Centennial Celebration is approaching

The Battle Creek, Mich., Seventh Day Baptist Church invites you to help celebrate its 100th birthday in 2004. If you would like to send greetings or share your memories of Battle Creek, please mail them to: Battle Creek SDB Church 200 N. Washington Ave. Battle Creek, MI 49007 You may also e-mail your greetings to sdbchurch@netzero.net, or come and celebrate in person! We plan to have a special banquet on the Sabbath preceding next year's Conference—July 31, 2004. Everyone is welcome to join us for our worship services and the meal.

Youth Groups,
Consider sending a donation ($25? $50? More?) to help with youth activities at Conference this year. We are planning to go to a bowling alley and a family fun center. That might require a little extra money, if we have a big turnout.
Please send any donation to Margie Burdick, SDBYF Treasurer, 3104 B St. SE, Auburn, WA 98002. Your help will be greatly appreciated.
And don't forget your softball equipment for the Youth vs. Pastors Softball Game at Conference! Curious about Youth Pre-Con? check out www.medallaretreat.com

Directory
The Seventh Day Baptist Day covering the year 2002 is available at the SDB Center in Janesville, Wis.
The cost is $8.75 per Directory, which includes postage. For those who pick up a Directory, the cost is $7.50 each.

Moving soon?
Please let us know of your change of address. It costs us money every time an issue is returned to us, and sometimes we get several issues of Friends in Christ, friends for life...
by Eowyn Driscoll
Time and distance cannot separate true friends.
A virtual commune
by Philip Lawton
'YF of one' stays connected with internet.
'Rookie' looks ahead to second season
by Anna Thomas
Can't wait for camp, Pre-COIl, and Conference!
Exposed to the world
by Aubrey Greene
Public school can make faith stronger.
Not a kid any more
by Josh Calhoun
It's time to be responsible for our actions.
The forgotten mourners
by Mark Wingfield
Children are more perceptive than adults realize.

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Neighbors are watching

June 2003
Back in mid-April, I got a call from a good friend, Neil Lubke. Naturally, I was slightly confused. Neil lives hundreds of miles away in Wisconsin, so why was he calling me? It turned out that Neil's school band was in town (a.k.a. New York City), and he wanted to know if I had seen him was in January at the Youth Retreat at Camp Wakonda.

Neil wanted to know if I had school, "It's Sunday, Neil," Sam, who had been to "The City" before, wanted to know where the sheet music stores were. And Dan was... well, Dan was Dan.

All the way through lunch—where it took an hour just to get the food—we chatted and laughed merely about all the things that had happened and where they were going to go, what they would see, and what they should buy as souvenirs for everyone back home. Meanwhile, the singing wait staff entertained us with Broadway classics, along with some songs we had never heard before. During the hour and a half we sat in the restaurant, there was never a dull or awkward moment. But why wasn't it awkward? After not talking to these three people in as many months, why were we able to sit down together, and laugh and chatter like next door neighbors—or Long Island gossips? Because we have something in common that transcends distance and goes beyond the latest fashions or what is "in" at the moment: God.

We all believe in the same things and the same God. Not only can we speak freely about our beliefs without risking a major argument, but whenever we're together, God will be there to make sure that we have something to talk about. He keeps us from getting stuck in awkward situations.

Have you ever noticed that after Conference, after you've forgotten to write to your friends and have lost touch with your acquaintances, the next time you see them (usually at Conference the following year) you're still able to converse with them freely? You still have the same friendship that you had last year; time and distance do not cause rifts in relationships. I had a good time putting it to the test with my old friends. I was there at the Youth Retreat at Camp Wakonda, I had a good time talking about... the latest things that we talked about once we got there?

Eventually, Neil (whose head shot up above the crowd a good 4 inches) appeared, as well as Sam Lima and Dan Appel from the Milton church, with their group in tow. And it was okay. We all got along, and we all got to talking as if we had never been apart, even though the last time I had seen them was in January at the Youth Retreat at Camp Wakonda.

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A virtual commune

For me, being a Seventh Day Baptist means that having other SDB friends is hard. Not only is it difficult to find other Christians; it’s almost impossible to find other SDBs. The only time I get to see my denominational friends is at Conference. Of course, we do have retreats and Associations, but there really aren’t any SDB youth where I live. I, myself, make up the “youth group” at my church.

At times, I think it might be better if I had a Seventh Day Baptist commune where we all lived. But when I think more about that, I realize it wouldn’t work. SDBs need to be able to evangelize. So I have to deal with having friends who live on the other side of the country.

Living in a day of technology does make it easier to stay in touch. AIM (AOL Instant Messenger) has become one of my best friends. Through this, I not only “talk” to my friends in California instantly, but I can also talk to my sister in Africa.

E-mail is great, too. It’s always fun to get e-mail notes from friends. In all honesty, I think I might be a “net junkie,” but at least I can talk to my other net junkie friends when I want.

Friends are hard to come by, and true friends are rare. So I’m glad that I live in this age of electronic access.

It is hard sometimes not seeing SDB friends until the summer, yet when I do see them, it is worth it.

I may not have much of a social life during the school year; in the summer I “live.”

In the end, if you really want to keep in touch, you can. You may not see your SDB friends very much, but when you do, it’s a blast!

‘YF of one’ uses internet to stay connected

by Philip Lawton, Little Genesee, NY

'Rookie’ looks ahead to second season

by Anna Thomas

What is it like to be a new Seventh Day Baptist? How does this faith community strike you?

Well, Youth camp, Pre-Con, and Conference are all coming up in the next few months. Are you ready? I’m pretty new to the denomination (I was raised a Seventh-day Adventist until August 2000), and this will be only my second camp and Pre-Con. But I can’t wait!

Last year, Camp Joy in Berea, W.Va., was absolutely wonderful! Our awesome SCSCers were Marissa, Heather, and Thoma, and they were so much fun to have around.

