

# Conference Crier

Tuesday, August 07, 2001 \* Bethany College, Lindsborg, Kansas

## The Amazing Pastor Andrew Gives Us Some Amazing News

Did you know that God has “erased the tape” on all of our mistakes? Just like President Nixon’s secretary *lost* 18 minutes of conversation, God can make 18 times 18 times 18 ... of our sins disappear. Well, as Pastor Andy, from the Miami, Florida church, used Psalms 25:1-7 to give us examples of *Try God-Salvation* and we were blessed with a totally interactive worship service.

From the participatory scripture reading to the praise service which were both led by Pastor Eric Davis of Riverside, California the congregation was kept involved and responding. There were many illustrations of the need for salvation and just how many people can be affected by one person’s conversion.

We were truly blessed by the variety of the music at the Monday night service: the praise songs with Pastor

David, Christina, Josh and Ben, the trio of angels, a.k.a. The Reynolds Sisters, the Conference Choir with their madrigal and contemporary pieces augmented with an instrumental by John Rasmussen and the awesome organ prelude and postlude by Brett Greene.

After all is said and done what all of us need to focus on is that it’s 100 % God’s efforts that brings us eternal life, both here on earth and in heaven.

## Bullish on Ministry in a Bear Market

The Seventh Day Baptist Memorial Fund Trustees reported this morning that although the nation is going through a “bear market” they continue to be “bullish” on the various ministries of Seventh Day Baptists.

The board reported that they were excited about four programs that they

have been working through during the past year.

The first was the *Million Dollar Project* in which Memorial Funds are used to match local church investments in outreach projects. Highlighting projects in Milton, Wisconsin and Berlin, New York, the board reminded other projects to report on their progress so that their

successes can be passed on to other churches.

The second project was the Ministry Staff Assistant Program which assists local churches in efforts to employ associate, assistant, or youth pastors.

Third, the board pointed to their *Spiritual Leadership Training Program*, which this year has focused on

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## Cast Your Burdens Upon the Lord... and Leave Them There!

By Patrick London, First SDB Church of Toronto, Canada

The question, "Why Try God?" is a question which has been and will be asked as the week progresses. This questions helps to give us a better understanding of how we must live our lives for Christ.

This morning's Bible study dealt with this issue as one of our senior Pastors, Herlitz Condison led in a study of this topic. He explained that *trying* God means to put God to the test by asking Him to take charge of our lives. His first step that illustrated this task was:

### **We must know God.**

Individuals may claim that they know God by telling others but do they really know our Lord and Savior. We must plan our time for God each day so that we can spend time with Him in order to begin, establish, or strengthen our relationship. In spending time with God, do we just make our request known to God and get up and leave or do we make our request known and then sit and listen to what the Lord has to say? We must listen to God. Our first priority is to know God and seek Him in every way possible.

Secondly, **We must trust Him.** If we do not

know the Lord we cannot trust Him. God is an infinite being, we cannot understand who God is, and we might think we should but we cannot because we are finite beings. God is all knowing and He knows what is best for us. God is sovereign and He is perfect in his love. In the world we may have troubles but we should trust in Him (*Romans 8:28*) and God will work it out for our good and His glory.

### Thirdly, **We must give up our control over our lives and give it to God.**

Many do not like it when others tell them what to do, sometimes not even God. We must give up our control over our lives and let God fulfill his plan for our life. Our entire lives are in Gods hands (*Phil 4:13*). No matter the environment we find ourselves in, God is always there (*Isaiah 35:4*).

Finally, **We must cry out to God.** When crying out to God we do not have to impress God through our words because He knows what we need before we even ask of it. Look at Peter when he walked on the water and he began to sink, he did not use fancy words. He simply cried out, "Lord save me!" A cry is a plea for mercy. Do we cry out to God when a problem comes or is

He our last resort? God should be first; we must go to Him first in everything. It is important to cry out to Him because He hears and He looks at our hearts. When God is for us, who can be against us?

We must glorify God and praise Him wholeheartedly because He loves us. He is faithful in His word and unchanging. We must read Gods word, feed on it, and try God.

## **Bullish**

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the training modules used in the Summer Christian Service Corp's year round training program. Those modules included a study of *The Pursuit of God* (A.W. Tozer), and modules on experiencing God, SDB History and Polity, and Christian Education. A new module for SCSC training on the Sabbath is also being produced.

