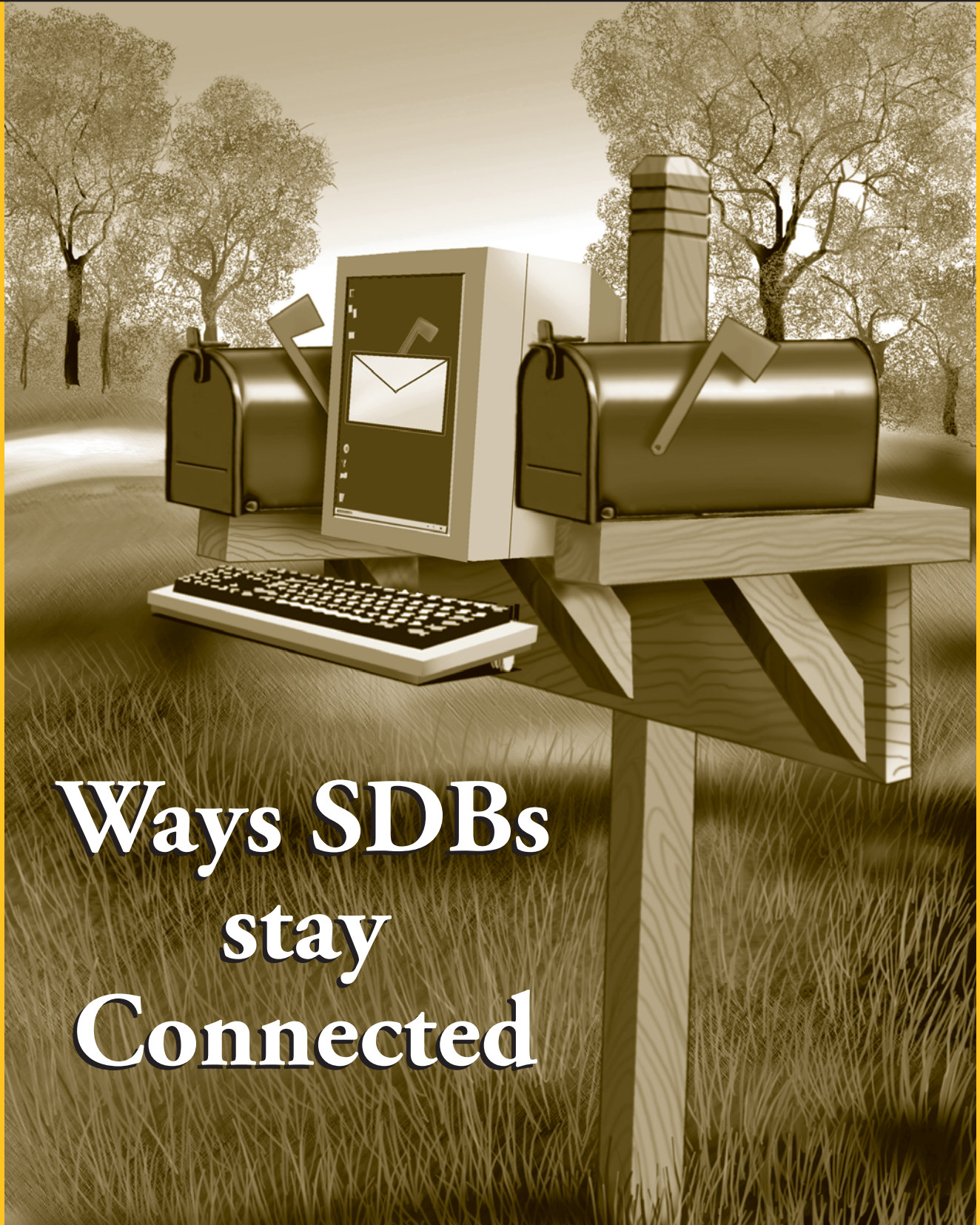




# The Sabbath RECORDER

April 2007

*News for and about Seventh Day Baptists*



**Ways SDBs  
stay  
Connected**



## 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."*

## Historical Society Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Seventh Day Baptist Historical Society will be held at the SDB Center in Janesville, Wis., on Sunday, May 13, 2007, at 2:00 p.m. in connection with the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors.

The Society serves the denomination in the collection, preservation, and communication of SDB history. As a membership corporation, its work is financed by membership dues, endowments, contributions, and the sale of its books.

Any member of a Seventh Day Baptist church may become a Contributing Member for a \$15 annual fee, or a Life Member for \$150, payable to the Historical Society at the SDB Center, PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547.

## 2007 Summer Institute in Seventh Day Baptist Polity

June 18–29



**SDB Center, Janesville, WI**

Gordon Lawton, Instructor.

Information and registration form available at [www.sdbministry.org](http://www.sdbministry.org) under "School of Ministry."





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# We are all intertwined

by Teri Morgan

When God created this world, He intertwined everything. Even mankind is intertwined with the dust of the earth, since we were taken from it.

Today, it is important that Christians remain intertwined as individuals—first with Jesus, then to each other in the local church, and in the Church as a whole. At the same time, there is another group that should be intertwined with us: non-believers.

We see them every day—folks in the community who do not know God. We see them at the grocery store, the pharmacy, our places of work, and at the bus stop.

We may even enjoy an activity with them. They are in the gym, at the park or bowling alley, and at various clubs around town. We might meet them at an AA, Al-Anon, or Weight Watchers' meeting.

To be sure, Christians encounter non-believers all the time.

As Christians, it is our duty to spread the Gospel to the entire world. Jesus commissions us, "Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19).

This must be important, or Jesus would not have instructed us to do so. But first, we must equip ourselves for the task at hand. A personal relationship with Jesus is the greatest preparation for this assignment; it is the responsibility of each believer.

We in the North Loup, Neb., SDB Church are intertwined with our community,

the church as a whole, and with the world around us. Our various ministries are designed to nurture different groups.

Our individual ministries include e-mailing church bulletins to those who are unable to attend worship (and to others who request them), and visiting people in hospitals. Several of our members are



also involved in a "get well" card ministry.

As a church, we have several ministries that reach out to our fellow members and to the community. Every August, we have a float in the North Loup Popcorn Days parade. And our annual Turkey Supper in early November is quite a hit with the community. We also send *The Helping Hand* to our Lincoln Fel-

lowship, and unused copies are placed around the area for others to enjoy.

A relatively new ministry—Cards for Campers Program—is designed so we can keep in touch with our campers year-round. Church members choose one or more campers from a list prepared by our Camp Follow-Up Committee. Then they send cards to "their campers" throughout the year until the next camping season rolls around.


In 2006, we started the *Riverview Review*, a once-a-year publication prepared solely for the children attending Camp Riverview. This newsletter sums up their week at camp with pictures and includes stories written by the campers themselves. It also lists the names and addresses of those attending each camp.

The *Prairie Post* is our church newsletter. Printed four times a year, it is available to anyone who requests it. Also, to keep our campers connected throughout the year, a copy is sent to each of them.

And, finally, our church website intertwines us with the entire world. It is challenging to try to sum up on just a few pages who we are as the

North Loup SDB Church.

This is a work in progress, with the Lord providing us with a wonderful tool to remain intertwined and connected with each other, non-believers, and the world. Check us out!

You're invited to be intertwined with us at: [www.forministry.com/USNE](http://www.forministry.com/USNE) SDBGCNLSDB. 

# Staying connected

## Forums

**NEW! Sdbforums.org**  
Running “under the radar” for a little while, this forum for not-so-young adults is ready to go public. Inspired by the success of the yasdb.org discussion for the younger folks, SDB Forums include prayer requests, news, general discussion, and a “Deeper Waters” section on heavier theological topics. Check it out and join today!

### Pastors’ forums

At the Center on Ministry website ([www.sdbministry.org](http://www.sdbministry.org)) pastors and pastors’ spouses have the opportunity to share and pray with one another. You must meet certain requirements to qualify for these forums.

