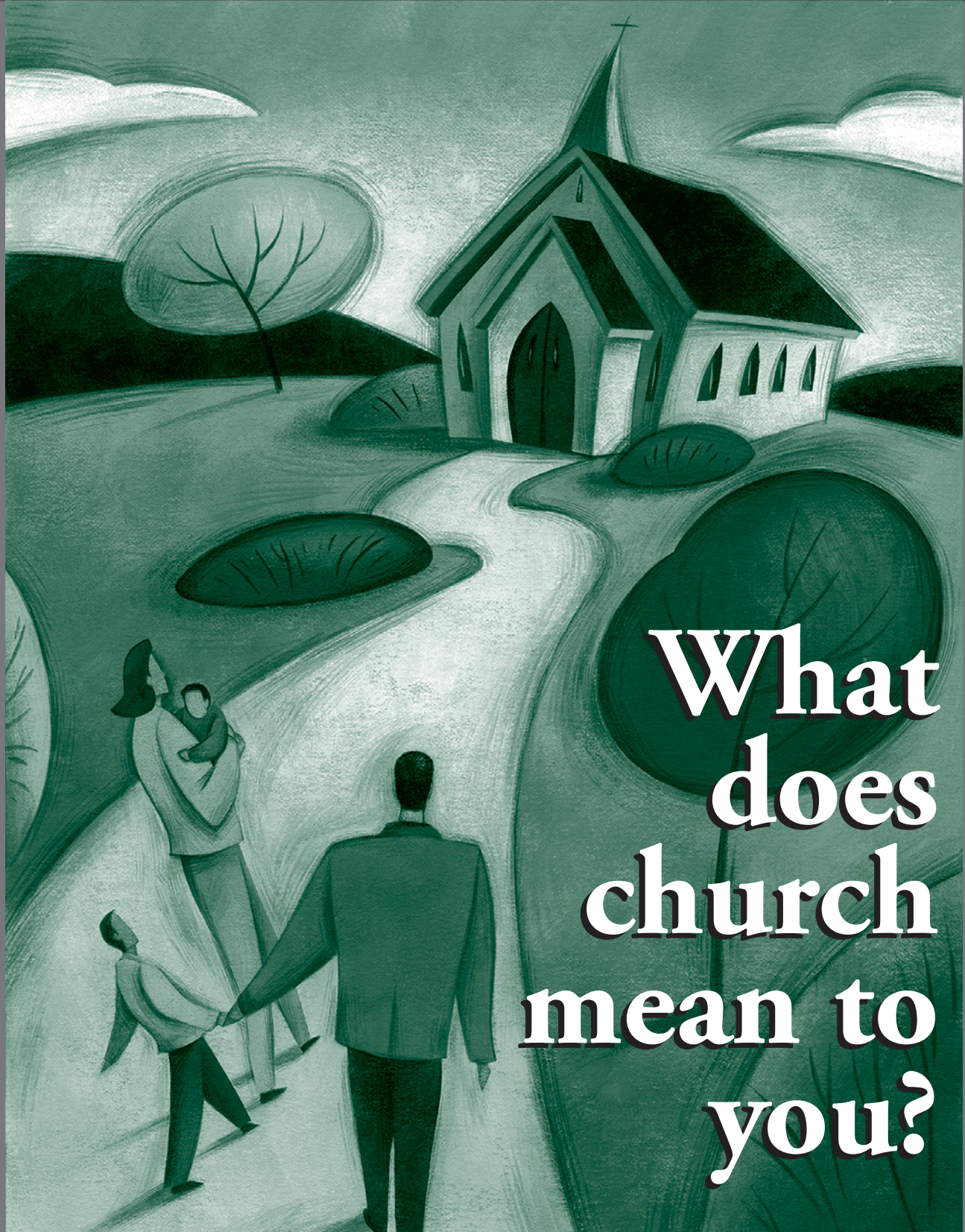




The Sabbath RECORDER

December 2007

News for and about Seventh Day Baptists



**What
does
church
mean to
you?**



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.

SDB Young Adult Year-End Retreat Camp Wakonda, Milton, Wis.

Friday, Dec. 28, 2007 to Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2008



Cost for the retreat will be \$40. For more info, contact Jackson Butler at yasdbretreat0708@gmail.com. Check out the Board of Christian Education site at www.educatingchristians.org for possible travel assistance.



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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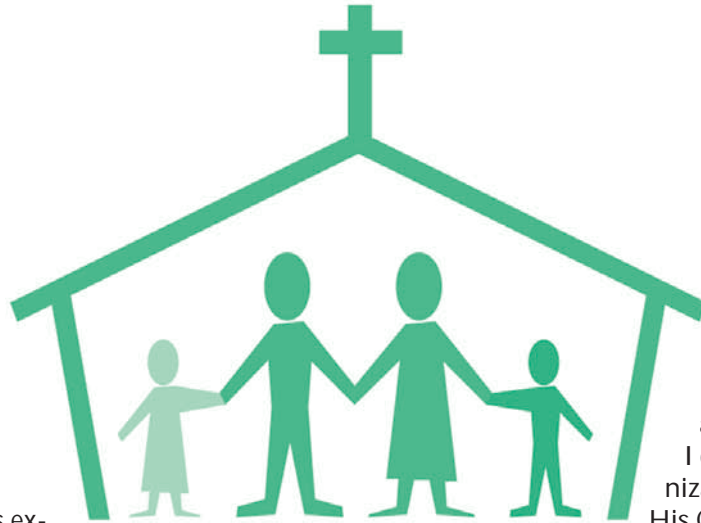
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A place of unwavering support

by Jennifer Pluff, Atchison, Kan.



For many years, I attended various Sunday-keeping churches, but didn't really have a church home.

When I moved to the Nortonville, Kan., area, I was excited to be near an SDB church. After attending the Nortonville church that first Sabbath, my children and I likened the experience to coming home.

As I contemplated the question—"What does church mean to me?"—I found that the past four years have provided my definition.

These last years brought many trials into my life; not quite to the level of Job's troubles, but overwhelming all the same.

For a year and a half, I kept my burdens a closely guarded secret from my church friends, fearing judgment and condemnation. Only our pastor knew the full extent of what my family was going through.

Then, one fall day in 2004, an event took place that no longer allowed me to keep my secret.

As I drove to church that next Sabbath morning, I confessed to God that I didn't think I was strong enough to get through the day. I felt His touch as He whispered to me, "You don't have to be; I am strong enough."

I learned a great lesson that day: "Church" is more than a

these people of God were unwavering in their faith and support. Through them, I came to understand this organization He designed and called His Church.

Church is not for God's benefit, but for ours. It's more than hugs and handshakes on Sabbath morning; more than teaching Sabbath School, participating in choir practice, savoring a fellowship lunch. These are the things we do in God's house, but church is much more than that.

Church is a place where we can lay down the burdens of our week and be revitalized for the coming week. It's a place to go and focus on God—to worship Him and gain direction from Him.

Mostly, though, church is people; individuals who are willing to be used by God, without exception, to show His perfect love to those who need it.

Church is an instrument, a vessel, a place where His people can—through worship and fellowship—renew their strength. It's where they can share God's love with those who know Him and those who need to know Him.

"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing" (1 Thessalonians 5:11, NIV). SR

These people of God were unwavering in their faith and support. Through them, I came to understand this organization He designed and called His Church.

building; it's the people gathered there in Christ's name. *"For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:20, RSV).*

This small congregation of faithful servants uttered not a single word of judgment. Instead, they opened their arms and hearts, allowing the unequalled love and mercy of our Father to flow through them to me and my children.

On that day—and during the difficult years that followed—



Source of strength and comfort

by Darlene (Crouch) Bond, Nortonville, Kan.

My church means several things to me.

Fun

As a child, it meant Fun: Sabbath night socials, bazaars, picnics, and dinners.

When I was young, the ladies of the church had a Kitchen Band. One year, they played marches on their "instruments," and I was their majorette. How important I felt! At another social, they had a "train." My dad was the "conductor" who came around and took tickets.

Security

To me, the church also meant Security. I always sat next to my mother. If I got restless, she made little "twins in the cradle" with her handkerchief, or a little mouse that would "run" across her lap.

Music

The church also meant Music. Living across the street from the church, I could go over and play the old pump organ that had lots of stops and pedals.

It took several young men to pump the organ to keep the airflow at a certain level on a white gauge. Sometimes, the boys would let the air supply go down until the organist—either Zella Babcock or Doris Bond—would give them "the look" and exclaim, "More air!"

Another fond memory that I have is singing in the choir, which I did when I played the organ.