The Wednesday night praise time definitely cemented the friendships that had been in the works during the first few days of camp. I can’t speak for everyone who was there, but I thought that one hour on Wednesday night was incredible!

The friends I met were awesome, and the youth leaders were so fun! They obviously loved young people, and everyone was so on fire for God. I miss all the friends I made at camp, Pre-Con, and Conference last year, but I’m going to see most of them again this summer at camp in West Virginia and Pre-Con in Oregon. God has been so good to me the three years I’ve been attending the First SDB Church of Columbus, Ohio.

God’s given me so many awesome Christian friends that I can’t help but be grateful. I hope you feel the same way, and I hope you won’t take this summer for granted. God Bless!

June 2003
Exposed

to the world

by Aubrey Greene
Columbus, Ohio

Sitting in the administrative office of Houghton (N.Y.) College last Monday, the admissions counselor asked me some fairly simple questions about my life. What he asked didn’t provoke much thought, and I could easily rattle off an answer as if he was posing some first grade math problems. Of course, I knew the simplicity had to end.

“How do you think attending a public school affects your Christianity?” he asked.

Bam! I was stunned for a minute. I’d never really thought about it before.

How does it affect me? Does it strengthen my Christianity? Does it weaken it?

The counselor prompted me. Wheels were spinning in my head.

“I think attending a public school strengthens my Christianity,” I started off. After that, the rest of my answer became clear. I knew what I was going to say.

“Seeing those people makes me want to strive to be like Christ and to show the world that there is something different—something good out there—and I have it.”

I sat back in my chair, relieved.

I was ready to go back home and face the world. I was ready to stand up in my public high school and make a statement for Christ.

I was going to say.

Some might say that teenagers blame their mistakes on the fact that we are just teens and can’t be held fully responsible for what we do. In my opinion, the person who blames their age for their own foolish, unintelligent, and not-so-smart mistakes is a fool himself/herself.

If you are one of those teenagers, I apologize for offending you. But I stick to my word and believe that you should thoroughly consider changing your attitude.

There is no one to blame but yourself. You can’t lay your mistakes on your parents, no matter how screw up they may be. Your teachers cannot be held responsible, nor your friends, or siblings, or your pastor. None of these people in your life can be responsible for your actions.

Yes, some of them are responsible for your upbringing, and may help a great deal in teaching you morals and values. But when the ball drops, you’re the one who has to choose whether to pick it up or not.

We all have a mind of our own, and we can make decisions for ourselves (not including young children or people with mental handicaps). But you’re a teenager or even a young adult. No matter how much your parents may have hurt you, or how little your teacher taught you, you still have the mental ability to decide things on your own.

You may not be responsible for a party that gets “busted,” but you do have a choice about being there in the first place.

You may not be fully responsible for not understanding Algebra II, but there are always other paths to take, and you do have the responsibility to choose wisely.

Ask a friend for help, or another teacher, or even a parent (you may be surprised at how much they know). You also have the choice to try as hard as you can.

People in this world aren’t out to “get you” (unless you choose to join the mob). Your greatest enemy is yourself. You have choices; you have responsibilities; you have the ability to make the right decisions.

As I see it, the only person you’re responsible for is yourself. If someone is going to be “small,” let them be small. Don’t allow them to bring you down.
The forgotten mourners
‘Kids grieve, too,’ says social worker
by Mark Wingfield, Associated Baptist Press

Lesson at a funeral home
Although Helen Harris has years of experience as a hospice worker and social worker, she learned an important lesson about grieving by taking her 20-year-old daughter to a funeral home.

The young girl, after walking by her grandmother’s casket, was overcome with grief and began sobbing.

An older woman, apparently desiring to be helpful, came to the girl and spoke directly into her face: “Stop that crying! You just stop that crying!”

After assuring the girl that her grandmother was in a better place with Jesus and that she ought to celebrate the homegoing rather than grieve the loss, the woman concluded with a fully loaded message: “Jesus doesn’t want you crying.”

Leave us alone!
That was it for Harris, who teaches in the Baylor University School of Social Work. She laid aside her own pastoral counseling demeanor and told the woman to leave them alone.

They knew the grandmother was in a better place, and they knew she was free of pain, Harris explained. But they also knew that they were sad for themselves and that they needed to cry.

The experience with this woman who thought she was offering help with her stoicism illustrates common misunderstandings about how children grieve, Harris said during a breakout session at the recent Hand Conference for church social workers held in Waco, Texas.

The forgotten mourners
Children, she said, often become the “forgotten mourners” at the time of a death. They are expected to play and go to school while adults grieve. Yet children need to be allowed to grieve themselves.

Include the kids
Children should be included in the caregiving directed toward a grieving family, and they should be included in family rituals related to death and grief, Harris advised. “Children need a cultural context in which to grieve.”

Children, she noted, are more perceptive about what’s going on around them than most adults realize. She cited another observation by her daughter, who examined the church prayer list and asked: “How come the only way people get off the list is by dying?”

Expect emotion; don’t use trite phrases
Parents and other adult caregivers should understand that children may grieve in bursts of emotion, events she compared to sudden cloudbursts of rain followed by sunny skies. This is normal behavior for children, she reported.

However, children may need special attention from adult family members and friends because they will not find a natural connection and support for grieving among their peers, Harris said.

She also warned against trite phrases that easily confuse children; phrases like “asleep in Jesus,” “God took her,” and “God needed an angel.”

Grief is a journey
Among both children and adults, grief is a journey rather than a defined task, Harris said. Grief is like a hand held in front of the face and then slowly moved away. At first, all the person sees is the hand. But as the hand moves away, other things begin to come into focus. The hand, a hand held in front of the face and then slowly moved away. At first, all the person sees is the hand. But as the hand moves away, other things begin to come into focus. The hand,

formula, Harris warned. People will experience the stages of grief differently.

She urged taking into account the age of the bereaved, the person’s relationship with the deceased, the circumstances of the loss, the degree of change experienced in day-to-day affairs, the type of support available, and how the grieving person has handled crisis in the past.