## E-mail updates

### SDB Network

For many years, Pastor Dave Taylor has kept our pastors and church leaders informed of prayer needs and important news.

With his permission, here’s your chance to get “in the loop” on Conference-wide concerns. Send an e-mail to [sdbtaylor@comcast.net](mailto:sdbtaylor@comcast.net), and he will add your name to this vital prayer network.

### SDB Grapevine

A special E-newsletter from Executive Director Rob Appel. Over 200 members already receive this “cutting edge” ministry news. To add your name to the list, write to [robappel@seventhdaybaptist.org](mailto:robappel@seventhdaybaptist.org), request the “Grapevine” and become an insider of SDB news today.



## Websites

Our Conference’s overall website may be found at:

**[www.seventhdaybaptist.org](http://www.seventhdaybaptist.org)**

- information on SDB beliefs and history
- links to our Conference ministries and churches
  - a calendar of events
- avenues to contact the Conference office

In more recent days, webmaster Linda Lawton has added some great new features:

**E-Store:** All of our Conference resources are pictured and explained, with shopping “buttons” where you can order what you need on-line. Using the PayPal service, you may choose the items, quantities, and the method for shipping based on your need.

**E-Gifting:** An opportunity to make a one-time or ongoing electronic donation to the ministry of your choice.

**E-Cards:** BRAND NEW! Ever want to send an e-greeting to a friend? Here’s your chance to choose and personalize a special card right from our website. We will also be adding SDB-specific artwork and wording.

**SDB Exec Blog:** Personal reflections and event updates from our executives.

# Windows of opportunity

## Reconnecting with Jamaica

by Rod Henry

For about 20 years, I kept some Jamaican money in a desk drawer—a ten dollar bill and two fives. I had gotten them when I accompanied Leon Lawton on my first trip to Jamaica in 1986. At the time, they were worth about \$3.00 in U.S. money.

When I returned to Jamaica in 1996, I forgot to take the bills with me. But when I returned once again in August of 2006, I finally remembered to take them. By this time, the value of the \$20 Jamaican had shrunk to about 30 cents. By not spending the money when I first had the opportunity, most of its value was gone.



***This required a month of sacrifice, but it was worth it. Several people accepted the Lord.***

### In the moment

I believe that there are many opportunities in life where the value of “acting in the moment” is the only way to maximize the value of that opportunity.

In the summer following my college graduation, the Los Angeles SDB Church sent me and my wife, Camille, to Ventura, Calif., to follow-up on leads from the church’s Ventura County Fair booth.

One of the leads we contacted was a former gang member. He wondered if I would be willing to go with him to minister to his former gang friends. “I would love to!” I replied.

About a week later, on a Saturday night, he called at 10:00 p.m. He was ready to go and asked if I wanted to go with him. I was tired from the long Sabbath day I had put in, and I just wanted to go to bed. I told him I would go some other time.

Well, there was no “some other” time. He “hooked up” with another pastor. I had blown my window of opportunity, and that window was shut.

### Sending the spies

After being redeemed from the bondage of Egypt, the Children of Israel received the Law of God on Mount Sinai and had gone to the edge of the Promised Land.

The land of Canaan had to be conquered, so Moses sent 12 spies to check it out. All agreed that the land was great—flowing with milk and honey, and abundant crops.

However, 10 of the spies also said that the Canaanites were too powerful for the armies of Israel. They reported that giants roamed the land, striking fear into the hearts of the Children of Israel.

“That night all the people of the community raised their voices and wept aloud. All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron, and the whole assembly said to them, ‘If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this desert! Why is the Lord bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword? Our wives and children will be

taken as plunder. Wouldn’t it be better for us to go back to Egypt?’ And they said to each other, ‘We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt’ ” (Numbers 14:1-4).

### God’s punishment

God was angry with this lack of faith. He was providing a window of opportunity for the Children of Israel to conquer and inhabit the land of promise, but they would not obey. So He punished them by not allowing any—except Joshua and Caleb—to enter the Promised Land. The Israelites would wander in the wilderness until that generation died.

After hearing of their punishment, the armies of Israel changed their minds and decided to try to take the promised land.

“Early the next morning they went up toward the high hill country. ‘We have sinned,’ they said. ‘We will go up to the place the Lord promised.’ But Moses said, ‘Why are you disobeying the



---

Lord's command? This will not succeed! Do not go up, because the Lord is not with you. You will be defeated by your enemies, for the Amalekites and Canaanites will face you there. Because you have turned away from the Lord, he will not be with you and you will fall by the sword.' Nevertheless, in their presumption they went up toward the high hill country, though neither Moses nor the ark of the Lord's covenant moved from the camp. Then the Amalekites and Canaanites who lived in that hill country came down and attacked them and beat them down all the way to Hor-mah" (Numbers 14:40-45).

### The window closed

In less than one day, the window of opportunity for conquering the Promised Land had closed.

God required immediate obedience without grumbling and complaining, and commanded



His Children to possess the land. With that command came God's power and victory. But the next day, after a night of complaining and grumbling, the Israelites did not have God's power, and they were defeated. The window of opportunity was no longer open.

### Windows to Jamaica

Each of my trips to Jamaica resulted from God opening windows of opportunity for me.

When I first traveled to Jamaica in 1986, it was to help their Conference establish a T.I.M.E. program (Training In Ministry by Extension). This pastoral training seminar was modeled after the one started in the United States.

During that visit, I trained the Jamaican leadership in the prin-

*This band and choir ministered at the 10th anniversary celebration.*



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***There are many opportunities in life where the value of acting in the moment is the only way to maximize the value of that opportunity.***

---

ciples of theological education by extension, and we established the pastoral training program that is going on there even today. For nearly 20 years, pastors have been graduating from the T.I.M.E. program at the Jamaica Bible Institute. Recently, another 15 new pastors graduated, all ready to serve.

Twenty years ago, a window of opportunity came to the Jamaican church and the SDB Missionary Society, and the results are *still* being felt in that country.

### Greater Portmore crusade

Over 10 years ago, in August of 1996, another window of opportunity opened in Jamaica.

They wanted to hold a month-long crusade to try to start a new church in the rapid-growing area of Greater Portmore, a suburb of Kingston. Pastor Joe Samuels would preach the first two weeks, and I would preach the last two.

I believed that this was yet another window of opportunity. This time, I took my son, Erik, who performed special music each night.

The Jamaicans had a large tent set up that could seat 700 people. SDB churches from all over the island took turns coming in to help fill the tent so that visitors would not feel overwhelmed by the size of an empty-feeling arena.

This required a month of sacrifice from their Conference members, but it was worth it. Several people accepted the Lord during that crusade and were baptized, becoming the first seeds of a new church.

*cont. on next page*

## Anniversary window

In the spring of 2006, Basil Clarke—the current pastor of the Greater Portmore SDB Church—sent an e-mail. Reporting that the church was marking its 10th anniversary, he asked if I would be the “special guest speaker” for the celebration.

My first response was that he must be mistaken. It couldn't possibly be 10 years since I was in Jamaica! (But I took his word for it.)

Pastor Clarke said that on a recent Sabbath, six people who had been saved and baptized during that long-ago crusade were still part of their church. In fact, one had just graduated from the T.I.M.E. program.

Once again, windows of opportunity had come together to create a growing SDB church in Greater Portmore.

## Making opportunities

Since I felt that I could not justify the time and expense of traveling to Jamaica to preach just one sermon, I conducted some training seminars for pastors and church leaders prior to the celebration.

The first was on “Managing Conflict in the Church.” More than 40 pastors and leaders attended. The second seminar was entitled, “Advanced Sabbath Theology,” with over 30 attending.

