



The
Sabbath
RECORDER

November 2007

News for and about Seventh Day Baptists

A central illustration shows a globe held by several hands of different colors (white, grey, brown). The background is dark with white stars. The globe is tilted, and the hands are positioned around it, suggesting a global or communal theme.

**What happens
when your**

**World
Falls
Apart?**



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 and the SDB Web site: www.seventhdaybaptist.org

Hymnals needed in Guyana

Our SDB churches in Guyana, South America, need hymnals for their worship services.

If your church has any extra hymnals (old, replaced, surplus, new), please send them to Elnora Andries at: Washington SDB Church, 4700 16th St NW, Washington DC 20011-4331.

Elnora is traveling to Guyana at the end of December, but the hymnals can be shipped to arrive before she does. They are needed especially by the more remote churches in the Amerindian areas.

CD of campfire songs

Inspired by the Camp Joy reunion in Berea, W.Va., this past June, Pastor Paul Green has compiled a CD of "Camp and Campfire Songs."

The 40 selections include table graces, rounds, challenges, movement songs, and devotionals. They're sure to bring back many camping memories!

Send a \$7.00 donation to:
Paul Green, 720 Hilltop Dr,
Milton WI 53563.

Phone: (608) 868-3726.



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 seventhdaybaptist.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, 2008, and all church project applications must be postmarked by January 31, 2008. 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.



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Where's your focus?

by Michael Graves, Nortonville, Kan.

Does God really care about the problems we face and the difficult decisions we have to make?

For the past 20 years, I have battled a lymphatic disorder that has caused my right—and, to a lesser degree, my left—extremities to swell with lymph fluid.

I have had three rounds of manual lymph therapy, each lasting from six to eight weeks. Also, I have to wear special compression garments and use a lymphatic pump twice daily.

While I have had to make some adjustments in my life, I still have my job with the State of Kansas, and I am still active in my church. I have chosen, with God's help, to serve Him. While I may stumble and fall from time to time, I know that God understands, and that He cares for me.

We all have a story to tell about "thorns in the flesh," as Paul shared in his letter to the church at Corinth (2 Corinthians 12:7-10).

The "thorns" we carry may be physical, mental, or psychological, but the issue is still the same: Will our focus be on God or on our problems? How we handle these thorns will speak volumes about our faith in God and His deliverance.

God made it clear to Paul that His grace was sufficient, that His "power is made perfect in weakness." Let us claim God's promise to Paul and realize that when we are weak, our Creator is strong.

Even while in prison, Paul shared these comforting words:

"But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me, and that all gentiles might hear. Also I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion" (2 Timothy 4:17).

We can also learn from Peter how to handle perilous times in our own lives.

In Matthew 14:22-31, we learn what happened to Peter when he stepped out of the boat to walk on water. As long as he kept his eyes on Jesus, he stayed above

than done. It's part of human nature to want to control everything. To be useful, a wild horse needs to be broken. Likewise, there are times we need to be "broken" to be of use to God.

Perilous times have been with us since the Garden of



The "thorns" we carry may be physical, mental, or psychological, but the issue is still the same: Will our focus be on God or on our problems?

the waves. But the moment Peter changed his focus to the storm, he began to sink and had to call out to Jesus for help.

When *we* are faced with life-and-death decisions, we need to remember that we have victory over death through our Lord Jesus Christ. We should stand firm, always giving ourselves fully to the labor of the Lord as we know our work in Him is not in vain (1 Corinthians 15:57-58).

Letting go and letting God work in our lives is easier said

Eden, yet God always makes a way for His people.

The conflict between good and evil continues. But for those of us who have read the back of the Book (Revelation 20:1-20), we know how the conflict will end. Just as God overcomes the devil and his followers, we can also overcome the perilous times we face (Revelation 3:21).

We will all face difficult times in our lives; no one is immune. The test will be whether our focus will be on God or on our problems.

May God bless you and keep you in His grace. Amen! **SR**

They that wait upon the Lord

by Karen Uhlich, Kent, Wash.
(From the 2007 Conference Crier)

This is my second General Conference. My first was 11 years ago in Lacey, Wash.

Six weeks before that one, my son, David, stopped speaking. It was his way of coping with my recent split with his dad.

So, there I was, at my first Conference, a newly-single mom of two boys—Dave, 7, and Benny, 5—with Dave not speaking and me quite worried about him. Dave was an early reader and writer, so at 7 he could participate in lengthy note-written conversations.

During one of the evening worship services, Dave and I were carrying on a written dialogue that got rather carried away.

Sitting near the back of the sanctuary, our notes got so silly that while I was struggling to stifle my giggles, one of his burst forth. It was the first time I had heard that wonderful voice in over a month! I “kept it together” long enough to get out of the room. Then I fell apart.

Huge amounts of tears poured out of my eyes and nose, and ran down my face. Soon, four or five SDB pastors from around the country surrounded me and prayed for my son and me.



While I was struggling to stifle my giggles, one of his burst forth. It was the first time I had heard that wonderful voice in over a month!

Don't ever forget Isaiah 40:31: “They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength.”

My son was not immediately, miraculously healed. He remained selectively mute for several more months. When he was finally ready to speak again, he spoke first to his brother, then to me, then to my brother, and so on. He gradually increased the “pool” of those he would talk to.

Dave was—and still is—this quiet guy with an *amazing* sense of humor. By 1998 (two years after the Lacey Conference), my ex-husband and I worked out our differences to the point that we remarried in May of 1999.

Since then, we have added a daughter, Becca, to our family, bought a house, and watched both our boys get baptized.

What amazes me (but why should it? God is God!) is what huge changes have come for my Dave in the last 11 years. He's sociable, plays and jokes with the other young adults and youth, has many friends, and *smiles!* He even laughs out loud.

What a wonderful sound that is as it puts joy in this proud mother's heart! **SR**

God's attention to detail

by Cheri Appel, Milton, Wis.

My stepfather, Pastor Chuck Graffius, has a saying posted on his refrigerator: "I don't just believe in miracles, *I count on them.*" This rang so true for me during a recent hospitalization.

After being discharged, I spent a week at home recuperating from a Lumbar Plexopathy. This occurs when a small blood vessel in the pelvic region is pinched and fails to appropriately feed the bundle of nerves that come out of the spine and travel down the leg.

I won't dwell on the pain I experienced. Suffice it to say that I was unable to walk or sit for four days.

What amazed me throughout this episode was God's attention to detail:

- A chiropractor referred me to my doctor right away.

- My neurologist was "in" that Friday afternoon and was able to see me.

- Rob was actually home and took fantastic care of me. His job requires a lot of travel, especially on weekends.

- I had an understanding boss. This elementary school principal is a Christian who has gone through painful back and pinched nerve episodes herself.

- I had a supportive school staff—many of whom were praying for me.

- I began a new school position this fall. (Instead of teaching a 4th grade class, I'm now part of the school's



I won't dwell on the pain I experienced. Suffice it to say that I was unable to walk or sit for four days.

support staff, teaching reading and math to small groups of 2nd and 3rd graders.)

- It was already planned that I would *not* have students the first week of school. Teachers needed time to assess student needs before I was assigned teaching groups. This turned out to be the time I was in the hospital.

- The second week of school, a friend was able to substitute for me, and she was a God-send! She had retired from my school after teaching primary grades for over 30 years.

She had the perfect personality to organize my schedule, determine the needs of my students, and collect materials to begin teaching.

- While in the hospital, the excellent third-floor nursing staff blessed me. They didn't just meet my needs; they truly ministered to and educated me—from the head nurses, to the aides, to the lab personnel, to the dietitians, to the lovely lady who cleaned my room.

Many moments were spent in informal conversations with the nursing staff. Who knows what will eventually come of those conversations?



•Was it a coincidence that my first roommate was the mother of one of my co-workers? I think not! I was able to pray for my roommates and with one patient who had lung cancer. And God helped me realize that I was quite healthy by comparison.

•On Sabbath Day, September 1, I could literally *feel* the prayers of my church family. That was the first time since Wednesday evening that I was able to lay my right leg down low enough to go through a CAT scan and an MRI.

Although I had burning pain from my hip through my foot, I didn't have the cramping and stabbing pain that made me writhe around. I was able to lie still. In the CAT scan, the Lord clearly spoke to me. He said, "*I will not give you more than you can stand. I will be with you every step of the way.*"

•Prayers, calls, cards, flowers, and visits from my church family, extended family, and friends around the country were such a blessing. I felt so loved!

•I was able to walk in the hospital halls by Monday.