Grief takes time and hard work
Grief, she said, takes time—not just six weeks or six months or even a year. “Uncomplicated mourning” may last two to three years, she explained, and “complicated mourning” may span up to seven years. “Grief continues for a lifetime through major life milestones.”

Grief, Harris said, is hard work. But it’s also necessary in order to achieve a healthy perspective again, she added, comparing grief to the lifesaving but sometimes painful impact of an automobile airbag in a crash.

“Experiencing the pain will make you feel worse for a time. But you’ve got to go through the pain. There’s no way over, under, or around it.”

Churches face many options for ministering to grieving people.

Those who seek to comfort the bereaved should not attempt to apply stages of grief like an algebra formula. People will experience the stages of grief differently.

Harris concluded. ‘What’s not an option is to ignore this. When it’s not happening, people are sitting on pews grieving. Maybe they’re leaving the pews.”
Slow down and smell the dandelions

Our son, Ken, and his wife, Sherrie, and Alex, 2-1/2, came for a visit one summer evening a few years ago. We did the usual—talked, had some cold drinks, and watched Alex play with his toys. When he became restless, I offered to take him for a walk. Little did I know what I was to learn.

In front of the neighbor's house, I looked back to see Alex on all fours on the sidewalk. I joined him as we watched with fascination some industrious ants scurrying in and out of their little hole in the crack of the sidewalk, carrying bundles completely out of proportion to their bodies.

I simply hadn't taken the time to notice.

We moved on. A few doors down, a puppy, a golden retriever, got our attention. We inched up the driveway, making sure Teddy was tied up. We talked some dog language, and Alex patted him a few times. Teddy loved the attention, and he and Alex were reluctant to separate.

As we walked, Alex said, "Listen." I heard nothing. Then, sure enough, a plane appeared on the horizon. We watched with the attention, and he and Alex were reluctant to separate.

I looked back to see Alex on all fours on the sidewalk. I joined him as we watched with fascination some industrious ants scurrying in and out of their little hole in the crack of the sidewalk, carrying bundles completely out of proportion to their bodies.

I simply hadn't taken the time to notice.

God continually surrounds us with His gifts—nature, relationships, books, animals, and many more—"all for our enjoyment" (1 Timothy 6:17).

The danger is that our busy schedules and fast-paced living can keep us from enjoying what lies within our reach. An old song reminds us that "the best things in life are free." Take time to enjoy God's world. Nothing is more delightful.

Dr. Sidney Drazner is director of Paraklesis Ministries, an evangelical agency of clergy encouragement. A parakles is an advocate and intercessor, and the Greek term for Holy Spirit. You may e-mail Sid at paradoxes@iserv.net.

No—we're not there yet

by Justin Camenga

Those traveling to Conference from the East Coast or Midwest have a wonderful choice this year. It is possible to avoid the cramped confines of an airplane seat and use surface transportation.

The buffalo still roam, but they are difficult to see from 36,000 feet. Yellowstone Park, the Grand Canyon, the Badlands, the Rockies, Crystal Cave, Mount Rushmore, Route 66, Pioneer Village, and Wall Drug each have an ambiance impossible to appreciate at 50 mph. Interstate 80 offers more frequent diversions for young passengers, but I-90 has glorious scenery unchallenged by billboards. Rail transport runs through unspoiled wilderness that can be appreciated without the tension of traffic, road repairs, and detours. There's Greyhound bus, too, with its interesting passengers and backyard approach to America. For those with time constraints, the International Rose Test Garden, World Forestry Center, jet boat excursions on the Willamette River, Japanese Garden, Chinese Garden, Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI), Children's Museum, and riverboat tours.

Outside Portland, there's a rail route from Hood River Park to WildLife Safari, Timberline Lodge on Mount Hood with its mile-high Palmer chair lift, or the High Desert Museum. Those coming or going through the southern part of Oregon could visit Crater Lake, go white water rafting on the Rogue River, see the Oregon Caves National Monument, or a Shakespearean play in Ashland.

For more Oregon visitor information, check www.traveloregon.com or VisitOregonCoast.com.

Don't forget Washington state, with Mount St. Helens (www.mountsthelens-awesome.com) and other fascinating places. Those on the Web should explore Google, or contact your local AAA office.

Planners will find that there is still time to order materials from individual tourist sites. Conference goers who are more spontaneous will want to peruse the information Sue Camenga has collected for the Host Committee Exhibit Table.
One of the by-products of historical research is the unexpected hidden “pearl” found while exploring an entirely different area.

Such was the case a few months when an inquiry came from someone researching the life of Dr. Xenia Bond of Salem, W.Va. I was asked if there was an active SDB church in Chicago, Ill., and if there was any particular reason why Dr. Bond had traveled to Chicago for her medical training.

I surmised that during Xenia’s time in Chicago, there were two outstanding members of the Chicago church who might have encouraged her: Dr. George W. Post, a practicing physician in the “Windy City” who taught at the Illinois State Medical College, and Ira J. Ordway, a successful businessman.

The Sabbath Recorder reported that, “No inn in Chicago was so famous in the eyes of Seventh Day Baptists as the Ordway’s house, and the services which inns furnish for the benefit of a brotherhood of all man. She early had learned to look with sympathy upon the black man, her home being the last station in the underground railroad before reaching Oberlin where the runaway slaves would be carried by her grandfather under cover of the night.”

In 1869, she married Dr. John Townsend of Edgerton, Wis. At the time of the women’s movement, she was enthused with the idea of the brotherhood of all man.

“During the Civil War, her heart was enfused with the idea of the brotherhood of all man. She early had learned to look with sympathy upon the black man, her home being the last station in the underground railroad before reaching Oberlin where the runaway slaves would be carried by her grandfather under cover of the night.”

I was aware of Malvina Townsend’s name from my study of the SDB churches in Ohio. She was connected with the church at Holgate, Ohio, and was involved in the evangelistic quartets of the time. Seventh Day Baptists in Europe and America, Vol. III, listed her among the biographical sketches.

