80, and my dad turned 90.

I've always had mixed feelings
about birthdays.

On the plus-side, they conjure up
fond memories of earlier birthday
celebrations with loved ones. Birth­
days often mean that we're another
year wiser, and more mature. If noth­ing else, birthdays confirm that we've
been blessed with yet another year of
life on God's precious planet.

But then that pesky dark cloud of
negativity appears.

With each birthday, I notice more
gray hairs, more wrinkles, more
aches and pains. Age spots are start­
ing to appear on my hands, which
look more like my mother's every day.
It especially bothers me that
my mind is becoming "slower." (To
match my walk, no doubt.)

The Bible brims with encouraging
words about aging:
"Gray hair is a crown of splen­
dor; it is attained by a righteous
life" (Proverbs 16:31).

- "They [the righteous] will still
bear fruit in old age, they will
stay fresh and green..." (Psalm
92:14).

- "Even to your old age and gray
hairs... I am he who will sustain
you..." (Isaiah 46:4).

In spite of those verses, I still
struggle with the concept of growing
old. I've always had trouble accept­
ing the fact that "my earthly tent" is
collapsing a little each day—and has
been since birth. To some extent, I
can slow the aging process by healthy
eating and exercise, but I can't avoid
the inevitable.

When I think about aging, I also
think about death, and how it's no
respecter of age.

My husband died when he was 38.
Our children were still young, so I
made out a will, bought extra life in­
surance, and arranged for guardians
in case God called me "home," too.

For years after Denny's death, I
asked God to allow me to live, at least
until our children made it through those
difficult childhood and teenage
years. (Some days I felt like shout­ing,
"God, take me right now!")

It wasn't easy being a single par­
cent, but God honored my prayers.
One of the great joys of my life has
been to see my children grow into
responsible young adults.

My cancer diagnosis three years
ago also led me to think a little more
about death.

Soon after my surgery, I asked
God to allow me to see
my grandchildren grow up. Now I've
added, "And it sure would be nice to
be at my grandchildren's weddings." (I
can almost hear God sigh every
time I tack that onto my prayers.)
Pastor Herb Saunders once said,
"Most people who say they're afraid
of death are actually afraid of how
they'll die." I think that's true. We
worry more about the "process" of
dying rather than the inevitability
of it. (Okay... so I sometimes worry
about both!)

It may sound strange, but my
cancer encounter has been a bless­ing.
I don't worry about death like I used
to. (Who of you by worrying can add
a single hour to his life?)—
Matt. 6:27.

As this "old bod" fails, I revel
in God's promise of a new body.

"...The body that is sown is perish­able,
it is raised imperishable; ... it is sown in weakness, it is raised in
power; it is sown a natural body,
it is raised a spiritual body" (1 Cor.
15:42-44).

Because of sin, Man will contin­
uce to age and die. But because of
Christ's sacrifice, death is simply the
doorway to a new life—a life so grand
that it's beyond our imagining.

With each birthday, I notice
more gray hairs, more wrinkles,
more aches and pains.
From Ecclesiastes 3: "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven."

A time to be born: Our boys think it made a lot of difference if they were born first, middle, or last in their family. They also knew they were all loved greatly and unequivocally.

A time to die: We feel for friends and families who are afraid and fear death because they do not know the Lord.

A time to kill: Being a non-believer, I feel that there is never a time to kill, except maybe for our friend who brought home 60 frog legs for his wife to cook.

A time to heal: Patients are so appreciative of a gall bladder operation, or when migraines are stopped for awhile. Can we use this “healing” in our churches?

So many misunderstandings, egos, and doctrines (some Christian and some not) get tied up in church policies and in the community. We have churches in our denomination which must heal. Sometimes the group must break down, forgive, and then build up again. This same scenario is repeated in our homes and families.

A time to weep and a time to laugh: The older we get, the more time we know when to weep and laugh.

A time to cast away stones: Our denomination does not dictate to the churches. Instead, it prays and hopes that the separated stones can see their way to love and understand others. This way, we build a wall, not to keep others out, but with a gate unless “someone does us SDBs wrong.” As humans, our mouths too often work more than our brains. But we must protect our SDB heritage and beliefs, as an eagle would guard its young.

A time to love and a time of peace: We do not want hate and war. I look to a 2020 VISIONs of understanding among old and new Sabbath believers.

