

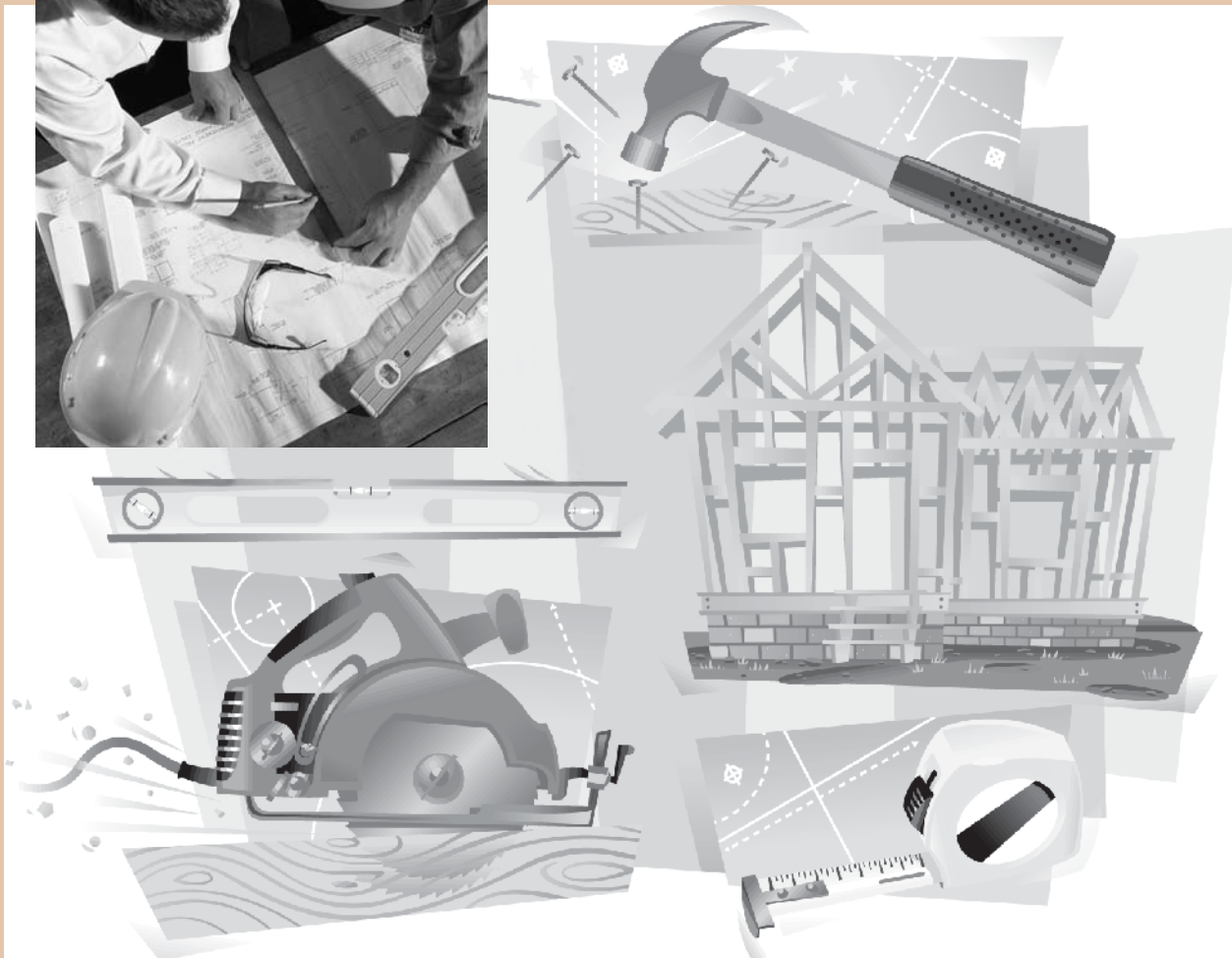
# **SR** The Sabbath RECORDER

March 2007

*News for and about Seventh Day Baptists*



## **Blueprints of man Fingerprints of God**



# **Stories of Restoration and Reconstruction**



## Who are Seventh Day Baptists?

If you've never read *The Sabbath Recorder* before, you might be wondering who Seventh Day Baptists are. Like other Baptists, we believe in:

- salvation by grace through faith in Christ Jesus.
- the Bible as the inspired word of God. The Bible is our authority for our faith and daily conduct.
- baptism of believers, by immersion, witnessing to our acceptance of Christ as Savior and Lord.
- freedom of thought under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- the congregational form of church government. Every church member has the right to participate in the decision-making process of the church.

### The seventh day

God commanded that the seventh day (Saturday) be kept holy. Jesus agreed by keeping it as a day of worship. We observe the seventh day of the week (Saturday) as God's Holy Day as an act of loving obedience—not as a means of salvation. Salvation is the free gift of God through Jesus our Lord. It is the joy of the Sabbath that makes SDBs just a little bit different.

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

A **MEDICAL MISSION** to Guyana, South America, is scheduled for August 9-21, 2007. We are looking for a team of 6-10 persons with medical skills.



Clinics will be held along the Pomeroon River, where the only mode of transport is by boat. Team personnel will stay in homes of nearby SDB church members.

Supplies will be ordered from "Blessings International"; however, team members may bring suitable equipment/supplies that can be packed in their luggage.

Interested? Contact:

•**Ron and Chris Davis**

(765) 649-0540

[rcdavis16@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rcdavis16@sbcglobal.net)

•**Perry and Amanda Barbee**

(814) 766-4585

[pwbarbee@hotmail.com](mailto:pwbarbee@hotmail.com)

*Contributions may be sent to the SDB Memorial Board or SDB Missionary Society, designated "Guyana Trip—Medical Mission."*

## Attention: Camp Harley Sutton alumni

Sightings of those famous Camp Harley Sutton T-shirts have come from all around our great country, so we know that you alumni are everywhere!

Over the last decade or so, we've made several improvements to our facilities outside of Alfred Station, N.Y.—a pavilion, a waterslide, and more! Now we're planning to replace the "tin can" building known as Crandall Dorm.

Thanks to the mildew and musty smell, it was the "dorm of last resort." Well, Crandall is gone! We have prepared the site for a new building that will include two sleeping areas (each with a bathroom) and a common room with a kitchenette.

We want to make this building to be available for year-round use, with everything you need for a meeting, retreat, or any gathering. It will sleep 30 people.

We estimate that the project should cost about \$50,000 to finish. So here's an opportunity to show your appreciation for the time you spent at Camp Harley Sutton. (Remember the formal Friday night banquets? Looking at those old photos, we can see prospects of people who were

going to be successful—and willing and able to help us out!)

As an incentive to give to this project, a generous donor has offered to match individual donations, dollar for dollar, up to \$5,000 before April 1st. (No foolin'!)

We suggest that you consider a donation based on what your week at camp cost. Remember, your gift will be matched, thereby doubling its value.

If you are willing to share, we'd love to hear your memories, especially about the old Crandall Dorm.

Cost of a week at camp? Give or take \$50. Cost of the building? \$50,000. Value of the camping experience? Priceless.

Thanks in advance for your consideration. Donations may be mailed to:

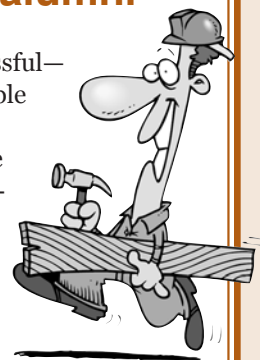
**SDB Allegheny Association  
of Churches**

*Mae Bottoms, Treasurer*

*2810 State Route 244*

*Belmont, NY 14813*

**Don't forget:** Construction begins on April 29!





Establ. 1844

March 2007  
Volume 229, No. 3  
Whole No. 6,926



**A Seventh Day Baptist publication**

*The Sabbath Recorder* (ISSN 0036-214X) (USPS 474460) is published monthly (combined July & August) by the SDB General Conference's Tract and Communication Council, 3120 Kennedy Road, PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547-1678. This publication is distributed at no cost to members and friends of Seventh Day Baptist churches and is made possible by donations from its readers. Periodicals postage paid at Janesville, WI, and additional offices.

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to *The Sabbath Recorder*, 3120 Kennedy Road, PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547-1678

This is the 162nd year of publication for *The Sabbath Recorder*. First issue published, June 13, 1844. Member of the Associated Church Press. The *Sabbath Recorder* does not necessarily endorse signed articles.



**Kevin Butler**  
Editor

editor@seventhdaybaptist.org

**Leanne Lippincott-Wuerthele**  
Assistant Editor

Ⓔ = Editor's Circle members

**Contributing Editors**

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

**WRITERS:** Please type manuscripts double spaced. Only manuscripts that include a stamped, addressed envelope can be returned. Unsolicited manuscripts are welcomed; however, they will be considered on a space available basis. No remuneration is given for any article that appears in this publication. Paid advertising is not accepted.

# Features

**Disaster relief was a real 'roller coaster' .....4**  
by Jim Lyke

*The worst of situations brought out the best in many.*

**It doesn't take a rocket scientist .....6**  
by Brenda Hamm

*How do you connect with a hurting hurricane survivor?  
By being open, honest—and having your kids share stories of your stupidity.*

**God is stronger than a Category 5 .....9**  
by Andy Samuels

*On the heels of Katrina, the sometimes "forgotten" hurricane—Wilma—did its damage in southern Florida. One pastor's reflections.*

**The gift of presence .....11**  
by Keith Bond

*Workers bolster Sunshine Mountain, Mississippi.*

**Building a 'prevailing' church ..... 12**  
by Nate Crandall

*Their goal is life-transformation by making disciples of Jesus.*

# Departments

**Women's Society 13**  
*Hold your peace*

**Pearls from the Past 14**  
*Unburied mountain treasure*

**Christian Education 16**  
*Nominate a teacher*

**Focus 17**  
*Uganda teaching for the future*

**The Beacon 18**  
*Do they really see her?*

**Reflections 19**  
*Rich blessings from poor folks*

**President's Page 20**  
*True worship is so much more*

**Vision 2020 21**  
*Issues... FYI*

**Financial Faith 22**  
*How well did we do in 2006?*

**Local news 23**  
*Mitchellville, MD 23*  
*Philadelphia, PA 23*

**Family flux 24-25**

**Kevin's Korner 27**  
*Blooming beyond where you're planted*

# Disaster relief was a real ‘roller coaster’

by Jim Lyke, Milton, Wis.