**Participants kept saying that this training came at just the right time in their lives and ministries.**

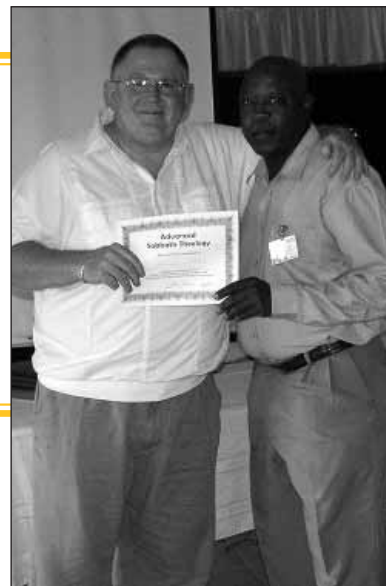
During both of these seminars, participants kept saying that this training came at just the right time in their lives and ministries. I believe that God makes windows of opportunity for many people at the same time. This is something only He can do.

## Take advantage!

As God's Children, we are challenged with windows of opportunity all the time. Three qualities are necessary for taking advantage of them:

•First, we must **be sensitive** to God's will and calling. There are no limits to the *good things* we can do in life, but the *best things* are those God is calling us to do. God's windows of opportunity come and go, so be sensitive.

•Secondly, we must **be obedient** without complaining or hesitating. When a window of opportunity



*Rod Henry (left) presented many certificates in Jamaica.*

opens, we must always be ready to say “Yes.” God's windows come and go, so we need to be obedient.

•Thirdly, we must **be ready** to act. To act on God's windows of opportunity, we must keep ourselves in a state of preparation and readiness. God's windows of opportunity come and go, so be ready.

## Act in the moment

There are many opportunities in life where the value of acting in the moment is the only way to maximize the value of that opportunity. So be sensitive, be obedient, and be ready.

I thank God for the willingness of the Denver (Colo.) SDB Church to say “Yes” to these mission trips. And I thank God for the willingness of the Missionary Society to say “Yes” to financing these windows of opportunity.

This past January, I undertook a mission trip to Brazil, with my church, the Missionary Society, and myself all responding positively to this newest “window.”

Perhaps God is calling you to say “Yes” to these windows of opportunity, and others, by contributing to our SDB Missionary Society. **SR**



*The Greater Portmore church is expanding. Praise the Lord!*



# Mary, Queen of Chatawa

by Sally Hays

*In 1974, Mary Hays was helping a disabled man up a flight of stairs. The man lost his balance, causing both of them to tumble down the stairs. Mary received major brain damage following a surgical procedure. Her mental capacity was reduced to that of a young child.*

*To care for Mary, husband Ralph and his brother, Jack, opened the Sunshine Mountain Home in Chatawa, Miss.*

*Mary passed away on February 16. Her daughter, Sally, shared this eulogy at the memorial service. The obituary is on page 25.*



Mary Hays  
in 1963.

On March 20, my mother would have turned 73. She was always mindful that she and Elvis Presley were the same age.

It's hard to remember a time when my mother was aware of such trivial matters of the world. When she died last week, it was the last of many times that her heart simply stopped beating.

She had been having such problems almost as long as she was a wife to Pastor Ralph Hays, and a mother to Ralph Jr. and myself.

My mother was also a sister, a sister-in-law, an aunt, a summer camp counselor, a crisis intervention specialist, a Cub Scout den mother, a choir member, a medical nurse, a Women's Auxiliary member, and a good friend.

We could go on and on describing the many facets of Mary's life before she was injured. But the purpose today is not to mourn all that was lost over the years. (Many of us have had adequate time to do that the past three decades.)

Think about it... 1974. I was 20, and my brother was still in high school. Ralph and I are both in our 50s now, and Sunshine Mountain came into existence more than half our lives ago.

At different times, Jack, Linda, Billie, Grandma, and all the kids have called Sunshine Mountain "home."

How many of us turned our life stories to the same page at the same time? How much family lore and how many family truths involve the lives of many of us right here at Sunshine Mountain?

Our grandmother, Ralph and Jack's mother, is buried on this land.

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## ***Life at Sunshine Mountain revolved around a little woman named Mary—what happened to her, and what was needed to care for her.***

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This place, these buildings, all these lives—almost everything and everyone in this church today—have been brought here for a purpose: To see how one life and one event can be used by God to teach so many lessons to so many people.

I believe that there has always been a plan at work here. Faith is believing that the answer is already there even if we can't see it... yet.

So, since 1974, I have watched a large chunk of my immediate and

extended family take up residency in Pike County. One building here, then another. A craft house, a dormitory, a chapel, a couple of fishponds. There was Wallie, the "watch donkey"; a herd of pygmy goats, the miniature ponies, and dozens of baby pigs. And so many people.

I think of Grover, Bob White, and Elsie, Rose, Ted, and Helen. So many folks brought here because of a woman named Mary.

We all have memories of life here during the last 30 years. So many of us will be able to carry our love for Mary in our hearts where she will be remembered fondly. And she would want it that way. Just don't forget the *rest* of the story; the life that came *after* her illness.

When Mary was first released from the hospital over 30 years ago, I was the one who taught her to talk again and eat with a fork. She had to relearn other tasks that most of us take for granted.

I was able to do all of this with the help of a promise. I told Mom that as soon as she was able, we would go on a shopping spree. Since she had lost a great deal of weight while in a coma, none of her clothes fit any more.

Although told that she had been sick, Mom wasn't aware of the details. And she certainly didn't seem to mind that we used a harness and leash to keep her from falling.

One day, a saleslady was standing near us, adding up the merchandise

we had just bought. As Mom walked around a display case, she started to go down. I quickly yanked her back to her feet, so she didn't fall.

Without missing a beat, Mom tried to straighten her hair, adjusted her blouse, and uttered in a perfect Southern drawl, "You'll have to excuse me. I've been ill."

Even in her condition, the woman she used to be "came through." It was that woman—the one with the husband and two kids, the one who followed her spouse wherever their spiritual journey took them, the one who had moved her family to New York, to Arkansas, and ultimately back to Louisiana—who we remember with joy.

We grieved each time we thought about the parts of Mom that were gone, but the years kept passing. Sunshine Mountain grew, and the family grew.

Regardless of how participants would describe it, life at Sunshine Mountain revolved around a little woman named Mary—what happened to her, and what was needed to care for her.

All of us have been affected by Mary's life and the unexpected turn it took in 1974. Some of the comments I kept hearing this week were:

"I think your mom was content in her last years."

"I think Mary was happy for the most part."

"Although it wasn't the life Mary would have chosen, it was still a good life."

Okay...

As a daughter wanting to make sense of it all, I can believe those comments. If I choose to give up second-guessing myself and exercise my faith-muscle a bit, I truly can see things *were* easier for her over time.

Mom's level of distress seemed to slowly diminish, and life became somewhat comfortable. I can still see her sitting in her chair, the one that looked like an overstuffed throne.

Her faithful companion, Abby—and Abby's many offspring—are by her side. And in her lap, and under her blanket. Mom loved those puppies!

There was always someone to bring her a drink if she was thirsty, and food if she was hungry. And she never had to be too cold or too hot. Someone would always adjust the



Ralph and Mary at their 50th anniversary in 2003.

temperature of her environment.

Mom interacted with most of the other residents like they were her family. In turn, many called her "Mama" or "Grandma," and she was "Aunt Mary" to a few others.

She never had to cook again. That was a real blessing since many ministers' wives regularly cook for entire congregations as well as family members.

Someone else washed my mother's clothes—and bathed her body, shampooed her hair, and clipped her nails. Someone else cleaned her bathroom, swept the kitchen floor, and took out the garbage. Someone drove her wherever she needed to go.

Mom didn't have to do *anything* she didn't want to do. Sunshine Mountain was created for Mary, and it was her "kingdom."

Different people took their turns over the years helping out: numerous houseparents, volunteers, and family members. And, always, there was my father, Ralph.

Whatever else Dad was involved in, he was responsible for Mary. He

was devoted to his wife and driven.

Dad quickly became the court jester to the royal court of Mary, Queen of Chatawa. This whole place was Mary's world.

The duties of her loyal subjects were pretty basic: look after her needs and keep this place going.

