

# **SR** The Sabbath RECORDER

January 2007

*News for and about Seventh Day Baptists*

Still  
'on the fence'

about

Missions?



## 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 Christ Jesus.
- 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 our Lord. It is the joy of the Sabbath that makes SDBs just a little bit different.

For more information, write: The Seventh Day Baptist Center, 3120 Kennedy Road, PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547-1678. Phone (608) 752-5055; FAX (608) 752-7711; E-mail: [sdbgen@seventhdaybaptist.org](mailto:sdbgen@seventhdaybaptist.org) and the SDB Web site: [www.seventhdaybaptist.org](http://www.seventhdaybaptist.org)

Another **medical mission trip** to Guyana is tentatively planned for August 9-21, 2007. If you are an SDB with medical skills, contact either Ron and Christine Davis (phone 765-649-0540) or [rcdavis16@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rcdavis16@sbcglobal.net); or Perry and Amanda Barbee (814-766-4585) or [pwbarbee@hotmail.com](mailto:pwbarbee@hotmail.com)

## SDBs appear in new Baptist anthology

\* \* \*

*A Baptist River*, a new anthology edited by W. Glenn Jonas, professor of religion at Campbell University (North Carolina), includes a chapter on Seventh Day Baptists written by historian emeritus Rev. Don A. Sanford.

The volume, printed by Mercer University Press, includes summary chapters on many of the different strands of the Baptist tradition, including American Baptists, Southern Baptists, and the National Baptists. The book begins with a summary of the beliefs all Baptists share, followed by descriptions of the distinctive beliefs of each tradition. Rev. Sanford's chapter covers SDB theology and beliefs, highlighting our strong emphasis on missions and education, as well as our history of ecumenicity.

For more information, or to order, go to the Mercer University Press website, [www.mupress.org](http://www.mupress.org). Click on "Books," then "New Releases." Or call (800) 637-2378, ext. 2880.

## Missionary Society Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the members of the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society will be held at the Pawcatuck SDB Meeting House, 120 Main St., Westerly, R.I., on Sunday, March 18, 2007, at 2:00 p.m. for the following purposes:

- To elect voting members, a Board of Managers, and officers to hold office until the next annual meeting and until their successors are elected.
- To hear and act upon the reports of the Board of Managers and officers for the fiscal year January 1, 2006, to December 31, 2006.
- To ratify the appointment of independent public accountants for the current fiscal year.
- To consider and act upon such other matters as may properly come before said meeting or any adjournment thereof.

The Board of Managers has fixed the close of business on February 28, 2007, as the time at which members entitled to notice thereof and to vote at the meeting and any adjournment thereof shall be determined.

—Cindy L. Nadeau  
Secretary



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**Kevin Butler**  
Editor

editor@seventhdaybaptist.org

**Leanne Lippincott-Wuerthele**  
Assistant Editor

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**Contributing Editors**

Rob Appel, Susan Bond, Ruth Burdick, Andrew J. Camenga, Gordon Lawton, G. Kirk Looper, Micayla Neher, Don A. Sanford, Morgan Shepard.

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# Rez Connection continues by faith

by Kirk Looper, SDB Missionary Society

I was excited as I listened to Pastor Chet Marks of the Rez Connection, a ministry of the New Life Fellowship Baptist Church 7<sup>th</sup> Day. (The church is located on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation near Denby, South Dakota.) He spoke of the work presently going on and talked confidently about future plans.

Chet is accustomed to leaning on his faith, waiting on the Lord to provide for the work at the Rez Connection.

He mentioned the devastating drought that occurred on the reservation this past summer, resulting in crop failure. He had to sell over 200 goats and drastically cut back on the outreach work with local children.

That was the sad part of the conversation. However, it did end on a high note. “This coming year is going to be better!” Chet exclaimed.

He also talked about some of his activities and the good things that happened in 2006. Chet’s optimism about the future is contagious, and I’m thankful that he has a spirit of faith and trusts in what God can do.

We here at the Missionary Society look forward to rejoicing with him

***The Marks pray that several people will be willing to spend time with them this summer, helping with many projects. Summer missions projects are available, but Chet emphasizes that volunteers are needed year-round.***

as each of his activities succeed—positive outcomes that only a living God can produce.

The main problem with working in a faith-based ministry is that funds often don’t come in when they’re needed the most. This was particularly evident last year.

Along with the drought, Chet had to deal with a dying furnace, causing concern for his family’s welfare. Thankfully, funds finally did arrive, and he was able to buy a new furnace.

This past summer, he was blessed with two groups of workers from non-Seventh Day Baptist churches who stayed a few weeks. They com-

pleted enough work on the compound’s new building so that it now has showers, restrooms, and heat. The building is set on a permanent foundation and has a full basement housing bedrooms and showers.

They hold worship services and a Bible study in one of the upstairs rooms, and teach classes in the other. Both measure 14 x 20 feet, making large areas for activities. The upstairs also has restrooms.

The basement kitchen has a stove, refrigerator, freezer, and microwave. The basement also contains men’s and women’s showers, and a washer and dryer.

Chet teaches nine students, including his own children, in a Christian School that he developed over the past few years. He uses Bible-

## Rez Connection Purpose

This is a faith-based ministry and, as such, relies on God—through you—to meet all of its needs. The goal is to bring the Gospel to those living on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

Through loving them, praying for them, and discipling them into Christian maturity, the Rez Connection hopes to restore Native American lives, and change families and neighborhoods. They envision leaders, teachers, and pastors being raised up from the reservation and then, in turn, ministering to another generation.



“Cool” rules at the Connection.



**The area's topography is relatively flat, with the plains dissected by gullies caused by erosion. The compound itself is on a flat piece of land fenced in to protect the property and its residents.**

If teams are available to stay six weeks—or come back-to-back over a six-week period—they will be able to accomplish this goal. If teams can come for only two or three weeks at a time, they will focus on street ministry and personal evangelism.

There will also be much gardening work, since they would like to raise enough vegetables to can and preserve for the entire year.

We are excited about the work being done for the Reservation's children, and we look forward to a good and fruitful summer. **SR**

based materials, some commercially produced, while others he developed himself. He believes that his school can provide students with more personal attention as well as Bible-based counseling.

It is exciting that his students—many of whom are from the Reservation—will be able to get better jobs as they take advantage of higher education opportunities. A large number of the children on the reservation quit school after 8th grade.

Chet speaks excitedly about his wife, Barbara, who is expecting another baby in March. She drives the school bus and works with the animals on the compound.

Barbara is very dedicated to the ministry and sacrifices much to ensure that her part of the work is functioning smoothly.

The Marks pray that several people will be willing to spend time with them this summer, helping with many projects. Summer missions projects are available, but Chet emphasizes that volunteers are needed year-round.

This summer's work depends on what the Lord does in raising up laborers and providing financing.

Chet and Barbara would like to run the sanctuary bus for six weeks of teaching in one area of the reservation, then move on to another.

Those who are interested in working for the Rez Connection can receive application forms by writing the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society at 119 Main St., Westerly, RI 02891. You can also request forms by e-mailing [sdbmissoc@verizon.net](mailto:sdbmissoc@verizon.net).

The cost for volunteers is \$500 for the first two weeks, and \$100 for each additional week they remain at the compound. This covers housing and food. You need to arrange your own transportation, but Chet can pick you up at the airport.

Let the Missionary Society help you in your fund-raising efforts.



*Chet and Barbara Marks lead children's church at the Rez Connection reservation mission.*



# Mighty movements in Malawi

## *Affect Clinic, Bible College, and Mission House*

by Kirk Looper, SDB Missionary Society

Over the past two years, the Central Africa Conference (CAC) has made some exciting plans. These include increased hospital facilities at Makapwa, the move of the Bible School to Zomba, and the development of a compound near the University of Zomba.

When finished, these changes will result in a better definition of the work being done in all of their institutions. Along with the construction projects, they hope to purchase the Namiwawa Mission House located in Blantyre.

### **Makapwa Hospital**

For many years, the work at the Makapwa Clinic had been rather rudimentary, handling mostly eye care, infections, medications, medical education, and minor operations. Basically, they could dispense medicine, deliver babies, set broken bones, and sew up wounds.

Facilities helped patients recover from operations and diseases, but anything involving major operations or pregnancy complications had to be taken over 20 miles to the nearest hospital. This trip was over rough roads, making it very dangerous.

When they developed the Makapwa Station clinic into a government-recognized hospital, the benefits greatly increased. The government now takes a more active part in supplying medicines and the wages that are needed to run the hospital more efficiently.

Standards will be kept high by the potential of placing additional doctors and nurses there. Overall, the increased support for training, educational, and specialty services will enable the hospital to grow and

increase its influence in the community as well as the country.