With apologies to Charles Dickens,  
*“It was the best of times;  
 it was the worst of times.”*

\* \* \*

There may be no better way to describe my experience as part of a team from the Milton [Wis.] Seventh Day Baptist Church who traveled to suburban New Orleans to help with the cleanup following Hurricane Katrina.

The week we spent in Chalmette, La., was truly dichotomous in terms of the highs and lows we felt, the good and bad we saw.

I saw people who lost everything; I saw people who gained perspective by helping. It was hard physical labor; it was less stress than a typical workweek. It was government inaction; it was government inaction. It was intense happiness from bonding within the team; it was intense sadness and empathy for the residents. It was horrible devastation; it was hope for the future.

Eight months after Katrina struck, the New Orleans area was still a mess. It looked more like war-torn

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*The week we spent in Chalmette, La., was truly dichotomous in terms of the highs and lows we felt, the good and bad we saw.*

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Baghdad than America. Entire residential neighborhoods sat abandoned, save for some FEMA trailers that served as temporary residences.

Katrina didn’t discriminate. The smallest homes and the ritziest all bore the spray-painted marks from inspection teams searching their devastated interiors for bodies. Most businesses in Chalmette were still closed as well. Only a handful had reopened, the majority of those within a month of our arrival.

When our van entered the city, we must have looked comical to passersby as we witnessed the devastation in person, eyes as wide as silver dollars and mouths agape.

It was Election Day in New Orleans, which made for some strange

juxtaposition. At intersections where the stoplights still were not functional, residents handed out campaign literature amidst an ocean of campaign signs as thick as the debris piles that lined the streets.

We had one day to get acclimated prior to beginning our work. We spent that time touring the city. As one member of our group astutely put it, the first day we were shocked by the devastation; the second day, we were shocked by its magnitude.

We drove for miles and miles, and the sights never changed! The same abandoned homes, boarded up businesses, decimated lawns. Very little besides the French Quarter—with a jazz and blues festival in full swing—seemed truly alive and unscathed by Katrina’s wrath.

There are about 27,000 homes in St. Bernard Parish, the county in which Chalmette sits. Of that number, only *three* were habitable after Katrina. That parish was under water for two weeks, in some cases up to 28 feet. About 85 percent of these people did not have flood insurance (most were told they didn’t need it), so their homes continued to sit waterlogged, moldy, and caked with mud.



*Government workers searched homes for survivors.*

Our group spent the week working on some of these houses, turning their insides into skeletal shells. Basically, our job was to remove everything—furniture, possessions, appliances, carpeting, mud, etc.—and then remove the drywall and ceilings, exposing all of the studs so they could be treated for mold.

The physical work was a big adjustment for Wisconsinites not used to the heat and humidity, and whose regular employment is generally non-manual labor.

It could also be very emotional, tossing someone’s cherished possessions onto a debris pile in front of their house. My personal low point was throwing out a destroyed school assignment called “The Day My Puppy Died,” written by a little boy.

The week was full of little moments, snapshots that will stay in our collective memories:

- The hole in the roof of the first house we gutted, where the resident and his son—trapped in the attic by the flood—had to break out to be rescued.
- The house ripped intact from its foundation and deposited in the street four blocks away.
- The strangers who stopped to thank us for coming to help.
- The people we met from the other groups at our camp, volunteers from all over the nation, united with a similar purpose.
- Cody, the little boy living in a trailer next door, who visited us during our breaks and became our pal, helping us cool off with freezer pops.

*Thousands of houses were marked for demolition.*



- The chicken that kept us company outside the second house we worked on.
- The dead alligator in the debris pile next door to our work site.
- The neighbor, Buddy, a true character who quoted lines from the movie “Blazing Saddles” and was kind enough to let us use

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***In the end, the experience was extremely fulfilling. We left knowing that we had helped people who desperately needed help.***

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the shade of his carport and his functioning bathroom.

- Benny, the 80-year-old who received \$4,100 from his insurance company to cover \$65,000 worth of losses, but found some comfort in discovering one of his school yearbooks undamaged.
- Tom, a 76-year-old on a salvaged bicycle, who found his

current predicament preferable to being “naked and crying” at birth.

- The laughs we shared; the tears we shared; the sense of accomplishment we shared.

In the end, the experience was extremely fulfilling. We left knowing that we had helped people who desperately needed help. And a true bond formed among the 15 of us. It was special, even though it took place in some of the worst circumstances imaginable in this country.

The question became, “What do we do with this experience?”

Our group discussed finding ways to bring relief to those affected by local “hurricanes,” minor in scope to Katrina but just as devastating to the people involved. We have already begun to put that resolve into action.

But the idea needs to go far beyond our group or our church. Even though we look at it as “showing God’s love in a practical way,” it’s not just a Baptist thing or a Christian thing. It’s something we *all* need to embrace—volunteering our time, talents, and efforts to help those around us who are suffering from their own disasters.

It’s about taking the worst of times and transforming them into the best of times, for the betterment of us all. **SR**

# It doesn't take a rocket scientist...

by Brenda Hamm, Milton, Wis.

In December, I went with my husband, Pat, and our five sons—Kevin, Brian, Shawn, Aaron, and Jason—to the Mississippi/Louisiana area to help rebuild homes destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.

This was an awesome experience for our family. We met so many fascinating people and heard such inspiring stories that our lives will never be the same.

Not only was each day an adventure as we worked side by side as a family, but we also got to witness God working in remarkable ways. We went to serve and bless others, but we were the ones who were blessed beyond measure.

## Smooth sailing?

To be honest, not everything went smoothly.

Joe is a man who loves the Lord and isn't afraid to show it. He has a larger-than-life personality. He was so incredibly thankful for all of the volunteers who worked so hard on his house, and he made us feel welcomed and appreciated.

His wife, Priscilla, was not so nice or appreciative.

On the first day after Joe had gone to work, Priscilla walked into the house. I was excited to meet her and get to know her. But she made it abundantly clear that she



*The Hamms enjoyed some local delicacies during a picnic lunch.*

## Thanks, dear

Pat pointed out that I was the “social worker” of the family and wished me well with Priscilla. He was perfectly content to work on the plumbing and trimming, and leave Priscilla to me.

When we returned to church that evening, I shared what had happened. The leaders of our building team apologized for not warning us about Priscilla. They revealed that she had clinical depression, brought on by the devastation of the hurricane. Apparently, she hadn't been friendly to *any* of the volunteers and stayed in bed most days.

They told us not to take it personally. No one had been able to connect with her.

All of the decisions pertaining to the house were left to Joe. Priscilla felt that her home—and all of the things that she held dear—were destroyed in the storm, so she wanted no part in rebuilding it. In fact, she said that the only thing she would do was move into the house when it was finished.

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On our first day, we were given the task of helping to finish an older couple's home. Joe and Priscilla were living in a FEMA trailer parked on their front lawn. Over the past six months, hundreds of volunteers had worked on restoring their hurricane-damaged house.

had no desire to socialize with us. My attempts at conversation were met with one-word answers and blank stares.

After a few minutes, she left the house without a word.

Pat and I were astonished! We weren't prepared for such a cold reception.

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## You can't pick-and-choose

That evening, I told Pat how frustrated I was.

"We came all this way to help this family, and the wife treats us like this!"

I wasn't even sure I wanted to help Priscilla anymore.

Pat "lovingly" reminded me that God doesn't want us to only help those who are appreciative and kind. He also wants us to help those who are in need and not real lovable.

Sometimes, it's hard when your husband is right!

That night, I prayed that God would turn my frustration into compassion, and that I would be able to love Priscilla rather than avoid her.

## Here we go again

The next morning, when Priscilla entered the house, I took a deep breath and went over to greet her. Unfortunately, her attitude was the same as it had been the day before. Priscilla wasn't in the mood to talk, but I was.

I proceeded to visit with Priscilla and ask her opinion about different things that we were working on. For the most part, I received one-word answers again. But this time, I continued to talk as though she was interested in what I was saying.

The next day, Priscilla came in and offered us water. I was making progress!

## Looking up

Later in the day, Priscilla asked if she could go with me to the hardware store. On the way to the van, I asked God for help. The hardware store was only six blocks away, but it would

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*My husband reminded me that God doesn't want us to only help those who are appreciative and kind. He also wants us to help those who are in need and not real lovable.*

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seem like 600 miles if we rode in silence.

To make conversation, I decided to tell Priscilla about my family and church. She seemed genuinely interested in what I was saying. Things were looking up!

I soon found myself looking forward to my daily encounters with Priscilla. On Friday, she showed up with old clothes on and said that she wanted to help me paint. My three younger boys helped us paint the foyer.

I quickly realized that I didn't need to worry about what we should talk about; the boys took care of that!

They shared story after goofy story with Priscilla, most of them concerning funny things that

our family had said or done. But it soon dawned on me that the majority of the stories involved their Mom—me!

## A turning point

Priscilla spent the afternoon laughing as she listened to the blow-by-blow retelling of all of our mishaps over the years. Suddenly, she stopped painting and asked if we would like to go out to dinner with her and her husband that evening. Talk about being taken off guard! We had a lovely dinner with them that night.

The next morning, Joe showed up at church, wanting to know "what I had done" to his wife. I assured him that I didn't do a whole lot, other than talk to her.

He confessed that he was blown away when she called and said that she had invited the Hams for dinner. "That was so out of character for her," he explained.