All of the people who lived here, worked here, or supported this place strived to that end. This place was Queen Mary's world, and we all lived in it with her.

Now, a word to Dad: I know that your greatest fear was that your heart might not hold out long enough to let you outlive Mama, to be able to care for her as long as she was alive. Well, it did. And you did!

Many people would have crumbled under that kind of pressure. Although hindsight may give some the ability to say how they would have done

things differently, I will say to you what I know God and Momma are saying through me: "Well done, my good and faithful servant." "Yes, well done, my loyal and dedicated husband."

At age 72, Mary Hays leaves behind a huge legacy. And not just to family members. Because of Mary, there has been—and still is—an ongoing SDB presence in southern Mississippi.

Hers was an unusual life; an unusual saga. But it is one which has touched so many lives for so many years, and it will continue to do so for years to come.

Whatever purpose God intended for my mother's life, whatever parts we were all chosen to play in it, we are the ones left to remember Mary. Let us go from this place believing we have shared in a miracle.

Mary's life had depth, warmth, and purpose. In the end, the very existence of this tiny woman altered the history of an entire family. How many of us will be able to say that when our time is over? *SR*

# General Conference meets at George Fox University in Newberg, Oregon, July 29–August 4

## Where to stay in Newberg

### Motels

•*Best Western Newberg Inn*  
2211 Portland Rd.  
Newberg, OR 97132  
(503) 537-3000, (800)-WESTERN  
www.bestwestern.com

•*Shilo Inn*  
502 Sitka Ave.  
Newberg, OR 97132  
(503) 537-0303, (800) 222-2244  
www.shiloinns.com



•*Travelodge Suites*  
2816 Portland Rd.  
Newberg, OR 97132  
(503) 537-5000  
(800) 578-7878  
www.travelodge.com/  
Travelodge/control/  
home

### Bed and Breakfasts

•*Springbrook Hazelnut Farm*  
30295 N. Hwy. 99W  
Newberg, OR 97132  
(503) 538-4606  
www.nutfarm.com  
3 miles from George Fox

•*Avellan Inn*  
16900 N.E. Hwy. 240  
Newberg, OR 97132

(503) 537-9161  
www.avellaninn.com  
5 miles from George Fox

•*The Dwelling Place*  
1713 Villa Rd.  
Newberg, OR 97132  
(503) 537-0217  
dwellingplace@comcast.net  
Off the edge of the campus

•*University House*  
401 N. Meridian St.  
Newberg, OR 97132  
(503) 538-8438  
(866) 538-8438  
www.universityhouse  
newberg.com  
Across the street from the  
George Fox campus.

### RV and Camping Information

•*Champoeg State  
Heritage Area*  
8329 Champoeg Rd. N.E.  
St. Paul, OR 97137  
www.oregonstateparks.org/  
park\_113.php  
7 miles east of Newberg

#### Vital stats

12 full hookups, 67 electrical (maximum site 50 feet); 6 yurts; 6 cabins; group tent (3 areas); group RV area; group RV camp with meeting hall; 6 walk-in tent sites.

For information only, call (503) 678-1251, Ext. 225, or (800) 551-6949. To make reservations, call (800) 452-5687. This park has a designated off-leash area for your pet. A leash no longer than 6 feet in required elsewhere in the park.

#### Park rates (subject to change) from May 1 to September 30

Full rate: \$20  
Electrical hookup: \$20  
Tent site: \$16

Hiker/Biker: \$4  
Yurt: \$27  
Rustic cabin: \$35

Extra vehicle: \$5  
Daily day use: \$3  
Yearly day use: \$25

Group (tent): \$61  
Group (RV): \$81, and \$8  
per unit after the first 10.



# The 2007 Seventh Day Baptist Summer Christian Service Corps

*“Not to be served, but to serve.”  
(Matthew 20:20-28)*

720 E. Madison Ave., Milton WI 53563  
(608) 868-2741; E-mail: [scsc@miltonsdb.org](mailto:scsc@miltonsdb.org)  
[PD = Project Director]

\* \* \*

## **Atlanta, GA**

*Debbie Hargett, PD*  
Rachel Hargett

## **Battle Creek, MI**

*Kory Geske, PD*  
Micah Mackintosh  
Melody Rankhorn  
Kevin Smith

## **Muskegon, MI**

*Angel Floyd, PD*  
Jamal Chester  
Katrina Goodrich

## **Riverside, CA**

*Gabe Bejjani, PD*  
Joseph Pradetto II

## **Seattle, WA**

*Debra Williams, PD*  
Joshua Rankhorn  
Jasmine Patterson

## **Shiloh, NJ**

*Charlotte Chroniger, PD*  
Tiffany Crowder  
Sheldon Dobson

---

## **2007 SCSC Training Staff:**

•Pastor George Calhoun  
•Pastor Steve Osborn

•Helen Goodrich  
•Doreen Davis

•Andrew Camenga  
•SCSC Comm. Members

•Vivian Looper  
•Faith Green

This year's SCSC training will be held in Milton, Wis., June 20-28. Summer projects will run from June 29 to July 22.

Donations may still be sent to Enid Nobles, 9 Little Pond Trail, Ormond Beach FL 32174.

SCSC



### **2007 SCSC Committee:**

Angie Osborn, *Co-Chair*  
Faith Green, *Co-Chair*  
Cheri Appel, Janet Butler  
Marcy Kersten, Teresa Kersten

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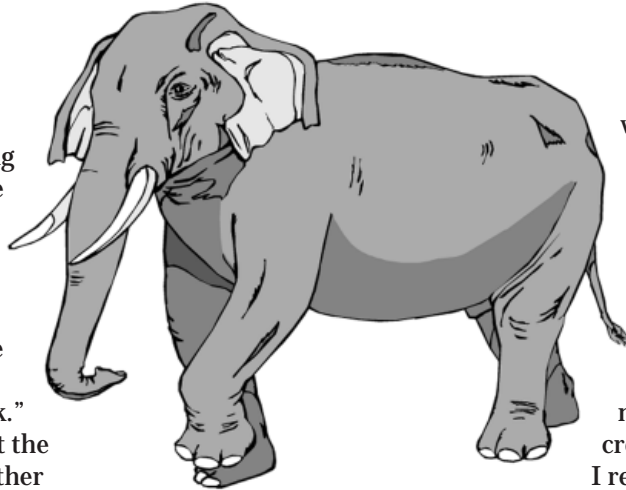
## **Wanted: Prayer Partners**

We are looking for several prayer partners—women and men. Our young adults, Project Directors, training staff, and projects need to be lifted up in prayer. If you are interested in being a prayer partner this summer, please contact:

*Faith Green*  
[faithgreen@hotmail.com](mailto:faithgreen@hotmail.com)  
9145 Hackberry Ave.  
Plymouth, MI 48170  
(734) 459-5684



## The elephant



Of the hundreds of children's stories I heard my dad tell during Sabbath morning worship, there is one I'm reminded of most often. You may have heard it, too. It goes something like this:

Seven blind men were asked to describe an elephant. The one standing by one of its legs said, "The elephant is like a tree trunk." The man at the tail declared that the animal was like a rope. Still another was sure it was like a wall, as he felt the elephant's side. All seven men had a different description, for each could only "see" the part of the elephant he was experiencing.

Recently, guest pastor Perry Cain preached a sermon on relationships. A Christian counselor by profession, he shared one method he uses to help a client "see" a way out of his problem.

He tells the client that while he (Perry) will proceed to merrily go on about his own activities after the client leaves, the client will still be carrying his own thoughts and problems out the door. Perry suggests that they switch seats. For a few minutes, the client can feel better, imagining life from Perry's chair instead of his own.

Then Perry says, "Let's take this one step further." He points to an empty chair, saying, "That's the Holy Spirit's seat. Try sitting there; take on His thoughts." Then Perry gives the assignment to read *Philippians 4:8-9* every day for two weeks.