•Upon coming home, I tried to do too much. Then I received a call from the Fairhaven nursing home staff to come and take care of my mother, who has Alzheimer's. (Her husband, Pastor Chuck, was out of town at the time.) This caused me to stay in assisted living from Friday evening to Monday morning, *forcing* me to rest!

•It was a blessing to stay with my mother 24/7. I got to know her better.

•I couldn't have spent time with Mom the previous weekend (since I was in the hospital), nor the weekend after. God's timing is perfect!

•And where did God have me stay to be near my mother? In Chuck's apartment at the same complex. That weekend, I was following a diabetic diet because

the doctors wanted to check out my blood sugar. Chuck is a diabetic, so the food in his apartment was appropriate for my needs. God's attention to detail is amazing!

•Rob was scheduled to leave on a Canadian fishing trip soon after I checked out of the hospital. He was able to reschedule the trip—even that late in the season! God ended up providing a few more days of decent weather than Rob originally would have had. God is good all the time.

•I have 10 paid sick days in a school year. I had to use—guess how many?—10 days for hospitalization, recuperation, doctor's follow-up appointments, and tests. I know God will provide for me the rest of the year.

•God supplied physicians with the knowledge and experience to figure out what was happening

Many moments were spent in informal conversations with the nursing staff. Who knows what will eventually come of those conversations?

to me—even after first admitting that I was "quite a puzzle."

•With my deductible for this year paid, my insurance is covering most of the bills. The co-pay for my many prescriptions (as I came out of the hospital) is quite manageable.

—————

God is always in control. He is the Great Physician and Planner. He loves us and brings all things around for good to those who love Him. SR

Discovering God's world

by Cormeth Lawrence, Palm Bay, Fla.

Mankind, with all its great knowledge, talents, and skills, cannot visualize the power, the infinite wisdom, and the awesomeness of God.

Psalm 92:5 states, "O LORD, how great are Thy works, and Thy thoughts are very deep." Truly, truly our God is an awesome God!

Throughout the ages, archeologists claim to have made significant discoveries of living things. Some, not being content with their findings, have focused their interest and resources on things that are "way out there."

The U.S. government spent millions of hard-earned taxpayers' dollars to put the first man on the moon in 1969. Since then, space exploration has become a professional, full-time job for thousands of people all over the world.

Is God being glorified as a result of these discoveries? I don't think so.

When there is a new finding, the "discovering agent" pats himself (or herself) on the back and shouts, "Hurrah! Put my name down on the pages of history. I have made yet another discovery, and I am the greatest!"

God's world cannot be discovered through books, or by man's skills, or the ingenuity of any people or nation. His marvelous world is spiritually discerned, and can only be discovered through faith in God and His Son, Jesus Christ.

I am not referring to a mere "surface" knowledge that says there *could be* a supernatural power some place out there. Nor do I mean those who might have knowledge of the Bible, or those who display some religious principles but deny God's almighty power.

The Scribes and Pharisees were the most revered religious people of their time. Yet they didn't have the slightest spiritual insight into God's

world. That's because they were carnal, discerning things only through the knowledge of their own minds rather than by the Spirit of God. For this reason, Jesus referred to them as "blind guides," "hypocrites," and leaders of those who were spiritually blind themselves.

So many people living in the world today go to church often, pray to God occasionally, and read the Bible sometimes. But they have never ex-



perienced the joy, comfort, or pleasure that can be found in God's spiritual world.

Countless people have claimed—and continue to testify—that they have seen "things" from outer space. It's sad that these same people only become more miserable and more frustrated after they have had these experiences.

To discover God's world, one must first acknowledge that the material things around us—a house or money—are transient, while the things of God's Kingdom—such as joy, peace, and contentment—are permanent and unchanging.

We must also free ourselves of such bad habits as drinking,

smoking, and gambling; things that we have become slaves to.

God's world is spiritual and can only be discerned by spirit-filled people. These are the ones who love God with all their heart, body, and soul.

The trouble with people, even Christians, is that there is too much personality and not enough spirituality. We need to strip off the "old person," with all its selfish desires and practices, and put on the "new person," which has been created according to God's will in true righteousness and holiness (Ephesians 4:22-24).

Having done this, the next important step is to surrender your life to the will of God. There must be a godly surrendering and a turning away from sin.

Acts 2:38 says, "Then Peter said unto them, 'Repent, and be baptized, every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.'"

You are now entering God's world. Obedience to God should be your first priority.

"Draw near to God; he will draw near to you" (James 4:8).

"Set your affection on things which are above, not on things on the earth" (Colossians 3:2).

A prayerful life, daily Bible reading, and meditation are just some of the keys to discovering this spiritual world.

You will never be lonely again. If you are willing to embark on this adventure to discover God's world, your ultimate reward will be eternal life. Why not start now? **SR**

Please pray for Pastor Cormeth as he copes with Parkinson's disease.

Should we subordinate that which divides us?

by Beth Newman



The Church knows the one thing that all the world will acknowledge someday.

A few nights ago, my husband and I heard some kind of owl announcing its presence among the oaks in our backyard. A little research on the Internet led us to believe it was a screech owl.

I was excited because I'm a budding bird enthusiast. My husband was excited because he saw an end to our backyard mole problems. (According to what he read, once an owl establishes a territory, he will hunt it over until he exhausts the prey.)

Unfortunately, as we waxed eloquent about the bloody demise of the rodents tunneling under our grass, our 6-year-old son over-head us. He burst into tears as we discussed the slaughter of his friends whom he pronounced "tiny and shiny black."

"Isn't there enough room for the owl and mole and us?" he wondered. (It was the Hanover, Va., version of Rodney King's plea, "Can't we all just get along?")

The simple answer, of course, was that we couldn't. What the mole wants, and what the owl wants, and what my husband wants are in irreconcilable conflict.

Scripture promises that this will not always be so.

At the consummation of the Kingdom of God, the mole and

the owl will lie down together. They and the Gardener will be reconciled members of the peaceable Kingdom—not varying levels in the food chain.

But what about the meantime?

A recent survey of Muslim Americans presented a "good news/bad news" scenario. For me, the most intriguing point was that sizable portions of the Islamic population regard themselves as Muslims first, and U.S. citizens second.

At least one Christian pundit views this as a cause for alarm, interpreting it as a threat to peace.

He believes that unless we can all agree about what we value most, it's extremely unlikely that we can get along. Therefore, he reasons, it is our duty to subordinate that which divides us, to that which unites us.

I would state his opinion more bluntly: "If we as Christians, or Muslims, or Americans want peace, we must be willing to kill other Christians or Muslims who don't happen to be Americans."

This illustrates a profound failure of the Christian imagination. Here is the poverty of Christian memory in 21st-century America.

An argument I often encounter from my students is that our freedom to worship was purchased at a high price—the blood of our fellow citizens. Therefore, we owe our nation our allegiance.

My response is that as precious as those lost lives are, if our country withdrew that freedom tomorrow, would we cease to worship?

It is my conviction that the Church is not better, purer, or more virtuous than the world that surrounds it. But the Church *knows* the one thing that all the world will acknowledge someday. In Jesus, God has broken the walls of enmity that separate us from each other—and from God. We are called to live in witness to *this* peace.

Will you pledge allegiance to that? 

Beth Newman is professor of theology and ethics at Baptist Theological Seminary in Richmond, Va.

Oscar Burdick receives Gold-Headed Cane

by Janet Thorngate

Periodically, the Seventh Day Baptist Historical Society presents its Gold-Headed Cane award to a person who has made significant contributions to the preservation, interpretation, or communication of Seventh Day Baptist history.

At General Conference this past August in Newburg, Ore., a new recipient was named.



The person we've chosen to honor may not be well known to many Seventh Day Baptists, but the value of his work is measureless. Thus we choose to recognize and grant this award to Oscar C. Burdick.

Our honoree attended high school in Milton, Wis., and received a B.A. degree from Milton College in 1950, with a Certificate in pipe organ. He went on to earn a Bachelor of Divinity degree from Alfred (N.Y.) University School of Theology in 1953, with additional work at the Pacific School of Religion.

While a student, Oscar served as a summer pastor in New Auburn, Wis.; Adams Center, N.Y.; and one semester at Hebron, Pa. He then pastored the church in Daytona Beach, Fla., which ordained him in 1955.

After moving to California in 1956, Oscar participated in the new Bay Area Fellowship (now the Bay Area SDB Church). It sometimes met in his home, and he shared early pastoral leadership.

In 1958, Oscar received a Master's in Library Science from the University of California. Since then, his professional work has been in the theological libraries at the Pacific School of Religion and the Graduate Theological Union Library in Berkeley, Calif., from which he recently retired.