With tears in his eyes and emotion in his voice, Joe shared how bad things had gotten with Priscilla over the past year. She didn't have any friends and had cut ties with most of her family. She wasn't nice to anyone.

*cont. on next page*



*Surrounded by her sons and husband, Brenda (third from left) stands next to Joe and a changed Priscilla.*

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## God chose the foolish things

When Joe told his wife that she had to be nice and talk with the volunteers, she said that she felt stupid all of the time. She was convinced that if she opened her mouth, people would know just how stupid she was.

All of a sudden, things made perfect sense. I now understood why Priscilla felt comfortable around me: After hearing our stories, she was keenly aware that I say and do stupid things all the time! No wonder I made a connection with her!

Deep down, I knew that my bouts with stupidity would come in handy some day. Isn't God awesome?! He can even use our weaknesses for good.

## Let's stay longer!

Initially, we had made a one-week commitment down South. However, we felt that God wasn't finished with us yet, so we decided to stay another week.

We continued to see huge changes in Priscilla. As she worked alongside



*Joe and Priscilla receive the keys to their "new" home.*

me, she shared about her childhood, her family, and her disappointment with churches. I was finally able to use my counseling skills as I listened, encouraged, and prayed with her.

By the end of the second week, we had finished Joe and Priscilla's house.

## What a change

On the night before the dedication, Priscilla and I were doing some last-minute cleaning. When we left the house, she asked if we

could bring a leaf blower the next day and clean off the driveway before people began arriving for the dedication.

This was a small request, but it spoke volumes about the changes that had taken place in Priscilla. In two weeks time, she had gone from being a depressed, bitter woman to one who was looking forward to entertaining people in her "new" home.

When I said that we were blessed beyond measure, I wasn't kidding. What an honor it was to see Priscilla's transformation! And what a blessing it was to pray with her, and minister to her.

## Restoration from above

God is not only restoring homes in the Gulf region; He is restoring lives as well. Our family felt privileged to be a part of God's work. We can't wait to return and help even more families.

I encourage you to load up *your* family and be a part of this life-changing work. You, too, will be blessed beyond measure! **SR**

Do you read The Sabbath Recorder?

Do you study The Helping Hand?



# God is stronger than a Category 5

## Lessons from a hurricane

by Andy Samuels, Miami, Fla.

We did our best to prepare for Hurricane Wilma's arrival. Living in South Florida for 18 years taught us many survival skills needed in the event of a hurricane.

I well remember Hurricane Andrew that hit in 1992. Until Katrina's arrival in August 2005—several weeks before Wilma—Andrew was the most destructive hurricane in U.S. history. (My most profound question about Hurricane Andrew was, "Why was it given *that* name?")

Katrina's "visitation" was not severely devastating to us here in Miami, but she certainly ravaged New Orleans and the Gulf area. And Wilma was lurking right behind her.

When Wilma—the third Category

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***Wilma was packing winds of 125 miles per hour and had the distinction of being the most intense hurricane recorded in the Atlantic basin.***

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5 hurricane to develop in October of 2005—finally appeared in our area, she was packing winds of 125 miles per hour and had the distinction of being the most intense hurricane re-

corded in the Atlantic basin. She set numerous records for strength as well as seasonal activity.

So what did Wilma bring?

She brought extensive power outages, downed trees, shortages of basic necessities, frustration, discomfort, and major inconvenience. In the aftermath of "Madam Wilma," life changed dramatically for South Floridians.

In Broward County, where we live, the majority of the traffic signals weren't functioning due to power outages. Non-highway traffic slowed to an unprecedented pace, as every intersection had to be treated as a four-way stop.

*cont. on next page*

**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

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***She brought extensive power outages, downed trees, shortages of basic necessities, frustration, discomfort, and major inconvenience.***

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It became downright dangerous to drive at night. In unfamiliar intersections, one could easily plow through without stopping, significantly increasing the potential for accidents. Authorities seriously considered implementing dusk-to-dawn curfews.

In anticipation of Wilma, government officials had made what they thought would be adequate preparations to ensure that there would be enough gasoline. However, they didn't anticipate the widespread lack of electricity.

Filling stations had gas, but they couldn't pump it because they lacked power. As a result, many motorists stopped making unnecessary trips, driving only when they needed essentials.

Once, I had to wait in line at a gas station for eight hours to fill my car's tank. I was scheduled to speak at a Men's Retreat in Jamaica and was due to fly out that evening. Needless to say, I ended up rescheduling my flight for the following day.

It was almost four weeks before electricity was restored to our house. Before that, we did minimal cooking outside on a charcoal grill. Each day, we waited in long lines to collect "charity food" and ice. We had to endure not only the lack of refrigeration, but listening to our daughters complain about how bored they were with no computer or television.

For about two weeks, we lost power at the church as well. We were slated to host the South Atlantic As-

sociation the second weekend in November, and the estimated time for power restoration didn't give us much hope of being able to fulfill that responsibility.

Still, Wilma's "baggage" wasn't all negative; she brought some positives as well.

In the hurricane's aftermath, we learned how blessed we are to have life so convenient and easy. We grew more and more thankful for our luxuries, like air-conditioning.

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***In the hurricane's aftermath, we learned how blessed we are to have life so convenient and easy.***

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We also learned to exercise patience as we drove on roads and waited in long lines. And we learned to interact more with our neighbors.

In many ways, Wilma brought out the best in communities. People told each other where they could find an open gas station, or they would purchase extra necessities for friends, relatives, or neighbors.

As a family, we did something that we hadn't done in a long time: we played games, often by candlelight. This gave us a chance to share and bond with each other, strengthening our relationships.

As Sabbath approached, we faced the real possibility of no electricity in our church facilities. I considered canceling worship services for that day.

While thinking about this, I felt a nudge from the Lord, challenging me to imagine what kind of Christians we would be if we couldn't worship Him without electricity.

I yielded to God's prodding, and we had a beautiful time worshipping the One Who is the Light of the World.

As we contemplated alternative plans for the Association meetings, Pastor Wray Winborne from the Daytona Beach (Fla.) SDB Church called. He assured me that if power wasn't returned to our church in time, his brethren would step in and host Association. What precious souls they were—and are—as they demonstrated true servant hearts!

In the end, we prayed long and hard, and power was restored. We were able to host what may have been the largest attendance on Sabbath in the history of the South Atlantic Association.

Hurricane Wilma gave us a great opportunity to bear and cultivate the Fruit of the Spirit, in all of its parts: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Wilma came with her fury, but God came through for us—as He always does! **SR**

# The gift of presence

## Receiving help post-Katrina

by Keith Bond, Chatawa, Miss.

The winds were angry that day, my friends. Actually, so were the rains. It was Monday, August 29, 2005. For those of us who live in Mississippi and Louisiana, it's a date that sounds almost as traumatic as September 11, 2001.

I remember the Sabbath before Hurricane Katrina came roaring through Sunshine Mountain [Miss.]. My 8th-grade son, Jordan, commented at church that it would be "cool" to miss a day of school. Just one day. Well, he got his wish... times 10!

I remember the Sunday evening before Katrina hit. We spent the night with my in-laws because they have a brick home. We thought we would be safer there than in our trailer.

I spoke to my mom, Susan Bond, and she told me to read Psalm 91 that night. We also read it again at church the following Sabbath. It's a good one, especially verses 9 and 10:

*"If you make the Most High your dwelling, even the LORD, who is my refuge—then no harm will befall you, no disaster will come near your tent."*

I remember the morning of Katrina. We were watching the weather on TV about 8:00 when the power went out. This is how ignorant we were at the time; we thought we'd have the power back on in a couple of hours, or at the least, late in the day. We were clueless as to how bad the storm really was.

**Hard-working volunteers put a roof on a tool shed, burned a huge amount of debris, and cleaned out some freezers full of rotting food.**



Had we known that we would be without electricity for 17 straight days, we would have been vacationing with my parents in West Virginia!

I also remember a lot of people caring for us. The National Guard helped, along with members of the local volunteer fire department and the Indiana Air National Guard. They provided vital ice, bottled water, food, and even two generators.

By far, the most impressive source of help was the White Cloud, Mich., SDB Church. Coming all the way to Mississippi, Pastor Bernie Wethington headed a group that included his daughter, Leeanna, and three members of their church: Levi Goven, Tori Nader, and Jack Meeuwes.

This was like an impromptu SCSC project! It was such a great team effort as they "worked out" physically and spiritually. Together, they cleaned the Beebe House (where several Sunshine Mountain residents lived), and removed a tree that was hanging dangerously over a well.

These hard-working volunteers also put a roof on a tool shed, burned a huge amount of debris, and cleaned out some freezers full of rotting food and spoiled milk that we had forgotten about for several days.

The best thing they did while here was to drive about 20 miles on debris-strewn, treacherous roads to see if an older couple of our church were okay. Without telephones, we hadn't been able to check on them.

We discovered that they were fine. Praise the Lord! In fact, they were housing several members of their own family who hadn't been as fortunate as they were.

We truly appreciate all of the prayers that were said on our behalf, but it's extra special to be present when someone is praying for you. Pastor Bernie and his "crew" made a great effort to be with us in person. For that, we "always thank God for you because of His grace given you in Jesus Christ" (1 Cor. 1:4). **SR**

# Building a ‘prevailing’ church

by Nate Crandall, Grand Rapids, Mich.

I am convicted that the greatest need and greatest calling for Seventh Day Baptists is the planting of prevailing churches. A “prevailing church” overcomes the multitude of challenges from within and without that seek to derail it from its purpose in Christ.

Chief among these purposes is the making of fully-devoted followers of Jesus Christ. This is the commission that Jesus gave, and it has been passed down to us from the first of his followers.

We have received a great calling—to be a part of the transformation process to Christ-likeness in our families, our relational networks, our communities, and even in our nation.

Transformation is the Gospel of the Kingdom. We pray that God’s will be done on earth as in heaven, and we must believe what we pray. Our churches are the centers, the lifeblood, the front-line of transformation. The bottom line is, we need more of them!