The application for our church here in Lost Creek (W.Va.) was for us to recognize, in our search for a pastor, that the process of change

is difficult. As 1 Corinthians 12 reminds us, we are all unique, with varying gifts, so we are likely to see things differently. But we are also one Body, needing all its parts to work together. This will happen as we exchange our own thoughts for those of Christ, our Head.

As our relationships (whether in church, home, workplace, or elsewhere) are put to the test by differences of opinion or misunderstood communication, I like to think about the elephant. Our varied points of view don't change the fact that an elephant is still an elephant, and if we stand where the other person is,

we might begin to see his view as well.

It can be very uncomfortable to stand in front of an elephant's swaying trunk—especially if he should use it for a hose—if

I am accustomed to the solid simplicity of brushing his massive side. But if I focus on my Lord and his discomfort on the cross, my own discomfort pales.

I remember that it's not about me; it's about us, all the parts of his body loving one another as he loves us.

May God give us the wisdom, grace, love, and joy that comes from recognizing the varied and beautiful facets of His Church, His Body, in all of its glory.

God put this song in my heart as I was writing this page: "Here I am to worship, here I am to bow down, here I am to say that you're my God. You're altogether worthy, altogether lovely, altogether wonderful to me."

Then He added the suggestion that I sing to my brothers and sisters in His Body, "You're all together worthy, all together lovely, all together wonderful to me." *SR*

### A reminder:

- 1) Please write and send your annual **activities report** to Conference; 65 copies, if possible.
- 2) We need **crafts to sell** at the SCSC tables. (Men and boys' items are in great demand.)
- 3) Send your money for the **Love Gift offering** that will be collected at the Women's Board Banquet.

Thank you!



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

## Cockerill for the African

In my February “Pearls,” I highlighted the contributions of three members of the Berlin, Wis., church: Abram H. Lewis, Lewis A. Platts, and Pardon Davis. I would also like to add Walter Benjamin Cockerill to that list.

Cockerill was born near Berlin on April 12, 1886, and joined that church in 1898. After graduating from Berlin High School, he attended Milton (Wis.) College for one year. His obituary in the August 1984 *SR* noted:

“After leaving Milton he spent two years as a cowboy in South Dakota, and returning to Wisconsin taught school in Redgranite Jct. In 1914 he went to Nyasaland, Africa, as a missionary after joining the S.D.B. church in Plainfield, N.J. While in Africa he was witness to a native uprising which was later documented in a book for which he provided source material, entitled: *Independent African*, by George Shepperson. In 1917 he married Clara Fox and they were to make their home in Berlin and farmed there for 22 years before settling in Milton Jct., Wisconsin in 1944.”

That period in Africa is well documented in the Historical Society records of the Central Africa Conference of Seventh Day Baptists, constituted in 1952. In the 2005 *SDB Directory*, the African Conference lists 200 churches, along with over 10,000 members, a medical clinic, and several schools.

Harry Langworthy wrote a book entitled *Africa for the African—The*

*Life of Joseph Booth*. (Booth had been an SDB missionary there.) In it, Langworthy summarized Cockerill’s role in Africa:

“Walter Cockerill, born in Berlin, Wisconsin in 1886, had become interested in Booth’s activities and felt a concern for the welfare of the Nyasaland mission. In many aspects Booth and Cockerill were similar. Both were anti-colonial, although for very different reasons. They had a basically positive view of Africans and their future, but Cockerill was more simple and impressionistic; both had single-minded vision,

Society] provided a letter of introduction making clear that Cockerill was not an official representative of the denomination, but that he had its moral support. Shaw hoped that his going would eventually provide a solution to the problem of leadership of the Nyasaland movement, and if he worked out as a self-supporting missionary, he might be employed as a missionary.”<sup>1</sup>

From a historical perspective, Cockerill’s mission in Africa was significant. He was there during much of World War I, when fighting was

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***Leaders of the denomination felt that although he was not qualified to be officially recognized as a missionary, he could be given unofficial support.***

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were suspicious of authority and were very self-confident.

“However, there were important differences. Cockerill was almost stereotypically American, a product of nationalistic isolationism with a somewhat naive outlook on the world. In the aftermath of the Chilembwe Rising of January 1915, some of these qualities made him seem to have poor judgment and be disrespectful of authority. Like Booth, he was to be a scapegoat, and deported from Nyasaland in April 1915.

“During 1913 Cockerill decided to go on his own to Nyasaland to fill the needs for a missionary. Leaders of the denomination felt that although he was not qualified to be officially recognized as a missionary, he could be given unofficial support. Shaw [Pastor Edwin Shaw, then Corresponding Secretary of the SDB Missionary

occurring not only in Europe, but in British and German colonies in Africa. The Germans even had a warship on Lake Nyasa that the British ended up disarming.

In a 1973 newspaper interview, Cockerill revealed that much of the book, *Independent African*, was based on his personal observations. (The book was written by two Edinburgh University Professors, George Shepperson and Thomas Price.) Details of the 1915 uprising were scarce because the British had banned information concerning it.

In that same interview, Cockerill stated that upon arriving in Central Africa, government officials suspected him of wrongdoing. Although he was completely innocent, he was following in Booth’s footsteps. (Booth had been the “object” of an arrest warrant because of his efforts to advance native Africans.)

Based at Booth’s old station,





Walter Benjamin Cockerill  
1886-1984

Cockerill began “picking up the pieces” of the SDB mission work his predecessor had left behind.

In addition to furnishing valuable information to Professors Shepperson and Price, Cockerill gave speeches, wrote letters and articles, and visited people—all under the watchful eye of the government. Eventually, he was sent home because of the uprising. He commented, “I was summoned without a summons and tried without a trial.”

Along with his missionary work,

Cockerill helped develop the current Central African Conference of Seventh Day Baptists, established in 1952 at Blantyre, Malawi.

Partially supported by SDBs, Booth is credited with founding Sabbathkeeping in Nyasaland. However, his faith was gradually swayed by the Watch Tower Society’s extra-canonical teachings concerning the Sabbath.

When Rev. Ronald Barrar of New Zealand reactivated the SDB work at the Malawi mission in 1947, some of the residual effects of Cockerill’s ministry were still evident.

The SDB Historical Society’s vault houses a number of letters Cockerill sent to the United States. One—dated April 12, 1914—was sent to Theodore Gardiner. It read:

“We believe that if we are chosen by God, we are the Light of the World and have no right to hide our light. I am fully aware that this is a very hard field to work, but whether I am able to do the work or not, I am fully convinced that the good seed of God’s Truth has fallen on fertile ground and will grow in spite of opposition.”

In one of Cockerill’s letters to his family, written in September of 1914, he summed up his philosophy: “I am convinced that the only way to understand the African is to love them!”

What better way to sum up a missionary’s philosophy of mission. **SR**

On a personal note: During one of David Pearson’s furloughs from Blantyre to the United States, I was privileged to take him to visit Walter Cockerill at his home in Milton Junction. I was fascinated by the conversations these two had regarding their shared dedication to the people of Malawi.

<sup>1</sup>Page 389 in *Africa for the African—The Life of Joseph Booth*, by Harry Langworthy, published by the Christian Literature Association of Malawi, Blantyre, 1996. Edwin Benjamin Shaw, who pastored the Plainfield, N.J., SDB Church from 1908 to 1916, served as Corresponding Secretary of both the Missionary and Tract Societies. He was also the great-great-grandfather of the current SDB Historian, Nicholas Kersten.