In 2005, the Pacific School hon-

ored Oscar for his 50-plus years (and counting) as chapel organist. He was carillonneur at Stanford University from 1952 to 1954, and has been organist at Arlington Community Church in Berkeley for years. He is the Bay Area SDB Church organist-pianist and occasionally serves as General Conference organist.

Today, we honor Oscar C. Burdick for researching SDB history for more than 50 years.

The first tangible evidence of what became a lifelong avocation (some might say obsession!) was the thesis he wrote for his Divinity degree: a 300-page study on the Stennett family of Seventh Day

film of most of those documents—many of them made from an only-known copy.

Of course, such work is never finished. Twenty-some years ago, Oscar said, "We have 17 pieces of every 1,000-pieces of the puzzle of early Seventh Day Baptist history," but as you fit the pieces together, "a vigorous picture emerges."

Because of Oscar, we now have many more of the pieces. Aided by his professional "tools" and the expertise of modern library science, he can find "stuff." What's more, he *reads* the stuff! (If you have ever tried to read even the full title page of a book printed in the 17th cen-

Thanks to Oscar, we have an almost complete, meticulously documented manuscript—over three inches thick—of the history of Seventh Day Baptists in England, starting with their origin in the 1650s.

Baptists in England. These several generations of men who were both pastors and hymn-writers apparently inspired Oscar to search ever-deeper for facts to understand our origins and life as a people of God.

Today, we have an almost complete, meticulously documented manuscript—over three inches thick—of the history of Seventh Day Baptists in England, starting with their origin in the 1650s.

Thanks to Oscar, we also have a bibliography of every known book, pamphlet, record, or letter that documents that life. Our SDB historical library now contains originals, photo-static copies, or micro-

tury, you have some idea what that task involves.)

In brief, well-planned trips to England, Oscar conducted research and made valuable contacts with other librarians and researchers at the British Library; Dr. Williams' Library; Regent's Park College and Bodleian Libraries in Oxford; many public record offices; and other places. These people, like us, often profited from Oscar's work as he generously shared information on sources and how to locate them.

At last count, Oscar has contributed a number of new titles and many revisions to the *Wing's English Short Title Catalog* (on-



Oscar Burdick (left) received the Gold-Headed Cane and a plaque at his home church in August. Pastor Steve Crouch made the presentation.

line). Other discoveries are reported to the *National Union Catalog*. With his assistance, we have been able to identify rare books in our own collection so they can be reported to national and international catalogs and thus made accessible to researchers of church history worldwide.

In 1984, Oscar spoke at the American Theological Library Association Conference on the topic, “Sleuthing the Origins of English Seventh Day Baptists in the 1650s.” His “sleuthing” has produced some dramatic discoveries.

To try to ascertain the relationship of Baptists and Seventh Day Baptists around Tewkesbury, England, he secured photocopies of early pages of the Tewkesbury Baptist record book. The membership list of about 1663 was in code, which he quickly broke.

The surprising thing was that the list included the names of Stephen Mumford and Sister Mumford, telling us they were not missionaries to America from the Bell Lane Church in London, as previously thought. Thus evaporated the missionary hypothesis of an earlier scholar.

Once Oscar chased down a college student wearing a Heidelberg, Germany, sweatshirt. That young person directed Oscar to the

parish church that now uses the former monastery where the Tillam-Pooley Seventh Day Baptist colony was located for a few years in the mid-17th century.

The church historian there provided photocopies of many pertinent documents. Oscar, in turn, provided information that completed her long search for determining who

Seventh Day Baptists were and where they came from.

“Someone has written that it is easier to do new research than to correct other people’s mistakes,” Oscar commented. “What I am doing is a revised version of the history, hopefully closer to what actually happened.”

For example, Oscar emphasized myth-buster discoveries that changed previous theories of the Mill Yard church’s origins: that an early 1650s church in which Peter Chamberlen was involved was not Sabbathkeeping, and that there is no verifiable connection between John Traske’s activity in 1617 and later Sabbathkeeping Baptists.

In running down a footnote, Oscar secured for us the death year of Edward Stennet as 1705, which negates the assumption that he was a chaplain in the English civil wars. Also, in helping Stennett family members with their genealogy, one relative happened to cite a reference which gives an authoritative birthday and year for Samuel Stennett.

Other discoveries, however, give us an even fuller picture of our heritage as Seventh Day Baptists, one less entwined with radical political activities.

In seeking more information on William Saller, an early Mill Yard pastor (perhaps the first), Oscar identified 11 books by him, including many sermons. Of course, Oscar has read them!

“Thus, I have come to realize the importance to the movement of this neglected pastor [William Saller],” Oscar wrote in an 1984 article.

“More famous people—like Dr. Chamberlen or the infamous John James—have gotten much more attention. Much older church history is written in terms of famous people rather than seeing a whole movement. Famous people are fine, but often it is the unsung pastors and laity who sustain a church or a movement.”

Likewise, it is often the unsung researchers who enable our historical work. They help us discover not only the facts but also the essence of who we have been and who we are becoming. They help us interpret the kaleidoscope of ways the God of history works to mold His people.

For the past several years, Oscar Burdick’s work has informed and enlightened not only our own publications—including those of his seminary classmate, Don A. Sanford—but also the work of several other church historians.

We join Oscar in hoping that someday his wonderful manuscript will be printed by a major publisher. Meanwhile, we honor him for the significant contributions he has already made. **SR**

Recent hip surgery prevented Oscar from attending General Conference. Historian Nicholas Kersten presented the cane and plaque to Rev. Steven Crouch, who accepted the items on Oscar’s behalf. On August 18, 2007, Oscar received the award at his home church—the Bay Area SDB Church in Pinole, Calif.

Attention: Churches, Associations, and Camps!

Do you need an SCSC team to come and help with your project?

Team members (and Project directors) are trained at Camp Wakonda in Milton, Wis., and then spend the summer at their assigned project.



Scenic Camp Wakonda



2007 Training Staff



Training in the Craft Cabin

For more information on SCSC, please check the www.sdbwboard.org or www.seventhdaybaptist.org websites and then the link to the SCSC page.

How to know Jesus Christ

First: **Realize we each have a problem**

All of us (born on this side of the Garden of Eden) have the same basic problem in our lives. The Bible identifies that problem as “sin.”

“For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).

Sin stains the soul, scars the spirit, and separates from God.

Second: **Recognize Jesus is the only solution to our problem**

The only solution for this problem would be to have someone who was sinless to solve it on our behalf. Jesus provides the solution. He was sinless. He willingly took our place on the Cross and paid the price for our sin problem to be solved.

“But God demonstrates His love to us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).

Third: **Receive Jesus personally as Savior and Lord**

Salvation—God’s solution to our sin problem—is a gift that is offered to every person.

“The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23).

Receiving Jesus Christ personally involves asking Him to come into your life to be your Lord.

“For whoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved” (Romans 10:13).

You can ask Jesus Christ to be your Lord right now:

***“Lord Jesus,
I realize I am a sinner,
I recognize you are the solution,
and I receive you as my
Savior and Lord.”***



More beautiful than diamonds

The dew on the window screen looked like diamond polka dots. As I sat at our breakfast table, I could look through the diamonds to the colorful flower bed outside.

What a fitting scene for the the words my husband kept repeating as he read our Scripture from *The Upper Room*: "...for the praise of His glory" (Ephesians 1:3-14).

I couldn't help but think of the lyrics, "Lord, You are more beautiful than diamonds, and nothing I desire compares with You."

Recently, I sat around that same table, surrounded by friends celebrating a birthday. We don't often get together, but when we do, we continue the habit of prayer that started when we used to meet for weekly Bible study.

We frequently share a bit of inspiration, and I'd like to pass on what I said.

I told how, during my devotions (our 6-year-old granddaughter, Kacie, calls them my "emotions"), I was reading *Our Daily Bread*. I suddenly stopped, amazed at the "Insight" entry, referencing Ephesians 2:10.

I had just read the recommended passage in 2 Corinthians 5:12-21, and now I was learning that "the word workmanship (*poeima*) means 'masterpiece.' It differs from the word for human 'works' (*ergon*, 2:9). Believers are God's workmanship because He Himself has made them new in Christ Jesus."*

As an English teacher and a lov-

er of poetry, all I could see was the word "poem." All of a sudden, I thought of myself as God's poem. Whether I saw it somewhere or just made it up, I used to define poetry to my students as "splashing your heart on paper."



