

Seventh Day Baptist General Conference 2001

Conference Crier

Wednesday, August 08, 2001 * Bethany College, Lindsborg, Kansas

“Try God—Following and Teaching”

By Donna Bond

Good ol' SDB music—a reverent organ/trombone prelude; a series of praise songs accompanied by guitars, harmonica and piano; an uplifting choir anthem; and Kristen Camenga's soaring soprano solo, “*Here Comes a Miracle*”, set the stage for the Tuesday evening worship service. These musical renditions were coordinated by Rev. David Thorngate and Rev. L.B. Lee and were interspersed with prayer for the denomination, an opportunity to greet one another and the reading of the theme scripture, Psalm 25:4-5 and 8-9.

Picking up on the theme of Mrs. Camenga's solo, Rev. Rod Henry prayed for a miracle and summarized his message by saying that, unlike earthly fathers, our heavenly Father has the answers and He desires to reveal them to us.

David wrote Psalm 25 during a time of personal

crisis. He pleaded with God first to “show me your ways” in order to have an intimate relationship with God. God's ways are too high for human scientific discovery, but because of grace and mercy, revelation from God is possible.

Second, David asked God to “teach me your paths.” Rev. Henry used a comparison with earthly paths. Perfect intersecting sidewalks can be blocked out in cement, but paths are made where people actually walk; usually the shortest distance between two points. A path is not a path until it has been walked on repeatedly. Similarly, walking on God's paths becomes a life-long process.

Finally, David asked God to “guide me in your truth.” Modern thinking tells us that anything we believe is true simply because we believe it. However, God's truth revealed in His Word is absolute Truth.

Rev. Henry compared being guided by God with marching for a military drill instructor. The new recruit's responsibilities are to: 1) Keep his eyes straight ahead, trusting the instructor to know where the group is going, 2) listen to his *own* sergeant, not someone else's, and 3) do *exactly* as he is told until it becomes a habit. (It was also noted that the process is not always pleasant.)

“If you are in crisis tonight,” Rev. Henry urged, “you need to pray David's prayer, for Hope is in God our Savior.”

In his closing remarks, Rev. L.B. Lee made a

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Take note, iron-nerved, diaper-toting, tray-juggling young parents:

Your efforts will be rewarded when you observe your adult offspring taking responsible leadership roles in Conferences of the future!

*Been There, Done That,
Hang in There.*

New Churches and New Training Efforts

Mark Missionary Society Report

The *Stained Glass* singing group lead off the 2001 Missionary Society report with a rendition of *Amazing Grace*. Why? Because the group had been sponsored for a concert in Portland, Oregon by both the Portland church and the Vancouver, Washington SDB Church. The Missionary Society's role was in supplementing local dollars so that a concentrated effort could be put into radio, TV and print media advertising.

The result? Two small SDB churches were able to host a concert that drew

200 people from the surrounding communities. Hopefully this will be the beginning of an ongoing urban outreach effort.

Missionary Society Executive Kirk Looper and Outreach Pastor Ron Elston reported that 10 new branch churches have been established since last year's Conference sessions and that 12 new groups are in the process of forming.

They also reported on a new program, the Church Planters Training School which this year held its first session in Old Stone Fort, Illinois,

graduating six students from its first class. Plans are for more of these sessions perhaps one in the spring and fall.

Following and Teaching

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comparison between Moses removing his shoes on holy ground and our laying aside our own "issues" to come to God. He then gave an opportunity for the congregation members to express a desire to commit to Jesus.

Ministry Opportunity

Are you sensing that you may be called to serve God in a non-traditional ministry role? The Riverside Seventh Day Baptist Church is seeking applicants for a Director of Christian Education. The purpose of this position is to help children, youth and families fall in love with Jesus Christ. Please note that the position will not be open until August 1, 2002. To obtain a job description and send a resume, please contact the Riverside SDB Church at 5901 Chicago Ave., Riverside, CA 92506 or call (909) 686-0545.

YA Bible Study Clarifications

By Aubrey Appel

Young Adult Bible study meets at 12:30 in the second floor lobby of Anna Marm. The group is led by Nick Kersten, and has been studying on the Conference theme of "Trying God". Monday we discussed 1 Kings 18:16-40, the story of

Elijah and the 450 prophets of Baal battling it out on Mount Carmel.

Tuesday we talked about Gideon's call to free Israel from the Midianites in Judges 6:1-24. Gideon's response to God's calling is very similar to our feelings of inadequacy and

fear. But God knows we are ready to be used and we need to make ourselves useful for His work.

Nick's Bible studies rock, so if you are ready to learn how to try God by putting your faith and trust in Him, please come and join us.