9/11 are trying to dance, as David did, and look to our Lord.

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Dolphins sing as they go along so that the young and inexperienced and forgotten among them can hear the way. We SDBs must hear our way to the Lord in all seasons of this life on earth.

There were four wee Seventh Day Baptist churches in “the land Down Under.” They were strong in Christ and loved the Lord. They were happy little churches except for one thing: How to spread the Gospel to the youth? What to do? What to do? Think, think, Pray, pray...

Inspiration! Isn’t there a young adult training program on the North American continent called SCSC? What is SCSC?

SCSC is Summer Christian Service Corps, a program of intensive training that prepares young people to be servants of the Lord. Sounds just like what would be needed down under! Would our brothers and sisters in the North American SDB Conference be willing to help us?

Oh joy, oh joy! They are very willing to help us. They say, “Yes!” They are willing to help us train young Aussies adults in the U.S. so that they, too, may start an SCSC-type program over here. Yippee!

Would an exchange program be possible?

Well folks, what has happened since then?

In the summer of 1999, the churches in Australia raised enough money to send Karl Rudd to Daytona Beach, Fla., for SCSC training. He participated in SCSC that summer, completing his project in Milton, Wa. All parties involved were delighted to work with Karl, and he was equally delighted to take part in SCSC.

This year, the Australian churches managed to raise the money to send two young adults into SCSC. These same churches also encouraged Peter Kube and Karl to attend Conference in Houghton, N.Y. Karl and Peter will work with the rest of our core SCSC Committee (Donnah Ciemka, and Pastors Gabriel Alegre, Andrew Goulding, and Marlo Sido) in developing an Australian SCSC-type program.

The round-trip tickets for the Aussies cost approximately $2,400 per person, plus Conference registration fees. These Australian churches have undertaken an awesome commitment, especially since they have small congregations made up of people of modest means. They are an inspiration in their continuing commitment to train their young adults and spread the Gospel among the youth. They certainly are looking to the future.

SDBs in Australia, and also in North America, have a wonderful opportunity to help spread the Gospel in Australia. SDBs in Australia, and also in North America, have a wonderful opportunity to help spread the Gospel in Australia.

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Church shows patriotism
by Heather Rao

The Vacation Bible School (VBS) of the Alfred Station, N.Y., SDB Church entered a float in the An­
dover Fourth of July parade.

Many children from the VBS Pro­gram—Gospel Light’s “SonCanyon River”—participated in the celebra­
tion. As they traveled down the parade route, the 5th and 6th grade class handed out candy, along with church business cards.

Couple surprised for 50th

On June 15, 2002, members of Hope SDB Church of Philadelphia, Pa., surprised Fred and Virginia Ayars with a 50th Wedding Annu­
versary celebration. The event took the place of the regular worship service.
Pastor Cormeth Lawrence was the officiating minister, and Pastor Kenroy Cruickshank gave the invo­
cation. The Ayars’ daughter, Christine Sias of Salem, W.Va., joined Pastor Selvin Findlater in paying tribute to the couple. Others in the congregation also offered gracious remarks.

Carissa Lawrence and her moth­
er, Lois Lawrence, provided music.
Fred and Virginia, who serve the church as a deacon and deaconess, reaffirmed their wedding vows dur­
ing the gathering. Those in attend­ance deemed it “a beautiful and heartfelt celebration.”

—Rolleesa Phillips

A Golden celebration

On June 20, 2002, friends and family members gathered at a local cafe in Chatawa, Miss., for a diner­
party honoring Rev. and Mrs. Ralph Hays on their Golden Wed­
dding Anniversary.

Ralph and Mary were married in Poplarville, Miss. Although Ralph had been preaching for some time, he was preparing to enter the ministry when they wed.

Over the years, Ralph has serv­ed Seventh Day Baptist churches in Metairie, La.; Adams Center, N.Y.; and Tecumseh, Ark. He’s retired now, but the church in Chatawa—Sunshine Mountain—still considers him their pastor.

Since returning to Mississippi in 1976, Ralph has been minister­
ing to the mentally and physically handicapped at Sunshine Mountain Home, a facility that he established to care for his wife and other im­
paired individuals.

Ralph Jr. is a deacon in the Milton, Wis., SDB Church, and daughter Sally works and lives in FT. Worth, Texas.