Theologically, I believe in the multiplication of churches. Jesus commanded us to make disciples, and the Church is the place where this must happen. When the Church is working as the Lord intends, it accomplishes that through worship and teaching, and serving and sharing life in Christ.

As Pastor Bill Hybels says, “There is nothing like the Church when the Church is working properly.”

Strategically, I believe in the multiplication of churches. The goal is life-transformation, not simply vocal agreement to a set of beliefs that are not lived out in reality.

Having spent some time observing behavioral changes in response to the truth of Scripture, I realize that most of us are very good at



***We must be involved in the process of starting new churches. It is a calling from our Lord, and we will be obedient to that calling.***

listening and nodding our heads in agreement. But we do absolutely nothing about our behavior.

Oftentimes, it is the “iron sharpening iron” relationships that cause us to deal with God’s truths and bring about real change in our lives. This is the beauty and the power of true fellowship.

All Nations Church [in Grand Rapids, Mich.] was begun with the full realization of our calling to make disciples of Jesus. This is not easy work, but nothing worthwhile is.

We realize that we must be involved in the process of starting new churches. It is a calling from our Lord, and we will be obedient to that calling.


To that end, we saw the birth of the Muskegon, Mich., SDB Church in 2006. Along with our sister churches—here in Michigan and elsewhere—we will pray, and serve, and sweat so that this expression of God’s grace will become a prevailing church.

I do not claim that we at All Nations are a prevailing church yet, but I believe in the Gospel of the Kingdom. The Kingdom is coming, and we will do our very best at focusing like a laser on seeking the Kingdom first. Our confidence and hope is not in our ability, but in the ability of the Lord to accomplish His work in and through us.

In the past three years since we began All Nations Church, I have learned a great deal, and I have a great deal more to learn. It is so clear to me that I would not have had the courage to lead a new church plant without the support of other churches, especially the White Cloud congregation.

This support has certainly been financial. But it has also been tremendously encouraging to have people from our sister churches present at our worship services and outreach events.

We look forward to the day when we will be able to move from dependence to interdependence with our sister churches. We hope also that we will be able to encourage other new churches in the same way that we have been encouraged.

To start new churches is a great calling, and the rewards are out of this world! 



## Hold your peace



Years ago, we somehow “inherited” a cat with an annoying malady: it sneezed all the time. I named it “Shalom,” after my habit of quieting a classroom with that word, accompanied by the peace sign. Now I hoped it would quiet the cat.

Although our cat kept making messes with its sneezing, I think saying its name did do me some good. I’m sorry to admit that after quite a long trial period, I eagerly accepted my husband’s offer to drop Shalom off in the country, with a prayer that he would enjoy life more as a mouser for some unsuspecting farmer.

That occurred over 20 years ago, while we were living in an Ohio suburb.

Recently, I held my sister-in-law’s new pet in my palms—a little, champagne-colored teacup poodle. What a warm comfort spread through me as curly-haired “Skippy” snuggled on my lap! I didn’t want to let him go.

That experience was hard to come by since Skippy didn’t know me. At first, he hid as far as he could from me, behind his bed in the pet carrier. But then he gradually relaxed.

The only thing those two pets had in common was that while Shalom *carried* the name for peace, Skippy actually *gave* me peace. As I said, I didn’t want Skippy to leave.

During my devotions, I was reminded of the words I’d heard in a Joyce Meyer message: “Hold your peace.”

As she spoke, *peace* became something quite tangible. Referring to a passage in Exodus where God told His people that He would fight their battle, Joyce said that it is our job to hold our peace.

I don’t know about you, but I can think of a couple battles that might not have even occurred if I had just held my peace in the first place. I’m hopeful that the next time God wants me to hold my peace I’ll think about how precious the peace is that He purchased for me—and how hard it was to come by.

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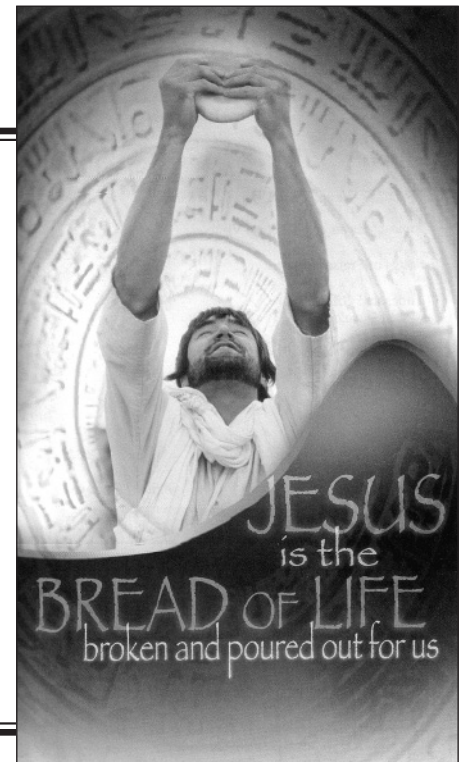
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Hebrews 12:1-4 says, “Let us lay aside every weight... and run with patience... looking unto Jesus; who for the joy set before him endured the cross... Ye have not resisted unto blood, striving against sin.”

I’m inspired by an illustration from a recent bulletin cover,\* portraying a joyful Jesus looking up to heaven. He is about to break bread, the symbol of his body, yet the look on his face is pure joy.

I need to hold my peace tenderly and hopefully, with full assurance that He Who holds the whole world in His scarred hands has already won the battle. **SR**

*\*From New Life Worship Folders,  
©Warner Press, Inc.*





## Unburied mountain treasure

For any pack rat, moving is a traumatic experience—whether it be from one state to another, from one house to another, or even from one room to another.

When this aging “Historian emeritus” moved from his second-floor office here at the SDB Center to a first-floor office next to the library, I had to sift through many of my miscellaneous “treasures.”

During this process, I discovered an article written by Paul Hummel. Dated July 26, 1965, I thought it was worth sharing. Many SDBs knew him, and many more benefited from his legacy of service to the denomination, particularly those who attended at Camp Paul Hummel in the Rockies. Paul wrote:

“I came from a family of pioneers. I remember my grandmother tell of her father and mother and two sisters coming from New York State on a large log raft down the Ohio River,

and then from there by covered wagon to Illinois, near to a little settlement called West Hallock. The girls had quite a time playing on the raft which was powered by the river current.

“She and my grandfather were married in Illinois. From there they came to northeastern Kansas and were there during the Civil War days. They lived in a settlement near Nortonville, called ‘Seventh Day Baptist Lane’ because they were all Seventh Day Baptists who lived there. My mother and two aunts were born there; my mother the oldest of three sisters was the second white child born in Atchison County. In 1906, after my father’s death she came with us to Eastern Colorado.

“The people who settled in N.E. Kansas had a perilous time during the Civil War days, contending with the border ruffians. This was at the time when the Quantrell raiders sacked the town of Lawrence, Kansas. They were on the line of the underground railroad that helped runaway slaves escape to the North. At one time there was a colored woman and baby in the cellar under the house when her owners were hunt-

ing for her, and the folks were worried for fear lest the baby would cry and give them away, but it did not.

“At another time two of the border ruffians made a great uncle of mine hitch up a team and at the point of a gun take them to some destination. He had a frisky team and made up his mind that if they attempted to harm him, he would throw the lines, yell at the team and jump, but it was not necessary.

“These were bad and dangerous times, but they raised enough to feed themselves and keep clothed. We now know nothing of hard times and privations. When my mother was a girl, they were constructing the Santa Fe railroad between Atchison and Topeka. They were still freighting with horse and oxen pending the completion of the R.R. She had a watermelon patch from which she sold the freighters melons—until she made the mistake of telling them where the patch was.

“When we came to Colorado in 1906, all of Western Kansas and Eastern Colorado was open range, very sparsely settled, and free grass. It was 15 or more miles between ranches. We had a horse ranch and



*This cross was part of the view for many years from Camp Paul Hummel.*



*Campers in the '60s loaded up “Grandpa Hummel’s” old truck to head down the mountain after camp.*

raised them on the open range. When we got the three-year-old colts up to rough break them, they had to be taught to eat grain and hay, never having had anything but buffalo grass in summer or winter. The grass cured on the prairie and was equal to hay. Horses would paw down thru snow and uncover grass while cattle would starve. They made good tough horses but were pretty 'salty' until they found they were not going to be hurt.

"Had some trouble with an organized gang of horse thieves. Local members of the gang would pick up some horses, put them in a tight barn and move them at night to the next station and not be gone from home all during the day. They disposed of their take in Nebraska somewhere.

"The cattle roundups used to start out east of Colorado Springs

and wind up down in Kansas. Those were the days. Hard riding and plenty of it, but a freedom unknown now. No barbed wire. I was sickened when I went down through that ranch country about two years ago. All plowed up and what fences they had were buried in dust.

"The mistakes of the age, plowing up the sod in that country and raising wheat instead of grass. Now we do not know what to do with the wheat and the grass is gone. How foolish and greedy can man get in upsetting the balance of nature.

"Now I am too old to handle cattle as I did for years on the National Forest, but I have stirring times to look back to. Memories and incidents sometimes funny, sometimes not. I presume it is all in a lifetime. Eventually I have settled down."

#### Note from a historian:

I visited Camp Paul Hummel only once, when Ministers' Conference was held in Denver in 1999. Even so, I can't help but reflect on the impact that Paul Hummel had on the crop of young people who have enjoyed his namesake camp over the years. His efforts greatly benefited all of us by helping to conserve our most precious natural resource—our young people.