God's Love

As I grew older, the church taught me about God's love; that He sent His Son to die for me.

When I was baptized, my father, Roy Crouch, was there to take my hand as I came up out of the baptismal water. He had tears in his eyes. That impressed on me the solemnity of the occasion and the importance of what happens in baptism. I was a new creature in Christ!

I'm thankful for the faithful ones, those who were examples to others and to me. Many persevered, ran their race, and went on to receive their reward.

Comfort

As an adult, the church has meant Comfort.



When my first husband, Albert Smith, had bypass surgery, my church was there in the form of our pastor. He extended to me the Arm of God, which I could lean on as I went in to see my husband after surgery. It's frightening to see someone you love with tubes sticking out all over, breathing on a respirator.

My church family has given me comfort many times, including when my son had cancer, and when Albert died several years later.

Learning

The church has also been a source of Learning. I've learned to lean on God more, and not on my own understanding. I've discovered the joy of resting in the knowledge that God loves me. And since I can believe that, I also believe that others love me, too.

Family

Lastly, the church is Family. I've learned about the security that comes from becoming mature in Christ, in his strength and peace. The beatitude, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted," is a continual source of strength and comfort.

The church has helped me to learn submission—although I still have a lot to learn about that!

God has blessed me with a loving church family, and I give Him thanks. *SR*

*I'm thankful for the faithful ones,
those who were examples to others and to me.*



As unto the Lord

by Jean Jorgensen, Winchester, Kan.

It was Sunday noon. The smell of fried chicken drifted over to our apartment. A car pulled up in front of our neighbor's apartment, and four nicely-dressed people got out. I imagined they had just returned from a church service.

As I watched them, the longing for fellowship with Christians returned to my soul. I nurtured the feeling for a few moments and then called my husband and two children to lunch.

This longing was repeated often throughout our family's early years. We moved a lot, and we usually lived a long distance from an SDB church.

My husband, Milt, and I hungered for and sought a church family, even a church family via television. We always found a church where we were comfortable. But whenever I was approached for church membership, I couldn't do it.

What was this hunger for Christian fellowship? Why couldn't I join *any* Christian church—or just be satisfied with not going to church at all?

I was born into a long line of ancestors who believed strongly in the truth of the seventh-day Sabbath. They were leaders in establishing SDB churches from Rhode Island into New York, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Colorado. I joined that "SDB line" through the Denver, Colo., church in 1952.

Sabbath School, Vacation Bible School, youth meetings with our church and city-wide Christian groups, and experiences and friendships from the Rocky Mountain SDB Camp built good friendships and knowledge of a triune God.

I tried to live a life built on Christ's examples (which, for me, included honoring the seventh-day Sabbath). Maybe that is what I sought—the tie with longevity and the deep joy of Christ-based fellowship.



Church membership was more than joining a group of Christians with similar interests. It was a contract between myself and God about the Sabbath.

Over the years, various involvements with our denomination nationally made a huge difference in maintaining my Sabbath beliefs and desire to stay connected to SDBs.

At first, when approached about joining a non-SDB church, it was like denying my ancestral family, pretending they didn't exist; saying that I was not part of them.

As I studied to help clarify and explain my beliefs, my convictions about the Sabbath grew even stronger. Ancestral family support was nice, but it wasn't the tie that bound me to Christ and SDBs.

For me, church membership was more than joining a group of Christians with similar interests. It was a contract between myself and God about the Sabbath, and walking in

Christ's example. This was something not to be taken lightly.

For the past several years, we have lived close enough to be active in the Nortonville, Kan., SDB Church. Its building is unique and displays a loving past. It is a place where I go to meet God in a special way, along with others who are there to greet God and reconnect their lives with Him.

The activities of the church—worshipping God, praying, reading Scripture, singing, meditation, Bible study, fellowship, food preparation, and cleaning the building—are things that I can do on my own any day of the week, or with any group of people with similar interests.


Yet, for me, church is more than activity. That's what makes it so special. A church family does what they do "as unto the Lord," and that makes all the difference.

The church is not about me and what I can get from going there. It is not about a long ancestral line of people who held a particular belief. It's so much more.

The church is about God's intervention in the lives of the people who seek Him. God revealed to Peter who Jesus Christ was. God's intervention is how Jesus declared Peter as "the rock" upon whom the Church would stand.

God's intervention in my life allows me to act as unto the Lord, seeking Him in all that matters.

As with any human gathering, churches have times of discouragement, disagreement, temptation to "burn out," classes to teach, food to fix, dishes to wash, and janitorial jobs to be done. For me, doing any of these activities is acting on my contract with God. As long as I do it *unto the Lord*, it's always exciting.

This week is a fellowship meal. Maybe I should take fried chicken. 



My church... my family!

by Voni Mattison, Alfred Station, N.Y.

What does my church mean to me? I have no idea how any of *you* would answer this, but for me, it's simple. And also complex and profound!

So simple...

My church is family—we are a family of believers. Each of us has given our lives to Christ. Jesus told us in Luke 8:21, "My mother and brothers are those who hear God's word and put it into practice."

We are mothers, brothers, fathers, and sisters, all learning together how to live with God as our Father and Christ as our Brother. Together as a church family, we hear God's Word and work together to apply His laws and teachings to our lives.

Yet complex...

How many church family members do you have? There are about 140 members in my church family—some whom I've never met or seen! About 85 of us worship God together on Sabbath, and many of us interact in Sabbath School, during fellowship meals, at camp, Youth Fellowship, fund-raisers, work-bees, etc.

We might also go out to eat with each other, visit shut-ins together, and more.

We are each "fearfully and wonderfully made." As I close my eyes, I can see each of my Christian brothers and sisters—some tall and thin, some not; some with dark hair and blue eyes; some with high squeaky voices; some loud, some quiet.

Our Lord gave each of us a different look. That's somewhat complex.

When it comes to personalities, our Heavenly Father really outdid Himself!

There's Aunt Martha*—sweet, quiet, always the first to put her arm around a newcomer. Uncle John*

loves to sing—a little off key—but all for the Lord! Although his "stories" get a little old, we know we can count on him to lend a hand whenever it's needed.

And can you believe Hanna, the Wonder Woman*? With three teens of her own, she's always at the Fellowship Meal with her mac 'n cheese, and attending to last minute changes for the weekly bulletin.

Each of my church family members is filled to overflowing with gifts and Fruit of the Spirit. But they are also very human—quick to anger, sensitive, bossy. Some are enablers or whiners, gossips, or "know-it-alls." Yet I wouldn't have it any other way!

We are God's imperfect children. Because we do have unique deficiencies and special gifts, God puts us together in church families to learn to be more Christ-like. We never run out of opportunities to practice this impossible challenge.

Our Church family is also forgiving, letting each of us make our mistakes in a safe and secure "nest of comfort."

Aunt Hilda* will look the other way when I mess up. Brother Bill* will lend a hand when I tackle a job that's bigger than I realized. Pastor Pete* gently chastises me when I make a serious blunder and then helps me get back on course.

Yes, my church family is simple. My church family is complex.

...and profound!

So how is my church family profound? It brings security to one another.

When one of us is out of work, blessings are given, silently and in love. When the roof over some-



Alfred Station, N.Y., SDB Church

one's head needs repair, the work is done and paid for—quickly and loudly!

When a loved one is suddenly "called home" by our Heavenly Father, hope, love, and comfort comes through prayers, casseroles, and phone calls.

In my church family, a "Hi! How are you?" is a sincere question, letting people know they are loved and cared about. This is a way of Christian living that is truly profound!

I urge you to review God's Word to discover how your church family is profound. Some simple Scripture to begin with is Romans 13:10: "Love does no harm to its neighbor..." (My church family is love!) And 1 Corinthians 16:10: "If Timothy comes, see to it that he has nothing to fear when he is with you..." (I have nothing to fear in my church family.)

May God lead you to find the simplicity, complexity, and profoundness of *your* church family. *SR*

**Fictional names to protect the guilty and the innocent.*



Small town, big memories

by Mildred (Williams) Benson, Fremont, Neb.

Growing up in a small community and church in North Loup, Neb., it was natural that one revolved around the other.

Those who were Sabbath School teachers were also the town librarian, nurse, school cook, bus driver, your best friend's parents, your cousin, etc. So, not only did these people help form my religious basis; they were role models that influenced my worldly values as well.

Two of my Sabbath School teachers immediately come to mind: Bertha Clement and Elery King.

Bertha helped our class create special cookies and candies that we donated to the Lord's Acre Ingathering fund-raiser the church held each fall.