### **Bible College**

For years, our brethren in Malawi have dreamed of having a Bible col-

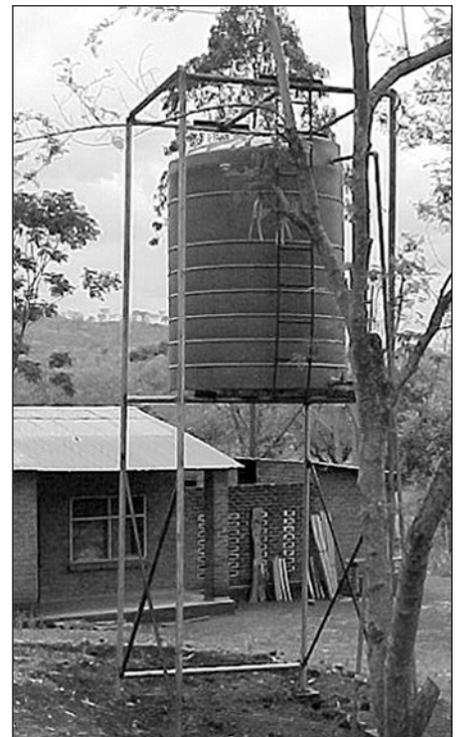
lege for Seventh Day Baptists. Since the 1940s, the attempt to provide pastors with better training has been an uphill climb. Locating instructors and trainers was made all the more difficult by the long distances they

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***When they developed the Makapwa Station clinic into a government-recognized hospital, the benefits greatly increased.***

***The government now takes a more active part in supplying medicines and wages to run the hospital more efficiently.***

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*This water tower provides the clinic with water.*



*Solar panels are placed on most of the buildings at the Chipho Clinic in Malawi.*

had to travel over poor roads. (*More details about the move to Zomba can be found in the November 2006 SR.*)

Having a compound near the university would promote potential growth and place it closer to transportation centers to aid travel, thus benefiting both the CAC and SDBs in neighboring Conferences.

The new compound could include housing for families so that the pastors wouldn't have to leave

their loved ones behind. Plus the university library would be available to the pastors.

### Mission House in Blantyre

Remember "Bricks for Blantyre"? That was a project to build a house for missionaries in Malawi. Several missionaries recall spending time in the Namiwawa Mission House, which was a great asset back then. However, the time

of sending missionaries overseas has passed. Today, the expense of placing them in foreign fields is tremendous.

Over the past 15 years, that building has become a liability. Its upkeep—including the grounds—has cost over \$25,000. Those funds could easily have supported other projects and activities in the SDB Conference in Africa.

It was a difficult decision to part with the building, but it had to be made. We simply need to rid ourselves of the financial drain.

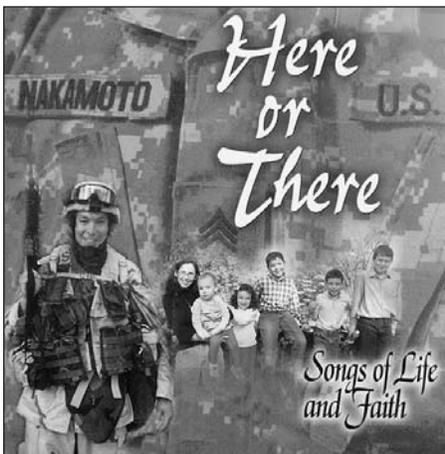
We presented a purchase proposal to the CAC and correspondence was initiated. Their decision to buy the property has been held back mainly because they need to come up with the money. The Missionary Society decided to help with this problem, and we have sent several proposals to the CAC for their consideration.

Anyone wanting to help with this purchase can send funds to the SDB Missionary Society, designating it for the CAC property. Once they buy it, it will be exciting to see how they use this building and the adjacent land. **SR**



*The Namiwawa Mission House in Blantyre, Malawi.*

## CD (a true family affair) to help missions



Robert Nakamoto, part of the Faith SDB Fellowship near Nashville, Tenn., has produced a new compact disc of inspirational music called "Here or There."

Most of the 12 songs were written or refined while Robert was deployed to Iraq and Kuwait as an Army Reservist. His wife, Sherri, and their children provide backup vocals to this professional project of gospel and country music.

A portion of the proceeds will go to SDB missions in Liberia and the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

To order yours, send a check or money order (made out to "Better Day Music") to **Better Day Music, PO Box 210486, Nashville TN 37221**. All prices include shipping.

One copy: \$15; 2-4 copies: \$10 each; 5-9 copies: \$9 each; and further quantity discounts.



# Piersons head to Texas

## Couple joins staff of Fourth Man Center

by Ron Elston

***In November, the Bonanza Creek congregation held a special dinner and awards presentation to honor the Piersons for their service to the church.***



*Charlie (holding plaque) and Ron Pierson.*

Ron and Charlie Pierson have accepted a position on staff at the “Fourth Man Center” in Pipe Creek, Texas. This facility is located just north of San Antonio.

The 10-acre site includes offices and living quarters for the staff, as well as a kitchen, dining facilities, and a number of mobile homes. It will be used for Association Camp, training seminars, and emergency relief situations, such as the recent hurricanes.

The Piersons have been active in Seventh Day Baptist work for a number of years. Brother Pierson served as assistant pastor at the Faith Seventh Day Baptist Church in Doniphan, Mo., and as pastor of the Bonanza Creek Seventh Day Baptist Church in Fairdealing, Mo.

His wife, Charlie, worked in the Home Health field prior to the move to Texas. Ron has a background in construction and served as a building in-

spector in Colorado. He will be in charge of maintenance and new construction at the Center.

In November, the Bonanza Creek congregation held a special dinner and awards presentation to honor the Piersons for their service to the church.

Fourth Man Center is a member of the Southwest Association and a branch of the Texarkana, Ark., Seventh Day Baptist Church. Several leaders from Texarkana serve on the Center’s Advisory Board.

The founder and director of the Center, Alton Pagel, continues to serve as Senior Advisor.

We are blessed to welcome Brother Pagel and the Fourth Man Center into the Seventh Day Baptist family! **SR**



*Alton Pagel is the founder and director of Fourth Man Center.*



*This sign welcomes visitors to the facility in Pipe Creek, Texas.*

## Elston accepts call to Faith SDB Church

After a two-year Sabbatical, Rev. Ronald J. Elston Sr. has accepted a call to return to the Faith Seventh Day Baptist Church in Doniphan, Mo.

Pastor Elston started a church plant in Naylor, Mo., in early 1984. After several years of growth, the group moved to Doniphan (some 14 miles to the west and the county seat of Ripley County). Doniphan is located in the beautiful Missouri Ozarks, about two hours east of the popular tourist town of Branson.

Following the move to Doniphan, the church grew and pros-

pered, which led to the construction of a Fellowship Hall and worship facility. Over the years, they purchased additional property and increased the size of their parking area.

Several years ago, they built a new Worship Center, resulting in more seating capacity and office space. Their previous facility now houses a kitchen, Fellowship Hall, and classrooms.

“Pastor Ron” will serve as Senior Pastor at Faith, and he is excited about the church’s growing outreach activities. Ministries are being implemented that will expand into the



*Rev. Ron Elston has returned to the Faith church pulpit.*

community with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

He will also serve as interim pastor at the Bonanza Creek SDB Church



*Top: This pulpit and staging area has enhanced the worship at the Faith SDB Church. Above: The original church facility stands behind the cars. Faith’s new Worship Center is in the foreground.*

***Following the move to Doniphan, the church grew and prospered, which led to the construction of a Fellowship Hall and worship facility.***

ch in Fairdealing, Mo., conducting afternoon services.

He and his wife, Bonnie, who live near Fairdealing, have served as a ministry team for almost 30 years.

In addition to fulfilling his pastoral responsibilities, Rev. Elston serves the SDB Missionary Society as its National Director of Extension, working with church planting and extension on the Conference’s national field. **SR**



# Togo to start a Conference

by Kirk Looper

Between 1994 and 2004, the SDB Missionary Society received a total of four inquiries from Togo. Because of this low and sporadic contact, we believed that there was little interest in organizing a Seventh Day Baptist Conference in that West African country.

Then one day, we received an inquiry indicating that they were serious about starting an SDB Conference in Togo, and determined to develop churches throughout the country. We gladly welcomed Pastor Daniel Kanyandekwe into this work.

Sandwiched between Benin and Ghana, with Upper Volta on its northern border, Togo is about half the size of Virginia, with about half its population. Although Muslims and Christians live in Togo,

over half of the residents follow native animistic practices and beliefs.

These influences, along with travel difficulties and hidden dangers, make missionary work in the Togolese Republic dangerous.

The main SDB church is in Lomé, the country's capital and largest city. Other SDB groups are located around Lomé, while still others are as far away as Dapaong, near the northern border.

Periodically, the leadership cell from Lomé travels to distant churches, providing medical relief and spiritual encouragement. One of the desires of this group is to obtain a four-wheel-drive vehicle to help shorten trips to northern regions.

They are also trying to raise funds to educate children—their own chil-

dren as well as orphans. In Africa, education isn't a free gift. It costs \$105 to educate one youngster for a year.

Currently, they have assumed responsibility for 50 children, hoping to place them in schools that teach Christian values and doctrine. They believe that this form of education should be part of their "daily bread."

We hope that they can raise enough money to prevent these children—especially the girls—from losing their freedom to deviant individuals. The "sex industry" in Togo is widespread.

Whenever they can, this leadership group also purchases and distributes clothes to the needy. The cost of clothing isn't high; many Togolese are simply too poor to afford it.

Medicines are another need the group tries to fill.

A nurse or clinician travels with them to monitor their medical assistance. Some individuals they treat have sores that have been festering for weeks.