## Denominational Dateline

### April

- 14-15 SDB Memorial Fund Quarterly Meeting, Paint Rock, Ala.—Morgan Shepard, Rob Appel
- 18-21 Pastors’ Conference, Dodge Center, Minn.—Gordon Lawton, Nick Kersten
- 21 Alfred (N.Y.) SDB Church—Appel
- 22 Board of Christian Education Board Meeting, Alfred Station, N.Y.—Andrew Camenga, Appel
- 22 SDB Missionary Society Quarterly Meeting, Westerly, R.I.—Kirk Looper, Ron Elston
- 28 Alfred Station SDB Church—Kevin Butler
- 28-29 Muriel Osborn Seminar for Teachers (MOST), North Loup, Neb.—Camenga

### May

- 5-6 Allegheny Association, Little Genesee, N.Y.—Conference President Ruth Burdick, Camenga
- 9 World Federation Executive Committee Meeting, Alfred Station—Looper

- 13 SDB Historical Society Annual Meeting, Seventh Day Baptist Center, Janesville, Wis.—Kersten
- 19 Old Stonefort (Ill.) Seventh Day Baptist Church—Elston
- 19 Sabbath Renewal Day
- 19-20 Eastern Association, Berlin, N.Y.—Burdick, Appel, Looper

### 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 Seventh Day Baptist Polity, SDB Center—Lawton
- 24-27 SCSC (Summer Christian Service Corps) Training, Milton, Wis.—Camenga



# Helping Hand needs a boost

*The Helping Hand in Bible Study* has been around for more than 100 years and continues to be written by Seventh Day Baptists for Seventh Day Baptists. It encourages daily devotional reading of Scripture, pondering those passages, along with

to a single address outside the Conference. Following a review of proposed postal rate increases, these prices should be finalized at the end of this month.


The last price increase for *The Helping Hand* took effect in March

Editor, the Board began closely examining the cost, value, and role of the quarterly in our churches. The initial portion of that analysis brought changes to its format and structure that were introduced with the December 2002 issue.

Continuing analysis made it clear that both *The Helping Hand* and the Board would be better served by relieving the Executive Director of much of the quarterly's author-recruiting and copy-editing responsibilities. We created a new position, General Editor, and appointed Rev. Eric Davis to fill that role. He began his work with the December 2005 issue.

With those pieces in place, the Board took a close look at the entire financial picture of *The Helping Hand*.

Informal conversations with church members indicated that many would like to pay what it costs to produce the publication. We also received feedback from members of General Council. At the last sessions of General Conference, people interested in Christian Education offered us guidance, and we researched prices of comparable publications on the U.S. market.

Based on this information, the Board decided to bring *Helping Hand* prices into line with what it costs to produce. (Books sent outside of the Conference will still be sold at a reduced rate as part of its ministry.) These price changes will take effect with the December 2007 issue. 

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***The price of The Helping Hand will increase at the end of this year. This should provide a solid financial base for the quarterly and allow other ministries of the Board of Christian Education to grow.***

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open and unhindered discussion of Scripture in Sabbath School classes and Bible studies.

Based on the Uniform Lesson Series, it provides a framework that offers both short-term and long-term continuity while guiding classes (held around the world) through significant passages of Scripture.

The price of *The Helping Hand* will increase at the end of this year. This should provide a solid financial base for the quarterly and allow other ministries of the Board of Christian Education to grow.

Tentatively, the new prices will be \$17 for an annual subscription; \$13 each for five or more copies to a single address inside the Conference; and \$7 each for five or more

of 1996. However, that increase didn't reflect full production costs.

Many years ago, the Sabbath School Board and the Tract Society agreed to subsidize the cost of producing *The Helping Hand*. They used donations and money from self-supporting projects to ensure the continuation of this ministry help in Seventh Day Baptist churches.

Over time, the Board of Christian Education ended up taking on most of the financial responsibility for *The Helping Hand*. That subsidy eventually grew to an average of \$15,000 a year.

In the midst of a five-year experiment that combined the role of Executive Director and *Helping Hand*



## FOCUS on Missions

# More from Uganda

by Kirk Looper

The Uganda Conference is very eager to grow and develop into an active, influential voice in their northeast African country. But this is contingent on their ability to visit new contacts, provide adequate leadership, and develop buildings that will indicate to visitors that they are an active part of a worldwide Christian organization.

The Missionary Society needs funds to help most of our sister Conferences around the world. We also need to keep strongly attuned to the leading of the Holy Spirit as He encourages us in our giving.

The Conference in Uganda could use financing for these needs:

- A vehicle to help leaders visit new contacts in distant locations.
- Sending pastors to school.
- Orphanages or orphan foundations similar to the one in Zambia.
- HIV/AIDS clinics to expand testing, and to buy medicine and supplies to help local orphans and widows. (One church needs education funding for two deaf and mute orphans.)
- Four bicycles (at \$100 apiece) for their pastors, and to pay their teachers (now getting \$50 per month).
- A computer, printer, and photocopier so that they can more easily translate, print, and duplicate tracts and study materials.

Presently, Uganda has three SDB churches and three “cells.” These cells are held back because they don’t have a building. A building is an integral part of church growth in Uganda, since a permanent one means that they are a permanent church, not a fly-by-night organization just out for money.

Our Uganda brethren need an office building so that they can give the government a permanent address. The government expects this in order to register any church.

After spending a few days visiting different churches and some of the cells, we returned to the hotel and rented a meeting room.

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***Our Uganda brethren need an office building so that they can give the government a permanent address.***

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Conference leaders voiced apprehension and disappointment concerning their work. They apparently didn’t realize that these are the same apprehensions and disappointments that I have encountered during most of my first visits to sister Conferences and churches.

Lack of funding and “proper” education for the leadership to carry out their duties and responsibilities

weighed heavily on their minds. They felt that they were failing because they couldn’t raise the funds to register the Conference, organize, and further develop the Church.

After discussing these points, I believe that they now realize that they are doing their best with what they have to work with. I encouraged them by explaining that I will tell all of our churches about their condition and the plans that they have.

I have already ordered *Helping Hands* and *Sabbath Recorders* for each of the churches. This way, they can use SDB materials.

I informed them of our T.I.M.E. and CALLED programs, indicating that I would send them sample copies of each.

I contacted another African leader and requested that he send them information concerning the Bible College that they run in their country.

These leaders and pastors appeared very dedicated as they spent eight hours with me on December 24th, then turned around and spent another four hours with me on December 25th. I’m sure they could have spent that time with their families. *SR*



*Attendees at one of the seminars in Uganda.*





# the BEACON

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

April 2007

## Young people can connect with 'oldsters'



Patients at the Valley County Hospital in Ord, Neb., received a musical treat recently. Pastor Chris Mattison—of the nearby North Loup Seventh Day Baptist Church—and his daughter, Becky Faith, sang and played

church favorites on their guitars.

The Mattisons came primarily to comfort 95-year-old Elery King, a former dairy farmer from North Loup who was recuperating from a mini-stroke. Elery was named a lifetime lay preacher at

the church last year. He now lives at the Grandview Assisted Living Center in Ord.

As Pastor Chris and Becky Faith sang, their music carried down the halls. Soon, other patients asked for their favorite hymn to be played.

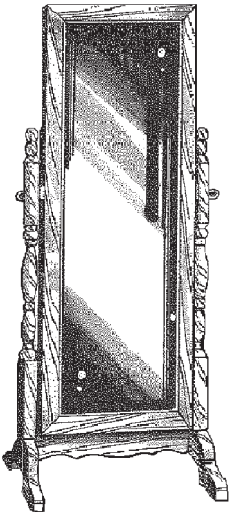
In addition to ministering to Elery (his favorite hymn is "In the Garden"), Pastor Chris cares for his parishioners and others throughout the area.

Becky, 17, is an up-and-coming musician in her own right. The North Loup-Scotia High School junior plays an active role in area music events, and also serves on the *Sabbath Re-*

*recorder* Committee for the SDB Tract Council. **SR**

*(Many thanks to Bill and Ardith [King] Keith for the story and photo!)*

Think about how you  
or your youth group can reach out to others.  
A visit from a young person can be the highlight  
of an older person's whole week!  
Volunteer today!



# 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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## One bite at a time

To save time—and avoid ballooning to 400 pounds—I grab a quick breakfast at work. Since I'm one of so many Americans battling high cholesterol, I avoid devouring a battalion of eggs garrisoned with greasy bacon. Instead, I eat instant oatmeal.