Elery knew so much about the "happenings" in the Bible that we were convinced that he must have witnessed them firsthand.

Isn't it amazing the things we learned as children while having fun?

Jet Cadets was one of the groups that met on Sabbath afternoons. We journeyed across a big map of the U.S. by moving stick pins from place to place. I don't remember what all that entailed, but I do recall Marian Soper teaching us the song, "We're Jet Cadets for Jesus."

Do you remember sword drills? We held our Bibles in the air while someone announced a Scripture reference that we had to find quickly. That was so cool! To this day, I'm impressed by how easily I can find Bible passages.

Another important part of my church life was attending North Loup's Camp Riverview. When I first started church camp, all of us slept in tents. On one occasion, I was in the "big tent" when a rainstorm hit. We soon discovered

that a flap at the top of the tent had been left open.

We were getting pretty soggy when Pastor Dave Clarke and Menzo Fuller came to close the opening. It was quite a sight to watch Menzo climb up on Pastor Dave's shoulders and try to fix it. What fun! They got wet, our bedding got wet, and no one got much sleep.

Vesper services at camp were something special—sitting together, singing and worshipping while watching the sun set over the river and trees. We always had one vesper service up on the hill, where we sang, "Day Is Dying in the West."

Sunday night socials were also a lot of fun. One evening, we invited

a high school group to sing. When they arrived, they asked if they could have a place to rehearse.

I was in the church kitchen with my cousin, Jani (Williams) Graffius. I volunteered to go up the back stairs and turn on the sanctuary lights. As I entered the sanctuary, I took a step and...

Remember in cartoons, how the character would go racing over the edge of a cliff, then pause in mid-air with a pained look on his face before plunging to the ground?

Well, I was in mid-air when I remembered that another congregation had used our baptistery that day, and it was wide open. Yup, you guessed it! I plunged into the baptistery and came out dripping wet.

Jani also remembered about the baptism—at the same time she heard my splash—and came running up the stairs to rescue me. When she spotted me, she didn't know whether to laugh or show concern. Later, Pastor Duane Davis teased me about holding a baptism without him.

Sharing these stories has brought more memories to mind. Here are some short thoughts to help stir *your* memories:

My dad attending Men's Brotherhood; my grandma and mom going to Dr. Grace meetings; a Christmas program canceled because our star angel, Vicky Cox, actually joined God's angels a few days before the program was to be held; George Cox singing "O Holy Night" in a dark sanctuary, except for a spotlight shining on the holy family; sailing paper airplanes from the church balcony; having my father walk me down the aisle at my wedding; having my three babies dedicated in this church; and attending the funerals of family members and friends. *SR*

Not only did these people help form my religious basis; they were role models that influenced my worldly values as well.



North Loup, Neb., SDB Church



Getting an early start

by Cormeth G. Lawrence, Palm Bay, Fla.

In 1960, at the age of 16, I left my mother's home and headed to Kingston, Jamaica, in search of a better life. That meant getting a job and a high school education.

Later that same week, my brother, Val—who had gone to Kingston ahead of me, also to seek a better life—invited me to church.

This newly-formed work that was being “planted” was called the Mountain View Seventh Day Baptist Church. Its leader was Stanley Smith, who lived with his wife, Martha. They had four sons and two daughters.

Meetings were held in Brother Smith's yard, under a tarpaulin measuring about 20 by 30 feet. The area was dusty, so most of the time we had to cover our noses to keep from breathing in all that dirt. This was the beginning of my life in the Church.

I accepted the Lord as my personal savior at the age of 17, and was baptized to show my commitment to serve him.

About this same time, one of the church members, Sister Taylor, donated a piece of land on which to put a building. Members of the congregation were excited and enthusiastic about this new project.

I didn't have a strong religious background, but by the grace of God—and the encouragement of the brethren—the Lord revealed Himself to me through the ministries of that church and the prayers of its saints.

I was young, shy, and inexperienced, but my fellow members helped to keep me focused. We often labored late into the night



The Lord revealed Himself to me through the ministries of that church and the prayers of its saints.

on the building to meet certain government requirements and to prepare it for worship.

In the meantime, we also focused on accomplishing the ministries of the church.

Sabbath days included Sabbath School, a worship service, and young people meetings. (I served as president of the young people's group for five consecutive years.)

We also had vespers and Bible studies on Sabbath afternoon. The

weekend concluded with Sunday night meetings

The weekly schedule included Monday evening youth meetings on the street in front of the church, targeting youth who couldn't come to our meetings on Sabbath afternoon.

Wednesday nights were for prayer meetings, and choir practice was scheduled for Thursdays. On Friday nights, the Gospel Heralds (a singing group I formed) met for practice.

As singers, our passion was—and is—to bring the Gospel of Christ to the world. We haven't been to *all* the world, yet everything is possible through Christ!

I spent the first 10 years of my Christian life as a member of the Mountain View church. There, I learned how to love my fellow human beings, whether Christian or non-Christian.

I also gained a lot of hands-on leadership training. I learned how to be responsible, especially how to be a good steward of the things that God has entrusted to me.

Growing to understand Scripture is vital, such as Col. 3:1-3: “If you were risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is sitting at the right Hand of God. Set your mind [your intellect] on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died and your life is hidden with God in Christ.”

Those who want to be an influence for Christ must first become members of His Body.

I praise God for the people of the Mountain View Seventh Day Baptist Church, and for their spiritual influence during my early years. *SR*



Who needs 500 words?

by Wanda Wood-Roe, Boaz, Ala.

I don't need 500 words to tell anyone how my church has affected my life. Then again, 1,000 words probably wouldn't say it all! Words like:

- Lot of love
- Bunches of hugs
- Genuine concern
- Comforting words
- Comical humor
- Unconditional acceptance

How many words have I used? Have you been keeping count?

Okay, I'll elaborate a little since I know I haven't used my full allotment!

- 1) My church family helps me stay focused.
- 2 My church family always welcomes me with open arms.



Paint Rock, Ala., SDB Church.

My church family will always be my eternal family.

- 3) My church family will forever be my eternal family.
- 4) My church family honestly and truly cares about me, my husband, my children, and each other.
- 5) My church family causes me to smile, helps me to love, and makes it easier

to purchase "liquid gold" (better known as gasoline) to go worship our Father with them.

I hope everyone can see and feel my profound love and appreciation for the big-hearted people at the little Seventh Day Baptist church in Paint Rock, Alabama. **SR**

Church equals music

by Jean Jorgensen

Over the years, church choruses and hymns have been important in maintaining my Christian walk. My grandmother's favorite song was "Trust and Obey." That tune has been a mainstay throughout my life, too.

When I wake up in the morning with a chorus or hymn on my mind, I take it as an affirmation from God that He cares about me. And He often delivers a message through those songs. Nothing can make me soar over disappointment, drudgery, or stress—and help me focus on God—like singing a chorus or hymn.

As I do "unto the Lord," He brings those songs to the forefront of my mind. Thank you, church family of 65 years, for teaching me those songs—and for continuing to teach me more! **SR**



Thank you, SR Committee!

Our thanks go out to Jean Jorgensen (left, and on page 6) for chairing the Sabbath Recorder Committee the last five years.

Jean pulled together a committee from the Nortonville, Kan., and North Loup, Neb., SDB churches. The members review the past issues of the SR, then brainstorm on new topics and themes to tackle. Great job!

Members included: Shirley Cargill, Amanda Colvin, Brian Goodrich, Mike Graves, Jean Jorgensen, Becky Faith Mattison, Chris Mattison, Jenn Pluff, Steve Saunders, and Peggy Van Horn.

Feature Index for 2007

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Local news and events

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White Christmas and red budgets

by George Cruzan

When we see a tragic story or a special need, we all want to help. This is especially true this time of year as we think about White Christmas gifts.

A local child with a serious disease, a family devastated by a fire, or an out-of-work employee arouse our empathy, and we dig deep into our pockets to help.

There are many who need assistance. In fact, Jesus said we will always have the poor among us, and that we are to look out for those in need. That's what White Christmas is all about. I encourage you to give generously to your church's White Christmas collection if it has one.

Why do some projects attract lots of funding while others receive little or nothing? Publicity—or the lack of it—is often the reason.

Twenty-one years ago, “baby Jessica” fell into a narrow well in Texas and was rescued three days later. A myriad of news stations and other media covered the event. Ultimately, Jessica had to undergo surgery and rehabilitation, costs that the family couldn't afford. But contributions poured in from all across the U.S. and the world, covering all of her medical expenses.