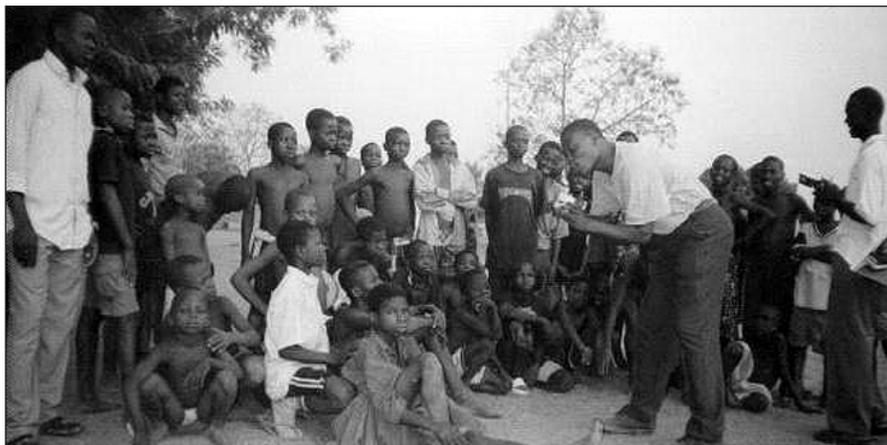
They provide relief by distributing antibiotics, and cleaning and dressing sores or injuries. Their goal is to help dispel pain while avoiding infection. They can always use funds to provide additional medical care.

Every SDB church in Togo needs Bible study materials. They value printed material much more than we do here in the U.S. There, a Bible is a cherished possession, even desired by adults who can't read.

Pamphlets and tracts come in handy when presenting the Gospel. The Missionary Society has sent them some printed materials, but they aren't in the languages that they use on a daily basis. We need to ensure that they have the equipment to translate, print, and copy materials for their own use. **SR**



Left: Togolese church leaders prepare to head north with supplies. Below: A Seventh Day Baptist teaching session in Togo.



# You didn't publish my article!

by John Bevis

After serving nine years as editor of the *Sabbath Recorder*, I moved to Colorado to pastor the Denver Seventh Day Baptist Church. The congregation was mainly Caucasian but became multicultural as we added Iranians, Koreans, Laotians, Hispanics, and Blacks.

The people were from all segments of society: physicians, teachers, managers, salesmen, laborers, and some who were unemployed.

We were blessed with a large and growing youth group and an active group of retirees, the Senior Adults. With Sabbath attendance running at 150, I was an extremely busy pastor.

I maintained office hours every morning. One day as I was working in the office, a man standing in the doorway startled me. He was older and stood with crutches since he was minus a leg. I didn't know

him; in fact, I had never seen him before.

Without any introduction or greeting, he blurted, "You didn't publish my article."

I was at a loss for words. *Who is he? What is he talking about?*

While serving as *SR* editor for several years, I frequently received unsolicited articles. Some were theologically unsound, and others held little appeal for readers.



So, from time to time, I rejected articles.

Come to find out, Carl—the man standing before me—had submitted an article that I hadn't printed.

Carl had spent a lot of time studying and had a real desire to share what he had discovered. He sincerely believed that the international date-line was in error. Thus those who sought to worship on Sabbath were missing it by being too early; Sabbath across the line was actually on *Sunday*.

Carl was obsessed with this belief and had led a crusade for years to get the situation "corrected." He had written to the Pope, the United Nations, Senators, Congressmen, even several U.S. Presidents. He had also written to heads of State—and to me. (Seems I was in good company!)

I invited Carl to attend our Sabbath service, and he did. Right away, we made him feel welcome. Perhaps

Do you read The Sabbath Recorder?

Do you study The Helping Hand?

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our congregation thought, “We’re already so diverse. What’s one more?”

One by one, he confronted our church members with his message. And, one by one, he reaped the same results he had encountered elsewhere, with an exception:

These people, though they didn’t agree with him, gave him their attention and acceptance. For the first time in his life, Carl had a church family, and he never missed a Sabbath.

Some time later, I asked Carl, “How many converts have you won over to your viewpoint over the years?”

A mischievous smile crossed his face as he replied, “None, Pastor.”

Gradually, we saw a transformation take place in Carl. He began to mellow and became more tolerant of other viewpoints. We even began to see a happy face. Carl finally stopped trying to “convert” everyone to his views.

After a few years, he became seriously ill and was confined to the Veteran’s Hospital in Denver. I was able to visit and pray with him on

several occasions before he died.

The graveside service I conducted was well-attended by his church family, but few others came except one son. At the end of the service, that son thanked all of us for loving his dad.

“Dad was never able to get along with people very well, and he cert-

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**God gave  
me the grace to  
hold my tongue.**

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ainly never had a church home before. In the Denver church, he found love. Thank you for making Dad’s last years his happiest.”

In 1 John, chapter four, Jesus said, “Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God... Whoever loves God must also love his brother.”

That day when Carl stood accusingly at the door of my office, my first reaction was anger. (Thankfully, I

controlled it!) But I was sincere when I invited him to join us in worship.

In the following months, there were many times when I came close to overreacting towards Carl, but God gave me the grace to hold my tongue. I’m so glad He did, because Carl really became a brother in the Lord.

Maybe that obsessed, one-legged man was sent to test me and the entire church. Do we really practice what we preach? Was our church—as we proclaimed—truly a “Loving, Caring, Growing Fellowship”?

I think of Brother Carl whenever we sing Bill Gaither’s song, “Reaching our hands to a brother that’s new, learning to say that I really love you, learning to walk as the Master would do... Getting used to the family of God.”

Everywhere I visit, I find Seventh Day Baptists to be a loving, tolerant people. God bless us as we continue to share this love with the new people who come to our churches. **SR**

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*John Bevis is pastor of the Paint Rock, Ala., SDB Church.*

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**Do you have  
a pastor?**

**Do you send a donation  
to the SDB Budget?**

Your dollars make *The Sabbath Recorder* and *The Helping Hand* possible. Your dollars keep someone there for your pastor to talk to, learn from, and help you. Your dollars enable the Seventh Day Baptist Conference to serve your spiritual needs. Please send your dollars to support your denomination!

Seventh Day Baptist Center  
PO Box 1678  
Janesville WI 53547-1678



## Give of yourself to the Master

by O. Judith Chambers, President, North American Baptist Women's Union

*(From the 2006 SDB General Conference Women's Banquet.)*

Oliver Wendell Holmes once said, "I find the great thing in this world is not so much where we stand, as in what direction we are moving. To reach the port of heaven, we must sail sometimes with the wind and sometimes against it—but we must sail and not drift, not lie at anchor."

I was one of nine children in a family facing economic hardship. Each of us, when we turned 15, had to work to help support our family.

When I wrote to a Christian Bible school, asking if I could pay my tuition for high school courses by working at the school, the principal replied, "Come!" Thus began a life filled with adventure and fraught with difficult decisions that our Lord led me through.

Later, after completing my Master of Arts degree, I wanted to be a social worker. But circumstances made it impossible for me to accept employment offers. I was frustrated.

When my husband informed me of a need for teachers near his workplace in Canada, I balked. I did *not* want to be a teacher! But *God* wanted me to be one. Soon after, I talked to the school's principal, and he hired me at once.

My 12th grade geography class consisted mostly of Mohawk students from the Six Nations Reservation. To make a long story short, I didn't so much teach them as they taught me. I loved teaching! And I loved my students. It was all part of God's plan for me.

Eventually, I applied to the Canadian Teacher's Federation to be a summer volunteer, teaching in developing countries.



*O. Judith Chambers spoke at the 2006 Conference.*

The first country I visited was Cameroon. Our four-person team had one toilet that flushed, one tub that drained, and one sink that had hot water.

Open rafters ran from an outside porch into our bedrooms, and rats ran on these all day and night. Before going to sleep, we gathered our bedding and shook it over the port railing to expel any potential bedfellows. I also tucked in mosquito netting at the foot of my bed and attached it to the drapes to ensure that no "droppings" fell on me during the night.

One night, I felt something climbing up the side of my bed. I shook the bed, and the climbing stopped. I repeated the shaking several times and eventually fell asleep. And I slept soundly—until I felt something pulling at my pillow!

I shot up in bed and threw my pillow across the room. And away went the mosquito netting, the curtains and rod, and the lamp beside my bed!

That episode brought me to my knees, surrendering all and begging for the Lord's protection. I went back to sleep, and things were never so frightening after that.

Over the next few years, I led groups of teachers to other developing countries—Guyana, Mozambique, and Kenya. I also went as a volunteer with our Mission Board. I taught in

Eritrea and worked in the Casa De La Amistad with children who lived with their mothers in the prison in Bolivia.

Opportunities opened for me to work with students and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Program. This demands much of the leaders, inviting them and the students to train in First Aid, do volunteer work in the community, hike long distances, bike, canoe, etc.

Over the years, we have had 35 young people receive their Gold Award from Prince Philip at presentations at Government House in Ottawa, and more than 50 students received Bronze and Silver Awards.

It was a great privilege to be presented to Prince Philip as a leader. (The ceremony went by so quickly that I hardly had time to execute my practiced curtsy and shake his hand!)