She was born in 1843, educated at Normal Bible School in Ohio, and graduated from Oberlin (Ohio) College. She was active in the Baptist and Methodist churches, was a gospel and temperance crusader, and served as an officer in the Women’s Christian Temperance Union (W.C.T.U.).

Malvina accepted the Sabbath through the witness of the Milton (Wis.) College evangelistic quartet. She joined the Chicago church in 1896 and was licensed to preach by both the Chicago and the Milton churches. She also did evangelistic work for the SDB Missionary Society.

The preamble and resolution of the Chicago SDB Church gave me a better understanding of her life and calling: “She became identified with temperance work at the age of 13. At age 15, she was arrested with fifteen others for helping demolish a bar-room in a tavern which was making a great deal of trouble in her home-town.

“During the Civil War, her heart was enfused with the idea of the brotherhood of all man. She early had learned to look with sympathy upon the black man, her home being the last station in the underground railroad before reaching Oberlin where the runaway slaves would be carried by her grandfather under cover of the night.”

In 1869, she married Dr. John Townsend of Edgerton, Wis. At the time of the women’s movement, she was first vice-president of the Women’s Temperance Crusade and quickly rose in office in the W.C.T.U. A newspaper, The Toledo Blade, reported:

“Mrs. Townsend is one of the most successful gospel temperance workers in the state, always showing such an earnest Christian spirit in all her work.”

―The Toledo Blade

An overlooked evangelist

One year ago—June 2002

Beacon editor Eosyn Driscoll coordinates a special youth issue on “Today’s Choices.” Articles come from Emily Kandel and Aaron Smith. Aurey Appel gives advice from a college freshman. Eosyn interviews her mother, Elizabeth Bowen Driscoll, about boundaries and consequences.

Churches featured on “Focus” page: Tulsa, Okla., and Pontotoc, Miss. The Shiloh, N.J., church breaks ground for a new parsonage; Little Genesee, N.Y., church prepares for their 175th anniversary celebration.

“Reconciling Broken Relationships”: Loy Steir shares the blessings of the latest ladies’ retreat of the Springfield, Mass., and New York City churches.

Five years ago—June 1998

Cover asks, “In Debt?” Then answers with the theme, “Get out of debt by following Godly Financial Principles.” SDBs Doreen Davis and Scott Hausrath share about their financial challenges and present biblical solutions. Mary Shupard presents four steps in dealing with finances in a godly way: Tithe, Train your Children, Be Debt Free, and Honor your Parents.

The Berlin, N.Y., church sponsors a sexual abstinence program including promises and commissioning of young people and church.

Other local church news items come from Miami, Fla., and Shiloh, N.J.

Rodney Henry named interim Executive Secretary in addition to Director of Pastoral Services position.

10 years ago—June 1993

Regular publication is pre-empted by special issue, “Seventh Day Baptists.” This full-color overview, first done in 1984 by editor Scott Smith for the 140th anniversary of the SDBT, is updated and released as a follow-up piece to send to those responding to the denominational documentary film, “A Choosing People—The Seventh Day Baptist Story.”

25 years ago—June 1978

Pastor Kenneth Burdick prepares the special “Sabbath Album” theme section. Writers include Ruth Burdick, Tom Merchant, Barbara Green, and George Bottoms. Following a series looking at SDB camps, the “SAJO Camp” (camp for Sabbathkeeping youth people) in the Dutch Conference is highlighted.

In April, the Chirst SDB Church of Little Rock, Ark., organizes with 15 charter members; Pastor Ken and Ruth Burdick officially assume pastorate of the North Jersey church; Rev. John Schmid marks 35th anniversary as pastor of the German-speaking SDB congregation in Irvington, N.J.

Rev. Marion Van Horn, Daytona Beach, Fla., announces his retirement, effective in October; Edward Sutton named assistant pastor at Salem, W.Va., working with Pastor Paul Green.

50 years ago—June 1953

Newly-ordained and appointed missionaries Rev. and Mrs. O.B. Bond set sail for Jamaica on June 5. A. Burdet Crofoot began his duties in the new office of Executive Secretary on May 1. His first task is to spearhead a campaign to raise the denominational budget. Pastor Joseph Alexander-Tyrrell ordained in British Guiana.

SDBEvangelist Malvina Townsend
EducatiingChristians.org

If you have not seen the Board of Christian Education website recently, I encourage you to visit it. Over the last year, we have added considerable information, tried to improve the aesthetics of the site, and worked to make navigation easier. Here are some of the things that you can find on the site (http://www.educatingchristians.org—)

Daily Bible Meditations
Each day, the Daily Bible Meditation page is updated. It contains that day’s Scripture reading, a link to the complete passage, and a brief paragraph or two to help you meditate on the text. From this page you can find a limited number of past and future Daily Bible Meditations. For those of you who would like a little assistance in reading ahead for your Sabbath School lessons, the Daily Bible Meditations are based on Scriptures that are part of the study portion of the text for next Sabbath’s Helping Hands lesson.

Nurture Series
Sample material from the Nurture Series is available on the website. The preliminary pages and first lessons from all of the Sabbath series can be seen now. Material from the Missions and Ministry series should be added soon.

Publications Information
Information about the books, brochures, and lesson materials the Board has had printed is available online. Also available is a printable order form that you can use to order material by phone, fax, or mail.

Scripture Memory Verses
Have you lost the Scripture Memory brochure that contains this year’s verses? Do you want to check your recollection of verses from previous years? Would you like to see which church has won the Mary G. Clare Scripture Memorization Bowl over the years? Do you know what the Scripture Memory Church Honor Roll is? Would you like your church to be listed? Answers to these and other questions about this program are available on the site.

Pre-Con Information
In season, you can find information about the Youth and Young Adult Pre-Cons. If you can’t find the May Sabbath Recorder and need a Pre-Con registration form, you can print out a copy from the website. We also try to have information about directors, themes, dates, and locations.