The leftover money was put into a trust fund that Jessica can draw on when she turns 25. So, about three



Giving to those in need is important, but supporting the ongoing work of your local church and General Conference is also important.


years from now, this now-grown, fully recovered baby will have access to a \$1.5 million trust fund, thanks to the generous contributions of all those people.

How many of those contributors, I wonder, expected their money to make Jessica rich? I hope that she'll use at least part of that money to help others.

Giving to those in need is important, but supporting the ongoing work of your local church and General Conference is also important.

It's difficult to get excited about donating money to clean or paint the church, heat and light it, and compensate pastors for their leadership.

Likewise, Conference expenses for utilities, salaries, publications, training, and missions seem humdrum when compared to a needy child or a pregnant mother without proper medical care. But God's work cannot prosper if there is no Church.

So, as you consider White Christmas or year-end donations, please also consider how God wants you to support the ongoing work of your local church and General Conference. 

George Cruzan serves as president of the Memorial Fund Trustees and is a deacon at the Shiloh, N.J., SDB Church.



Destination: Kosovo

(Note: This article was written by Helen Ruth Curry, retired secretary for the Board of Education in Fairmont, W.Va. Helen is an active member of the Lost Creek, W.Va., SDB Church, a mother of three, and a grandmother of four. She was the life partner and wife of Dave Curry until his death in 2004.)



Having left Newark, N.J., 12 hours earlier, our six-member mission group arrived in Prishtina, Kosovo, on a Sunday in December 2006. (Kosovo is what used to be Yugoslavia.) While traveling, we discovered that we represented six Christian denominations.

Our host missionary family—John and Ruth Chestnut, and their four teenage children—awaited our arrival with dinner ready. While our leader, Nelson Randolph, and his wife, Robyn, stayed with the Chestnuts, we four ladies were headquartered in the one-room, one-bath guest house.

On our first day, we visited several schools in Orllan. Each classroom, with 40-50 students, had its own wood stove, with the children's shoes set neatly in the hallway. The children all stood at attention as we entered the room.

Waking up to three inches of heavy snow the next day, we went to the depot to unload boxes of shampoo, underwear, and sweatshirts that Nelson had shipped weeks earlier. We spent hours in this unheated Quonset hut filling plastic bags with these gifts. Then, we visited more schools to deliver them.

The children entered the room in groups of 20. Through our interpreter, Kcender, Nelson explained that we were Christians from

America who, at this time of year, celebrate Jesus' birthday with gifts. So we brought gifts to them. "Merry Christmas" became the children's favorite English phrase!

The Kosovo people are family oriented, with extended families living in the same house or compound. Most claim to be Muslim, but there was little indication of active practice.

We visited in private homes with Sarah, a missionary teacher

When "Mamma Chestnut" asked us if there was anything we hadn't gotten to do, I said that I wished we could have attended their Sunday worship service. (I knew that wasn't possible because of our early departure.)

Piling into the van, we headed for the Prishtina airport, 90 minutes away. Upon arrival, we learned that our flight had been canceled due to heavy fog. So, back we went... in time for church. Praise the Lord!



Never in my wildest dreams would I have foreseen the opportunity to serve my Heavenly Father in this way!

who joined Kcender as our interpreters.

Kcender, 23, will soon graduate from Prishtina University with an English degree. He informed us that his family isn't aware that he is a Christian. It would be detrimental to them to speak publicly of his faith.

Another family we visited assured us that Albanian Muslims are not like those we see on TV. Most of the people had only praise for the U.S. and President Clinton because of America's support during the Serbia and Albanian War of 1999. However, we were advised not to wear a cross, as the Serbians had carved crosses on the chests of their dead foes at that time.

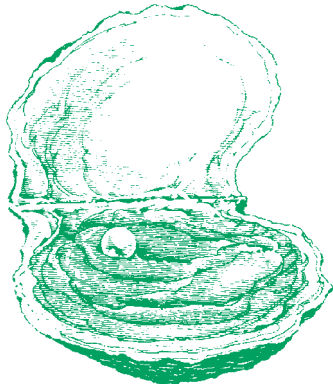
After 10 days, it was time to head home to America. The entire Chestnut family got up at 4:00 a.m. to send us off.

We listened to Scripture readings and Christmas carols in Albanian and English, plus we were served Communion by Julie Chestnut. It was more than I could have ever hoped for!

With our flight rescheduled, we left that afternoon for Skopje. I had no idea where we were headed until our van stopped at customs. We were in Macedonia! What a treat to be where the Apostle Paul once ministered.

Never in my wildest dreams would I have foreseen the opportunity to serve my Heavenly Father in this way! He has truly rewarded me with a combination of faith and gratitude.

"Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD" (Psalm 27:14, KJV). SR



What's in a name?

In October, the North Central Association held its annual meeting at the New Auburn, Wis., Seventh Day Baptist Church. During the gathering, participants marked the 50th anniversary of the dedication of the church's sanctuary.

That 1957 building replaced a single-room, 20 by 30-foot church built in 1879. Designed by Wayne Rood, the new structure was made of local sandstone and salvage material from a dismantled urban church. Professional labor was limited, but over 5,000 hours of volunteer labor went into the project. Total cost was about \$10,000.

The original church building resembled a rural school house, except for a small cloakroom entrance and a bell tower steeple. That first church bore the name Cartwright, after the lumber town where it was located.

The town's founder, David Warren Cartwright, had an illustrious career among Seventh Day Baptists in New York State as well as Wisconsin.

Cartwright's early life on the New York frontier was not easy. Although he had almost no formal schooling, his important life experiences were recorded in a book by Mary Bailey of Milton, Wis.

Various travels carried him cross-country to California, and he also explored northern Michigan extensively. In 1842, he settled on a farm in Jefferson County, Wisconsin.

Upon retiring from farming, he moved to Milton (in Rock County), where he became a member of that community's SDB church.



The New Auburn, Wis., Seventh Day Baptist Church.

In 1875, Cartwright self-published a 280-page book entitled, *Natural History of Western Wild Animals, and Guide for Hunters, Trappers and Sportsmen*. He also served on Milton College's Board of Trustees from 1873 to 1881, contributing many of his biological and botanical specimens to that school's Science Department.

The 1900 January issues of the *Sabbath Recorder* contained a detailed account of Cartwright's exploits, including his role in what eventually became known as New Auburn, Wis.

"In 1875 [Cartwright] made a trip into Chippawa County where he found an area at considerable distance from any large stream, but was thickly covered with large pine and hard-wood trees, and having somewhat clayey soil, more than ordinarily productive for the region. Here he claimed two hundred acres of government land,

and afterwards secured timbered quarters and half sections in the vicinity. In partnership with two of his sons, he erected a steam sawmill and soon furnished the market with pine lumber of superior quality.

"He persuaded some former friends from other portions of the state to move to the place. The nucleus of a village was formed and after a few years it had a flourishing store, shops, a school house and a church for the Seventh Day Baptists which was organized in 1879 and admitted to the North-western Association. Mr. Cartwright became an early member having transferred his standing from the Milton Church on June 20, 1880.

"The Chicago and Northwestern Railroad extended its railroad from Eau Claire to Ashland and Superior with its station, a post office, as well as the Seventh Day Baptist Church, all bearing the name Cartwright.

However, when in 1902 the owner of the local hotel and restaurant applied for a liquor license, David Cartwright determined that no town selling liquor could disgrace the Cartwright name. Thus, the village voted to change its name to Auburn, but since there was a neighboring area which already claimed the name Auburn, they chose New Auburn for its legal name."

The Seventh Day Baptist church retained the name Cartwright in its official reports to General Conference until 1921.

One can only speculate why it maintained "Cartwright" after its postal address became New Auburn. Perhaps they wanted to avoid confusion with the New Auburn SDB Church in *Minnesota*, about 100 miles to the west. (That church was established in 1865, some 17 years prior to the Cartwright church.)

Shortly after the name change from Cartwright to New Auburn, Rev. Perrie (Fitz Randolph) Bur-

When the owner of the local hotel applied for a liquor license, Cartwright determined that no town selling liquor could disgrace the Cartwright name.

dick became the pastor of the Cartwright church (from 1905-06). To add to the confusion, she was the wife of Rev. Leon Burdick, pastor of the New Auburn, Minn., church.

The Minnesota church didn't disband until about 1920, no longer reporting to General Conference. The 1921 *SDB Yearbook* finally listed the Cartwright church as New Auburn, a more accurate postal and geographic name.