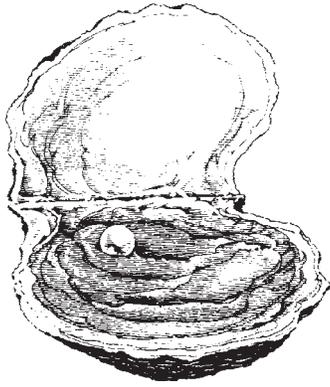
None of this would have happened if I hadn't become a teacher.

[Before ending her talk, Judith also told of her experiences in Japan, Australia, and the Arctic Circle.]

"Even now," Judith concluded, "I have not closed my heart or mind to the possibility of teaching again in a developing country. God will know when there is a time and place for me." **SR**

### Ladies Aid Mission News

The women of our Berlin, N.Y., church bolstered their funds with greeting card sales and a Bakeless Bake Sale—which disappointed the guys! The ladies are using the money to help support two church members on their mission trip to the Ukraine.



Pearls from the Past by Don A. Sanford, historian emeritus

## A family's religious heritage discovered

A recent genealogical inquiry from a former coworker at the Seventh Day Baptist Center sent me to our historical files to discover a prominent family legacy that had previously escaped my knowledge. The e-mail request stated:

"My Wheelers arrived from England at Ellis Island on June 5, 1844, and settled for a time in the New Jersey area. According to accounts, George Rose Wheeler, the father, worked as a watchmaker and traveling SDB preacher. I am interested in early accounts of their time and activities."

Fortunately, our files contained a wealth of information, including a printed copy of George Wheeler's memorial service on March 5, 1881, in Salem, N.J.

He was born in Westminster, England, but grew up in the nearby town of Olney, where he was baptized and joined the Baptist Church. (William Carey, the first Baptist missionary to India, came from that same church.)

Wheeler married Hannah Robinson, a sister to William Robinson (companion and successor of Carey in India). George Wheeler apprenticed as a watchmaker. He also preached with such success that the church commissioned him to preach wherever he found opportunity.

In 1844, after a series of financial adversities, the family decided to sail to America. They did this at the urging of Hannah's brother-in-law, Samuel Davidson. A recent convert to the Sabbath who was preaching in Plainfield, N.J., Davidson later pastored

the Shiloh, N.J., SDB Church from 1846 to 1848.

On April 6th, George and Hannah—along with their nine children—left Liverpool, England, for New York.

Hannah's diary did not dwell on the hardships of getting all of their baggage and food for the two month's voyage onto the sailing ship. Neither did she concentrate on the storm which reminded her of Jonah's trip to Tarshish, or on the rough talk aboard the ship that continually desecrated God's name.

But Hannah did write at length of being met in New York by her brother-in-law. She wrote:

"When Brother Davidson met us in New York, he told us that a David

to, I very much regretted having left Joshua behind.

"In a few weeks, Joshua came home to see us. He told of the kind treatment he had met with. It seems that when Joshua's uncle took him the next day after his arrival to see David Dunn, Mr. Dunn asked but one question: 'Are you willing to keep the Sabbath? I cannot bring a young man into my family who is not.'

"Joshua answered, 'I know nothing about it, sir, only as I have been taught by my parents that the first day of the week is the Sabbath; but I will keep the Sabbath with you.'

"This was satisfactory to the good man, and from that hour he took Joshua into his family and treated him like a son, giving him

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***"Who was I that I should withstand God? If my son had embraced an error, why could I not point it out to him? I ought to. If he were right, I must be wrong."***

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Dunn was anxious to take Joshua—our son—to work on his farm in Piscataway [N.J.]. We expressed some objection when we learned that Mr. Dunn was a Sabbatarian Baptist... a new denomination to me, who did not know there was such a church in America.

"After some warm earnest talk, we agreed to let Joshua go and try it out for a month. He was anxious to go. So we left him with his uncle Davidson in New Brunswick and came to Salem, N.J.

"When we got to Salem and were so very comfortably settled, with kind friends around, a good house to live in, and a good Baptist Church to go

a Sabbatarian Hymn Book and wrote his name in it.

"The order in the home was excellent—all the farm work was done by supper time, and evenings were spent as they pleased until 9 o'clock, when all gathered for family worship. Then all must retire so the good man could see his own doors locked before he retired himself. ...The excellent family government was the formation of Joshua's character... I was pleased with these things.

"But another difficulty awaited us. About 15 months later, in the fall of 1845, we received a kind letter from David Dunn saying that Joshua had been converted—that he wished to

be baptized and join the Piscataway Sabbatarian Church; that the Pastor, Elder Walter B. Gillette, did not wish to baptize Joshua without the consent of the parents—that it was never his habit to receive children in their minority without the consent of the parents.

“The letter touched both of us very much. My husband read it first but could not read it to me. I read it. What were our feelings? I dared not speak, only to say, ‘Who was I that I should withstand God?’ I had been a member of a Baptist Church 27 years before I thought of being a wife or mother. If my son had embraced an error, why could I not point it out to him? I ought to. If he were right, I must be wrong.”

From that moment on, Hannah Wheeler searched diligently with her Bible, and her husband did the same. Almost at the same moment, God gave the answer to both, and they accepted the Sabbath truth and joined the Shiloh Church. Another son—Samuel R. Wheeler—in time became a Seventh Day Baptist minister.<sup>1</sup>

When George and Hannah moved to Salem, he became pastor of the Baptist Church. However, when he became convinced of the Sabbath, he joined the Shiloh SDB Church where his brother-in-law (Samuel Davidson) had become pastor.

When General Conference was held at Shiloh in 1846, George R. Wheeler was ordained to the Gospel ministry and preached extensively among both Baptist and Seventh Day Baptist churches. His obituary in the 1881 *SDB Yearbook* stated:

“He was a member of the Shiloh church till his death. He served the Marlboro Church as pastor for several years, but spent most of his time to his trade as a jeweler, preaching and writing theological questions as time and occasion offered. He was a man of sterling worth in every sense of the word—scrupulously conscientious, spiritually minded, and sound in judgment.”<sup>2</sup>

One of George’s sons, Samuel, followed him into the ministry. After graduating from Milton (Wis.) Acad-

emy in 1861 and Alfred (N.Y.) University in 1866, he became pastor of SDB churches in Hebron, Pa. (11 years); Nortonville, Kan. (18 years); Dodge Center, Minn. (six years); Boulder, Colo. (10 years); and Marlboro, N.J. (four years).

Another of George and Hannah’s sons, Joshua Wheeler, moved to Kansas, partly for the purpose of preventing the state from becoming a slave state. He was active in Kansas politics and agriculture, as well as being active in the Nortonville SDB Church.

Joshua’s son, Charles Greeley Wheeler, was the grandfather of two SDB ministers—Revs. Alton L. Wheeler and Edgar Wheeler—along with others who were leaders in the Nortonville church and community. **SR**

<sup>1</sup>Extract from *Letter to the Editor, Sabbath Recorder, Vol. 28, No. 22, May 23, 1972.*

<sup>2</sup>*Seventh Day Baptist Yearbook, 1881, pp. 12-13.*

## Denominational Dateline

### January, 2007

- 1-8 African Trip to Tanzania, Uganda, Liberia, and Sierra Leone (travel began Dec. 13)—Kirk Looper
- 5-8 Installation for Pastor Michael Spearl, Bradenton, Fla., SDB Church—Gordon Lawton
- 6 South East Atlanta (Ga.) Seventh Day Baptist Church—Rob Appel
- 7-10 North American Baptist Fellowship (NABF) Meetings, Atlanta, Ga.—Appel
- 21 SDB Board of Christian Education Committee Meeting, Alfred Station, N.Y.—Andrew Camenga
- 21-27 Kiln, Miss., Mission Trip through the Milton, Wis., SDB Church—Appel, Nick Kersten
- 27 Foothill Seventh Day Baptist Church, Montrose, Calif.—Kevin Butler
- 27-28 SDB Memorial Fund Quarterly Meeting, Washington, D.C./Maryland—Morgan Shepard, Appel
- 27-28 COM Annual Meeting, SDB Center, Janesville, Wis.—Lawton

- 28 Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society Board of Managers Fourth Quarter Meeting, Westerly, R.I.—Looper
- 29 Conference Site Visit, Lancaster (Pa.) Bible College—Appel, Shepard

### February

No reported travel

### March

- 5 Baptist Joint Committee Executive Committee Meeting, Washington, D.C.—Butler
- 18 Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society Annual Meeting, Westerly—Looper
- 29-30 Coordinating Leadership Team (CLT) Meetings at the SDB Center in Janesville
- 31-4/2 General Council meets at the SDB Center in Janesville



## How are you on the 'sharing scale'?

The excitement and glee on the face of a child unwrapping a gift is amazing.

I smile when I watch a youngster pull the ribbon off a package, tear the paper to shreds, and search for that tell-tale sign that will reveal the contents.

I also enjoy hearing the little one shout, "It's just what I've *always* wanted!"

I laugh when that same child cries out a minute later in an even more excited voice, "It's just what I've *always* wanted!"

Sometimes that shout of joy soon gives way to a tear-filled voice: "I don't want to let him use it." The glee of discovery turns into the strident wail, "It's mine, it's all mine!" Hidden behind those words is the inherent belief that ownership means control.

This is a lesson most children pick up at a very young age. They learn it when their parents say, "Don't touch that! It isn't yours." This lesson is reinforced when neighborhood kids say, "It's our ball. We get to make the rules."