**May
we see each
other in
the light of You,
Who
are more
beautiful than
diamonds.**

This is what I wrote in my journal after reading about *poeima*:

"Lord, I think of the word 'poem,' pondering the idea that I am Your poem, created straight from Your heart. Instead of splashing Your heart on paper, You used dust to form us. You used Your spoken word to create everything that moves me.

"No wonder words are powerful even when used by those who were formed in Your image. You used Your words and Your hands.

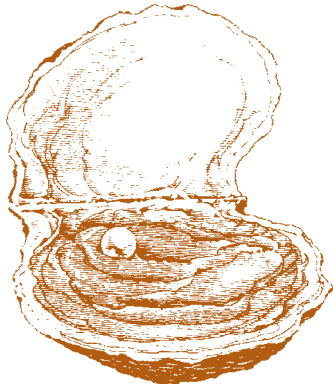
"When I think of You using dust, I'm reminded of Jesus—stooping to write in the dust as the adulteress stood before her accusers. At that moment, it seems You were rewriting the script for her and all mankind, releasing us from the bonds of sin and from the Accuser, demonstrating 2 Corinthians 5:16-21."

I quote bits here: "Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh. Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: Old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation. For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."

Oh, the joy of being made brand new, of having new life in Christ Jesus!

You, dear Lord, have sown Light into us. May we see not only ourselves with new eyes but also each other in the same light—in the light of You, Who are more beautiful than diamonds. **SR**

*Contributed to *Our Daily Bread* by H. Dennis Fisher, Sept. 12, 2007.



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

Living successfully or living significantly

In the process of sorting out an accumulation of inherited writings, I came across a paper which my father, Deacon Mark Sanford, wrote:

“Among those who think of Thanksgiving as something more than a turkey dinner, the most common thought is that of giving thanks for what has been given to us! Many of us fall far short of giving the thanks for what we received. But I would like to center our attention around the idea of GIVING, not just receiving.”

Dad went on to mention that the stage was set for the first Thanksgiving when a group of so-called “independents” in England decided they would pay whatever price needed for the right to live and worship as they believed. The *Encyclopedia Britannica* describes the Pilgrims with these words:

“The reason that compelled their departure determined their quality. They were men of religious conscience who loved their fatherland much, but religion more. Not driven from home by mercantile necessities or ambition, but by their determination to be free to worship God. It was their willingness to GIVE that set the stage for their thankfulness that they had been allowed to see some of their hope realized.”

My dad then spoke of a meeting of the New York State Farm Bureau where a Dr. Clausen spoke:

“We must choose between trying to be **successful** or trying to live **significantly**. If we are looking for success in our lifetime, then our

ideals are too low to be really significant. We should work for something that is beyond the possibility of being achieved in one lifetime. The great movements that have been making life more worthwhile have been going on for centuries, and we are only working on a production line, each doing his part in the work which one individual alone can not do.”



“We should work for something that is beyond the possibility of being achieved in one lifetime.”

Dr. Clausen then told of a scientist who said that our richest heritage is the record of things that have failed. Each recorded failure adds to the supply of knowledge so that others can start where someone else left off.

When this scientist was asked about a cure for cancer, he replied that he was sure that it would even-

tually be found because every failure narrows the field of research.

It’s better to lose on the side that eventually wins than to be on the side that eventually loses.

It’s better to be so far ahead that you can’t see your dream come true than to be so far behind that you see the final nightmare. We should walk ahead slowly but not slip back.

Dr. Clausen also related the story of an outstanding home run hitter who came to bat with the score tied and the bases loaded. The crowd called for a home run, but the manager signaled for a sacrifice bunt. The ballplayer laid a perfect bunt down the first base line and was put out, but the winning run scored.

Then my dad switched from the observations of others to some of his own experiences. He was recognized as a leader in maple syrup production, not in quantity but in quality methods that benefited other producers.

He observed that trees live longer than man. This simple statement is the chief reason why forestry is different from most branches of agriculture in the U.S. With the exception of Christmas trees, few people who plant trees live to see them mature. This process is something that must be carried out by more than one generation.

Many of the lessons of forestry management can be applied to the planting, cultivating, and even pruning of churches. As they grow, the ultimate goal is to produce “sweet syrup” that can enrich generation after generation.

Church planting is for generations, and the saplings of today are the source of enrichment for generations to come. **SR**



Celebrating a harvest

by Morgan Shepard

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing... This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples” (John 15:5, 8, NIV).



Thanksgiving is the time of year when we express thanks for all God has provided. In the past, family and friends came together to celebrate the harvest and give thanks for a bountiful year.

While we focus on the plenty we enjoy today, we need to remember how that harvest grew. We are but branches to the vine that is God.

Financially, 2007 has been a bountiful harvest for the General Conference and the boards and agencies. We are thankful for all the tithes and gifts you have given, and we hope that they have been a blessing to you, as well.

As of September, we are both ahead and behind of last year. Huh? How is that possible?!

Due to reduced budgets, we are closer to our budgeted giving mark for 2007 than we were in 2006, but we have received less in 2007 compared to the same time last year. It’s not too late to donate and make a difference.

Here are some areas that need immediate help this year:

- The **Tract & Communication Council** is developing a new salvation tract. They need \$5,000 to develop, print, and distribute this publication. Contact T&CC for more details.

- The **Missionary Society** is still responding to Hurricane Felix’s destruction in Nicaragua. The Miskito Indians were hardest hit, with homes destroyed and families lost. \$800 will help build a typical two-room house for a family, and \$100 will help feed an orphan for over six months. Contact the Missionary Society for more details.

- The **Board of Christian Education** is experiencing increased mailing costs that have severely impacted overseas mailing of *The Helping Hand*. On average, instead of \$820 per quarter, it now costs \$1,350 a quarter to mail that publication overseas—a 65% increase! Contact the Board or the SDB Center in Janesville (Wis.) to learn how to help those receiving *The Helping Hand* overseas.

- The **Council on Ministry** helps prospective pastors attending seminary and assists established pastors with continuing education expenses,


helping to ensure that your church will have trained leaders.

On average, a part-time seminary student needs \$2,600 per semester. Summer Institute courses cost \$300 per student, while T.I.M.E. students need up to \$1,000 per class to continue their training. Training for our future church leaders affects everyone. Contact COM for more details.

- The **Sabbath Recorder** has been hit with increased mailing rates as well as *The Helping Hand*. Sending the *SR* overseas has been halted because the cost has more than doubled from \$250 per month to almost \$565. Your contribution can ensure that “news for and about” SDBs gets to our international churches and Conferences.

In addition to these urgent needs, others need our ongoing support: The **Women’s Society** and their work with **SCSC**; maintaining the 26-year-old **SDB Center** in Janesville; and helping the needy through **Christian Social Action**.

Most importantly, **support your local church first**. It provides the greatest opportunities for you to have an impact for God’s Kingdom.

The blessings celebrated at the harvest come through obedience and faith. We plant the seeds, knowing that God will provide. 



2007 Sabbath School Teacher of the Year

Ed Cruzan of the White Cloud, Mich., Seventh Day Baptist Church has received the Crystal Apple Award as the 2007 Sabbath School Teacher of the Year.


The award was announced during General Conference sessions at George Fox University in Newberg, Ore., this past August. Ed received the award—consisting of a framed certificate and a crystal apple—during a presentation at his home church in September.

People in White Cloud know Ed as a dedicated Christian who has served as a Sabbath School teacher for more than 20 consecutive years.

Ed seamlessly shifts from teaching one age group to another as the needs of the church change. He can challenge

adults and still provide preschoolers with exactly what they need. He doesn't hesitate to get down on the floor with the kids and will search for ways to bring the lesson home in ways that make sense to them.

Beyond the classroom, Ed is willing to serve in areas that God has equipped him: deacon, trustee, janitor. He was also active in White Cloud's initial evangelism efforts in the Grand Rapids, Mich., area.

These characteristics led the church to nominate Ed for Sabbath School Teacher of the Year, and the Board of Christian Education to select him. As written on the cake served in his honor, Ed Cruzan truly is "Mr. Christian Ed." 



A sweet reward for "Mr. Christian Ed," Ed Cruzan.

Scripture Memory Honor Roll

In 2005, Vision Christian Fellowship in Westerly, R.I., and the Central Seventh Day Baptist Church in Mitchellville, Md., achieved something remarkable: They became the first SDB churches to be placed on the Scripture Memory Honor Roll.

How did they achieve this honor? They had a completion rate in the Scripture Memory Program that exceeded 50 percent of their average worship attendance. In other words, a lot of people in those churches committed to memorizing portions of Scripture—and followed through!