At the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Cartwright church in 1979, this poem was read:

*In 1879 they came to this land
of tree and sod,
They paused each Sabbath Day
in worship of their God.
From dawn to dusk, they labored,
a home for them to build,
With countless tasks each day,
their lives in deed were filled.
As we look back today
across these hundred years,
May we renew once more
the faith that drives out fears.
Let's give to God the glory,
that to His name is due,
May we respect the Sabbath—
'twas made for me and you.
As we renew our faith
of days long since gone by,
Life will have greater meaning—
it's up to you and I.*

—By Claston Bond

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.**



For complete contest rules and mailing instructions, see your October or November *Sabbath Recorders* (or on-line at seventhdaybaptist.org).

Deadline: All entries for this contest need to be

postmarked no later than January 15, 2008.

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



A plan for new lessons

Do you want to see new lessons designed to help children and youth learn about missions, ministry, Sabbath, and the Biblically-based practices that Seventh Day Baptists consider important?

The SDB Board of Christian Education is excited to announce that we are working to produce new lessons that tackle the challenges of teaching these things in ways that will stick. We want these young people—those whom God has entrusted to Seventh Day Baptists—to understand, experience, and be able to explain the beliefs and practices that God has given to us.

The new lessons will be developed as three series that focus on Mission and Ministry, Seventh Day Baptist Distinctives, and the Sabbath. Each series will include one quarter of graded materials for Primary (K-2), Junior (3-5), Junior High (6-8), and Senior High (9-12) children and youth.

We plan to produce a fourth and final quarter of material for Senior High called *The Portable Faith*. This will focus on evangelism and practical ways to minister in both familiar and unfamiliar life-settings.

Creating new lessons for three topic areas and four grade levels is not a small undertaking. When the project is complete, 169 new lessons (13 quarters) will explore portions of Seventh Day Baptist life, and do it in ways that are accurate, relevant, coordinated, and pretty.

If the Lord allows our plans to proceed as expected, more than 40 people will be involved in planning,

writing, editing, and illustrating the lessons. Many of them will be working at the same time on different quarters. It is our hope that this approach will reduce the amount of time to write and produce the lessons.

The current *Nurture Series*, which this set of lessons will replace, includes two topic areas

We want young people to understand, experience, and be able to explain the beliefs and practices that God has given to SDBs.

and took 16 years (1985-2000) to produce. While we cannot yet be sure, our expectation is that once coordinators for the topics are chosen, the lessons will be produced in one-fifth to one-third of that time.

We desire your prayer support.

The directors of the Board of Christian Education approved this plan because we believe that Seventh Day Baptist churches want and need materials like these. Please pray for wisdom and discernment for the Board directors.

Also, please pray...

- that we find talented, willing, and able people to participate.
- that we make wise choices for co-

ordinators, writers, editors, illustrators, and consultants.

- that money will be available to finance the effort and that solid fiscal decisions will stretch dollars in fruitful ways.

- that content is faithful to His Word and His will.

- that God will help shape the material in a way that brings glory to Him.

- that the final result will excite teachers, will be loved by students, and will allow them to understand, experience, and be able to explain important pieces of Seventh Day Baptist life.

We also desire your financial help.

This effort will require tens of thousands of dollars. Some money is already in hand—the Board of Christian Education has been saving funds for years from the sale of the current *Nurture Series*. Our 2007 and 2008 budgets set some money aside for this use. (But when expected income does not arrive, how can you set that money aside?)

As of October, the Board has just over \$7,000 for this effort. We will need more.

We desire your patience. Even though our plan is to finish this material as quickly as possible, the effort will take at least a couple of years.

Please understand that nothing new will show up in 2008, and there is a good chance that nothing new in this series will appear in 2009, either. But, if the Lord tarries, the old *Nurture Series* will disappear, and the new will come. *SR*



FOCUS on Missions

Big meeting planned in Kenya

by Kirk Looper

The present work in Kenya was developed mainly by Pastor Arpachshad Mose, who led the Seventh Day Baptist churches there until his death. Upon Pastor Mose's passing, his son, Benard, became General Secretary, leading the churches in the same manner as his father.

With help from his wife and mother, Pastor Benard continues to develop and move the churches forward. Under his leadership, the area's SDB population has increased to over 1,000 members. Even though he is young, we praise God for Pastor Benard's abilities.

The congregations are located mainly in the Kisii area, although some are spread over western Kenya. Growth in these areas is restricted because Pastor Benard lacks convenient transportation. A vehicle to facilitate his travels is available for about \$2,000 through "Vehicles for Africa," a non-profit organization. We continue to pray

rently, the Conference's work to develop the churches and their leaders has slowed because they cannot raise the \$5,000 needed to cover travel, meeting, and other expenses.

Pastor Benard plans and leads seminars to help the churches organize, develop, and grow. This month, they will hold a meeting similar to the Conference meetings held in the U.S. The participants hope that they can bring leadership and representatives to Kisii so that they can better organize the Conference.

We pray that we can raise over \$5,000 to support this meeting, but we will be pleased if we can come up with half of this amount. The money will be used to cover travel expenses, plus food and rooming costs for the visiting participants.

Pastor Benard has been trying to hold these meetings for several years, but he has not had the financial resources to complete the plans. Let's hope that he will be able to fulfill his dream this year!



Grace Arpachshad Mose, mother of Pastor Benard Mose in Kenya, holds her new granddaughter.

***Participants hope
that they can bring leadership
and representatives to Kisii so that
they can better organize the
Kenyan Conference.***

for the funds to provide him with a car/truck.


Presently, most of the income to run the Conference comes from the churches and his mother, Grace Arpachshad Mose. (She owns part of the farm where they live.) Cur-

If you would like to help, you can send your donation to the SDB Missionary Society at 119 Main St., Westerly, RI 02891.

Each month, I receive several e-mails from Pastor Benard, requesting that I promote vaca-

tioning in Kenya. Once you arrive, you can choose between sleeping at his farm or staying in a hotel about 20 miles from the farm.

Be prepared to travel to as many churches as he can squeeze in during your stay. It's exciting to meet the members of the various congregations, as they enjoy and are encouraged by your greetings. (And, possibly, a sermon!) This trip will also give you a chance to see much of Kenya.

For more information about visiting Africa, contact the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society. You can get in direct touch with Pastor Benard by e-mailing: arpachshadm@yahoo.com. He would also enjoy messages from those simply wanting to correspond with him. 



the BEACON

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

December 2007

Procrastination

by Chris Davis, Marlboro, N.J., SDB Church

I am a huge procrastinator. Take this article, for instance.

I volunteered to write it at the end of August, and I planned to write it some time before school started. However, I had advance reading to do for high school, and it was getting close to the end of summer. After completing my work, I still wanted to relax. So that's what I did.

Shortly after, school started and I hadn't even *begun* the article.

My first couple weeks of school were a pain as I tried to get "back on track." Waking up early in the morning (the bus arrives at 6:30 a.m.) and staying up late (homework takes up a lot of time), and all of the other after-school activities made me stress out a lot.

During this time, did I think of the article? Yes, but I didn't do it because I still wanted some free time.

On the weekends, I was involved with church and band. Everything I did on Friday and Saturday—added to all of the other chores and homework I did on Sunday—took up almost the whole weekend. Through all of this, the note about this article was still on my desk. So...

I had over two months to do it, but did I? No.

Now, I am writing this late at night, just days before it's due. What a mistake *that* was!

Just like this article, we procrastinate in life.

There might be a person at your job or at school who doesn't know Christ. Their life is like a boulder rolling down a mountain, gaining speed. Only you can help stop them from falling all the way to the bottom.

Paul did not even think about procrastinating when he told people about the Word of the Lord. And neither should you.

In life, we can't afford to procrastinate. For all we know, these people could be gone tomorrow.

If they didn't know Christ, we will be stuck with guilt because we didn't try to help them. You or I could have saved their life, and given them the key to everlasting life and joy. Instead, we allowed them to continue toward unending death and pain. All because we procrastinated.

But the good news is, *this can be fixed*. We can tell people about our Savior and God's love now.

As awkward as it might be sometimes, invite people to church and tell them about Jesus Christ. Sometimes, we need to step out of our comfort zones. Even though doing

so may seem weird, it could save a life. So don't procrastinate; just do it!

Acts 20:26-27 states, "Therefore, I declare to you today that I am innocent of the blood of all men. For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God."

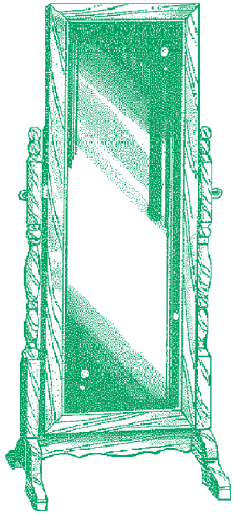
Paul did not even *think* about procrastinating when he told people about the Word of the Lord. And neither should you.