Like adults, children want things they can control. You can see the strength of this desire when a parent whispers encouragement in a child's ear. A fight between the desire to control the gift and the desire to obey parents explodes on the child's face.

Even as the battle rages on in the child's mind, words like these pour out: "But it's mine. What if he never gives it back? What if she breaks it?"

The child doesn't know it, but these are huge questions. But the "big" question is, "How do I know if that person will be a good steward?"



***Trust makes the child think that sharing is okay. But where does that trust come from?***

As the parent continues to whisper encouragement, the child finally gives in and lets go of the gift. The main factor influencing the speed at which the child relents is his or her relationship to the person taking the gift.

If the person asking for the gift has already created mistrust, sharing takes a long time—with concerns that the other person might lose, steal, or break the gift. However, when the child trusts the "taker," sharing happens quickly.

Trust makes the child think that sharing is okay. But where does that trust come from? It comes from past experience, when the other person has played nicely, listened, shared, and asked, "What do you want?"

Once the gift is handed over, only time will answer the burning question, "Are you a good steward?"

The things that create trust should inform and motivate a steward. The good steward will know the owner, discover the owner's desire, and honor it.

When we talk of stewardship and stewards, the words must be seen as describing relationships. Don't let them simply become clinical, cold, calculating, cash-register words.

We need to understand that when Christians speak of stewardship, they are talking about a living and breathing relationship with the One by Whom, through Whom, and for Whom all of creation exists. **SR**



# Nigeria—Challenge to compete

by Kirk Looper

Nigeria is in the northern part of Africa, a region where the Muslim religion has had a strong influence for many years. Because of the actions of the Muslim population, many of our pastors and laymen have had to work through many more difficulties than in the countries of southern Africa. They are constantly challenged to maintain their congregations, as well as spread the Gospel.

The General Secretary of the Nigerian Conference, Godfrey Achor, was elected after Lawrence Uchegbounu died. Achor works out of Rivers State, administering the work of 11 churches composed of 8,188 members. (As these churches keep growing, the numbers will continue to increase.)

Achor travels to work with the leaders, helping them to increase their knowledge and understanding of the Scriptures, and methods of church growth. They are already developing projects, including ones to train workers to oversee church projects, lead evangelism, and plant churches.

The overseers of the churches may take on the mantle of a pastor, elder, or deacon. Their main job is to lead the congregation into the work of the church and train them to take responsible action when dealing with the everyday church tasks. This includes feeding orphans and widows, repairing buildings, counseling, and being available to host visitors.

Evangelism should be the primary job of every Christian. We are expected to talk to others about the benefits of accepting Jesus as our Lord and Savior. All of us should be able to explain the basics of salvation.

Training youth and young adults to assume this responsibility is a big job. Some of the leadership—pastors, and those being trained by the General Secretary—work on getting the group motivated and ready.

Church planting is one of the tasks that differs only slightly as you travel from one country to another.

In the U.S., planters need to be able to reach the

hearts of those around them, bringing them to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and showing them the love that is found there. In many African nations, that love is already there and felt richly.

Like in the U.S., African church planters need to be able to spend time with new members, educating and

mentoring them into an understanding of their responsibility to the church and eventually the Conference. Since most of the people with whom they work come out of other denominations, this task is not as difficult as it could be.

However, this also causes a problem: These “new” SDBs are often unable to put aside the ideas and edicts of other denomina-

tions. They still carry the “baggage” that they picked up from other churches.

As in other areas of Africa, the meeting houses in Nigeria are built by members of the congregations. Constructing—and finishing—a building is expensive. This is especially true of roofing materials.

They often build church walls, but then rain comes and damages the unfinished buildings. They desperately need roofs for many of their structures.

Education in the churches is difficult because of the lack of literature and supplies. They can always use books, tracts, and other resources.

They need Bibles, not only for their congregations, but also for their pastors and leaders, who use them for reference and study. They also need hymn books for all of their churches.

Our Nigerian brethren request funds to help organize and develop schools, believing that their children need an education to advance in life. Right now, the schools that are available are too expensive to attend.

Working together, they plan to complete projects quickly. But without adequate funding, they won't be able to fulfill their dreams. **SR**

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***Many of our Nigerian pastors and layman have had to work through many more difficulties than in the countries of southern Africa.***

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# the BEACON

Produced by the Youth Committee of the Board of Christian Education  
For and by members of the SDB Youth Fellowship

January 2007

## A time for everything

by Micayla Neher

Read Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, 11.

Have you ever wondered why something happened at a certain time and not another? Or have you wondered why something *didn't* happen? The second week of November was one of those times for me.

On November 13, I had an honor band concert for our high school league. After the concert, my mom came up to me and told me that my grandmother was dying. I couldn't believe it!

On the way to the hospital I kept praying, "God, please don't let Grandma die until I get to see her and say goodbye."

I spent a good part of the night by my grandmother's hospital bed, but she didn't die that night. In fact, she fought for her life the rest of the week.

On November 19, Grandma took her last breath.

I didn't understand why things happened the way they did. Why had God waited until the 19th to take Grandma, instead of the week before, when I was ready emotionally? I guess I'll figure that out when the "time" is right.

Then there's the lady in our church who had a prophetic message, telling her that she should "watch out" for her liver. At the time, she didn't think anything of it. *I'm very healthy right now*, she thought. *Why do I need to worry about my liver?*

A few weeks later, her sewer backed up into the basement. She was already stressed about what was happening in her life, and the water problems just added to the pressure. She ended up in the hospital with chest pains.



While running tests, they discovered she had liver cancer. Fortunately, it was still treatable.

That woman now feels that there was a bittersweet meaning behind all of the troubles with her house's pipes.

"Thank God for sewer problems!" she exclaimed. "If I hadn't had them, I wouldn't have had chest pains. And the doctors wouldn't have found my cancer as early as they did."

All of us are thankful that she was able to get treatment, and things are looking more and more on the "upside" for her.

Good also came out of my grandmother's death.

Although I'm going to miss her terribly, I know that she's happier. During the past couple of years, I observed her health go downhill fairly rapidly. It was hard for me to see her like that.

I now realize that her death was for the best. She wasn't able to walk and couldn't feed herself. Even her ability to talk had diminished.

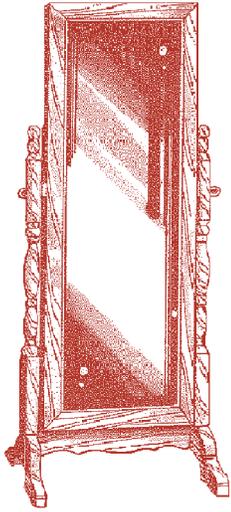
It's easier to think about her because now she can do all those things again. I know that she's happy in heaven—not only being with Grandpa again, but also walking with Jesus.

The next time you feel that things aren't going your way, remember that God has a plan for everything that happens to us. At the time, it may seem like something really bad, but God has a way to bless us with it later. We should try to find the positive side to every situation.

I've been living this motto the past few weeks: "Smiles never go up in price or down in value. So, always smile, even through your tears."

Count your blessings, thanking God every day for everything that happens to you. Even thank Him for down times, for it's in those moments that we really appreciate the good things in life.

God is with us, and there truly is "a time for everything under heaven." **SR**



# Reflections

by Leanne Lippincott-Wuerthele

*"Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face." —1 Cor. 13:12*

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## A strange(r) love

*"Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up" (Romans 1:2).*

*"Lord, who may dwell in your sanctuary? He... who does his neighbor no wrong and casts no slur on his fellow man." (Psalm 15:1, 3).*

*"...love your neighbor as yourself." (Mark 12:33).*

Throughout the Bible, God admonishes us to love our fellow humans. *"That's easy!"* we think; at least, initially.

For most of us, it's natural to love our spouses, our parents, our siblings, our children, and our grandchildren. And how about that boss who always compliments you on your work? Or that friend who showers you with kudos, even when you don't deserve them?

Then things start to get a little sticky, a little uncomfortable.

"My next-door neighbor is okay," you mutter, "but he keeps letting his dog run loose."

You don't mind your garden getting extra fertilizer, but you get really irritated when you discover "reminders" of his presence on your lawn and driveway.

When you finally talk to the canine's master, his defenses go up, and the situation becomes confrontational. He curses at you and tells you to go where you really don't want to go.

In a flash, your feelings toward that neighbor move from casual indifference, to resentment, to intense dislike—perhaps even hatred.

What does God say about all of this? Buy a dog and let him run loose on your *neighbor's* lawn? Hardly.

In spite of the resentment and anger that's boiling up on the inside, you're supposed to love that neighbor. And not with a superficial, half-hearted love, but with a deep abiding love—the kind of love you feel for yourself.

Talk about a challenge!

How do we move from hatred to love? That's a journey that we can't make under our own power, no matter how hard we try. The Holy Spirit is the driving force that helps make us become the people God desires.

Obviously, it's a lot easier to be loving towards people we know than strangers.

During the holiday season that just passed, people seemed a little kinder, a little more loving. Whenever I see such unmerited, grace-filled love in action, I think, "Why can't we act like that *throughout* the year?"

A few weeks before Christmas, I was driving to work after one of those wonderful Wisconsin snowstorms. There was still a ton of snow on the roads and sidewalks.