While the challenge of the Honor Roll isn't easy, two churches have now proved it's possible. Will *your* church be listed on the Honor Roll next year? See how many people you can help memorize the verses!

Memorize Isaiah 55

The 2007-2008 Scripture Memorization Program has two ways to meet the requirements. You may complete the program the way you have always done—by memorizing the nine verses that highlight the General Conference President's theme. Or, you may now exercise your mind to a greater degree by memorizing a Bible chapter chosen to work with the overall program.

For the 2007-08 program, memorize Isaiah 55. If you choose to do this, recite the whole chapter at one time in front of someone designated by your church; the pastor, a Sabbath School teacher, the Christian Education chair, etc.

Either way, you will complete the requirements for the Scripture Memorization Program.

Your church will submit one list of participants, and your name will appear in the *Sabbath Recorder*. You will also receive a certificate with your name on it.



FOCUS on Missions

Northwest Days 2007

by Ron Elston
*National Director of Extension
SDB Missionary Society*

The Ahtanum Community Church—a Seventh Day Baptist church in Yakima, Wash.—recently hosted Northwest Days. The services were well attended, with 86 people coming from SDB churches in Montana and Washington State.

The Ahtanum church was welcomed into the denomination during this year's General Conference at George Fox University in Newberg, Ore., near Portland.

Yakima was a beautiful setting for Northwest Days. The Yakima area comprises three fertile valleys that transverse from Selah all the way to Benton City, at the edge of the Tri-Cities. Agriculture has been the staple for the economy for the past 125 years, but the great quality of life and the plethora of outdoor activities is bringing an onslaught of tourists. Also, people are re-

Yakima was a beautiful setting for Northwest Days.

locating to the region to enjoy the simple life in the sun.

Music and praise filled the Ahtanum church as the people gathered. I presented the morning message on the topic, "The World's Greatest Institution (the Church)."

A luncheon followed the worship service, and all enjoyed a great time of fellowship. Host pastor Stan Fox and his congregation did an outstanding job planning the day!

During the afternoon session, G. Kirk Looper, the Executive Director for the SDB Missionary Society, presented a missions program, followed by a question and answer time. There was a great deal of interest in this topic.

Brother Looper also met with the Association's Young Adult Committee chaired by Levi Bond.

A music and praise time concluded the afternoon services. Brother Mike Baugher performed a new version of the popular old song, "Ghost Riders in the Sky." His version, entitled "Ghost Members on the Sly," was well-received and connected the morning message with the mission presentation.

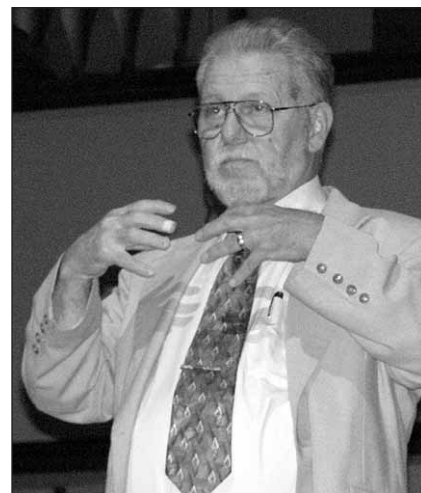
We feel very blessed to have Pastor Fox, the Ahtanum Community Church, and the new Northwest Association as part of our Seventh Day Baptist family. **SR**



The Ahtanum church.



G. Kirk Looper



Pastor Stanley Fox



the BEACON

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

November 2007

Best friend, or God?

by Jessica Chroniger

Hi! My name is Jessica Chroniger, and I am the new *Beacon* editor for this year.

I am a member of the Shiloh, N.J., Seventh Day Baptist Church. My dad is Pastor Don Chroniger, and my mom is Charlotte Chroniger. I look forward to working with the *Sabbath Recorder*, and I hope you enjoy the articles to come.

* * *

“God will never leave you nor forsake you!”

I struggled with that phrase most of my high school years.

Without noticing, we can put all of our trust in people. If I ask my best friend for a favor, she will do it. When working with a group on a project, hopefully everyone will do their job.

From these experiences, we learn that people can and will let us down. The more trust we have in people, the more heartache we can get when they do not do what we are relying on them to do. However, no one is perfect. It's in our nature to do things wrong.

But there is One Who will *never* leave us—God!

A few times in my life, I have struggled with the choice of trusting a friend or trusting God.

I had a best friend since I was very young. When I became a Christian,

I wanted to stop doing sinful things and live as Christ wanted me to live. I had a problem when my best friend was doing things that I wanted to avoid; the very things I despised.

During that time, I recalled those Bible passages. I needed to trust God and know in my heart and mind that even when I had no friends, God was always there for me.

***The more
trust we have in people,
the more heartache we can get when
they do not do what we are
relying on them to do.***

Could I—or should I—remain her friend? I wondered. How could I throw away a relationship with someone I had known all my life?

As I thought about this, I remembered some passages from the book of Matthew: “If your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off.” “If your eye causes you to sin, gouge it out.”

Wow! I knew the right thing to do, so I planned to end our friendship, even though I knew it would be difficult.

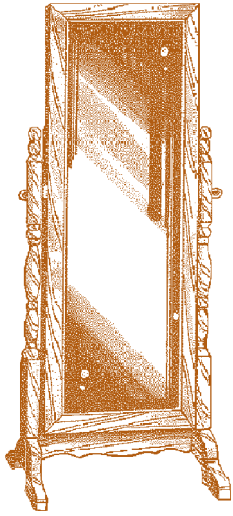
Throughout that next year, I had to endure threatening e-mails from my former friend, as well as the horrible things that were being said about me to others.

This week, take the time to see just how much God is with you. When you find Him, it's a great thing! God is forever faithful!

May God bless you in all that you do. **SR**



Jessica Chroniger



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

A perfect fall day

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1, NIV).

I love Wisconsin autumns. I can even describe my favorite fall day:

The cloudless sky is robin's eggshell-blue, a perfect canvas for displaying the red, yellow, and gold leaves that God paints with His heavenly brush.

A gentle breeze, just strong enough to send leaves pirouetting across the sidewalk, caresses my face as I soak in the sun's warmth. With the temperature hovering in the mid-60s, I roll up the sleeves on my sweatshirt and head home.

As I walk through the kitchen door, the smell of apple cider and cinnamon sticks simmering in a crockpot greets me—a delightful treat that warms my spirit as well as my body.

With a steaming cup of cider in hand, I walk out onto our deck to watch neighborhood squirrels busily gather acorns. Suddenly, a wave of migrating geese washes over the rooftops, honking excitedly as they discuss their much-anticipated southern vacation.

Reflecting on yet another perfect autumn day, I whisper some familiar words to a cardinal perched on our bird feeder: "God saw all that he had made, and it was very good" (Genesis 1:31).

I love autumn, but it does have two aspects I dislike: It heralds the beginning of shorter and shorter daylight hours, and it's the doorway that winter bursts through.

During the summer, it stays light until about 9:00 p.m. in Wisconsin. That means that I can come home from work and feel like much of the day is still left. There's time to "grill out," work in the garden,

Suddenly, a wave of migrating geese washes over the rooftops,



honking excitedly as they discuss their much-anticipated southern vacation.

take a long walk, or bike to a nearby park.

With the arrival of yet another autumn, I've decided to finally "make peace" with this season's steady and ever-increasing loss of daylight.

Instead of dreading those earlier shadows and the inevitable darkness, I can look at them as patchwork squares on a comforting quilt—one that I wrap around myself as I sit snug and safe in front of our fireplace.

The loss of daylight provides more opportunities for leisurely dinners and stimulating conversations. After clearing the table and doing the dishes, there's extra time to curl up with a good book—or with a beloved pet or a special loved one.

The early darkness gives us permission to slow down and unwind from the stresses of the day, enjoying a cup of tea or a mug of hot chocolate as we contemplate the simple joys of life.

And what about winter? Instead of dreading it, I'm going to *try* to embrace it. (With clenched fists and chattering teeth!)

Winter can also be a time of slowing down—both for our overworked bodies and our overloaded minds.

While taking in the beauty of snow-encrusted fences and eaves troughs draped with icicle necklaces, we can think of the new birth that always comes at winter's end. We can warm our hearts with thoughts of daffodils bursting forth from the black earth and spotting the first orange-vested robin of spring.

In March, when the last snowflakes of winter squat in dirty roadside puddles, we can focus on the moisture being stored up to nurture the thirsty plants of summer.