I challenge every one of you to go out into your busy lives and tell one person about Christ. You could even start by sending them a Christmas card with the nativity story on the cover.

Whatever you do, somehow tell them about God. You never know when it might be too late.

Remember: The first time you do something, you might be nervous and afraid. But it will get easier and easier as you press on. *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*

Give until you feel better

"...we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive'" (Acts 20:35, NIV).

When I was growing up in Milton, Wis., the concept of embracing "giving" over "receiving" was pretty foreign to me. Like most kids my age, life was about *getting* things. Birthday gifts, Christmas presents, money from grandparents for no particular reason.

Our family never had much money when I was little. Still, Christmas meant tearing into a lot of nifty presents that my parents somehow managed to purchase.

One year, I was overjoyed when "Santa" brought me a black western top and skirt adorned with a white plastic belt and matching fringe. (I usually pretended to be Roy Rogers, but I decided I could put up with being Dale Evans—for a little while.)

I was a cowboy, but I still remember the thrill of seeing a large doll sitting in a living room chair one Christmas morning. "Debra" had eyes that opened and closed, plus long red hair that could be combed and braided. (I still have her, over 50 years later.)

Back then, my "giving phase"—like the Christ child—was still in its infancy.

One December, I made my mother a Christmas corsage at school, decorated with a colorful red ribbon and

some small, shiny ornaments.

Another year, I made a Christmas candle out of blocks of paraffin. After fusing them, the teacher helped us cover the blocks with snow-white "whipped" wax. We finished off our masterpieces by sprinkling them with silver glitter and adding some artificial holly leaves.

I remember how excited I was to give Mom those gifts. They weren't store-bought, but that probably made them all the more special to her. (Mothers are like that; sentimental creatures from birth to death.)

As a teenager, I still enjoyed getting gifts, especially at Christmas. It wasn't until I began having children of my own that I reversed roles, slowly changing from a "receiver" to a "giver."

For today's kids (and adults), *receiving*—which often means giving to themselves—centers around bigger and better things: A cell phone with all the latest bells and whistles; a state-of-the-art, big screen TV; a new car equipped with everything but the kitchen sink.

Many people will say that's simply human nature rearing its ugly head. We want and want, so we get and get, regardless of our actual needs. At times, I've been guilty of that same mentality.

As another Christmas season draws near, my prayer is that all of us will continue to grow as disciples of Christ. That often means giving up self while becoming selfish for the betterment of others.

As we strive to be "givers," we also become "receivers" as unexpected, non-material rewards emerge: peace, contentment, joy, and a sense

of accomplishment as we carry out God's will.

A popular saying proclaims, "Give till it hurts." I'd like all of us to "Give until you feel better, and then give some more."

Our ultimate role model should be our Heavenly Father, Who gave the Greatest Gift of All. Born in a lowly manger, His Son, Jesus, changed the course of mankind forever. *SR*



My usual cowboy garb, including a bandanna, holster, and six-shooter, were temporary set aside for this childhood photo. Note the ringlets. Thankfully, my cowboy hat covered most of my spiraling curls!



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

The “perfect” church?

Have you ever heard of this poem? It's called, “The Perfect Church”:
*If you could find the perfect church
Without one fault or smear,
For goodness' sake
Don't join that church;
You'd spoil the atmosphere.*

Many people spend much time and energy trying to find the perfect church. Although I believe that most people intuitively know that there is no such thing, that doesn't stop them from trying to find one.

That search has led to two relatively recent trends in our culture; namely, “Church Hopping” and “Lone Ranger Christianity.”

In this elusive quest, some people leapfrog from church to church, settling down in one local assembly just long enough to make the inevitable discovery that it has faults, just like the church before—and the one before that.

Most times, theology or doctrine aren't the reasons why people jump from one church to another; it's simply that they don't want to deal with other sinners.

In the second trend—Lone Ranger Christianity—people believe that they can be Christians on their own. They conclude that they don't need the Church. Some of them may sit at home and simply watch their fa-

vorite TV preacher. But go to a local church where they have to interact with all those sinners? No way!

Although there is no perfect local church, we do have the sure Word of God telling us that Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church, will build His Church, and that the gates of Hades will not overpower it (Matthew 16:18). What an absolute and unconditional assurance from One Whose Word is irreversible!

It is that promise that keeps me connected to the Church; that helps me to interact with other members. You see, just like me, they are all God's redemptive work in progress.

I officially became a member of my first church at age 14, and I've been a member of a church ever since. So far, I have entered into a covenant relationship with five churches, all of them Seventh Day Baptist.

I have had my fair share of frustrations, disappointments, and hurts with my brothers and sisters in the Lord, but I've always been able to find sanctuary in the Word of God.

The Bible clearly teaches that the **Church is a family** (1 Peter 3:8), and that we must therefore operate on the basis of relationships, not rules. I have actually found myself being closer, relationally, to some of my covenant siblings than to some of my biological siblings.

My church families have not been perfect families, but they have been nurturing places, protective places, maturing places. The local church is like the learning center for becoming educated on how to get along in God's family.

The Bible also teaches that **Church is a fellowship** (Acts 2:42). Within a fellowship, harmony and unity are the top priorities. My church families have not been perfect fellowships, but they have sought to promote authenticity and exercise compassion.

The Bible teaches that the **Church is a body**, as well (1 Corinthians 12:27). Imagine that! We are Christ's Body. We are His Hands, His Feet, His Mouth, etc.

I cannot afford to be severed from Christ's Body. That would cause serious malfunctions. Christ's Body needs me, and I need Christ's Body. Each of us has a role to play in the Body. Failing to play our respective roles will weaken the Body.

Here is the ending of that opening poem:
*But since no perfect church exists
Where people never sin,
Let's cease looking for that church
And love the one we're in.*

Instead of hungering for a perfect church this side of eternity, let's hunger for a limitless God. *SR*



by Executive Director
Rob Appel

Report to Conference (part 4)

As I travel around North America visiting many churches, pastors, and Associations, I've observed that the churches that emphasize the Sabbath first and salvation second are not growing. In fact, they are dying and not effective anymore.

Churches that are focused on themselves, remaining simply in a maintenance mode, are losing members. In some cases, they are in denial of what their true purpose is today.

Based on this observation, what should our vision as Seventh Day Baptists be?

SDBs need to preach the Word! The biblical Word! The salvation message needs to be the loudest message we convey.

If we lead someone to Christ and they then choose to attend a non-SDB church, God still blesses them. At least they have accepted Christ as their Savior, and that is what we are called to do.

We are not called as Christians to convert people to our denomination. That's the Holy Spirit's job and happens after a Christian is spiritually mature. Churches that understand this concept—and carry out the Great Commission as given in Matthew—are growing!

Why do they grow? Because they continually show God's love, Christ's compassion, and the Holy Spirit in their "hands-on" ministry.

These congregations are not judging people on their choice of what day they worship. They are finding needs in their communities and filling them. They



are looking *outside* the four walls of their churches for ministry and mission.

As I said last year, "These could be the most challenging years ahead for Seventh Day Baptists; and yet they could be the most rewarding in our history."

So what's my vision for Seventh Day Baptists? That we become the Church that Christ intended us to be. We can do this by reaching out to all people groups with Christ's love and by preaching the Good News of salvation to all through Jesus Christ.

We should look to see how we can help others and reach out to those in need. We must ignite a new passion for Christ in our

hearts, committing ourselves as individuals and as a fellowship of believers.

I think we have seen progress toward these goals over the last few years. There's some great work going on, but it requires us to come and labor together.

Our AIM is to have an Alliance In Ministry!

I hope I have given you a clear sense of my excitement about where this is all going. Some day in the near future, I believe we'll look back on today and say, "There were so many things that we needed to do, and we were able to do them because we had a vision, a focus, and an AIM."

We are on the verge of taking that next step today!

Around the denomination, I am seeing the level of ministry optimism growing. We are showing the telltale signs that breakthroughs will take place soon.

To make sure that we carry through to the next level of ministry for future Seventh Day Baptists, I am confident that we can foster an environment of unity through our Alliance In Ministry. I'm very excited to see how it all comes together, and I hope you are, too!