Finally, the board expressed appreciation for those who have recently ended their service: Steve Pierce, Dale Green, Stanley Alan and Richard Shepard.

## Tuesday Has Been Camp Harley Sutton Day

Once again, you may have seen several people walking around campus wearing their Camp Harley Sutton t-shirts. It has become a tradition to set aside one day during Conference for those who have been associated with the Allegheny Association's Camp Harley Sutton to show their involvement in the camping program as a staff member, camper, volunteer

carpenter and others who have an interest in the camping program.

This year's shirts announce that there have been 50 years of continued Christian service to western New York, Pennsylvania and Ontario, Canada. Fifty years ago, Dr. and Mrs. H.O. Burdick of Alfred, New York donated land to the association for their use in camping for young people.

The camp was named for Rev. Harley Sutton who was instrumental in camping programs in several areas of our denomination. He and Rev. Elmo Randolph directed the first Pre-Con held in Battle Creek, Michigan.

Pastor Ken Chroniger has t-shirts for sale, if you are interested in showing your support of this worthwhile program.

## Council on Ministry Reports on a Year of Progress

"The Lord has blessed us with willing servants," said Director Gabriel Bejjani, as he opened the report of the Council on Ministry.

Bejjani said that one of the highlights of the year had been the Pastor's Conference, held this spring at the Alfred Station SDB Church. He expressed his gratitude to the church and to Pastor Ken Chroniger for a

very well organized and loving job of hosting. He also announced that the pastors have accepted an invitation to meet for their next conference in Daytona Beach, Florida in the spring of 2003.

On the platform with Bejjani were Training In Ministry and Education (TIME) students Ron Pierson, Paul Andres and

Kory Geske. New seminary students Joanne Kandel and John Pethel also joined him as well as new doctor of ministry student, Pastor Jerry Johnson.

Other seminary students in the COM's program include Pastors Herlitz Condison of Toronto, Canada and D. Scott Smith of Ashaway, Rhode Island.

# Come to Brazil

Wednesday, 10:00 AM -- The Historical Background and New Project  
 Wednesday, 1:00 PM -- Visit the Churches and World Federation Plans  
 Repeat of both programs (excerpts) for questions and discussion, 9:00 PM  
**ALL PROGRAMS IN THE CHAPEL**

## Trying to Stay Out of Trouble

By Aubrey Appel

Temptation is not something that we think of very often. It is not pleasant to think of ourselves as being easily provoked by Satan whom we consider somewhat inferior. But the real story is that every one of us deals with temptation on a daily basis and it is not something that we can ignore in our walk with Christ.

During Young Adult Pre-Con, Pastor George Calhoun challenged us to take a closer look at the temptation in each of our lives. His theme for Pre-Con was “Lead Me Not into Temptation, I Can Find it Myself.” You may be sitting and reading this, with a smirk on your face, thinking, “Ha! Temptation is for the weak Christians and I don’t have problems like that.” Well, think again there buddy because it says in the Bible that everyone is tempted. Even Jesus was tempted in the desert. First, let me just clarify this super important point; Temptation is not sin. I know it sounds crazy, but it’s for real. Temptation only becomes sin once we act upon it. As Christians, it is important to realize that our

goal in life is not salvation. Salvation comes as a free gift once we accept Christ into our lives, and just like it says in 1 John 1:9, He purifies us and cleanses us from all unrighteousness.

Romans 6:16-18 says, “Don’t you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.” In Christ, we are no longer slaves to sin and death, but we have been set free and are called to live in righteousness—our goal is to live like Jesus! Can I get an Amen?

Pastor George also talked about recognizing temptation in our lives. He went on to teach us that once we discover temptation, we need to take responsibility for it instead of making excuses for our sins. “It’s because of where I grew up. It’s the way

my family is. It’s my genetic makeup.” These are all lame excuses for the sin in our lives that we do not want to take responsibility for.

Next, when we have discovered temptation in our lives and taken responsibility for it, we must get rid of it. Pastor George used a weed analogy. You cannot just chop off the head of a dandelion and expect it to die. The weed will grow back stronger until you remove the entire plant—roots and all. Now temptation is tough stuff to deal with. But we have to remember that we are not alone. God is totally on our side fighting with us. It says in 1 Corinthians 10:12-13, “So if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall! No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. **And God is faithful**; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.” With God’s strength and love, we can fight temptation and live the calling we have as people once in darkness, but now as children of the light.