As surely as the sun rises and the sun sets, so come the seasons that God created, each with its own blessings—if we simply take the time to find them. **SR**



A LIMITLESS GOD FOR A HUNGRY PEOPLE

2008 SDB General Conference August 3-9
Carthage College, Kenosha, Wisconsin



The President's Page
by Pastor Andrew Samuels

Consider it all joy

What difficulty are you facing right now? What struggle are you encountering?

What physical infirmity are you experiencing? What hurt are you enduring?

Most of us would rather not have difficulties. We would rather sail through life on easy street. After all, that's much more enjoyable.

But haven't you discovered in your maturing process that there are some very good reasons for us having to go through troubles and problems? So, what are some of the benefits of going through struggles?

From the Bible, we know that trials:

- humble us (2 Corinthians 12:7)
- call us to an eternal hope (2 Corinthians 4:16-18)
- reveal what we really love (Luke 14:26-27)
- teach us to value God's blessings (Psalm 63:3)
- enable us to help others in their suffering (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)
- produce endurance and strength (James 1:2-3)

If trials have the above benefits, and more, why would we want to live without them? The truth is, many of these benefits do not come our way except through perilous times. That's why the Apostle James exhorted us to consider it all joy when we

encounter trials of various sorts (James 1:2). I believe he wrote that verse with a straight face. He wasn't kidding!

What we need, therefore, is a proper understanding of the purpose of trials.

When we come to understand what God is doing in us when He allows our struggles, a change of attitude is inevitable. Even our prayers will have a different character.

Why should we pray for our difficulties to be taken away when, for most of us, they are the very means by which we are kept close to God? If we are to really believe what the Bible teaches, our prayers should be for *more* of these wonderful "props" that build our stamina, our endurance, and our strength.

God is not as interested in our comfort as He is in our character.

Sometimes we attract trials and problems through our own actions or words. But the fact is, no one is exempt from trouble; not even the most spiritual among us.

No arena of life is out of bounds. Difficulties are indiscriminate in their timing and choice of target. From emotional turbulence to physical frailties; from relational stresses to vocational upheavals; from financial burdens to academic pressures; and, yes, even tussles in your church,

trouble stands at the brink, waiting to make its unwelcome, untimely, and usually unexpected entrance.

In the midst of our sometimes overwhelming state of affairs, we would do well to remind ourselves of two timeless and changeless truths:

First, **God is Sovereign and limitless**. That means He can either change our circumstances, or He can change us, providing the ability to grow through them. Either way, our response at all times should be to trust God and His purpose. Our passion and hunger for Him should lead us in that direction.

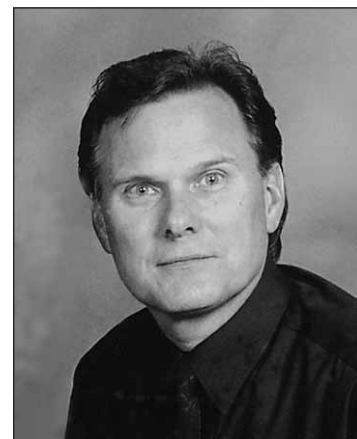
The second truth is that **we always have choices**. We choose our attitude at all times; no one makes us do anything. So, we would enjoy more of what God intends for us if we made better choices.

How would we know that God redeems if we had no experiences which needed redemption?

How would we know that God heals if we had no sicknesses?

How would we know that God delivers if we didn't find ourselves in situations where we needed deliverance?

Let's be thankful that, even in perilous times, God remains limitless, longing to respond to a people who yearn for Him. **SR**



by Executive Director
Rob Appel

Report to Conference (part 3)

At our Conference sessions in 2006, I asked for your help to identify a united Conference vision. Since I received very little input, I took it upon myself to collect information to aid in this vision quest.

To those who participated in my surveys this past year, I say, "Thank You!"

In my questionnaire, I asked what we were doing most effectively as a Conference. Then I asked what we *could* be doing as far as new ministries go, or improving the ones we already have.

Here is what you said were our most effective ministries (not in any particular order):

- Short-term mission projects
- *The Sabbath Recorder*
- Summer Christian Service Corps
- Website management
- Memorial Fund Conference ministry support
- Financially supporting theological students
- Research and archive assistance by the Historical Society
- *The Helping Hand*
- Seminary Education Program
- Scholarships
- Youth and Young Adult Pre-Cons
- Foreign medical missions

Here is what you said that you would like the Conference to explore:

- Keep Board websites up-to-date
- Accountability within the Boards
- Plant churches
- Video education
- Communicate scholarship info better
- Advertise
- Promote SCSC more
- Give the Historical Society a budget
- At-large CLT member(s) voted by the Conference
- Improve overall communication among Boards
- NET updated material and more evangelism training
- Encourage giving wills with no strings attached
- Board "team efforts" on projects
- More mission projects available
- Better materials for Young Adults
- Improve pastor recruitment
- Salvation tracts
- Change look of the SR
- Address social issues

So, what is our process to discover if we need to improve or launch a new ministry?

First, our Boards and Agencies need to be swift and responsive in

looking at these suggestions. I suggest that the executives from each of our Boards and Agencies sit down with representatives from our 10 Associations and dialogue. After exploring these suggestions, they could decide which require action and then implement them, setting a timetable in the process.

If we simply ignore what is being said from the pews, we are not supporting our local churches in their ministry outreach efforts.

Speaking of ministries, last year I mentioned that we needed to look at the overall ministries we currently have, and see how they are performing in relationship to their costs. We need to decide if there is still a need for that particular ministry today. If a program is not cost effective, we must change it or exchange it for one that's performing its function.

I feel that ministry optimism is growing throughout our denomination. We are showing the telltale signs that breakthroughs will take place in the near future.

To ensure that we will rise to the next level of ministry for SDBs, I am confident that we can foster an environment of unity through our Alliance In Ministry. I'm excited to see how this will all come together, and I hope you are, too! **SR**

Butler honored at BJC meeting

by Rob Appel

Washington, DC—On October 2, 2007, the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty (BJC) honored Kevin Butler for 10 years of service on the BJC Board of Directors. J. Brent Walker, the organization’s Executive Director, expressed the unanimous gratitude of the Board at their annual meeting.

“Kevin has been a constant source of encouragement to the staff,” Walker said, “and has brought a spirit of cooperation and Christian discipleship to the ministry of the BJC.” Walker further stressed, “We regret that Kevin’s tenure on the BJC Board has come to an end, but we wish him well as he pursues future endeavors.”

Our *Sabbath Recorder* Editor, and Director of Communications of the American Sabbath Tract and Communication Council, represented the SDB Conference on the BJC Board from 1997-2007.

Kevin received a Christmas ornament from the BJC, a Letter of Reso-



J. Brent Walker (left) thanks Kevin Butler for his 10 years of service on the Board of the Baptist Joint Committee.

lution in honor of his service, and an aerial picture of the Washington area showing the U.S. Capital and BJC offices. Board members were sorry to see him leave, expressing their regret with

handshakes, hugs, and well-wishes.

During the meeting, the Baptist General Convention of Missouri was added to the BJC membership, bringing the total number of supporting groups to 15. **SR**

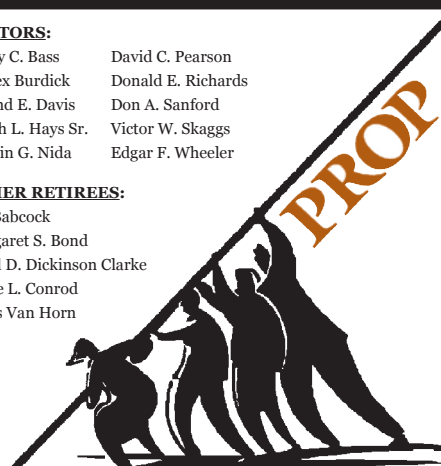
Give to those who gave so much.

PASTORS:

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

OTHER RETIREES:

Ida Babcock
Margaret S. Bond
Ethel D. Dickinson Clarke
Joyce L. Conrod
Doris Van Horn



Pastors Retirement Offering

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

Do you read *The Sabbath Recorder*?

Do you study *The Helping Hand*?