God bless you all, and thank you for your support. *SR*

Living in a covenant relationship

by Valerie Heath

October 6, 2007, turned out to be a busy and blessed Sabbath here at the foot of the Rocky Mountains. The Boulder, Colo., Seventh Day Baptist Church had two very important “missions” to accomplish during its worship service. Though it seemed like a daunting task to complete all of this during a “normal” service, we kept in mind that “with God all things are possible!”

Our first event was the installation of our new pastor, Steve Osborn. He has been a blessing since arriving in Colorado in July.

Rev. Victor Skaggs spoke about the responsibilities of a pastor, and about what our church survey revealed that we wanted from a pastor. He also said that, in spite of our church’s mile-long list of needs and desires, Pastor Steve accepted our call anyway. In fact, Steve has already proven faithful to the task!

Rev. Skaggs also charged the church with the responsibility of helping our pastor and his ministry in every way we can.

With this in mind, a responsive reading had us vow our support to Pastor Steve, his family, and our fellow church members while continuing the ministry of Salvation through Jesus Christ.

The second event was also the culmination of a long-term process.

Boulder has always had a wonderful Covenant statement. We don’t know who the author or authors were, but we felt confident that Rev. Samuel Wheeler—founder of the Boulder church in 1893—must have had a hand in its coming into being.

For a long time, we have felt it would be beneficial to update the covenant’s language, clarifying a few of the promises. The Coordinating Board chose a committee that worked on the Covenant for several months, and the newly revised Covenant—with all its original ideas intact—was adopted at the church’s July business meeting.


Scripture references have been added to each of the seven promises, so that prospective members

can study for themselves what they are committing to before joining the church.

So, after Pastor Steve was installed as our new pastor, we had a Covenant Renewal for the church body. As chair of the committee that updated the language, I related that the reason I volunteered to update it was because I finally understood what a Covenant is.

The definition that made it clear to me was this: A Covenant is a contract that contains a promise and a blessing. Pastor Steve compared a Covenant to a vow, similar to the vows made in a marriage ceremony. We must always strive to keep the promises we make to each other every time we read our covenant, and God will bless us as we grow closer as a church family.

By the way, we also held communion that day. And a fellowship dinner. And “Way of the Master” evangelism training... But that’s another story!

You could say that God blessed our socks off. 

Heated contest in Alfred Station

by Dawn Palmiter



Cook-Off judges Eric Massa and Rich Calkins react after sampling the chili made by Curtis Palmiter, winner in the “Hottest” category.


The Alfred Station, N.Y., Seventh Day Baptist Church held its 2nd Annual Chili Cook-Off in September. Serving as the “brave” volunteer judges were Alfred-Almond School Principal Rich Calkins and State Congressional candidate, Eric Massa.

The esteemed judges chose the following winners:

- 1st Place—Sandy Quick (Chicken Chili)
- 2nd Place—Peggy Chroniger (Chili Trifle)

•3rd Place—Dawn Palmiter (No Meat, No Heat, with Pineapple Chili).

Winning in the “Most Unique” category was Donna Rogers with her Buffalo Chicken Wing Chili. The “Hottest” category was won by reigning champion Curtis Palmiter, with his “It’s a Secret” Chili.

Prizes were awarded to each winner. 

Called to pray

by Margaret Taylor

On Sunday, October 14, 2007, women from the Washington D.C. Area Seventh Day Baptist Churches gathered to participate in a one-day retreat focusing on prayer. Although not all were present for the 8:00 a.m. breakfast fellowship time, about 40 women attended throughout the day. Many stayed for the evening session, which ended at 8:00 p.m.

Activities included interactive teaching times led by Diane Andries (Washington, D.C., SDB Church), Margaret Taylor (Central SDB Church, Mitchellville, Md.), and Jacqueline Alonzo (SDB Christian Church, Arlington, Va.). These times began with praise and worship, interspersed with testimonies, prayer requests, and sharing.

Much time was spent in corporate and small group prayer sessions. Both tears and laughter mingled with quiet worship and



SDB women from the greater Washington, D.C., area had a blessed time as they gathered to worship, fellowship, and pray.

enthusiastic praises as we sang and fellowshiped together. It was a day filled with blessings for all who attended.

Many thanks to those who made this special day possible, including Lorrie Bird who play-

ed piano, and Diane Andries who led the praise and worship times. Special thanks to the men who furnished, prepared, and served the meals.

To God be the glory for coordinating it all! *SR*

Robe of Achievement 2008 Nominations

The SDB Women's Society is accepting nominations for the Robe of Achievement for 2008. 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

Deadline:

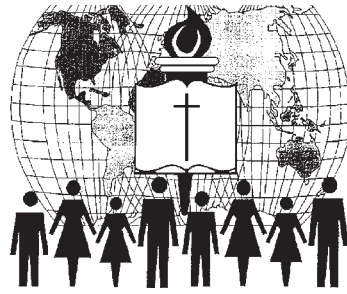
March 31, 2008

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

Seventh Day Baptist World Federation

The next session of the World Federation will be held in the United States in August, 2008. If you would like to sponsor the expenses of a foreign delegate, please send your contribution to:

*SDB World Federation
Luan Ellis, Treasurer
614 Pleasant Valley Rd.
Alfred Station, NY 14803 USA*



Thank you for your gifts and prayers for this worldwide organization of Seventh Day Baptist believers.

2008 Week of Prayer

At press time, we were awaiting material for the prayer booklets. Churches will be notified when the books are mailed out. Please check the SDB website (www.seventhdaybaptist.org) for more information.

For SDB Conferences and individuals **outside the U.S. and Canada**: You are encouraged to also go to the website and download a pdf of the prayer booklet when it is available.

New member

Metro Atlanta, GA
John Pethtel, pastor
Joined after testimony
David Fox

Births

Kersten.—A son, Corbin John Kersten, was born to Randy and Marcy (Payne) Kersten of Milton, WI, on April 11, 2007.

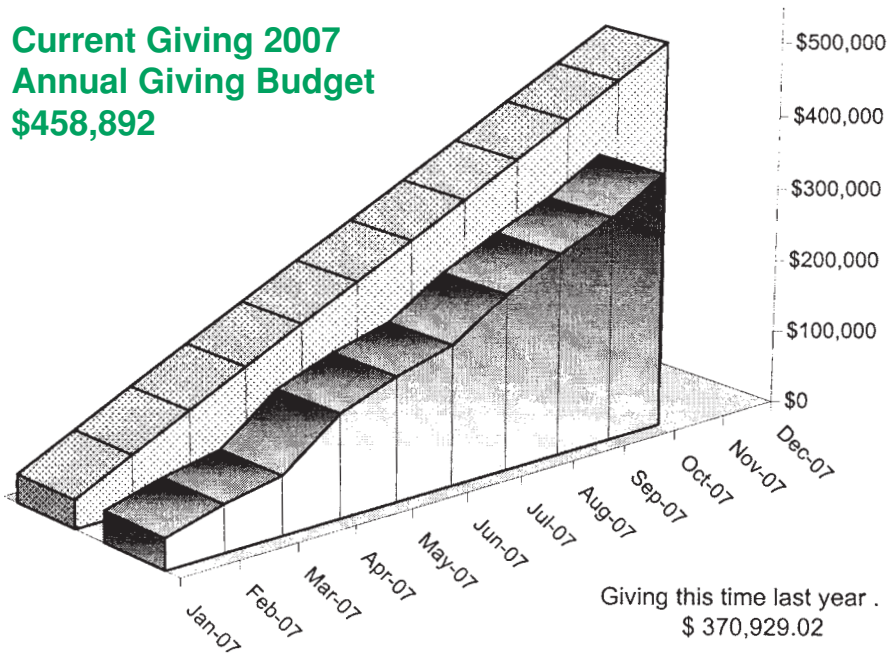
Calhoun.—A daughter, Ava Leigh Calhoun, was born to Ben and Alison Calhoun of Elgin, IL, on October 14, 2007.

Bond.—A daughter, Colleen Marie Bond, was born to Christopher and Joanna (Halter) Bond of Stow Creek Township, NJ, on October 26, 2007.

Somers.—A son, Aiden Robert Somers, was born to Jonathan and Ryan Somers of Riverside, CA, on October 28, 2007.

Mackintosh.—A daughter, Arabelle Elizabeth Mackintosh, was born to Dustin and Anna (Parker) Mackintosh of Trabuco Canyon, CA, on November 2, 2007.

Current Giving 2007 Annual Giving Budget \$458,892



Giving this time last year . . .
\$ 370,929.02

	Month - Oct '07	Year To Date
Budgeted	\$ 38,241	\$ 382,414
Actual	\$ 41,842	\$ 347,694
Difference	\$ 3,600	\$ (34,721)
% of Budget	109%	91%

PROP Giving	
Oct '07	\$ 956
Year To Date	\$ 7,823

Morgan Shepard, Treasurer

And Announcing . . .