Collaborative Sections
While still in the experimental stages, the Board is working to add a collaborative section to the website. The hope for this section is that it will become a resource for things like references to good Young Adult Bible study materials, and a place to look for and share ideas about activities and games that are good for Christian camping.

We invite you to visit the site and to keep it in mind as a source of information about the Board of Christian Education’s purposes, programs, publications, and workshops.

Over the last year, we have added considerable information, tried to improve the aesthetics of the site, and worked to make navigation easier.

FOCUS on Missions
Disruptions in Rwanda

by Kirk Loopor

Nestled among the African nations of Burundi, Tanzania, Uganda, and the Congo, Rwanda is affected by its neighbors’ activities, both physical and political.

In the social arena, the continuing battles between the Hutus and Tutsis spill over the Uganda and Burundi borders, prolonging the unrest in Rwanda. The volcanic activities in the Congo disrupt the housing and crops of Rwanda as well, filtering into that country’s financial and social structure. It is a continuous battle to keep Rwanda in equilibrium.

These disruptions also carry over into their SDB churches. Some are trying to get started, while others are striving to develop into a working unit in God’s kingdom.

It took two years to come up with enough funds to purchase land and build meeting houses. Members of the General Conference of the USA and Canada sent a large sum of money to help our brothers and sisters in their development and building processes.

Last year, one volcano in the Congo disrupted this church-building movement. The upheaval sent seismic waves into Rwanda, toppling several of the buildings recently completed. Again, a call went out to help the churches that needed rebuilding.

Once the funds arrived, we immediately forwarded them to Rwanda.

Evangelist Amon (standing on the left in the Shyira church photo) travels 20 km from his house to help these people. He needs support as he is a full-time evangelist and does not have a “regular” job. In fact, many of the men in Rwanda have no means of support. What an evangelist or pastor does receive comes from the church families. And often, that is very little.

The accompanying photographs show only three of the Rwandan churches that were helped through individual or church giving in the United States and Canada. More churches are being planted in Rwanda, and the need for funds grows with them.

We praise God for leaders such as Pastor Elie Nduwambe. They are dedicated and ask for very little for themselves. Much of what they earn goes into the new church buildings and their congregations. The cadre of evangelists and pastors who are part of the work in Rwanda are in the same situation. I have seen many give their own food and money to someone in their congregation because of an illness or a dire need for nutrition. I pray that funds will continue to be available to help them in their work.

Funds from the U.S. bought this building for the Shyira SDB Church. The structure had to be converted into a hall large enough to accommodate church members.

The new Kanaama SDB Church still needs doors and windows, but its members are happy to have a proper shelter. Metal sheets currently protect the furniture inside the building.

The Nkulli SDB Church, a group of 50 members, prays for the $600 they received to help buy land and provide a roof for their building.
To Christian school, or not to Christian school?

by Ewovn Driscoll

This whole last year has seen me getting ready for college in the fall, and trying to find the school which would be best suited to me. In the end, I applied to two: Houghton College, a Christian school in rural southwestern New York state; and Southampton College, which is a secular school in the Hamptons, on Long Island, N.Y.

Both schools have their merits, especially in specific majors. Houghton is a great school for music, with its conservatory growing and becoming more well known every year. It is also a great school for Pre-Seminary and Pre-Med. Southampton is known for its fine arts and Marine Biology programs, but also has a phenomenal English program where many of the faculty members are published authors from the community.

While making my decision, I was faced with the inevitable question from my friends, "Why would you want to go to a Christian school?" And the people at the first-day church near where I live said, "You shouldn't go to a secular school." What a girl to do?

I knew that if I were to go to Houghton, it would be with the intent of studying music. And if I went to Southampton, it would be to study English and put music off until graduate school.

In the end, I choose Southampton, not because I wanted to get away from my walk with Christ—as one person assumed after I announced my decision—but because I believe that if I make Christian friends, I will be more able to function as a Christian in society. If all I am ever exposed to are believers, what will I do when I meet a nonbeliever? Run away and cry?

As Christians, we are called to witness to others. But how am I supposed to do that if everyone I am always with is a Christian? It is too easy not to be a witness when you have no one in your immediate vicinity to witness to. However, if you are constantly faced with the choice of acting like a Christian or denying your faith, you are continually renewing and strengthening your resolve to be a Christian and behave in a Christ-like manner.

And what's the moral of my story? When you choose a school, don't discredit either Christian or secular schools immediately. Look into what programs they offer and how you can build your faith by joining organizations like campus Crusade for Christ or a Bible study group. Think about all of the merits of the school as well as your walk with Christ when you make your decision.

Next month, my high school graduating class will hold its 40th reunion. I keep wondering how that can be since I'm only 29. I graduated from Milton (Wis.) Union High School in 1963. People tease me when they learn we had only 64 graduates, but I always thought that was "neat." You got to know everyone in class.

Many of my classmates went all the way back to grade school—a rarity in today's mobile society. Alan Crouch and I started out in kindergarten, went through Milton Union together, and ended up fellow students at Milton College. Al was an excellent athlete, an exceptional student, and an all-around nice guy. I wasn't a Seventh Day Baptist then, but I knew that Al was.

Whenever sports or anything else interfered with Al's Sabbath observance, the Sabbath eventually won out. He played high school football, and lettered in both baseball and basketball. I remember that he was a good basketball player who gave up Friday night games. "He never found out how good he could have been," Al's dad, Herb, once remarked.

An article in the November 4, 1969, Salisbury Recorder confirmed my observations about my childhood friend:

"Scholar, sportsman, leader among his classmates, dedicated Christian—these adjectives describe Alan Crouch of Milton, choir, and both of us were charter members of a select, 22-voice chorus called "The Keynotes." After graduating from Milton College, Al and I parted ways. I stayed in the area and worked as a newspaper reporter prior to marrying and moving to Minnesota. Al continued his studies, attending Crozer Theological Seminary in Chester, Pa., for two years before graduating from New Brunswick (N.J.) Theological Semi-

Al and I started out in kindergarten, went through Milton Union together, and ended up fellow students at Milton College.
"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus..."
—Colossians 3:17

The Conference theme "I am in Christ" means that the Lord expects us to be His ambassadors here on earth. Recent events in the Shiloh, N.J., church serve as examples of living in Christ.—President George Cruzan

LEARNING TO SHARE THEIR RICHES!