Pulling up to a stop sign, I noticed a blind person off to my right. He was tapping his cane on the snow-covered sidewalk, trying to find the crosswalk. I went through the intersection and turned around, figuring I would help that wayward soul across the street.

Just as I was getting out of my warm car, a man came out of his warm house to aid the sight-impaired pedestrian. I watched silently as one stranger helped a fellow stranger find his way safely across the street. I smiled the rest of the way to work.

Was that Good Samaritan a Christian? We'll never know. But he did a Christian thing. I'm sure God was smiling as much as I was.

Love your neighbor—and even the stranger walking down the street—as yourself. **SR**

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***It's natural to love our spouses, children, and parents. It's a lot easier to be loving towards people we know than strangers.***

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# tell the truth ... the truth

SDB General Conference July 29 – August 4, 2007  
George Fox University, Newberg, Oregon



*The President's Page*  
by Ruth Burdick

## Happy New Year— in the Spirit



As a new year begins, it's an ideal time to reflect on the past 12 months and see what changes we need to make in the months ahead.

It's good to hold ourselves accountable—as long as we have the right perspective.

We are God's children, and we need to know if we are primarily pleasing Him in our actions, plans, and objectives. Changes and decisions without His guidance and direction are apt to get us into trouble.

As we move further away from God's wisdom and discernment, we begin to depend on our own understanding, and our trust is diluted. Consider where *your* trust lies as we start 2007.

How are you doing with your Bible reading? I am pleased that many of you are faithfully trying to read the whole Bible before Conference. That's my goal, too.

If you haven't been able to do this, try reading Psalm 119. That may encourage you to finish the rest of the Bible before the end of the year. We can't treasure God's words in our hearts and minds if we haven't even read them. Continue to challenge yourself daily.

The fourth theme I would like us to consider as an innate truth is that the Holy Spirit indwells.

When he was on earth, Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would be with us forever. Read John 14:15-

21, 25-27. He lives with us and will be in us. And the Holy Spirit will teach us all things and will remind us of everything Jesus has told us.

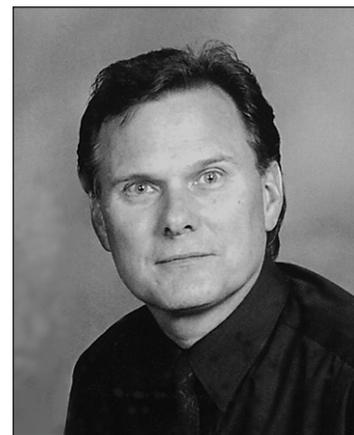
Romans 5:5 tells us that God poured His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, Whom He has given us. Again, Romans 8 confirms that the Spirit of God lives in us and testifies to us of God—and we are led by Him to know what pleases God.

I love reading 1 John 3:18-4:6, 13-16. It says that when we believe in Jesus and receive him as Lord, God gives us the Spirit. We can have confidence before God and know that we belong to the truth while our hearts rest in His presence. What glorious gifts!

As we move into 2007 under God's provision and power, it can't help but be a Happy New Year! **SR**

### Daily Themes for Conference 2007

- God's Word is Truth
- God is Sovereign
- Christ is Divine
- The Holy Spirit Indwells
- The Lost are Really Lost
- Worship God in Spirit and Truth



by Executive Director  
Rob Appel

## Making choices

We live in a part of the world where we can make an enormous number of choices every day. But we also show signs of being confused because of all of those choices.

Why do we have so many? Because marketing gurus have found umpteen ways to encourage us to try their latest products. For one thing, they package them in such eye-appealing, glittery ways that we're almost *compelled* to try them. "If it's new, they will buy it."

Recently, a new Wal-Mart Supercenter and Sam's Club opened here in Janesville. Most people have been to a Wal-Mart store, and yet so many people went to these new stores that driving and parking were a nightmare. Why? The stores are new, and shoppers just had to check them out!

Today, we consumers are much more perplexed than years ago because of our numerous options. This is also true when it comes to charitable giving.

We are bombarded with such choices as who to give to and how often to contribute to an organization. Callers sometimes ask us how much—if any—we intend to give to their particular organization. This can lead to confusion, unhappiness, and even depression as our generosity is tested.

This might seem a ridiculous observation—that too many choices can lead to depression and unhappi-

ness. However, let me illustrate.

Let's say that you are sent to a store to buy soap. You have choices, but you might have *too many* choices. For instance, you can buy Ivory, Dial, Irish Spring, Zest, or Dove. But those are just the bar soaps for the body.

You also have body washes to choose from: Aveeno, Axe, Caress, Jergens, Neutrogena, Olay, Soft-soap, and White Rain—just to name a few.

Then there are soaps for your hair, soaps for your clothes, and soaps for your dishes.

What kind of specialty soap were you sent to buy? What brand is going to get your business? And why did you select the particular brand or packaging that you did?

Just like the almost limitless number of soaps to choose from, we have too many choices when it comes to charitable giving.

Today, the number of charities we can support is immeasurable. Since the 1990s, the number of non-profit groups has more than doubled. While some of these organizations serve charitable functions, others only serve themselves. How do we know who to give to?

One way is to note what portion of their budget supports administrative costs. If an organization uses a small percentage of its solicited income for overhead costs, it is serving its purpose and

not simply lining its own pockets.

Today, this onslaught of charitable requests has affected the church.

Many people tell me that they support ministries outside of the church. I think that's great—until they tell me that they don't support their church with their tithe.

Many Christians use the lame excuse that they don't believe that their church is reaching others. And I'm sure that their churches aren't, since the people in the pews aren't financially supporting outreach efforts.

"But Rob, the things that the 'XYZ' charity are doing is great!"

I'm sure that's the case. But that does not excuse us from supporting our local church. Where does the Bible tell us that we are to ignore our home church?

The grass often *does* look greener on the other side. But maybe that's because the grass is artificial!

I probably have upset a few of you readers who are devoted to causes you support outside of church. I am not asking you to stop that support. I'm simply asking you to remember where your support should *start*.

The choice is yours. But remember, not all charities are what they seem to be.

Your support of the ministries of the Seventh Day Baptist church is greatly appreciated, and it's needed to fulfill the Great Commission. Ours is an Alliance In Ministry! **SR**



# Starting a new year!

by Morgan Shepard

Happy New Year! A new year is upon us, with new opportunities and challenges.

We'll start off 2007 with what the General Conference voted on at our August Conference in Houghton, N.Y.

The Boards and Agencies presented the General Conference with an operating budget of \$1,042,587 (Chart 1). Income sources for this budget vary, with \$458,897 identified to come from Giving (Chart 2).

Okay, so what do all these numbers mean? Here is what your giving provides for:

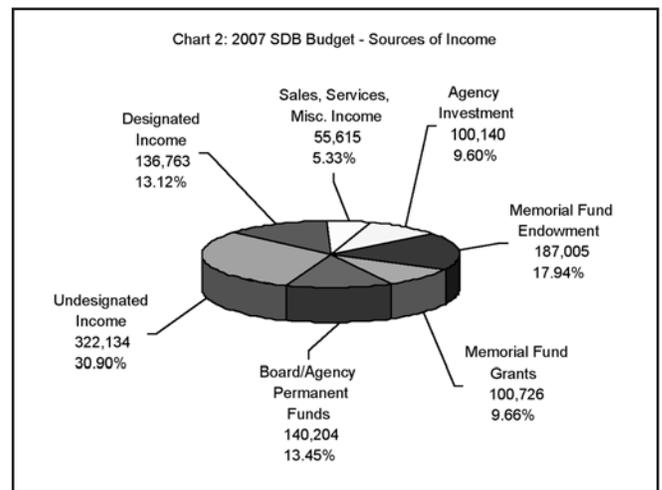
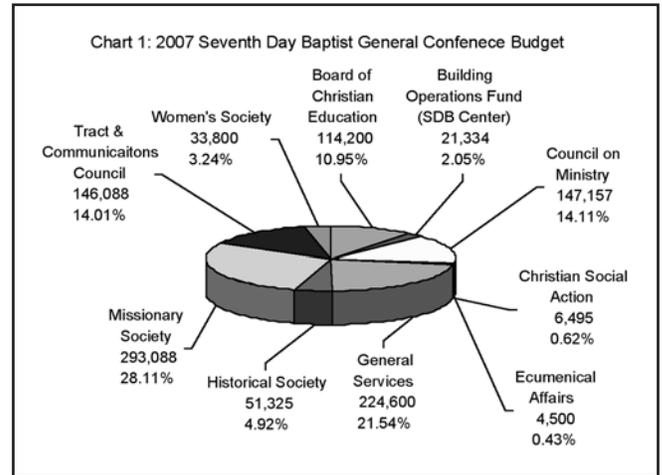
- Board of Christian Education—Helping Hand**, Sabbath School materials
- Center on Ministry**—Tuition for seminary students, assistance for pastors
- General Services**—SDB vision, new church contacts, General Conference sessions
- Historical Society**—Preserving SDB heritage, new indexing system
- Missionary Society**—New church contacts, missions trips
- Tract and Communication Council**—Sabbath Recorder, tracts, Sabbath promotion
- Women's Society**—SCSC, Love Gifts for those in need
- Memorial Fund**—Endowments, grants, loans, scholarships

Here is what else this column will cover in 2007:

- What the Bible says about tithing, prosperity, poverty, sowing, and reaping.