—Linda Hays

Hope SDB Church celebrates anniversary
by Rolleesa Phillips

On July 6, 2002, the Hope SDB Church of Philadelphia, Pa., celebrated 20 years of service to the Lord in the Delaware Valley.

Rev. Kenroy Cruickshank wel­
omeled members and visitors, and then introduced the master of cere­
monies, Pastor Harold Smith. Pasto­

r Smith noted that he had brought most of the congregation of the New York City SDB Church with him to witness the occasion.

Members from the New York church presented a musical selec­
tion. The Hope church also contrib­
ted to the singing, with Sister Lois Lawrence, the Hope Singers, and the J.O.L. group adding much to the service.

Deaconess Virginia Ayars read her poem, “We Wanted a Church.”

It traced the church’s journey from a storefront in Ambler, to a one-room mission in North Hills, to a rented church in Chestnut Hill, to the pres­

ent building in the Mt. Airy section of Philadelphia.

Her husband, Deacon Fred Ayars, read excerpts from a church history compiled for its 10th anniversary.

New England Yearly Meeting annual picnic overflows

On Sunday, July 21, 2002, over 60 adults and children gathered at the home of Charlie and Marylin Greene in Hopkinton, R.I., for the annual New England Yearly Meet­
ing picnic. People attended from our churches in Rockville and Ashaway, R.I.; and Middletown, Pawcatuck, and Waterford, Conn.

Attendees spent the afternoon fellowshipping, swimming, and pitching horseshoes. They brought a plethora of picnic fare to share at the evening meal. The overflow crowd required additional seating.

Howard McAuliffe, Bob Gordon, Scott Smith, and Charlie Greene were seen in a heavy picnic table closer to the deck.

During the festivities, Pastor Leon Lawton baptized Dennis and Patricia Sousa of the Rockville church.

—David Taylor

Page sponsored in loving memory of Rex Zwiebel—September 2002
Burwick—A daughter, Kelsey Renee Burwick, was born to Ian and Rene Burwick of Prince, TX, on February 20, 2002.

Krejci—A daughter, Katelin Elizabeth Krejci, was born to Michael and Maria (Long) Krejci of Las Vegas, NV, on June 22, 2002.

Cargill—A son, Trevor Reese Cargill, was born to Gale and Angie (Bremerman) Cargill of Scotia, NE, on June 23, 2002. 

Rao—A daughter, Eden Lynn Rao, was born to Dan and Heather (Chroniger) Rao of Almond, NY, on August 2, 2002.

Vision Fellowship  
Pawcatuck, CT  
David Taylor, pastor  
Joining after testimony  
Cheryl Bowyer  
Israel Bowyer  
Maryanne Bowyer  
Matthew Falloon  
Dawn LaFrance  
Dina Mills  
Walter F. Mills  
Etienne Samuel  
Connie Tassias  
David Tassias  
Duane B. Taylor  
Desiree J. Taylor  
Joining by letter  
Gary Chester  
Lori Havens  
Marisa Hays  
William Hays II  
Susan Lamphere  
Cassandra Nadine Lawton  
Jeffrey Lawton  
Anne Mills  
Barbara Nugent  
Honore S. Owens  
Robert E. Owens  
Elizabeth C. Stillman  
David L. Taylor  
Margaret F. Taylor  
Florence Thorpe  
Elise White  
White Cloud, MI  
Bernie Wellington, pastor  
Joining after testimony  
Linda Vining  
Milton, WI  
George Calliou, pastor  
Joining after testimony  
Patrick Hamm  
Brenda Hamm  
Joseph Vrydaghs  
Kathy Vrydaghs

Come to Brazil  
***  
Sessions of the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation (SDBWF) will be held February 10-16, 2003, in Curitiba, Paraná, Brazil. SDBWF delegates and observers will be welcome also at the Brazil convention sessions the previous week, February 4-9.

People interested in attending as observers should contact Rev. Dale Thorngate, SDBWF Executive Secretary, for additional information: 171 E. Main St., Salem WV 26426 USA. Phone: (304) 782-1727; FAX: (304) 782-4792; E-mail: sdbwf@eol.com

Thorngate to teach at Baylor

The Council on Ministry is happy to announce that Rev. Dale Thorngate, pastor of the SDB church in Salem, Va., has accepted a position of Scholar in Residence at Baylor University's Program in Baptist Studies. Pastor Thorngate's designation as Visiting Fellow for the fall of 2002 was recently confirmed by Dr. William Brackney, Chairman of the University's Program in Baptist Studies.