Another son: Samuel Rodger **Shepard** was born to Morgan and Kate (Thomas) Shepard of Janesville, WI, on November 20, 2007.

They did their best to make our *SR* deadline. This goes to the printer on Samuel's birthday!

Obituaries

Whitlock.—Albert “Al” Quitman Whitlock, 86, of Murrieta, Calif., passed away on February 16, 2007, at his home, following a brief illness. His wife and two sons were at his side.

Al was born on July 10, 1920 in El Centro, Calif., the son of Thomas and Gertrude Whitlock.

When he was a teenager, Al spent summers with his uncles and worked on cattle ranches in and around Temecula, Calif. He loved horses and had his own, often riding in rodeos.

In 1942, he accompanied the Hawaiian Constructors for a year, building airfield runways in the Hawaiian Islands.

In June of 1944, he married Dorothy Severe. In August of that same year, he was drafted into the U.S. Army Infantry and sent to Okinawa in the Pacific. At the end of the war, he was deployed to South Korea as a Staff Sergeant with the Army Engineers to build roads and bridges.

While in the service, Al received the Purple Heart and Army Commendation medals.

In 1960, Al moved his family to Riverside, Calif., where he spent 30 years working for the State of California, mostly for the Department of Forestry. When he retired, he was automotive supervisor in charge of maintenance of heavy fire-fighting equipment for the Southern California Region.

Al joined the Riverside Seventh Day Baptist Church in 1959. He served in various capacities, including church president, Sabbath School teacher, president of the Pacific Coast Association, supporter of Pacific Pines Camp, and a faithful usher and greeter for many years.

He was greatly admired and loved by all, including children and young people. He was noted for his attention to newcomers, helping them feel comfortable so they would quickly fit into church life. He was a generous,

caring person, always helping someone—whether at home, work, or church.

Al was an avid outdoorsman. He was also a Boy Scout leader, and loved golfing, fishing, hunting, and camping with friends and family. When his grandsons began playing hockey, he became one of their most faithful fans.

Survivors include his wife of 62 years, Dorothy; two sons, Bill and Ken; one sister, Maxine; two brothers, Tom and Bob; three grandsons; one great-grandson; and several nephews and nieces.

Funeral services were held on February 22, 2007, at the Riverside SDB Church, with Pastor Gabriel Bejjani officiating. Burial was in the Riverside National Cemetery.

VanHorn.—Dorcas A. VanHorn, 94, died on October 22, 2007, at Adel (Iowa) Acres Care Center of complications from Alzheimer’s. She was a former resident of Westerly, R.I., and Dade City, Fla.

Dorcas was born on November 20, 1912, in Pawcatuck, Conn., the daughter of John H. and Annabelle (Dixon) Austin. After graduating from Stonington (Conn.) High School, she attended Connecticut College. She later graduated from Salem (W.Va.) College.

On July 18, 1937, Dorcas married Elston H. VanHorn in Westerly. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary just six months prior to his death in 1987.

Throughout her adult life, Dorcas was active in Westerly area community organizations. She was a member of the Westerly College Club and Monday Club. She served as a member and officer of the Westerly Hospital Aid Association, and both she and her husband were members of the hospital’s Board of Incorporators. Dorcas also was a board member of the Adult Day Care Center.

Both Dorcas and Elston volunteered at the Westerly Public Library, where Dorcas worked as an assistant librarian prior to her marriage.

As a lifelong member of the Pawcatuck Seventh Day Baptist Church of Westerly, Dorcas served wherever needed. She often joked that her epitaph would read, “And Dorcas was in charge of the games.”

She was a high-energy amateur entertainer. Her dramatic readings and comedic caricatures at club meetings, banquets, and other public events were an outlet for her performing arts college education.

In recent years, Dorcas enjoyed the companionship of Howard Kuehn of Hopkinton City, R.I., and Dade City, until her illness required her move to Iowa in 2006.

Survivors include one son, Jared, of Waukeet, Iowa; a special “adopted daughter,” Barbara Nugent of Westerly; and two granddaughters, four great-grandchildren, three nieces, and three nephews. In addition to her husband, she was predeceased by one sister, Elizabeth Pulver, and one brother, Alexander.

Interment of cremains will take place in Evergreen Cemetery, Albion, Wis., at a later date.

Death Notices

Cirina A. Salmon, 61, of Brooklyn, N.Y., died on April 13, 2006.

Delores J. (Jacobs) Hurley, 75, of Appleton, Wis., died on August 31, 2007.

Robert J. Cartwright, 56, of Scio, N.Y., died on September 28, 2007.

Ilou (Miars) Sanford, 79, of Milton, Wis., died on November 4, 2007.

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KEVIN'S

ORNER

Making impressions

After coming home from a recent clothes-shopping excursion, my wife discovered that one of the sweaters had a "pull" in the back. The local store did not have a replacement in her size, so the manager suggested that she call other stores in the area.

During the nine phone calls, Janet discovered that there was a wide range of "phone etiquette" among those stores. (None of them had the same item, so she wound up keeping the sweater.)

But if another big sale would come to that clothing chain, she would likely remember which store was the most professional and helpful over the phone.

First impressions

For me, an important follow-up to "What does your church mean to you?" is, "How does your church come across to others?"

First impressions are vital. Dr. Leonard Zunin once wrote that when two people meet, the first four minutes are the most important. "What is communicated during those minutes is so crucial," Zunin said, "that it will determine whether strangers will remain strangers, or become acquaintances, friends, or lifetime mates!"

What's the first impression when someone "meets" your church?

It can be a real challenge for churches to create impressions, and even harder to *correct* impressions that have been years in the making.

The question isn't whether or not you've made an impression. The question is, "What *is* that impression, and is it positive or negative?"

First-time visit

Imagine that you are a first-time visitor coming to your church facility. Is the name of the church clearly visible?

What's your impression of the building and grounds? If you didn't know anything about the group that meets there, would you want to come in?

How's the lawn and shrubbery? If it's needed where you live, timely snow and ice removal not only wards

off lawsuits; it also says that your congregation cares about its neighbors.

Public relations

Are you sharing your building with other community groups? This can be an outreach tool. Try some friendly (but unobtrusive) ways to let these folks know that they are welcome to attend your services.

Get the phone! Everyone who picks up the church phone should be trained on how to answer, and how to respond in a helpful manner to give out basic information.

What's the message on your answer machine sound like? It should be brief and "natural" sounding. Try to change the message occasionally to include special services and seasons.

The old Yellow Pages have given way to a presence on the Web. Is your website updated regularly?

Do you have a good relationship with the local media? Don't forget about the shoppers and "give-aways" out there that can provide some free publicity. Make your news releases timely, and about real news happenings.

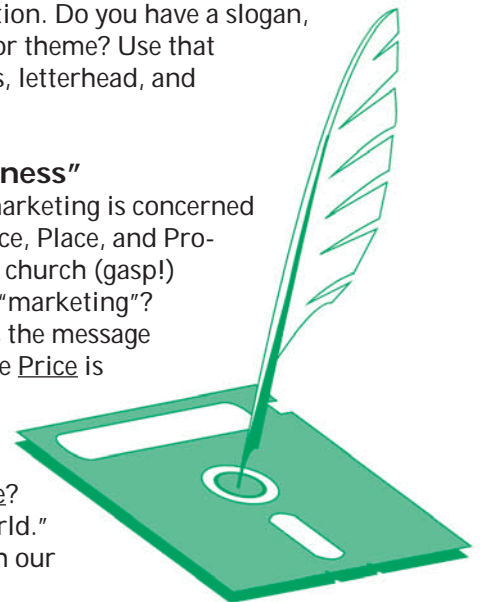
Try to be consistent in reflecting the spirit of your congregation. Do you have a slogan, or a special logo or theme? Use that on your handouts, letterhead, and advertising.

Serious "business"

Commercial marketing is concerned with Product, Price, Place, and Promotion. Should a church (gasp!) be involved with "marketing"?

Our Product is the message of eternal life. The Price is one of belonging and offering ourselves in service. The Place? "...into all the world."

Isn't this worth our Promotion?



I hope you've enjoyed reading—and thinking—about "What the church means to me."

We've spent the last year (and the last 163 years) sharing news for and about our Seventh Day Baptist churches.

The Sabbath Recorder is one of America's longest running religious periodicals. Your year-end, tax deductible gift will help keep this legacy alive.

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