The Whirlybirds, a Friday night youth group (pictured left), made a lap quilt for my mother, Helen Cruzan. She was in rehab after fracturing a bone in her hip.

The Whirlybirds were studying the parables of Jesus. The first parable was about the rich farmer who built bigger barns to hold all his riches and then died in the night. They began the quilt project of sharing their riches by making fabric squares and putting them into blocks. They found creativity, time, and fabric in abundance to share with someone else.

The next parable was the rich young man who asked Jesus what he must do to be saved. Jesus told him he had to give up what he had and follow Him, and the man went away sad for he had great riches. Jesus said it was easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to get into heaven. They began to tie the quilt together with needles, learning what it means to go through the eye of a needle.

The last story was about the vineyard keeper who paid his workers the same whether they came early or late. When the quilt was finished, a picture was taken of all of the Whirlybirds who worked on it. Some worked only one week, while others worked all three weeks—but they all got credit for doing it.

Lora Harris celebrated her 102nd birthday on March 14 and was presented with a red rose for each year. True to her spirit of caring and sharing, she gave everyone there a rose!

NEW DEACONS
Pastor Don Chroniger reads to Sandy Layton, Elizabeth Bidwell, Bill Probisco, and Ron Campbell as they begin a new phase of living in Christ as members of the diaconate.

102 ROSES FOR 102 YEARS
Lora Harris celebrated her 102nd birthday on March 14 and was presented with a red rose for each year. True to her spirit of caring and sharing, she gave everyone there a rose!

GIVE TO THOSE WHO GAVE SO MUCH!

PASTORS:
Leroy C. Bass  C. Rex Burdick  David S. Clarke  John A. Conrod
Leland E. Davis  Elmo Fitz Randolph  Ralph L. Hays Sr.
Melvin G. Nida  David C. Pearson  Donald E. Richards
Don A. Sanford  Victor W. Skaggs  Trevah R. Sutton
Kenneth B. Van Horn  Edgar E. Wheeler

OTHER RETIREES:
Ida Babcock  Margaret S. Bond  Mabel Cruzan
Ethel D. Dickinson Clarke  Esther Lewis
Beatrice D. Hibbard  Jean D. McAllister
Janette Rogers  Lila S. Saunders
Rowena R. Van Horn
Ethel M. Wheeler
Jaunita Zwiebel

Pastors Retirement Offering Project
Contributions are needed for continuing support of SDB retired pastors and denominational workers, and surviving spouses of pastors.

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Please send your check to: PROP
Seventh Day Baptist Center, P.O. Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547-1678

June 2003
Osborns minister in Morocco

by Jayme Osborn

In the northwestern corner of the African continent lies a small country approximately the size of California. Morocco is only eight miles from the southernmost tip of Spain, right across the Strait of Gibraltar. Once part of the Phoenician, Carthaginian, Roman, Vandal, and Byzantine Empires—and at one time home to the pirates of the Barbary Coast—Morocco has played its part in history. This fascinating country is made up of steep Mediterranean cliffs, a long stretch of Atlantic coastline, three major mountain ranges, and part of the Sahara Desert.

The people are equally as varied and fascinating as the land. They are the descendants of the original inhabitants of Northern Africa, the Berbers, also known as the Moors. The Romans called them the Barbarians or the Mauries because they lived in an area once known as Mauritania. They are a proud, fierce people who have fought to remain independent and true to their own culture. Made up of many tribes, they speak several different dialects and have distinct apparel. In the 7th century, Morocco was invaded by the Arabs and Islam. All those who were Christians or Jews were forced to wear a type of dress to show allegiance to the new religion.

Many shed their blood as a result. My husband, Tim, and I and our five children just returned from a month-long trip to Morocco. We visited the cities of Rabat, Casablanca, Melknes, Fes, Azrou, and Ain Leuh. Most of our time was spent volunteering at an orphanage outside of Ain Leuh. Traveling by plane to Spain, we took a ferry across the Strait of Gibraltar and then rode a train or taxi to the different cities where we did a lot of walking.

The people we met were friendly, kind, and welcoming. Traveling with an infant was difficult at times, but it opened many doors to relate to the Moroccans. In their culture, people are very family oriented. The countryside was awash with orange and purple wildflowers, and fields of yellow daisies. There were olive groves and grain fields all along the highways and train tracks. Stun­ning mountain views of green countryside dotted by small flocks of sheep and donkeys were everywhere.

In Morocco, the old mixes with the new. The older parts of each city, called the “medina,” have been preserved, thanks to the French. During their occupation, they protected the original walls and buildings of the cities and erected newer structures some distance from the medinas. Brand new cars travel alongside donkey carts. People wear Western clothes mingle with those wearing jallabas, the common robe-type overdress worn by both men and women. There are supermarkets and the more common “souk” or outdoor market.

We really enjoyed our time in Morocco and hope to return. Through the experience, God taught us more about ourselves and more about Himself. When we were leaving Tangier, I wondered why God had chosen me to go overseas. I had felt inadequate to cope with the many changes required to do mission work. God answered my question: “God has saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity” (2 Timothy 1:9). This Bible verse has really ministered to me. I’m so glad that He’s God!

From the Dodge Center, Minn., SDB Church’s Joyful Newsletter.

Lawson simply outstanding

Nathanael Lawton, son of the Rev. Gordon and Linda Lawton of Little Genesee, N.Y., was elected by the faculty as the 2003 Outstanding Senior at the School of Ceramic Engineering and Materials Science at Alfred (N.Y.) University. The school is a division of the New York State College of Ceramics, a statutory unit of the SUNY system.