For a number of years, SCSC held their training sessions at the mountain site. No doubt some of the intensive farming on the prairie violated today's conservation principles. But the cultivation of our young people—and even some of our older denominational "plants"—will lead to a brighter future because they were planted and cultivated by men such as Paul Hummel. **SR**

## Denominational Dateline

### March

- 3 Central Maryland SDB Church—Rob Appel
- 3 Farewell to Denton Lotz, General Secretary Baptist World Alliance (BWA), Virginia—Appel, Kirk Looper
- 5 Baptist Joint Committee (BJC) Executive Meeting, Washington, D.C.—Kevin Butler Falls Church, Va.—Appel
- 9 TCC Core Committee Meeting, SDB Center, Janesville, Wis.—Butler
- 16 South East Atlanta (Ga.) SDB Church—Ron Elston
- 17 Decatur, Ga.—Elston
- 18 Palm Tree of Deborah, Stone Mountain, Ga.—Elston
- 18 SDB Missionary Society Annual Meeting, Westerly, R.I.—Looper
- 23-24 Diaconate Workshop, Salem, W.Va.—Andrew Camenga
- 29-30 Coordinating Leadership Team, SDB Center
- 31-4/2 General Council Meetings, SDB Center

### April

- 14-15 SDB Memorial Fund Quarterly Meeting, Paint Rock, Ala.—Morgan Shepard, Appel
- 18-21 Pastors' Conference, Dodge Center, Minn.—

- Gordon Lawton
- 22 Board of Christian Education Board Meeting, Alfred Station, N.Y.—Camenga, Appel
- 22 SDB Missionary Society Quarterly Meeting, Westerly—Looper, Elston
- 28 Alfred Station SDB Church—Butler

### May

- 5-6 Allegheny Association, Little Genesee, N.Y.—Conference President Ruth Burdick
- 13 SDB Historical Society Annual Meeting, SDB Center—Nick Kersten
- 19 Old Stonefort (Ill.) SDB Church—Elston
- 19 Sabbath Renewal Day
- 19-20 Eastern Association, Berlin, N.Y.—Burdick, Appel

### June

- 6-10 Baptist History and Heritage Society Annual Meeting, Campbellsville (Ky.) University—Kersten
- 8-10 Southwestern Association, Texarkana, Ark.—Elston, Appel
- 18-29 Summer Institute on SDB Polity, SDB Center—Lawton



## Nominate a teacher

Most Sabbath School teachers know what they are doing and get the job done. They encourage, inspire, and motivate. They make learning fun and challenge students to yield to Christ.

The best teachers demonstrate love for their students, both inside and outside of class. In word and deed, excellent teachers inspire their students and encourage outreach.

Seventh Day Baptist churches have great Sabbath School teachers. Consider some of the things SDB churches have said about these teachers:

•**John Griffin** is always fully prepared, and systematically and spiritually guides us through the lesson, leaving no stone unturned. He integrates a variety of instructional techniques and involves everyone in the process.

John is also seen as a teacher outside of the classroom, and demonstrates humility and a Christ-like spirit in ways that make him a role model. His life demonstrates a walk with God that is inspiring.

Students have said that John's influence encourages a closer relationship with God and better study habits.

•**Lucinda Snyder** is a teacher in the classic sense of nurturing affection and example-setting. She is the ideal nursery teacher. Her caring nature sets a tone and foundation for the Christian life through which

a little one growing up can understand the love of God.

Parents think it is amazing how Lucinda can take a population that has not yet developed comprehension and understanding, and help them to learn about God and the Church.

•**Jim Goodrich** is a faithful and creative Sabbath School teacher. He finds games and stories that enhance the lessons he teaches. As he leads the upper elementary class, he encourages the young people and their parents.

Jim's life is obviously dedicated to God and His work. His teaching makes children want to attend, and they always have good things to say about him.

Yet Jim provides more than just a fun time. When children have been through Jim's class, they know the Bible and enjoy studying God's Word.

•**Wesley Greene** is a college professor who has demonstrated interest and capability in working with children, young people, and all ages.

For more than 18 years, he has been actively involved with the Sabbath School program and has taught every class from preschool through adult. Wesley selects interesting and challenging teaching materials, then faithfully shows up each week prepared to teach the lesson.

Wesley cares about the Sabbath School students he teaches and gets involved in their lives outside of the classroom.

Do these descriptions remind you of someone in *your* church? Would you like that person to be honored for the work he or she does?

Each of the teachers described above was named "Sabbath School Teacher of the Year," and received the Crystal Apple Award. This award recognizes those who demonstrate outstanding teaching skills that help students grow in their Christian walk.

We'd like you to nominate one of your outstanding teachers to be this year's Crystal Apple recipient. The SDB Board of Christian Education has mailed forms to each church in the Conference. These should be submitted by June 29, 2007.

Further information about the program's requirements and additional nomination forms may be obtained by contacting the Board:

**Phone:** (607) 587-8527

**FAX:** (866) 571-5879

**E-mail:** [sdbbce@educatingchristians.org](mailto:sdbbce@educatingchristians.org)

**Website:** <http://EducatingChristians.org/Programs/CrystalAppleAward>

**Mailing address:**

SDB Board of Christian Education  
P.O. Box 115  
Alfred Station, NY 14803 **SR**





# FOCUS on Missions

## Uganda teaching for the future

by Kirk Looper

The Seventh Day Baptist work in Uganda (northeast Africa) began seriously in 1993 through the work of SHEME Nkwano. However, after a short period of time, he lost interest and the work was taken over by Elie Nduwayesu.

Elie came to Uganda from Rwanda as a refugee, fearing for his family's life. Looking for a Sabbathkeeping group, he decided that he agreed with SDB doctrine and polity, and contacted our Missionary Society.

We encouraged Elie to start a church and develop other groups around him. He worked at this until returning to Rwanda about a year and a half later. In 2004, Daniel Nsubuga accepted the leadership mantle and has led the work since. He has strong leaders under him, and the churches that he has begun are strong and committed.

Our friends in Uganda invited the Missionary Society to come and assist them in dealing with the local chiefs and the country's officials. The government expects the Conference to officially register with the country, including their plans for schools, clinics, or orphanages. This would cost them about \$1,000.

The officials wanted some type of verification that the Seventh Day Baptist denomination was real, not a scheme to get money. Our visit would also give us opportunity to teach them SDB polity, beliefs, and outreach techniques.

Working with the General Secretary of the Uganda Conference was a pleasure. We visited a suburb of Kampala known as Kasubi. This unique church includes outreach in education and welfare for orphans. About half of their congregation of 300 is made up of children. And those are mostly orphans.

The orphans are street people who come to the church for school and a



Rose Mirembe (l.) and Sconia Kiwanuka lead the Kasubi group.



One of the orphans begging for food.

meal. Many of the children have been exposed to HIV/AIDS. They are cared for by the people in the church.

The cost to educate each student is \$50 per year. The church picks up the cost for the orphans, even though it is located in a poor area of the city. The church has plans for a building where they can hold school as well as their worship services. Their current building is covered with discarded wood and thatch. Some of the street children sleep there at night.

Members are willing to mold the bricks if they can get support for zinc sheets for the roof, cement for the floor, and mortar for the bricks. They would also like to purchase plastic chairs for the congregation to use during worship services. This would

cost between \$100 and \$500.

Both the school and church practice a behavioral change program. They invite children, drug addicts, and alcoholics to listen to their information.

As long as they stay "clean," they will continue to get food, and the leaders will help them look for employment. Most of the people wind up getting some sort of job. While it appears successful, they can only work with the number of people they have funds for.

The church is led by two women: Rose Mirembe and Sconia Kiwanuka. They work hard for their church, giving much of their time and finances to the ministry. Rose sells newspapers in a kiosk in Kampala. Sconia lost her husband last year from AIDS and is infected as well. Her mission is to reach out to those with AIDS.

The medicine used for AIDS victims is expensive. The church asked me if I could raise some funds to purchase the needed drugs. I told them I would bring the information to our Conference for anyone wanting to assist.

Another group we visited was the Maranatha SDB Church located in Mukono. They are located a couple of hours from Kampala. Their brick building is loaned to them. The Maranatha church also operates a school. They need funds for their own building, so they are raising money through handicrafts.

These churches never lose sight of the value of education. They know that their future depends upon the children being taught survival skills needed in a country that is beginning to compete in the world. They want to help their children—even the orphans—to become self-reliant members of their communities. That makes good citizens.

*(More on Uganda next month.)* **SR**



# the BEACON

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

March 2007

## Do they really see her?

by Micayla Neher

*Everyone looks at her, but do they really see?*

*On the outside she makes them think she is grinning,  
But deep down inside she is spinning.*

*Inside she is screaming,  
But people see her beaming.  
People think she's doing so well,  
But then no one saw she fell.  
She used to be so strong and brave,  
But now she is down and almost grave.*

*Lord, help me show her Your love,  
Let her see You're pure as a dove.  
She is hurting and burning.  
Lord, help me change her so she is yearning.*

*You love her Lord, and so do I.  
Please help me help her before we die.*

I wrote this poem last year as I thought of two people who are dear to my heart. The first—who, for the sake of privacy, I'll call "Lucy"—is a relative. The second is a girl I'll call "Sally." She used to be my best friend in the entire world.

These two girls were so close to me that I didn't really see that they were slipping away. Their stories are similar, but the endings are very different.

Both of them were looking for something. I don't know whether it was love, understanding, direction, or something much deeper. My guess is that Lucy was looking for love, and Sally was trying to understand her-

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***How many people around you are you not really seeing?***

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self. Both of them were looking for direction.

Lucy wasn't feeling loved by those around her, the people you would expect to show more love to her than anyone else in her entire world. Her family often thought of her as an outcast, the "black sheep," a wallflower who wanted to be seen. But no one noticed.

Lucy found the "love" and acceptance that she craved from people outside of her home. Although they made her feel special, some of them helped lead her down the wrong path. She eventually got into a lot of trouble, and it wasn't until then that I felt I had to start doing something to help her.

Sally has a story that is similar and yet very different.

She had something tragic happen

in her life that was difficult for her to deal with. I'm not exactly sure what took place, but after that we started to drift apart. She didn't know what to think about herself. Like Lucy, she started looking for answers in the wrong places. Unfortunately, it took me a long time to realize that she, too, needed help.