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

Recent pastoral changes

- Kory Geske
at Battle Creek, MI
- Gene Smith
to Leonardsville/
Brookfield, NY
- Steve Graffius
to Lincoln, NE
- Perry Cain
to Lost Creek, WV
- Steve Osborn
to Boulder, CO
- Nate Crandall (associate)
to Milton, WI
- John Pethtel
to Metro Atlanta, GA
- Matt Berg (chaplancy)
to Leavenworth, KS
- David Thorngate
to Middletown, CT

New members

Alfred Station, NY
Kenneth Chroniger, pastor
Joined by letter
Calvin Babcock
Meleta Babcock

Dodge Center, MN
Dale E. Rood, pastor
Joined after baptism
Jared Edwards
Jesse Edwards
Weston McNeilus

**Hope SDB
Philadelphia, PA**
Kenroy Cruickshank, pastor
Joined after baptism
Paul Campbell

Metro Atlanta, GA
John J. Pethtel, pastor
Joined by letter
John J. Pethtel
Tabatha Pethtel

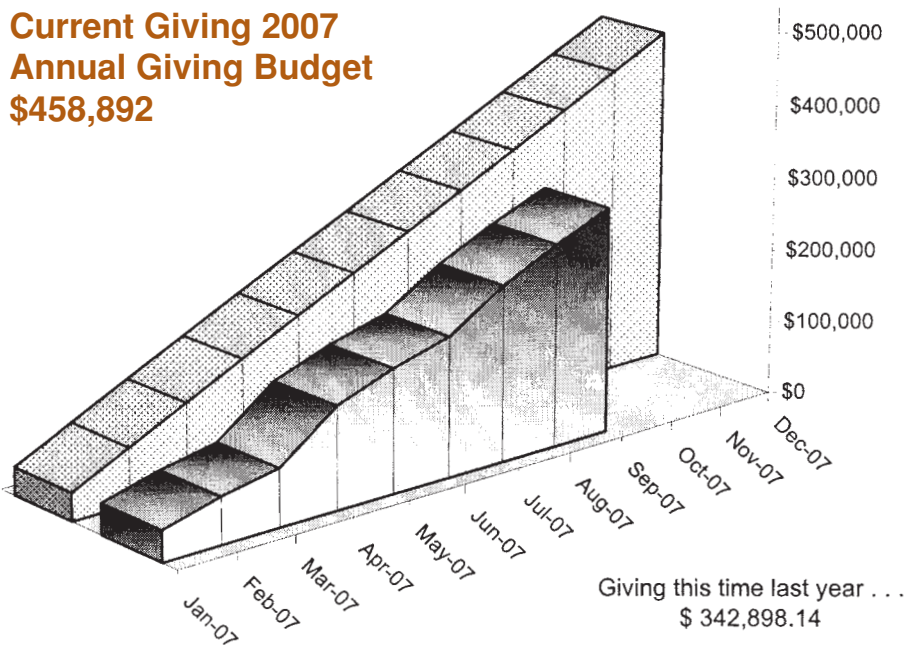
North Loup, NE
Christian Mattison, pastor
Joined after baptism
Ashley Haglan

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

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 2007 Annual Giving Budget \$458,892



	Month - Sept '07	Year To Date
Budgeted	\$ 38,241	\$ 344,173
Actual	\$ 31,517	\$ 305,852
Difference	\$ (6,724)	\$ (38,321)
% of Budget	82%	89%

PROP Giving	
Sept '07	\$ 306
Year To Date	\$ 6,867

Morgan Shepard, Treasurer

Births

Van Horn.—A daughter, Elliahna Jayne Van Horn, was born to Daniel and Ashlie Van Horn of Ankeny, Iowa, on August 15, 2007.

Ryschon.—A son, Easton Woodrow Ryschon, was born to Jordan and Kristen Ryschon of North Loup, NE, on August 23, 2007.

Obituaries

Kloppstein.—Robert E. Kloppstein, 70, died on November 19, 2006, at his home in Kasson, Minn.

He was born on April 18, 1936, in Genoa City, Wis., the son of Louis J. and Alice (Randall) Kloppstein. He grew up in southeast Minnesota and graduated from Kasson High School in 1955. On October 19, 1958, he married Vivian L. Bonser in Dodge Center, Minn., and they lived in the Kasson area until his death.

Bob worked at IBM in Rochester, Minn., from 1956 to 1991 and was a senior tool designer. He owned RK Speed Shop in Kasson, “hopping up” and restoring many vehicles. He also owned the BK Honey Farm, and was a member of the Southeast Minnesota Beekeepers Association.

Bob obtained his private pilot’s license in 1963 and went on to get his commercial and instructor’s ratings. He was a member of the Dodge County Flying Club and instructed at the Dodge Center Airport. He became chief pilot for Neuman Air Charter in Rochester, flying charters and continuing to instruct new pilots. He later owned and operated Neuman Air Charter for five years.

Bob was a member of the Dodge Center Seventh Day Baptist Church, serving as president, trustee, and Sabbath School teacher.

In addition to his wife, Vivian, survivors include two daughters, Tamala Neher of Burnsville, Minn., and Kelly Rud of Kasson; one brother, Ernst, of Genoa City; and four grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at the Dodge Center SDB Church on November 22, 2006, with Pastor Dale E. Rood and Chaplain David Brunner of Seasons Hospice officiating. Burial was in Maple Grove Cemetery, Kasson, with a fly-over of three aircraft piloted by some of Bob’s former students. The lead plane was one that he had restored.

Steele.—Mary Jean Watson Phillips Steele, 80, of Longmont, Colo., died peacefully on July 28, 2007, at the Hospice facility in Louisville, Colo. She was a longtime resident of Boulder County in Colorado, and a member of the Boulder Seventh Day Baptist Church.

She was born in Boulder on February 9, 1927, the second of six children born to Earl and Mattie (Hardesty) Watson. The family moved to Austin, Minn., when her father took a job at the Hormel plant, and she spent her school years there.

After training as a nurse, Mary returned to Colorado, marrying Richard Lowell Steele in 1949.

Mary’s life was a wonderful example of reconciliation.

Her marriage to Richard was adventurous yet simple, filled with fun, fishing, camping, and service to others. (She especially loved being a cook at Camp Paul Hummel.)

When their marriage ended in 1964, Mary moved to California. There, she married Richard Phillips and began a career as a hospital nurse. Her four children had remained in Colorado.

After the death of her second husband in 1994, Mary returned to Colorado. Through circumstances that can only be described as God-inspired, Mary re-established a friendly relationship with her first husband and his ailing wife, Virginia, who died in 1995. In February of 1998, Mary Jean and Richard remarried.

At the Boulder church, “Mom Mary” was known as the “boss.” She was easy to find on Sabbath mornings, always in the kitchen making coffee and punch for the fellowship time. She had a gift for making everyone feel loved and welcome. Her humor and famous hugs will be greatly missed.

Survivors include her husband, Richard, of Longmont; one son, Darwin, of LaFayette, Colo., three daughters, Gisele Evans of Winnemucca, Nev., Valerie Heath of Firestone, Colo., and Fay VanDyke of Grand Junction, Colo.; one brother, Richard Watson, of Lindenwold, N.J.; three sisters, Ruth Benson of Hackensack, Minn., Virginia Earl of Rewey, Wis., and Donna Bauman of Albuquerque, N.M.; eight grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. One brother, Robert Watson, preceded her in death.

A memorial service was held at the Boulder SDB Church on August 5, 2007. Pastor David Thorngate officiated, assisted by Pastor Steve Osborn.

McAllister.—Jean Davis

McAllister, 78, of South Plainfield, N.J., died on August 26, 2007.

She was born in Plainfield, N.J., on May 28, 1929, the daughter of Courtland and Frankie (Lowther) Davis. She graduated with a BS degree in mathematics from what was then Salem College in West Virginia. Except for her college years, she lived her entire life in New Jersey.

Jean was secretary to the Seventh Day Baptist Executive Secretary when the denominational building was in Plainfield. She also worked in the SDB publishing house. Later, she was employed as a Systems Analyst by AT&T in Piscataway, N.J., retiring in December of 1989.

Jean was active in SDB churches in both Plainfield and New Market, N.J., before joining the Raritan Valley SDB Church in Bridgewater, N.J. There, she served well in a variety of capacities, including clerk, trustee, Fellowship Committee member, and co-chair of the church’s prayer network. Her singing, whether in the

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choir or with the congregation, always enhanced the worship.

In retirement, Jean was involved in the AARP (Chapter 4144) and the Advisory Board of the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of Middlesex County.

She enjoyed spending time with her family and friends, and was known for her quick wit, sharp intellect, honesty, and caring personality. Preferring to work behind the scenes, she contributed selflessly to many groups and was a great encourager to younger generations.

Survivors include her husband of 56 years, William E. McAllister; one son, Stephen, of Jamesburg, N.J.; two daughters, Marjorie Bruno of Hillsborough, N.J., and Norma Predmore of Englishtown, N.J.; seven grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews. Two brothers, Courtland Davis Jr. and S. Kenneth Davis, preceded her in death.