In addition to this honor, Nathanael was one of four stu­dents at Alfred to receive the New York State Chancellor’s Award for Academic Excellence. He was also named Alfred University’s Outstanding Senior Male by the AU Alumni Council and selected to speak at the school’s commencement services on May 17.

All of these accomplishments follow a serious car accident in the winter of 2001. After a hospital stay, Lawton caught up with school work in the next few months, but admits that it took about a year for him to feel “back to normal.”

Earlier this year, he missed more than a month of school while traveling to Australia (helping to set up a Summer Christian Service Corps program) and Brazil (serving as a U.S. delegate to the SDB World Federation meetings). He still managed to earn a 3.95 GPA and was a National Merit Scholar.

While at Alfred, Nathanael was a tutor, mentor, and teaching assistant, a Writing Center tutor, member of the Student Senate, and a member of the Science Fiction Club. He also participated in cross-country, indoor and outdoor track, the AU Folk Dance group, and the AU Chamber Singers.

Nathanael served with SCSC for three summers and has been an assistant parliamentary at General Conference. Congratulations, Nathanael!
General Conference is August 3-9 at George Fox University, Newberg, Ore.

Transportation pick-up service for Conference begins at 6:00 a.m. on Sunday, August 3. If arriving earlier, there are local motels available for individuals to arrange until the 6:00 a.m. time.

Transportation will be arranged to George Fox University from:
- The Portland Amtrak Station
- The Portland Greyhound Station

There is no Greyhound service into Newberg on Sunday or Wednesday. Bus service is available all other days, if needed.

There will be an SDB contact person in the airport baggage area throughout the day on Sunday. When you arrive, see this person for travel arrangements.

Please contact Ruth Burdick by e-mail (ruthburd@yahoo.com) or phone her at (965) 333-1195 to verify transportation plans or on the registration form. Forms are in the May SW.

Schwang—A son, Zane Thomas Schwang, was born to Jeff and Andrea (Williams) Schwang of Lincoln, NE, on March 30, 2003.

Bloom—Placke—Paul “Ed” Bloom and Neoma Placke were united in marriage on March 16, 2003, at the North Loup, NE, Seventh Day Baptist Church, with Pastor Christian Matteson officiating.

Cushman—Matteson—Paul Cushman, 84, our church organist, and Margarette Matteson, our Sabbath School superintendent, were united in marriage on April 27, 2003, in Bradenton Beach, FL, with Pastor S. Kenneth Davis officiating.

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New members

New York City, NY
Joined after baptism Rodrick Afflick Reine Afflick Samuel Bonnet Theresa Cole Lorna Coleman Lucy Olen Robert Hall Lloyd Hawthorne Krozie May Maria Phily Marcy Roy Violet Scott Shannon Simpson Margaret Taylor Tamiko Watkins

Current Giving Budget for 2003 $387,432.60

Current Giving for Year short $28,558.46

Calvin P Babcock, Treasurer

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Lewis—Helen (Martin) Lewis, 88, of Florissant, Mo., formerly of Carrier Mills, Ill., died on February 1, 2003, at NHC Healthcare Center in Marilyn Heights, Mo. She was born in Carrier Mills on March 1, 1914, the daughter of James and Ethel (Lebo) Martin. In 1937, she married Leland Lewis, who was a lifelong Seventh Day Baptist and a deacon in the Stonefort, Ill., SDB Church. He died on September 13, 1999.

Helen was the retired owner of the Lewis Delicatessen in St. Louis, Mo.

Survivors include two daughters, Carole Kramer of Oakland, Mo., and Patricia Rowberry of Florissant; one son, Leland Lewis Jr. of West County, Mo.; 11 grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by four brothers and three sisters.

A memorial service was held on April 17, 2003, in the Stonefort SDB Church, with Rev. Jon F. Warren officiating. Internment was at the Salem Cemetery in Carrier Mills.

Samuels—Enunice Sarah Ann Justina (Haughton) Samuels, 71, of Philadelphia, Pa., died on February 20, 2003, at Ambler (Pa.) Rest Center.

She was born on April 6, 1931, in the parish of Hanover on the island of Jamaica, West Indies, the daughter of Thomas and Miriam Haughton. She attended Cacoon Castle School before moving to Kingston, Jamaica, where she pursued a nursing career. On September 27, 1961, she married Benjamin Samuels, and together they raised seven children.

After receiving Jesus Christ as her personal Savior, she was baptized in 1966 and became an active member of the Mountain View Seventh Day Baptist Church. In 1983, Enunice migrated to Philadelphia and became involved in the Hope SDB Church, where she was ordained a deaconess in 1985.

She continued her nursing career and worked at several nursing homes in the Philadelphia area. Due to declining health, she retired in 1995 and was confined to a nursing home herself, battling physical illnesses until the Lord called her home.

In addition to her husband, Benjamin, survivors include three sons, Hugh of Upper Marlboro, Md., Patrick of Philadelphia, and Andrew of Miramar, Fla.; three daughters, Janice of Philadelphia, Seanette of Roslyn, Pa., and Wendy of Tarmarac, Fla.; two brothers and four sisters, all in Jamaica; nine grandchildren, one great-grandchild, and many other relatives and friends.

A memorial service was held in Warminster, Pa., with Revs. Kenroy Cruickshank and Joe Samuels officiating. A subsequent funeral service was held in Hanover with multiple clergy officiating. Burial was in the family plot in Hanover.


She was born in Boulder, Colo., on March 27, 2003, at Greenbrook Manor Nursing & Rehabilitation Center in Green Brook, N.J., where she pursued a nursing career. On February 14, 1914, the daughter of Lewis Clark and Adeline (Dill) Samuels, was born to Lewis Eugene, of Thornton, Colo.; five sisters, Junita Lucie and Dorothy Lucie, both of Ventura, Cali.; Shirley Cruzan and Ruth Cruzan, both of White Cloud, Mich., and Barbara White of Lakewood, Colo.; one brother, LeRoy Davis of La Junta, Colo., and two grandchildren. She was preceded in death by one brother, Duane Davis, and two infant daughters.