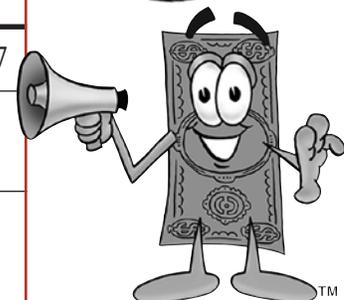
- Financial tools and tips for you and your church. (Also watch the "SDB Exec Blog" on the SDB Website.)

- Programs and needs of the General Conference. **SR**



2007 Giving			
Givers (People, Families, Churches, etc.)	500	750	1,000
Giving Budget	\$458,897	\$458,897	\$458,897
Annual Gift per Giver	\$918	\$612	\$459
E-Gift per Month	\$76	\$51	\$38

Every contribution makes a difference. No matter the size, if just...



# Filling that cyber-space

by Jeanne Yurke

Many Seventh Day Baptists may be surprised to learn that the websites furnished free to them through the American Bible Society (ABS)—and perhaps developed and even maintained by John Conrod—have vaporized. This space is still available, but any sites left unattended since April 17, 2006, have been turned off until re-activated.

“ForMinistry.com” is the ABS’ website provider. It has easy-to-use templates just waiting to be typed into for churches to reappear in their designated cyber-space. It is extremely easy to get your site up and running again.

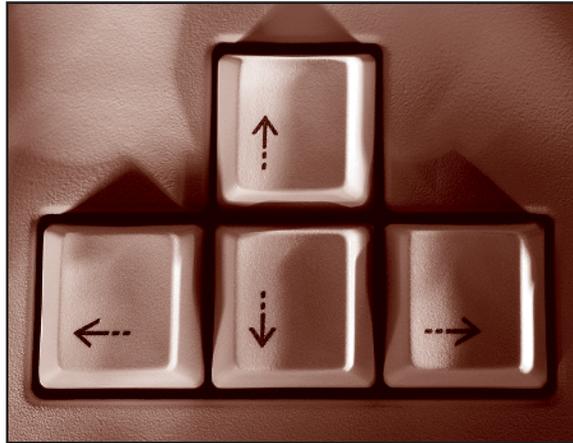
So, if your website has been temporarily turned off, anyone with Internet access who can type (even with a one-fingered, hunt-and-peck style!) can do the job. Computer programming skills are no longer required. But for all of you “techno-nerds and nerdettes” out there, HTML know-how does enhance the experience.

## Testing, testing...

Before doing anything fancy, go to our denominational website <<http://www.seventhdaybaptist.org>> and find your church listing through the *Churches* link. (Simply select that tab from the denominational home page and then go to your location.)

If your church has a website with “forministry.com” in it, click on that link and see what happens. If you see the **Upgrade Today!** message, simply follow the steps. In very little time, your church will have a brand-new website.

Your site will be given a name which resembles a string of letters. (See Justin Hibbard’s “What churches need to know about their websites” in the May 2005 *SR*. This



article is archived on the denominational site and will suggest how you can get a domain name, a much simpler—and a more memorable—cyber name. Be sure to notify our Conference’s Webmaster [Linda Lawton at the SDB Center] with any changes to your church listing.)

Maybe your church built its own website in addition to the free one from ForMinistry.com. Double check

it to point people to your church’s primary website.

## Sincerest form of flattery

Since every church is unique, each church website should have its own look and content. This is easily done—and redone—with ForMinistry.com’s variety of designs, color schemes, and layout pages.

However, you don’t need to reinvent the wheel when it comes to adding features to

your website which a sister church has found effective. For example, another church might be willing to share its Conference photo page, if you ask politely. ☺

## Communicate the Gospel

Once your church has an active website, people all over the world can see it. Now is the time to think glob-

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***Many SDBs may be surprised to learn that the websites furnished free to them through the American Bible Society have vaporized.***

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the ForMinistry.com site to be sure that there is no broken link there.

(Go to <<http://www.forministry.com>>, scroll down to “Find a Church,” and click on the link “Find a church using our church search now.” Type in your church’s information to see what might be there. It’s likely that you will find generic information, sending web surfers to our denominational site but still providing some local contact information and an on-line map.)

This free site is easy to create, so there is no reason for not using

ally, regardless of your locale. Be sure to include a clear presentation of the Gospel as briefly and as creatively as possible.

Free on-line salvation tracts are available from <<http://www.evangel.org>>, complete with step-by-step directions for setting them up to appear on your website.

The best part of these easy-to-use Gospel presentations (some of which are animated) is a built-in feature which returns the reader to *your* website afterwards. That way, you don’t lose a prospective visitor! **SR**

# New members

## Word of Life SDB Appleton, WI

(Branch of Portage)  
Dale Smalley, pastor  
Joined by letter

- George Hurley
- Deloris Hurley
- Paul Katzke
- Juanita Katzke
- Pastor Dale Smalley
- Lin Smalley
- Rhonda Van Handel

Joined after baptism  
Scott Van Handel

## Houston, TX

Jim Barclift, pastor  
Joined after testimony  
Bill Shobe  
Helen Shobe

## Lake Elsinore, CA

Dennis Palmer, pastor  
Joined after testimony  
Ben Stanton

# Births

**Dutcher.**—A daughter, Jocelyn Joanne Dutcher, was born to Jamie and Jennifer (Lippincott) Dutcher of Janesville, WI, on November 2, 2006.

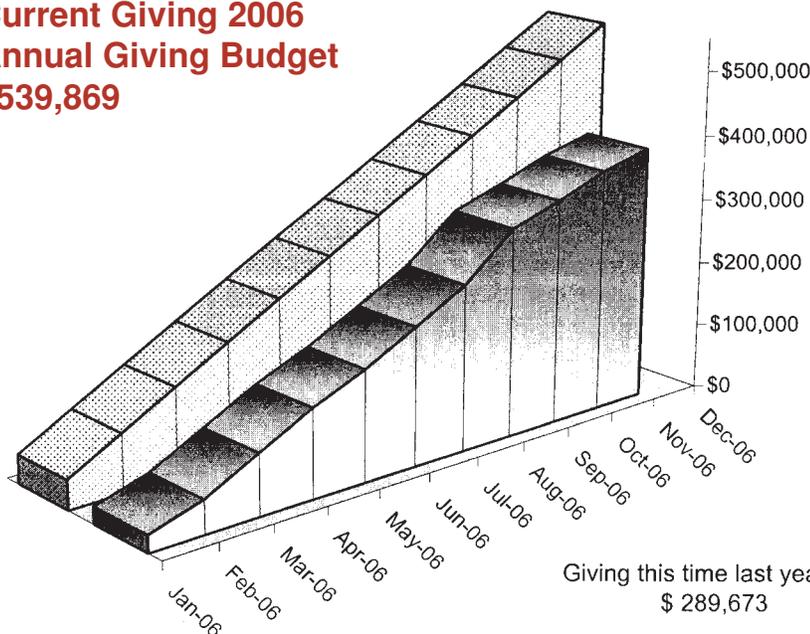
**Fick.**—A son, Jacob Daniel Fick, was born to William and Samantha (Tennyson) Fick of Battle Creek, MI, on November 27, 2006.

# Marriage

**Fick - Tennyson.**—William Jacob Fick and Samantha Dannelle Tennyson were united in marriage on June 3, 2006, in the Battle Creek, MI, Seventh Day Baptist Church. Revs. Kory Geske and Harold King officiated.

**Dear SR Correspondents,**  
Thank you for keeping us informed of your family news. You may e-mail your updates to us at: [editor@seventhdaybaptist.org](mailto:editor@seventhdaybaptist.org)  
If you mail in obituaries cut or copied from the newspaper, please make sure that the death and service dates are listed, along with the location of the burial. Thank you.

## Current Giving 2006 Annual Giving Budget \$539,869



Giving this time last year . . .  
\$ 289,673

	Month - Nov '06	Year To Date
Budgeted	\$ 44,990	\$ 494,880
Actual	\$ 19,234	\$ 390,163
Difference	\$ (25,756)	\$ (104,717)
% of Budget	43%	79%

PROP Giving	
Nov '06	\$ 747
Year To Date	\$ 4,900

Morgan Shepard, Treasurer

**Does the Bible  
talk about money?**

16 of 38 parables  
address money and  
possessions...  
2,350 verses on money  
and possessions!  
(Prayer?  
Only 500 verses!)



(Source: "Your Money Counts," Howard Dayton, Crown Financial Ministries, 1996.)

# Obituaries

**Stillman.**—Elizabeth “Bette” C. Stillman, 91, of Pawcatuck, Conn., died on December 1, 2006, at the Westerly, R.I., Nursing Home.

She was born in Westerly on June 24, 1915, the only child of Herbert P. and Bessie M. (Brown) Clark. Bette was a direct descendant of John Babcock, the first white settler in Westerly.

She attended Westerly schools and was a graduate of Lasell College in Auburndale, Mass. On April 7, 1950, she married William LaVerne Stillman, who died in October of 1988.

For many years, Bette worked in the payroll department of the

Cottrell Company (later known as the Harris Corporation) in Pawcatuck, and was a member of the Cottrell Alumni Club. She was also a member of the Westerly Senior Citizens Center and a charter member of Vision Christian Fellowship in Westerly.