Both of these girls are doing better now.

Lucy continues to come to church and is working hard to make things right. Sally is also working hard to turn her life around. However, I'm not sure how strong she is walking in her faith.

I'm going to continue to do all that I can to show both of them how much I love them, and how much they mean to me.

How many people around *you* are you not really seeing? Is there someone you have lost touch with?

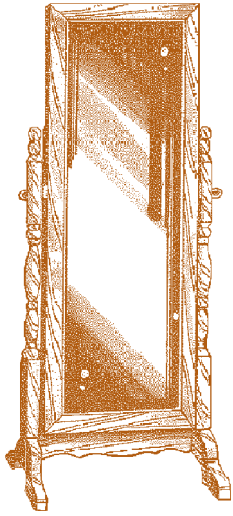
If you notice that those close to you are starting to fall, don't hesitate to show them God's love.

*"The way people are is the way they'll stay, unless you have the courage to bring about change."*

—Anonymous.

*"The people who make a difference in your life are not the ones with the most credentials, the most money, or the most awards. They are the ones that care."*

—Anonymous. **SR**



# Reflections

by Leanne Lippincott-Wuerthele

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

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## Rich blessings from poor folks

In January last year, I joined 14 people from the Milton [Wis.] SDB Church on a mission trip to Kiln, Miss. Our goal was to help with the Hurricane Katrina cleanup.

We spent most of our time doing "mudouts"—ripping up saturated rugs and warped flooring, tearing down moldy walls and ceilings, pulling nails, etc. Tossing everything from ruined appliances and furniture, to water-soaked clothing and spoiled food, made it heart-wrenching work.

Still, it was a wonderful, life-altering trip. My biggest disappointment revolved around never meeting any of our homeowners.

Earlier this year, I joined 29 souls in another mission trip to the same area. And, boy, did I meet homeowners!

This time, we worked on *building* houses instead of tearing them down.

The first place our crew worked was in the country, not too far from Kiln. It sits in Hancock County, the poorest county in the poorest state.

"Bucky" and Mary's house was totally leveled by Katrina. They laid a new foundation, and Samaritan's Purse (Franklin Graham's faith-based relief organization) provided volunteers to build a new home—which now includes a hurricane-proof, cinder-block "storm room."

"I drew up the plans myself," Bucky proudly announced.

Bucky is what some people would call a "character"—a delightful one, I might add.

His mixed ancestry includes Irish, French, and Choctaw descendants. (Choctaws are North American Indians who now live mostly in Oklahoma and Mississippi.) Bucky's mother was a nearly full-blooded Choctaw.

Because his blood calcifies, Bucky has had 26 heart procedures, leaving his 5-foot, 6-inch frame covered with 12 feet of scars. Like many of his neighbors, he's on disability. A whopping 70 percent of the county's residents are disabled.

Yet, talking with Bucky, you would never guess that his daily life revolves around serious health concerns and a devastated home. His smile is as wide as the Mississippi, and enthusiasm spills from every pore as he talks about his beloved catfish pond. Oh, and the 30 gallons of chicken gumbo he makes for family reunions on a large, outdoor burner.

"How big of a pan do you use to cook that?!" I asked in amazement.

"One that holds 30 gallons," Bucky grinned.

By the way, the term "chicken" gumbo is misleading, since Bucky also adds things like ham, bologna, sausage, and "weenies," along with lots of vegetables. I wanted to call it Jumbo Gumbo.

"When everything gets to boilin' real good, you take some brown flour to make a roux. But you have to be careful so as not to burn it," he explained.

Bucky and Mary joined us for supper that evening. She was as delightful as her husband.

I am always amazed by the resiliency of people who go through hard times, especially those who put their trust in God and come out the better because of it. Their patience, acceptance, faith, and eternal optimism puts me to shame.

When one of my fellow workers—SDB Executive Director Rob Appel—bid Bucky goodbye one day, Rob said, "God bless you." Bucky replied, "And God bless you."

Then Bucky said something simple and yet profound: "It's nice that Christians can help out Christians."

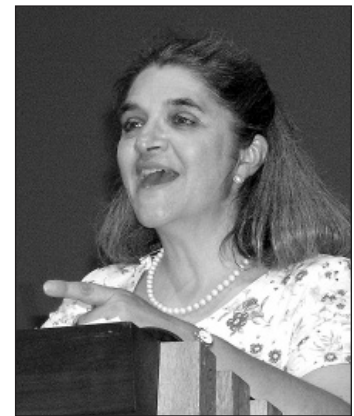
I went to Mississippi to build houses and minister to hurting souls. I returned believing that *I* was the one who had been built up and ministered to. What a blessed experience! **SR**



Leanne (center) with her new Mississippi friends, Mary and Bucky.

# tell the truth ... the truth

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



*The President's Page*  
by Ruth Burdick

## True worship is so much more

As I have been reading through the Old Testament, choice morsels of Scripture keep popping out at me. Take Exodus 20:3-7. God spoke all these words:

“You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments. You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.”

God alone is to be worshipped.

Again, 2 Kings 17:36-37 reiterates that the Lord alone “is the one you must worship.”

This brings me to my sixth theme—**Worship God in Spirit and in Truth.**

John 4:23-24 states, “Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and His worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.”

The truth today is that many “Christians” seek God only when

in trouble. They come to church only to socialize, to be entertained, or to get their weekly spiritual “fix.” We need to make sure that our worship is deeper. It is more than simply singing songs, praying, and reading Scripture. Worship involves our whole being.

In Romans 12:1-2, Paul says, “Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

Folks, that is worship using your attitudes, emotions, lifestyle, and minds.

When you enter into worship, whether alone or with others, you come to meet and commune with God. What others do or say should be blocked out.

God’s indwelling Spirit connects with the God of the Universe. The words of songs and Scripture direct our thoughts and touch our souls with inner joy. The stresses and problems of life dim for the moment as we release them to our Almighty God. This is worshipping God in spirit. We walk away refreshed and enlightened. The Word of God has made a difference in us.

When we worship in truth, we constantly seek God’s will and His ways through His Word. Keeping His commands is part of our worship as we use our whole body. We change accordingly to become more holy, as He is holy. Our beliefs become less sloppy.

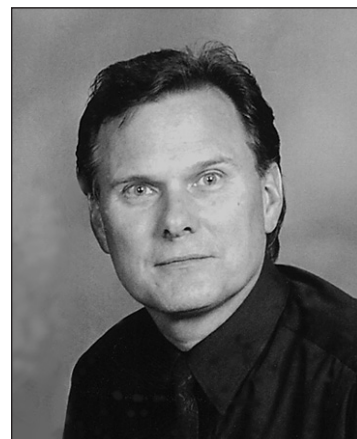
The basics of the Truth—those we’ve been considering these last five months—are revered and honored. Confidence and assurance are secured.

I leave you with David’s charge to Solomon and the Israelite leaders:

“So now I charge you in the sight of all Israel and of the assembly of the LORD, and in the hearing of our God: Be careful to follow all the commands of the LORD your God, that you may possess this good land and pass it on as an inheritance to your descendants forever.

“And you, my son Solomon, acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the LORD searches every heart and understands every motive behind the thoughts. If you seek him, he will be found by you; but if you forsake him, he will reject you forever” (1 Chron. 28:8-9).

Come let us worship and bow down to the Only God and Father of the Universe! **SR**



by Executive Director  
Rob Appel

## Issues... FYI

### 2008 Baptist convocation

Last month, I wrote that on January 9, 2007, leaders of the North American Baptist Fellowship (NABF) came together to explore opportunities for establishing a unified Baptist voice. That meeting was held at The Carter Center in Atlanta, Ga., with former Presidents Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton present. The Baptist groups in attendance represented over 20 million members.

At this time, the Seventh Day Baptist Conference has not committed to the "New Baptist Covenant" convocation. We are still in a "discovery stage" with many other Baptist groups to see where this might lead. I have been asked to submit names of SDBs who would be willing to serve on one of the five committees being formed to plan this 2008 event.

On January 30, I sent the following letter to Alan Stanford, NABF General Secretary:

"I am waiting to see who else lends their name and efforts to our cause before I volunteer anyone for duties connected with the celebration. I do this not because of the Presidents' involvement, but because the lack of involvement from others that would show that our efforts are not drawn along party lines.

"The show of unity between the various Baptist groups is unprecedented. However, we show that same sense of unity among all Baptists no matter the political bound-

aries. I think we are close, and you would know better than me, so I will wait to hear of these other prominent names.

"It is not because of critics that I do this, but rather from being prudent in my decision. I cannot and will not recommend to SDBs that we go forward until we have all the facts about this possible celebration in a more concrete structure and design.

"I agree that this is a unique opportunity and would feel better about making a decision now about going forward if Presidents Carter and Clinton were not affiliated with the cause at this time. Their connection simply conveys the wrong message to those looking at this for the first time. It is not a political event, so why have the political ties?"

### BJC relationship

Hopefully, there has already been some informative and healthy discussions about the relationship of the SDB Conference and the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty (BJC). With the vote by churches coming up at Conference 2007, it is imperative that your church dialogues about this important issue.

Many SDBs are voicing their opinions about this subject, and I am glad that they are passionate about their beliefs. They have spent much time and effort in forming their opinions, and I pray that all of you will do the same. Please make your personal

decision prior to your church's decision on your delegate vote.

Churches should not rush into this decision; they do have time. Rather, your church should lay out a plan to get all the facts. A timeline would be helpful, benefiting all involved in the process. Instead of hurrying, a vote later in the spring would be more prudent.

There are credible people on both sides of this vote, people whom you respect—and ones that you trust. You cannot simply base your decision on what others think and believe. You need to discover for yourself where you stand on the issue of affiliating with the BJC.