Available in many flavors (I especially like the peach, blueberry, and strawberry varieties), my oatmeal comes in individual packets. Aside from giving me a healthy and filling portion-controlled breakfast, I enjoy this meal because of the extra knowledge I gain. Each packet displays a brain-teasing joke along with a fascinating tidbit.

Did you know that the loudest animal on earth is the blue whale? That a 70-pound octopus can squeeze through a two-inch hole? That a typical breakfast in Japan consists of rice, fish, soup, pickles, and seaweed? (Obviously, they haven't been introduced to blueberry oatmeal.)

One morning as I was eating and reading, I found myself wondering, *Who in the world discovered that crickets can predict the temperature?* [Simply count the number of chirps in 15 seconds, add 37, and that number will come close to the actual thermometer reading.]

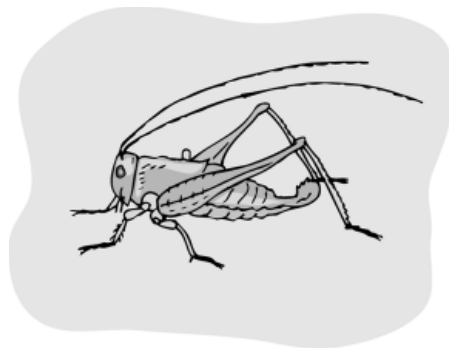
More importantly, *Why did anyone take the time to investigate that phenomenon?* Especially when that time could have been used more productively.

As I pondered that dilemma, a third question hit me; one that

I didn't expect: *Why do I waste so much of my time?*

I continually complain about my lack of organization and discipline, as if talking about those absent skills will magically make them appear.

I find time to read my newspapers and a myriad of magazines, but how often do I sit down and read a devotional? Or my Bible?



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***Who in the world discovered that crickets can predict the temperature? More importantly, why did anyone take the time to investigate that phenomenon?***

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My response to those questions is always, "I don't have the time." But that's an untruth. ("Lie" seems so harsh.)

Organization and discipline are part of any time-management problem, but a third element is key: Prioritizing.

Like my need to exercise, I haven't made Bible study a priority in my life. If something is truly important to us, we "make" time for it, not wait to "find" it.

I'm embarrassed when I think of all the dust-gathering Bibles in my house—in the bedroom, on my computer desk, the three different translations sleeping on a bookstand. Millions of people either don't have Bibles, or the Word hasn't been written in their native tongues. Untold numbers have been put to death simply for possessing God's Word.

I can read a Bible whenever I want, and sometimes I do. But I don't do it on a consistent basis. I allow the things of this world—and my own weaknesses—to keep me from enjoying that privilege.

*Am I a hopeless case?* I like to think not. *Am I the only one with a "Bible-reading problem"?* I'm sure I'm not.

A wise man (woman?) once asked, "How do you eat an elephant?" The simple answer is, "One bite at a time."

We don't have to sit down and devour multiple chapters of the Bible at one sitting. Some of us are better at nibbling and snacking instead of feasting. The point is, we need to nourish our bodies—our minds and hearts—with spiritual as well as physical food. To borrow from a Nike® shoe slogan, we simply need to "Do it!"

My goal this year is to change my behavioral diet. I'm sinful and imperfect, so I may backslide occasionally. But my "health priorities" include walking two miles a day and reading my Bible daily—one "bite" at a time. **SR**

# 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

## The fellowship of believers

Hebrews is one of my favorite books in the New Testament. I would love to share with you all the precious snippets of Scripture I have underlined in this book, but time and space limit me. Please check it out on your own.

Right from the beginning in chapter 1, verse 3, we read, "The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word." Wow! That is awesome!

My emphasis this month is our meeting together as a Body of Believers for encouragement and support as well as communal worship.

Hebrews 10:19-25 tells us, "Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

"Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.

"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of

doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

As Sabbatharians, we are in the minority; as Christians, we are in the minority.

Human beings were created to be social people. We are given each other to hold ourselves accountable. Hebrews 3:13 says, "But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you



***Church  
should be a time  
of rejuvenation,  
a time of  
reconnection.***

may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness."

Even lone Sabbathkeepers can come together in fellowship through e-mail, phone calls, and letter writing.

For me, personally, I do not like missing Sabbath fellowship. At an early age, the habit of attending church became an anticipated joy. And it still is.

Those who can't make it to church on a certain Sabbath are truly missed. The fellowship of believers should be so sweet that all of us covet that time together.

Church should also be a time of rejuvenation, a time of reconnection. This is a rare pleasure in today's dysfunctional world.

To experience this spiritual closeness, one needs to make a commitment not to give up meeting together. We need to reevaluate our values and priorities to see if they are pleasing and honoring to God.

I'd like to share these words from Hebrews 13:20-21:

"May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen." **SR**





by Executive Director  
Rob Appel

## Will Christianity survive another decade?

Last year, a report predicted that out of this current generation of teens, the largest in history, only 4 percent will be evangelical believers by the time they become adults. If you compare this with the percentage of adults today who are evangelicals (34%), Christianity seems to be on the brink of a catastrophe.

Imagine church attendance dwindling, tithes and offerings hitting new lows, new church buildings sitting empty, and sermons going unheard. Worst of all, the role of the Church becomes irrelevant.

The *Wake Up Call*, a brochure put out by the BattleCry Leadership Summit, has thrown out these figures as a scare tactic so they can stage an event (for a fee, of course) where you will be advised on the status of teenage America and what must be done to “rescue” them. Their resources will protect the future of your church and tell you what you must do to reverse this trend.

Church leaders will soon be screaming from the rooftops, “We can’t let this happen! Churches cannot sit idle and allow this trend to take its course. We must take action now! Alarm and outrage aren’t enough. We must fight back!”

I must confess that I thought that *God* was in charge of the Church. I thought *God* was in control of Christianity in America. After all, God sent

His Son to us and promised that He would build His Church on the Son.

I know that the Biblical promise was made in a world much smaller than what we know today. However, I believe that “His Church” carries over to North America as well.

Now I find out from the *Wake Up Call* that it’s up to *us* to save the Church, and that it has nothing to do with God’s control or will. We have to save Jesus! We have to make Jesus famous and save his reputation.

What a shocker, huh? Maybe God could send us a new, fresh message with some “how-to” information, since He has apparently given up on the one He already sent us. I guess that Jesus is not working well enough today to save Christianity.

The problem with this type of alarmist rhetoric is that it’s simply a marketing ploy. The hook that they try to catch you with is that “Christianity in America is going to dry up in less than 10 years.” Instead of being alarmed, why don’t we do what Jesus did? Why don’t we just simply go out and love people where they are?

Isn’t that what the Great Commission is all about? Isn’t it to make us more proactive and move forward?

But the truth is, we Christians can be some of the most “retreating”

people in the world. For all of our talk about making Christ known in the world—about changing a culture—we constantly retreat. We have Youth Retreats, Men’s Retreats, Women’s Retreats, Prayer Retreats, Marriage Retreats, etc. We’re always retreating. And we’re retreating and talking to each other, not to those who need to hear the Gospel for the first time.

We’re wasting time and energy worrying about the future of Christianity when we should be advancing it. We should be advancing into business and politics. We should be noticed in the public arena.

We should be moving into areas of higher education, art, and music. We should be entering into every public arena to extend the loving, saving life of the greatest peacemaker the world has ever known, Jesus Christ.

The truth is, this is not a Kingdom left for just us to build. It is not *our* Kingdom to win or lose. It is God’s Kingdom! It is Jesus Christ reigning in the hearts and lives of all men and women.

We are surrounded by doom and gloom, and predictions forecasting the demise of the Church. But the Church of Jesus Christ around the world is doing quite well! It can do *better*, but, fortunately, that’s not left solely up to us. God is still in the picture! **SR**



# ‘Last Will and Testament’

by Morgan Shepard

*“A good man leaves an inheritance for his children’s children, but a sinner’s wealth is stored up for the righteous” (Proverbs 13:22, NIV).*

\* \* \*

“...being of sound mind I do hereby declare my last will and testament.” Not too many of us give much thought to these words since it means we are, well... dead.