"I am personally honored by this appointment," Thorngate says, "but I am more excited about the opportunity it provides for Seventh Day Baptists to be better known in the Baptist community." During his visit at Baylor in Waco, Texas, Thorngate will have the opportunity to lecture in classes of three to six different courses on the distinction of Seventh Day Baptist thought, particularly with respect to the Sabbath.

Baylor University's Program in Baptist Studies provides opportunities for "instruction, research, dialogue and cooperation, dissemination, and publication of scholarship relating to the people called Baptists worldwide." It is an interdisciplinary area of study for M.A. and Ph.D. candidates in the Department of Religion.

The Scholar in Residence program brings individual guests to campus either to contribute lectures or conduct research on a specific project of value to the academy or the church. The program includes annual symposia on topics of interest to the Baptist community and those who interact with Baptists.

Rev. Gabriel Bajani, executive secretary of the Council on Ministry, notes that this is not the first connection between Seventh Day Baptists and Baylor. Dr. Brackney was a featured speaker at our Pastors' Conference last spring in Alfred Station, N.Y., and he is also an advisor to Rev. Kenneth Chroniger as he pursues his Doctor of Ministry degree at McMaster University in Ontario, Canada, where Dr. Brackney also teaches. Our historian, Don A. Sanford, serves on the committee which has been developing the website, BaptistHeritage.com, administered at Baylor as part of the Baptist Studies Program. The site includes numerous references to SDB distinctives and resources along with those of other Baptist groups.

While he is at Baylor, Dr. Thorngate will also continue his research on "The Intentional Christian Family and How the Congregation Can Support It," a project begun during his six-month sabbatical granted by the Salem church in 2001.

"The Baylor visit is really an outgrowth of the sabbatical work," Thorngate says. "I am grateful to the Salem church for the opportunity to develop this study booklet on the Intentional Christian Family, but neither they nor I had envisioned how it would develop into this new opportunity for Seventh Day Baptist visibility. I am grateful once again for the church's willingness to grant the necessary leave of absence, and also for the Council on Ministry's assistance with travel funds."
Life's relay for Righteousness, cont. from page 12

She thought salvation came through the Law, rather than through faith. Rom. 10:4 says, "Christ is the end of the law with reference to righteousness to everyone who believes." Notice the words with reference to righteousness. Again, we have the same idea: Israel was trying to pursue the Law in order to gain a right-standing with God. However, Christ, by His death, fulfilled the Law so that we can have eternal life by faith and not by keeping the Law.

Romans 9:3-23 further confirms that Israel's failure to achieve righteousness is because she attempted to achieve it by her works. Notice the verse reply to why Israel missed the mark: "They did not pursue it by faith, but as though it were by works."

The reformer Martin Luther, in his famous Commentary on Romans, said, "The goal [righteousness] which they [the Jews] seek is corrupt but the way is wrong by which they endeavor to reach the goal."

Israel was defeated because she did not pursue righteousness by faith through Christ. But the Gentiles, by not pursuing it, received God's righteousness.

The idea that Israel wrongly pursued the Law in order to gain salvation is taken up especially in Rom. 10:5-7. Verse 6 says, "But the righteousness based on faith speaks as follows: 'Who will ascend into heaven?... Who will descend into the abyss?'

Verse 7 says, "Christ said that they're usually smooth and sesame successful. I will spare the details. The culprit beneath my tongue was the size of a small pea, bumpy and ugly; but there it was, blocking my normal salivation process. I could eat some soft food, and then only if I was lying down by the tassels of my garments, refusing to dress up by the tassels of her garments, extending the tassels of her confidence in Jewish pride and works, refusing to dress up by her works. Notice the verse reply to why Israel missed the mark: "They did not pursue it by faith, but as though it were by works."

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Israel was defeated because she did not pursue righteousness by faith through Christ. But the Gentiles, by not pursuing it, received God's righteousness.
Friday was a gorgeous day for a picnic!

Lambert Lynch and George Lyons debate over who has to buy the next round of free fruit punch.

Our youngest (ever?) attendee, Eden Lynn Rao was born on the Friday before Conference and registered with hundreds of others on Sunday! Congrats to parents Dan and Heather Chroniger Rao of Alfred Station, N.Y.

Our future in motion.