- Are SDBs well represented?
- Can we live with decisions that many SDBs disagree with?
- Is it even necessary to have this type of representation?
- Are there other groups that could do a better job?
- Is there a benefit to having a group in the U.S. capital that represents various Baptist groups?
- If we sever our relationship, what's the next step—if any?

That's your assignment: Go out and gather the necessary information. Pray over that info and the possibilities presented, then go to your church business meetings and forums as an informed participant! **SR**



## How well did we do in 2006?

by Morgan Shepard

The year-end numbers are in, so it's a good time to review how the General Conference did financially in 2006.

In 2005, General Council challenged each of the Boards and Agencies to increase giving by 6 percent and decrease expenses by 6 percent. We carried this mandate into 2006.

The results from the four largest Boards and Agencies of the General Conference are shown below:

2006	General Conference	Tract & Communication Council	Council on Ministry	Building Operations Fund	Total
Budgeted Income	283,419.24	136,475.40	127,104.49	19,790.04	566,789.17
Actual Income	246,247.47	142,415.76	142,415.76	19,945.21	551,024.20
% Difference	- 15.10%	4.17%	10.75%	0.78%	- 2.86%
Budgeted Expenses	278,740.92	157,874.40	150,058.56	20,350.32	607,024.02
Actual Expenses	245,268.61	161,764.00	138,738.84	17,442.57	563,214.02
% Difference	- 13.65%	2.40%	- 8.16%	- 16.67%	- 7.78%
Actual Net Profit/ (Loss)	978.86	(19,348.24)	3,676.92	2,502.64	(12,189.82)

**Footnote:** Shortages in income are offset by withdrawals from savings and permanent funds.

Overall giving was up \$78,662 over 2005 (an increase of over 18 percent) but still less than what was needed. We did better in communicating our financial needs.

If you dig deeper into the numbers, Designated Giving was 95 percent of what was expected, and Undesignated Giving was 77 percent of what was needed. This shows that contributors give to specific ministries.

We also continued to trim our expenses to be better stewards of what you give us.

What does all this mean?

- Are we focusing on ministries

that are important to Seventh Day Baptists?


- Are we making you aware of the needs of the General Conference?
- Are we allocating your generous gifts effectively?
- How do we align giving with what the Boards and Agencies are doing?

*“Now this is what the LORD Almighty says: ‘Give careful thought to your ways. You have planted much, but have harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only*

*to put them in a purse with holes in it’ ” (Haggai 1:5-6, NIV).*

For me, the only question that really matters is, “Are we effectively using God’s gracious abundance to Seventh Day Baptists to fulfill the Great Commission?”

Over the past year, General Council has discussed the relationship of giving to budgets in an attempt to better align your giving to what we do. Your help is needed so we can understand what your church must do to carry out the Great Commission.

Pray for General Council and our Boards and Agencies as we give careful thought to our ministries. 

# Central welcomes new pastor

by Jeanie Cook

On January 6, 2007, the Central Seventh Day Baptist Church in Upper Marlboro/Mitchellville, Md., welcomed Rev. David Taylor to its pulpit.

The Central Church held a special service for Pastor David and Margaret on their first Sabbath with the group. It was an especially warm and sunny Sabbath—as if nature itself was welcoming them to their new church home.

Jean Cook, chairperson for the diaconate, was the first to greet the Taylors on behalf of the church family. With membership transfer letter in hand, it seemed appropriate to proceed with a unison reading of the church covenant and the signing of the church membership book.

Paul Andries, longtime friend of the Taylors and pastor of the Washington, D.C., SDB Church, was there to welcome them to the Washington metropolitan area. Pastor Paul joyfully regaled the congregation with some of his history with Dave and Margaret. The two pastors are looking forward to working, fellowshiping, and consulting together.

Central currently rents their facility from the Hope Presbyterian Church, with whom they have had a longtime relationship. Hope's

*Church clerk Jean Cook (r.) asks Margaret and Pastor David Taylor to sign the membership book of the Central Maryland church.*



pastor, Dorothy LaPenta, was on hand to welcome David and Margaret to the facility and community. She then gave the congregation a little history of herself, the campus, and her relationship to our denomination and other churches in the area.

Pastor Dave gave the Sabbath message on, "How Can the Church Fulfill Its Purpose?" He made the following points:

- 1) Fulfilling its purpose through the **Glor**y of God (glorify God).
- 2) Permeating everything with the **Word** of God (become people of the Word).

*Pastor Paul Andries (r.) prays for Pastor Dave Taylor.*



- 3) Fulfilling its purpose through **Prayer** (supporting everything with prayer).
- 4) Fulfilling its purpose through the **Joy** of the Lord (if we are in line with His Word, we will be joyful Children of God).

## Hope honors centenarian

During the November 25, 2006, worship service at Hope SDB Church in Philadelphia, Pa., the congregation honored centenarian Lillian Findlater.

The Youth Fellowship sang, and Deaconess Virginia Ayars led the congregation in singing "Jesus Loves Me." Special verses for senior citizens were added, dedicated to "Mother Findlater." This was followed by a musical selection by the children of the church, and a piano piece by Davonne Henry.

Lillian's grandchildren—Sister Alison Gaskin and Deacon Edson Barrett—presented a tribute and gifts from the church. The church choir then sang a song dedicated to the honoree.

The day was yet another blessing in the life of this remarkable, 100-year-old woman of God. **SR**

Following the service, the church held a reception for the Taylors in Custus Hall. Small deli wraps, fruit, punch, nuts, dips, and yummy dessert snacks were enjoyed by all. This also gave those who had not yet met Pastor Dave and Margaret a time to visit.

The Central SDB Church is looking forward to seeing what new ministry opportunities the Lord has in store for them as they welcome their new pastor and family. **SR**

## New members

### Middletown, CT

*Matthew Berg, pastor*

Joined after testimony

Beth Adams  
Carlton S. Dobson  
Wanda Lapadula  
Miriam Lawton  
David Wilson  
Linda Wilson

### Paint Rock, AL

*John D. Bevis, pastor*

Joined after testimony

Emmerril Rackley

### Seattle, WA

*Kenneth Burdick, pastor*

Joined after testimony

Elizabeth A. Babylon  
John Dunn  
Beatrice Haggard  
Patricia Templin

Joined after baptism

Daniel T. Borek  
Virginia Anne Burdick  
Pamela Joan (Cairnes)  
Hemmingner  
Malvin McFetridge  
Janel McFetridge  
Ronald Eugene Uhlich  
Tarnah (Morgan)  
Wright

### His Word New Life Fellowship Sunnyside, WA (Branch of Seattle)

*Tom Bales, pastor*

Joined after testimony

Roy Hardy  
Kari Hardy  
Thomas Bales  
Barbara Bales  
Ashtin Sleater

## Births

**Francis.**—A son, Daniel O. Francis, was born to Courtney and Sasha Francis of Brooklyn, NY, on October 30, 2005.

**Crouch.**—A son, Aaron Nathaniel Crouch, was born to Nathan and Leigh Anne (Thomas) Crouch of Jonesborough, TN, on September 24, 2006.

**Graffius.**—A son, Micah Preston Graffius, was born to Steven and Emily (Lovinggood) Graffius of Westminster, CO, on December 18, 2006.

## Marriage

**Warner - Inabnit.**—Richard S. Warner and Dixie L. Inabnit were married on January 13, 2007, at the Seattle Area SDB Church in Auburn, WA. Pastor Ken Burdick officiated, assisted by former pastors Gary Hemmingner and Glen Warner.

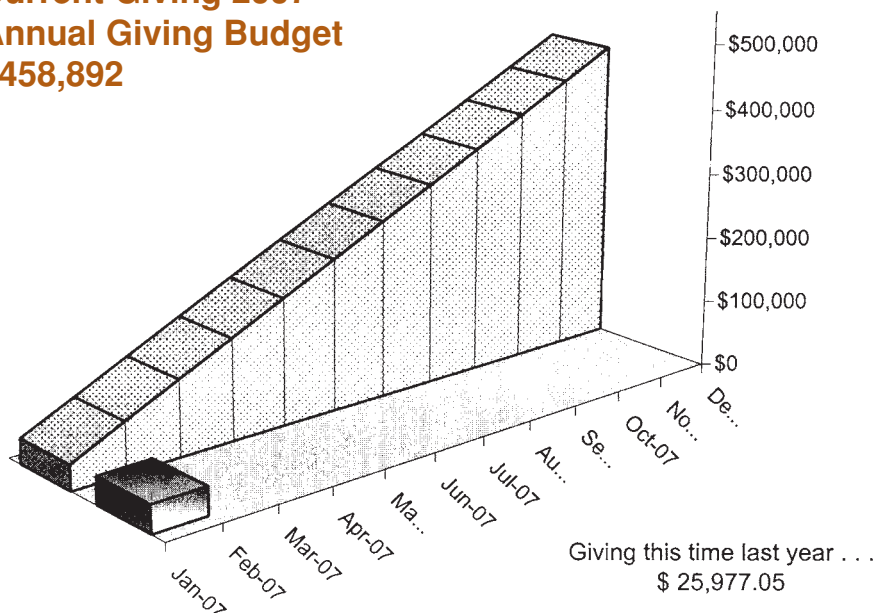
Please remember  
the  
**Mid-Year  
Conference  
Offering**

March 24, 2007

Help support our  
**Alliance in Ministry**

For more info, contact:  
robappel@seventhdaybaptist.org

### Current Giving 2007 Annual Giving Budget \$458,892



	Month - Jan '07	Year To Date
Budgeted	\$ 38,241	\$ 38,241
Actual	\$ 42,174	\$ 42,174
Difference	\$ 3,932	\$ 3,932
% of Budget	110%	110%

PROP Giving	
Jan '07	\$ 1,464
Year To Date	\$ 1,464

Morgan Shepard, Treasurer



# Obituaries

**Pluff.**—Wade Lee Pluff, 38, of Atchison, Kan., went to be with his Savior on December 21, 2006.

He was born on June 23, 1968, in Deming, N.M., the son of David LeRoy and Barbara (Burch) Pluff. On December 14, 1991, he married Jennifer Pierson Colvin in Lafayette, Colo. They moved to St. Joseph, Mo., in 2000.