Both she and her husband were avid campers and belonged to several camping organizations.

Funeral services were held on December 5, 2006, in the Buckler-Johnston Funeral Home in Westerly, with Pastor David Taylor officiating. Burial was in Westerly’s River Bend Cemetery.

See our website  
for the new  
**SDBlog**

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The “SDB Exec”  
web log  
(known internally as ‘SDBlog’)  
features posts from  
our agency executives.  
Check it out at  
[seventhdaybaptist.org](http://seventhdaybaptist.org).

## Robe of Achievement 2007 Nominations

The SDB Women’s Society is accepting nominations for the Robe of Achievement for 2007. Please consider a woman in your church who meets the following criteria for nomination:

- *Was/is active as a volunteer in some phase of denominational effort*
- *Has shown evidence of special service with her family and/or community*
- *Must be a committed Christian*
- *Must be an active member of a local Seventh Day Baptist church*

A complete résumé must be submitted containing a life history, including her achievements and activities. Without a résumé in hand, the committee cannot make a competent choice among many nominees. If an individual has been nomi-

nated before, and you still want that person considered, please resubmit the name as well as the updated résumé.

Send nominations to:

**Laura Hambleton, Chair  
SDB Robe Nominations  
1568 Megan Bay Circle  
Holly Hill, FL 32117**

or apply on-line at: [www.sdbwboard.org](http://www.sdbwboard.org)

**Deadline:  
March 31, 2007**

For further information, contact or call  
Laura Hambleton: (386) 677-8594



EST. 1964

## SUMMER CHRISTIAN SERVICE CORPS

**Students:** Are you a high school senior or in college, and willing to serve with next year's Summer Christian Service Corps?

**Churches:** Do you wish to host an SCSC team for service and outreach?

Applications for team members and church projects are on the SDB Conference website at [seventh-daybaptist.org](http://seventh-daybaptist.org). Please print the applications from the website and send all completed forms (for both members and projects) to: SCSC Committee, c/o

Milton SDB Church, 720 E. Madison Ave., Milton WI 53563.

All team member applications must be postmarked by **January 10, 2007**, and all church project applications must be postmarked by **January 31, 2007**. There will be NO exceptions.

If you have any questions, please contact the Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church at the above address, or e-mail the SCSC Committee at [scsc@miltonsdb.org](mailto:scsc@miltonsdb.org).

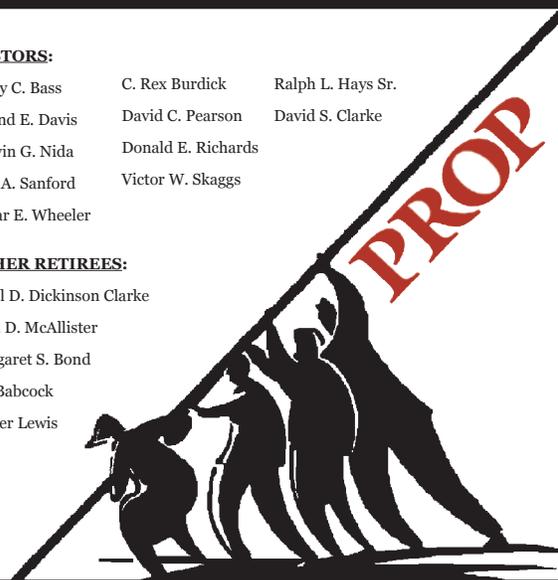
*Give to those who gave so much.*

**PASTORS:**

Leroy C. Bass	C. Rex Burdick	Ralph L. Hays Sr.
Leland E. Davis	David C. Pearson	David S. Clarke
Melvin G. Nida	Donald E. Richards	
Don A. Sanford	Victor W. Skaggs	
Edgar E. Wheeler		

**OTHER RETIREES:**

Ethel D. Dickinson Clarke  
 Jean D. McAllister  
 Margaret S. Bond  
 Ida Babcock  
 Esther Lewis



### Pastors Retirement Offering Project

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

**Please donate to PROP!**

## PROP still going

**PROP** (the Pastors Retirement Offering Project) continues to support our retired pastors and denominational workers.

**Won't you give** to those who gave so much for Seventh Day Baptists over the years?

*Send your donation to:*

**PROP**

**Seventh Day Baptist Center**

**PO Box 1678**

Janesville WI 53547-1678

# KEVIN'S

## ORNER

### A special year

*Middle age is when you still believe you'll feel better in the morning.*  
—Bob Hope

2007.  
Two thousand seven.  
Twenty-oh-seven.  
No matter how you say it or write it, it's here. 2007.  
The year of “the Big One.”

*For all the advances in medicine, there is still no cure for the common birthday.*  
—John Glenn

I'm certainly not alone in this time of transition. Just in the Milton church alone, I know of at least six of us sharing the same fate. Yes, even our pastor. (That would be George, not Steve.)

*Forty is the old age of youth; fifty is the youth of old age.* —French proverb.

One young couple asked me about getting married on 7-7-07, mostly because they liked the date.

Why did that number sound familiar? Because the love of my life was born on 7-7-57. This year will be a special time.

*To me, fair friend, you never can be old,  
For as you were when first your eye I eye'd  
Such seems your beauty still.*  
—William Shakespeare

I'll never forget when my 7th grade homeroom teacher, Mr. Finley, hit the half-century mark. And that's just what I thought—“He's a half century old! How ANCIENT can you get? Hey, get the hearse warmed up!”

*Age is not measured by years. Nature does not equally distribute energy. Some people are born old and tired while others are going strong at seventy.* —Dorothy Thompson

Speaking of hearses, my Sunday church parishioners had a blast picking me up in a hearse for my 40th. I'm afraid of what they might do to me come September.

*At middle age the soul should be opening up like a rose, not closing up like a cabbage.*  
—John Andrew Holmes

Since we've “been around the block”—and all around the country—sometimes it's hard for us to remember where we met “so-and-so” or bumped into “what's-his-name.”

*Middle age is when you've met so many people that every new person you meet reminds you of someone else.* —Ogden Nash

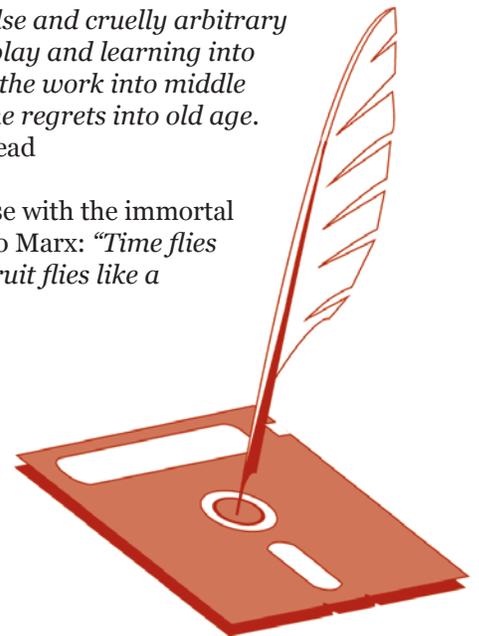
Yes, it's that special time of life: the memory lapses, the heating pads, the offers from AARP...

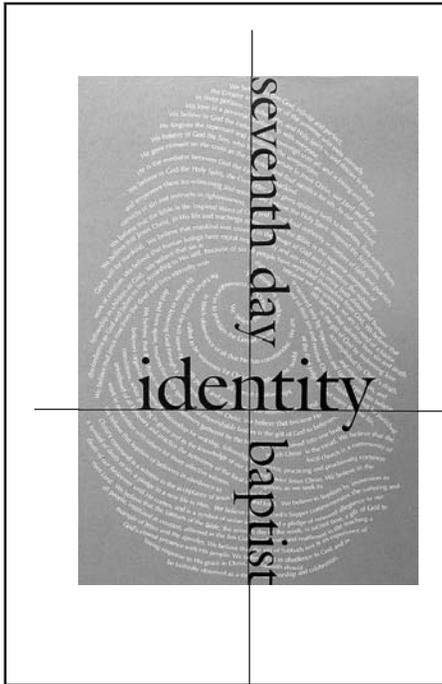
It really doesn't *feel* like I'm close to 50. Maybe it's true what they're starting to say now, that 50 is the “new 30.” Of course, didn't we used to say, “Never trust anyone over 30”?

*It is utterly false and cruelly arbitrary to put all the play and learning into childhood, all the work into middle age, and all the regrets into old age.*  
—Margaret Mead

I guess I'll close with the immortal words of Groucho Marx: “*Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.*”

Happy 2007.





*We may have lost  
our 'Distinctives'...  
...but we've found  
our 'Identity'!*

## **Seventh Day Baptist Identity**

A very popular item at Conference, this colorful 32-page booklet is the perfect introductory study of what SDBs believe. Filled with Scripture references, each section follows our denominational Statement of Belief (included in the back of the booklet). The cover's distinctive fingerprint is actually formed with words from our Statement—a clever design by artist Pat Cruzan.

The new "Identity" updates and replaces our old "Distinctives" booklets.

Each copy is only 50 cents (plus postage; e.g., 87 cents for one). Please call us for larger orders so we can calculate the shipping costs. Or, go to our on-line store and the new checkout system will calculate the shipping for you.

**Mail orders to:**  
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**PO Box 1678**  
**Janesville WI 53547**

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