A funeral service was held on August 29, 2007, at the McCriskin-Gustafson Home for Funerals in South Plainfield, followed by a committal service in the chapel at the

mausoleum of Woodbridge (N.J.) Memorial Gardens. Her longtime friend and pastor, Jeanne Yurke, officiated.

Cushman.—Paul G. Cushman of Bradenton Beach, Fla., died on August 26, 2007, three days shy of his 89th birthday.

He was born on August 29, 1918, in Barre, Vt., the son of Charles and Laura (Sweet) Cushman. He was a graduate of the Middlebury (Vt.) College and M.I.T. five-year engineering program.

Paul was a retired electrical engineer, working over 40 years for General Electric. During his career at GE, he was honored several times as an author and inventor.

Paul was an excellent musician and an avid Bible student. He was a member of the Bradenton, Fla., Seventh Day Baptist Church, serving as organist and pianist. He was also a member of the Berlin, N.Y., SDB Church, where he served as organist and choir director for many years.

A gentle man, Paul was unfailingly gracious, considerate, and courteous. He was scholarly; a person of wide

learning and great wisdom.

“Someone once said that you perceive God as you perceive your father,” Paul’s son, Robert, commented. “We have had such a kind, loving, and benevolent example in Dad that we perceive God as a loving God. That has made a difference in all our lives.”

Paul’s first wife, Myrtle Cushman, preceded him in death. Survivors include his wife, Marguerite Matteson of Bradenton Beach; two daughters, Mary Jean Holt of Cape Elizabeth, Maine, and Laura Mirabal of Derry, N.H.; four sons, Philip of Phoenix, Ariz., Kenneth of Tampa, Fla., Robert of Columbus, Ohio, and Jon of Virginia Beach, Va.; one stepdaughter, Judith Wellman of Fulton, N.Y.; two stepsons, Kendall Wellman of Annapolis, Md., and David Wellman of Copper Center, Alaska; 18 grandchildren, and 29 great-grandchildren.

Two memorial services were held. Pastor Michael Spearl officiated at the one in Bradenton on August 29, 2007, and Pastor Matt Olson officiated at the funeral in the Berlin church. Burial was in the Berlin SDB Cemetery.

Denominational Dateline

November

- 3-4 Tract Council Annual Meeting, SDB Center, Janesville, Wis.—Kevin Butler
- 9-11 South Atlantic Association, Daytona Beach, Fla.—Rob Appel
- 9-11 South Atlantic Association, viewing Bible Quiz Contest, Daytona Beach—Andrew Camenga
- 10 Central Seventh Day Baptist Church, Mitchellville, Md.—Kirk Looper
- 15-20 Vacation—Looper
- 24 Rockville, R.I.—Looper
- 30—
 - 12/16 El Salvador and Nicaragua—Looper
- 30—
 - 12/2 MOST (Teacher Training), Daytona Beach—Camenga

December

- 8 Diaconate Seminar, Leonardsville-Brookfield, N.Y., Seventh Day Baptist Church—Camenga
- 28-31 Youth Retreat, Verona, N.Y., Seventh Day Baptist Church—Camenga

January, 2008

- 27 Missionary Society Board of Managers Meeting, Westerly, R.I.—Looper
- 30-31 New Baptist Covenant, Atlanta, Ga.—Appel

February

- 2-3 Council on Ministry Annual Meeting, Daytona Beach, Fla.—Gordon Lawton
- 7-8 Coordinating Leadership Team, Daytona Beach
- 9-11 General Council, Daytona Beach

KEVIN'S

ORNER

The Last Frontier, the last state (or, "50 at 50")

Thanks to all of our family travels, Conference excursions, and church visits, the "state count" was growing for the Butlers. As the years mounted, so did the list of states where we'd "been there, done that."

We've even been known to make some side-trips simply to tack on another state.

Once, on the way home from visiting big sister (spending a semester) in Florida, we detoured to the west so the kids could add Alabama, Mississippi, and

Louisiana. During a one-on-one trip with Matt, after adding Nevada and Arizona, we drove all the way to the "four corners" spot to cross off New Mexico and Utah. (We already had Colorado.)

With my 50th birthday coming into view, I began to wonder if I could make it to all 50 states before hitting the half-century mark.

In early July, we drove a rental car just to get to long-ignored North Dakota—completing state number 49 for me. Fargo was, um, "nice." (Actually, I *did* like the city, and the Roger Maris museum.)

Two months to go.

Come mid-September, Janet and I used some frequent-flier miles to get to Vancouver, British Columbia, then climbed aboard our first-ever cruise ship. Destination: Alaska.

The timing would be tight, to say the least. Cruising all night and all the next day, we were scheduled—if all went well—to reach Alaskan waters by that night. The night of my birthday.

My special day did not go unnoticed. Jan made me wear a "Big 5-0" button on my shirt. With the "older" cruise clientele, I got a bunch of "Oh, to be 50 again" comments, or "Oh, our son is older than you."

I was feeling pretty chipper until a young worker looked at me, looked at the pin, and with his thick Filipino accent, asked, "Fiftieth anniversary??" Ouch.

We occupied ourselves with some on-board activities, but I kept swinging by a certain big map on the wall. Colored lights charted our course toward the Inside Passage, inching ever-so-slowly northward. Would we make it?

I asked one of the pursers to contact the crew, and to call me with our expected arrival time. They kept saying, "If all goes well, we should cross into Alaskan waters before midnight." Talk about cutting it close!

At suppertime, the wait staff sang "Happy Birthday" to me, but I was still uncomfortable. Would we really make it?



Are we there yet? Lighting the way to Alaska.

Eight o'clock. No word. Nine o'clock. The lights on the map still showed British Columbia.

By 10 o'clock, I knew I couldn't bug the crew again, but I had to know where we were. A tall, sharp-looking man in a white uniform appeared in the hallway. I asked him, "Are we in Alaska yet?"

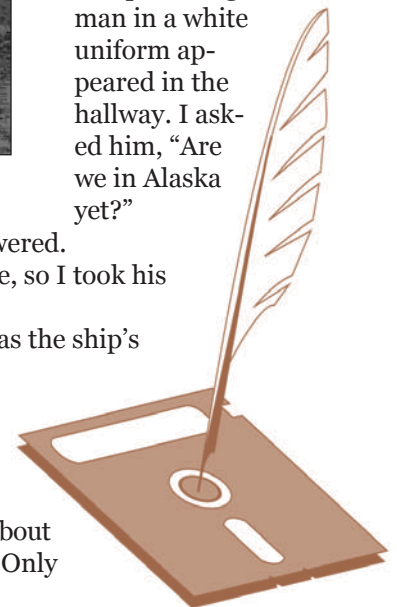
"Yes, we are," he answered.

He seemed pretty sure, so I took his word for it.

He should know. It was the ship's Captain.

I have a feeling that God was smiling as He helped me meet one of those "life goals."

So what's next? How about seven continents by 70? Only three more to go...



Calling all artists, ages 4 to 12!

Enter the Sabbath Recorder Resurrection Cover Contest



Do you like to draw? We need you!
Young Seventh Day Baptist artists
are asked to draw a picture (freehand)
about the Resurrection
of Jesus.

The overall winner's drawing
will appear on the cover of the
March 2008 *Sabbath Recorder*. Other
winners, by age category (4-6, 7-9, 10-12),
will appear inside the same issue.



The artwork needs to be:

- Original and unassisted (except for encouragement).
- Crayon, marking pens, paints, or pencil drawings are accepted. Computer-generated artwork or coloring book prints will not be accepted.
- All artwork is to be drawn on 8-1/2 x 11-inch white paper.
- Entries need to be vertical and should not be matted or mounted.
- Do not include a child's name or other information on the artwork. Words concerning the resurrection may appear in the artwork.
- Entries need to be submitted through a child's Sabbath School teacher.
- On a separate piece of paper **print** the following information and attach it to the back of the artwork:
 - Name of the child
 - Age of the child
 - Name of the church they attend
 - Name and telephone number of the Sabbath School teacher submitting the artwork.

Mail your entry to the SDB Center, PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547.

Deadline: All entries need to be postmarked no later than January 15, 2008. They may be submitted any time prior to that date.

Please put your entry in a large enough envelope so that there are no creases in the artwork. Adding a heavier piece of paper or cardboard will

help. Then write "Please do not bend or fold" on the outside of the envelope.

If you have any questions, contact either Peggy Van Horn at 308-496-3401 (or handj@nctc.net); or Jean Jorgensen at 913-774-2742 (or jorgemorj@yahoo.com).

Note to Sabbath School teachers: Please help promote this contest.