Wade, who was a U.S. Army veteran, attended high school in Perryton, Texas, and graduated from Seward County Community College with an associate's degree in Criminal Justice in 1997. He worked as a reserve deputy for the Seward County Sheriff's Office from 1995-1998.

Wade was a member of the Nortonville, Kan., Seventh Day Baptist Church, and a founding member of the St. Joe Nitro Club. He enjoyed Bible study, hunting, running nitro cars with his friends, making furniture, and spending time with his children. His larger-than-life smile and childlike enthusiasm will be missed by all who loved him.

In addition to his wife, Jennifer, survivors include three daughters, Katie Myers of Virginia, Amanda Colvin of Kansas, and Tina Pluff of Colorado; two sons, Robert Colvin of Missouri and Sam Pluff of Colorado; his mother and stepfather, Barbara and Bill Antrim of Missouri; four brothers, Gary Hensel of Washington, Woody Tinney of Colorado, David Pluff Jr. and Johnny Pluff, both of Texas; one sister, Laura Hood of Texas; one grandson; and several aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, and nephews. He was preceded in death by his father, David Pluff Sr., and one brother, Kevin Pluff.

A memorial service was held on December 26, 2006, at the Nortonville Seventh Day Baptist Church,

with Pastor Stephan F. Saunders officiating. Interment was in the Nortonville Cemetery.

**Findlater.**—Kathleen Maud Findlater, 81, died in Barrettown, St. James Parish, Jamaica, on January 8, 2007.

She was born on February 6, 1925, in Flower Hill, St. James Parish, the oldest of 11 children born to Selvin and Lillian Findlater.

Sister Kathleen came to Ambler, Pa., in the early 1970s and was instrumental in forming an SDB group that met in her sister Lucy's home. For nearly six years, services were held in Kathleen's home.

Her son-in-law, Pastor Kenroy Cruickshank, eventually became the leader of the Ambler group, later renamed Hope SDB Church. Kathleen was one of 11 charter members attending its first service in July of 1982.

In the 1990s, Sister Kathleen felt led to return to Jamaica, where she was instrumental in revitalizing the Barrettown SDB Church.

Survivors include four children, Patrick and Gean Grenyion, Mauleen Cruickshank, and Winsome Smith; her mother, Lillian; two sisters, six brothers, nine grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews. Two brothers preceded her in death.

A celebration of Kathleen's life was held on January 18, 2007, in the Barrettown church. Rev. Cruickshank officiated, as well as Pastors J. Blissett, M. Adams, and S. Campbell. Burial was in the family plot in Barrettown.

**Whitford.**—Charlotte R. Whitford, 91, of Milton, Wis., died on January 16, 2007, at Mercy Hospital in Janesville, Wis.

She was born on February 23, 1915, in Jackson Center, Ohio, the

daughter of Walter and Norma (Jones) Polan. She moved to Milton at age 5 and attended school there. After graduating from Milton Union High School, she received a bachelor's degree from Milton College.

On January 5, 1938, Charlotte married Charles A. Whitford in Dubuque, Iowa. He died on October 2, 1968.

Charlotte worked at the Burdick Corporation, Gilman Engineering, and the Milton College cafeteria. As a longtime member of the Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church, she was active in its Women's Circle and also worked at its annual Turkey Supper.

During the 1960s, Charlotte was one of three Milton women who served as President of the national SDB Women's Society. At Conference 1970, all three received the Board's Robe of Achievement.

She is survived by two daughters, Marjorie Schrock of Prairie, Miss., and Janice Haase of Janesville; four sons, Monte of Stoughton, Wis., Philip of Janesville, Gary of Gardnerville, Nev., and Donald of Fox Lake, Wis.; one sister, Maurine Loomer of Green Bay, Wis.; two brothers, Russell Polan of Bull Shoals, Ark., and Roger Polan of Santa Barbara, Calif.; 19 grandchildren, 29 great-grandchildren, and five great-great-grandchildren; and many nieces, nephews, and friends. In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by one son, Charles R. "Chick" Whitford; one daughter, Judith; one sister, Virginia; and two brothers, Robert and Neal.

A memorial service celebrating Charlotte's life was held on January 19, 2007, at the Milton SDB Church, with Pastor George Calhoun officiating. Private interment in the Milton Cemetery will be held at a later date.

# Robe of Achievement 2007 Nominations

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

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

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

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

Send nominations to:

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

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

**Deadline:  
March 31, 2007**

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

## Camp JOY Reunion!!

Remember learning about  
*“Jesus and  
Others and  
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Come to Camp Joy and share  
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**June 22-24**

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## Pastors' Conference 2007

**“God's Treasure in Us”  
April 18-21 in Dodge Center, Minn.**

This year's Pastors' Conference begins at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 18. Please plan your travel days for Tuesday the 17th, and Sunday the 22nd. Rides will be available from the Rochester, Minn., airport and the Winona, Minn., Amtrak station.

On Thursday, we will meet with a representative from Crown Financial Ministries for an all-day seminar, “Journey to True Financial Freedom.” The other days will be filled with Bible study, information, food, and fellowship.

The registration fee is \$50, and forms are available at [www.sdbministry.org](http://www.sdbministry.org).

# KEVIN'S

## ORNER

### Blooming beyond where you're planted

Traveling through a small California community recently, I marveled at seeing hundreds of beautiful “bird-of-paradise” flowers lining the median down Main Street. The bluish-green leaves and the orange and bright blue blossoms were inspiring.

The bird-of-paradise plant is native to South Africa and is actually part of the banana family. A long, horizontal base on the flower resembles a bird's beak, and the blooms on top look like

a plumage on its “head.”

I've been able to view this flower in various warmer climates. Traveling far away to observe them is necessary, because we sure don't see too many of them in Wisconsin. Well, I do know of one.

Dawn Weckler lives just outside of Fort Atkinson, north of Milton. To say that she has a green thumb is like saying that Tiger Woods is a weekend duffer. Her climate-controlled greenhouse is essential since Wisconsin winter temperatures hover between “Sure is nippy” to “You've g-g-got to be k-k-kidding!!”

One of Dawn's friends returned from Hawaii carrying a few bird-of-paradise seeds. I've read that after planting one of those seeds, it can take five-to-seven years for blossoming to begin.

How about 29 years?

Dawn had placed the seed in a pot and saw the makings of a plant soon afterward. But there were only green stalks and leaves—no colorful flower. Year after year went by. The plant looked healthy and alive, but no blossom.

During the plant's 29th summer, Dawn decided to take the pot outdoors for some “real” sunshine. After nearly three decades of patient, loving care, she finally saw her first flower. This was several years ago and it's been blossoming ever since (back inside the greenhouse).

A member of the Foothill SDB Church in Montrose, Calif., shared another inspiring story about a potted plant.

Ray Wilcox's family owned a dwarf lemon tree for 20 years. The thing did just what was expected: it produced an annual “harvest” of tiny dwarf lemons.

One day, Ray decided to take the small tree and plant it outdoors. Released from the constraints of the bucket, the roots were free to reach down and stretch out. The little tree grew, as did its produce. The heavy-laden branches could barely sustain the expanding fruit.

Sharing this transformation story at church, Ray brought proof of the tree's progress. He showed the congregation some super-sized citrus as big as cantaloupe melons! Have you ever seen an 8-pound lemon? Some folks couldn't believe their eyes, so Ray proceeded to cut open the fruit to reveal its authenticity.

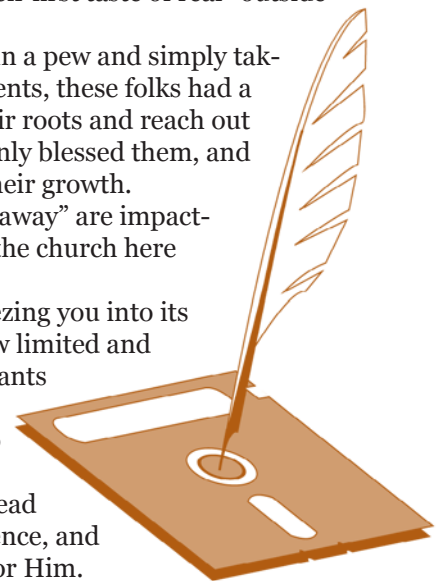
Some of our church members involved in the recent hurricane-relief trips got their first taste of real “outside

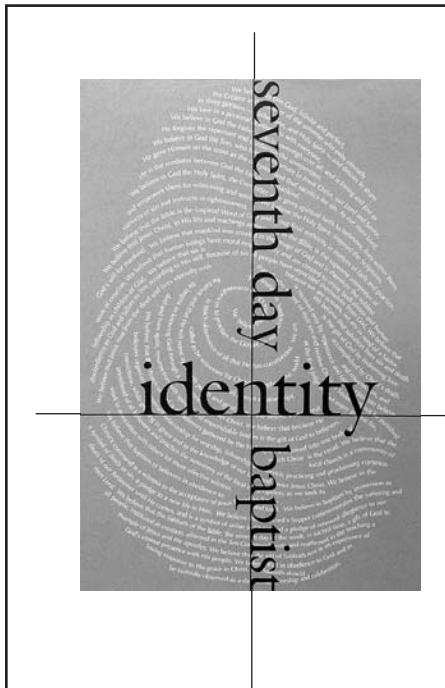
of the box” ministry.

Instead of sitting in a pew and simply taking in spiritual nutrients, these folks had a chance to spread their roots and reach out to others. God certainly blessed them, and we have witnessed their growth.

Their actions “far away” are impacting and challenging the church here at home.

Is the world squeezing you into its mold, telling you how limited and little you are? God wants to set you free to be who He wants you to be, and do what He wants you to do. Spread your roots and influence, and produce great fruit for Him.





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

## **Seventh Day Baptist Identity**

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

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

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

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