Services were held at the Boulder SDB Church on March 25, 2003, Rev. David Thorngate and Rev. Robert Harris, Marilyn’s son-in-law, officiated. Burial was at Mountain View Memorial Park in Boulder.

Armstrong—Margret S. Armstrong, 87, of Middlesex, N.J., died on March 27, 2003, at Greenwood Manor Nursing & Rehabilitation Center in Green Brook, N.J.

She was born in Niles, Ohio, on February 14, 1916, to Daniel and Cora (Schneider) Steeman. Margret married William W. Armstrong in Brooklyn, N.Y., in 1930, the couple moved to Middlesex, where they raised their three children.

Margret was a member of the Plainfield (N.J.) Seventh Day Baptist Church, where she served many years as trustee, member of the Fellowship (Nurture) Committee, and president of the Women’s Society. She regularly brought flowers on Sabbath which she arranged herself for the sanctuary. She was well known for her gifts of homemade jellies and quilts.

In recent years, she was active in the Raritan Valley SDB Church in Bridgewater, N.J., serving on its Fellowship and Publicity Committees while maintaining her membership in Plainfield.

Through her participation in local gardening clubs, Margret gave almost 3,500 hours over 21 years as a volun...
Overlooked evangelist, cont. from page 14

ary work because of other aspects of her life. Rev. S.L. Maxson—pastor of the Walworth, Wis., SDB Church, principal of the Albion (Wis.) Academy, and later the first president of Salem (Va.) College—wrote:

To any of my brethren pastors, to any church or community to whom this document may come, permit me to say: Our sister, M.G. Townsend, came into the Walworth church as an evangelist and has labored for nearly five weeks. During these days of anxious service, she displayed great power in the preaching of the gospel, a most remarkable knowledge of the Word of God, and great tact in personal work in the community.

“She had spiritual affections and her intense love for souls, coupled with her extensive experience, have placed her command over abilities for building up the Master’s cause in the world.”

“As a result, her hearty sympathies, coupled with her keen perceptions as to the surroundings, commended her as an efficient and worthy helper to any pastor or society that may need evangelistic assistance.”

The fact that Malvina was licensed by the Milton church sent me to its register. There I found that the names Mrs. M.G. Townsend, and Esther and Peter Townsend, were added to the membership in 1900. The July 8, 1901 Sabbath Recorder lists three quartets in the mission field—two of young men and the other of young women, the latter working with Mrs. Townsend. A later roster of the quartets lists Malvina’s daughter, Esther Townsend, and Mrs. Meta Babcock, Miss Ella Babcock, and Miss Alice Clarke as members.

In the April 17, 1900 issue of the Recorder, Evangelist Townsend summarized some of her ministry:

“I have worked in five different states; have delivered one hundred and sixty-four sermons, twenty-six on Sabbath Reform, twenty-one on denominational interests; have made forty-six addresses to Y.M.C.A. Associations, Christian Endeavor Societies, Sabbath Schools, and Temperance meetings; have made one thousand two hundred and seven calls; organized two Ladies’ Benevolent Societies, two Junior Endeavor Societies, and strengthened and encouraged many others; have held one hundred and twenty-six cottage prayer meetings; distributed—through mail and personally—174,721 pages of tracts, three hundred and sixty-two copies of the Sabbath of Christ, and four hundred and seventy-four copies of The Recorder; and have held twenty-three Bible Readings on the Sabbath, and two Bible Institutes of eight days each.”

Reporting on the work at New Auburn, Minn., she once wrote:

“Last night I spoke upon the ‘Sabbath of the Bible and how it came to me,’ previously announcing it, and the house was crowded, adding chairs to accommodate those who came. By remarks from persons belonging to no church and from First-day people also, I know it was well received, and the truth, and the church that it stands for in this place, was helped and honored, giving to God the glory.

“We have all stood the work finely. I have preached every night and twice every Sabbath but one. Elder Socwell preached one Sabbath morning, and it now lacks two days of five weeks.

“We shall go to Cartwright, Wis., from here, and stay as long as we can before I go to Marion. If the work demands it, I shall stay at Cartwright until the quarter has to go home for school, and not go to Marion.”


neighbors are watching

Since moving to Janesville in ‘89, we had done most of our banking at one place.

Then came the competitor’s “promotion.” Like other banks, they offered a free check account, but they sweetened the deal with a special gift: a crisp new $20 bill. I thought I could find some use for the cash, so I gave them my business, figuring that I’d spend the money and cancel the account in a few months.

As I filled out the paperwork, I noticed that the tellers seemed more pleasant and friendly than at our usual place. Must be they really want my business, I figured, so I gave them some tips on the charms.

My checkbook didn’t get much use for awhile, but whenever I visited my new bank, I felt welcomed and cared for.

It didn’t take too long before Janet opened her own separate account there, followed by our joint account. The tellers really were more pleasant and friendly, and we got to know each other on a first-name basis. We’ve been there for several years now.

As someone behind the glass greeted me on a drive-thru visit, one of our boys asked, “Dad, they KNOW you here?” You bet. Joyce comes to the Milton church’s youth group, Janet never,” Janet finally convinced you to move to Milton.

Another neighbor up the street was really bothered. She had spent a couple of hours with Jan the day before we headed south, saw the sign, and shared a circle of school-mom friends that “Janet never mentioned a word about moving!”

Well, it was either a prank or some realtor’s mistake, because by the time we got back home, the sign was gone—but a good-sized hole in the ground substantiated our friends’ stories.

This kind of “hammered home” the realization that our neighbors and acquaintances really do watch what we do.

How is your witness? Is it of good report? They’re watchin’ you.

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The Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education produces a variety of publications for use in our local churches. One of them is:

The Sabbath Visitor is a weekly bulletin page covered with pictures, words, and games that will keep children occupied as simple biblical themes are presented and repeated.

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