When we are young, we don’t spend a lot of time considering our mortality or think we have much to give away. But as we get older, marry, and start a family, we have to consider their future. What will happen to our loved ones if something tragic happens to us?

The words of Proverbs 13:22 are on my office wall to remind me of my responsibility to my children and “children’s children.” (I’m too young to be a grandparent!) God provided an inheritance for us in His Kingdom (Matthew 25:34), so we need to provide an inheritance for our children.

An earthly inheritance is passed down to the heirs through a “Last Will and Testament.” Depending on the size of your estate or what you want to accomplish, a will can be a simple legal document that outlines what is to be done with your earthly possessions. An attorney can prepare a Last Will and Testament for a nominal fee. It will record:

- That you are of sound mind when reading and signing the will.
- Names, locations, and dates of birth of your immediate family, including your spouse and children.
- Appointment of a guardian and alternate guardian for minor children.
- A list of debts to be paid and who should inherit specific property. This can include charities and other organizations that you want to share in your estate. You should also cover what should happen to remaining property not specifically mentioned in your will.
- The name of the executor who will carry out your directions. This can be a family member, an attorney, or a financial institution. You should also name a successor executor in the event the first one is unable to carry out your wishes.

You should review and update your will if there are significant changes in your life—such as new children, death of a spouse, remarriage, or moving to a new state. Sometimes you may simply want to change its provisions.


Once your will is finalized, you should keep it in a secure place, such as a fireproof safe at home, or in a bank safe-deposit box.



What happens if you don’t have a will when you die?

Sadly, the state decides what happens to your estate. The surviving spouse and children may get only one-third to one-half of the estate, depending on state law. The family is also left with a lot of unanswered questions as to what your wishes would have been.

If you have questions, check out <http://wills-probate.lawyers.com/wills> for some basic information. Or talk to a legal professional. It is well worth the time and money you may invest.

God has provided a clear inheritance for us. We should do the same for our families. 

You can provide an educational inheritance for your children and grandchildren!

Qualified SDB Pastors can open a **529 College Savings Plan** for their children through the SDB Memorial Fund. Depending on your state laws, family and friends can also contribute—and receive tax breaks!

Contact Morgan Shepard at [mdshepard@seventhdaybaptist.org](mailto:mdshepard@seventhdaybaptist.org) if you have any questions.

# It's a wonderful church!

## Youth Sabbath Service in Shiloh

by Donna S. Bond

Last year, a senior Sabbath School class at the Shiloh, N.J., SDB Church held a discussion entitled, "Looking Ahead At Looking Back." They asked the question, "How will future generations see us?" Thanks to the creativity of Bill Probasco, the congregation received a possible answer at this year's Youth Sabbath Service.

Presented on February 3, their production of "It's a Wonderful Church" had something for everyone.

For movie buffs, there was a takeoff on the beloved Christmas movie, "It's a Wonderful Life." For fans of Charles Dickens, they imitated the format of "A Christmas Carol." For grammar nerds, the four scenes were entitled, "Present Tense," "Future Imperfect," "Past Progressive," and "Future Perfect." And for everyone, there were plenty of laughs and good fun!

"Present Tense" opened with two teens, Ariel DuBois and Matt Layton, sitting on a pew. They were writing notes to each other about how boring the service was, questioning whether it was worth their time to attend every week and wondering what difference it would make if they didn't bother to show up.

Finally, Ariel opened up her snack just in time for her brother to run across the stage and grab her cookie as she yelled, "COR-ey!"

After a few contemporary praise songs, the congregation sang "Have Thine Own Way, Lord," with Charlotte Chroniger setting the pace (funeral dirge tempo) at the piano. (Those of us who have had two years of piano lessons were tempted to push Charlotte off the bench and play it ourselves!)



***Matt and Ariel saw the church as it would be if they did, in fact, stop going and influenced others to do the same.***

Fortunately, there was a method to Charlotte's madness. Just before settling into his Sabbath morning snooze, Matt remarked, "Have you ever heard such a long, slow hymn?"

Then the calendar was turned back 12 years, with adorable preschoolers impersonating our bored teens. They dashed across the stage, one grabbing a cookie out of his sister's hand, resulting in another loud cry of "COR-ey!"

Other members of the Cherub Choir joined them on stage to sing, "This Little Light of Mine" and "Jesus Wants Me for a Sunbeam."

A visit from the Ghost of Future Imperfect (Jessica Chroniger) drew us 20 years into the future. Matt and Ariel saw the church as it would be if they did, in fact, stop going and influenced others to do the same.

The congregation was reduced to three members, with a priest in a clerical collar making reference to having sold half of the church lot

to a convenience store chain to pay bills.

The Ghost of Past Progressive brought the Class of '86 (now in their, er... late 30s) to the forefront, attired in varsity jackets, short skirts with bobby socks, big hair with narrow ribbons plaited into tiny braids, etc. All except "Deacon Bill," who wore a polyester suit.


We got an inside view of the beginnings of the annual Youth Week Skit—an alternative to "another sermon from Pastor John" (Camenga). It was even suggested that "We get Andrew to preach. He might even find out he likes it!"

It was fun to hear the tongue-in-cheek predictions, which actually did come true! Bill really did become a deacon; Andrew really did become a preacher; Richard Bidwell actually did return to Shiloh; and the girls became the current mothers and teachers.

Finally, the Ghost of Future Perfect—amid great gasps of horrendous horror—introduced Ariel and Matt to themselves as middle-aged adults, portrayed by their own parents and others of that generation. It turned out that our "young heroes" not only stayed in the church; they attracted others to it.

There were now three services, a full outreach program, and an upcoming bake sale featuring 500 items to benefit the missions program.

Ariel's Uncle Bill exclaimed, "My sister's cookies!" He grabbed a cookie and ran while—you got it—Ariel's mother yelled, "COR-ey!"

In their closing dialogue, Ariel and Matt concluded that all of us are important to the future of our church. They then invited us to "stand shoulder to shoulder" for a rousing rendition of our "Youth Rally Song." 



# New members

## Bay Area, CA

Steve Crouch, pastor  
 Joined after baptism  
 Micah Mackintosh

## Hope SDB

Philadelphia, PA  
 Kenroy Cruickshank, pastor  
 Joined after testimony  
 Donna McKenzie

## Houston, TX

Jim Barclift, pastor  
 Joined after baptism  
 Grover L. Kull Jr.  
 Joined after testimony  
 Alice B. Cook  
 Gordon Derryberry  
 Jane Derryberry

## Remembrance SDB

Fort Worth, TX  
 (Branch of Houston)  
 Bill Burks, pastor  
 Joined after testimony  
 Mike Odom  
 Peter Osborn

## Seattle, WA

Kenneth Burdick, pastor  
 Joined after testimony  
 Ken Kowal  
 Marla Kowal

# Appalachian Association

June 22-24, 2007

Camp Joy, Berea, W.Va.

Registration at 6:30 p.m.,  
 Friday

by Vickie Perine



For years, I have dreamed of a Camp Joy reunion. Camp has always been a special time for me, a place where I made priceless friendships. Every now and then, I find myself wondering what happened to "so and so." Oh, how I would love to see those fellow campers again!

As a 10-year member of the Camp Joy Board, I've been able to rekindle some of those childhood friendships. Now, as Moderator of this year's Appalachian Association, it's my goal to reunite campers who have lost track of each other.

During Association, we plan to celebrate Christ's love by rejoicing in old friendships at his special place—Camp Joy.

To meet this goal, I need your help. Since I don't know many of the former campers and am unable to contact them personally, perhaps you can get in touch with them for me. Or send me their address or phone number so I can reach them.

The Camp Joy Board is planning a fun-filled weekend. Even if you attended Camp Joy at a location other than Berea, we want you to join us.

If you have any questions—or can help me locate other campers—please contact me at:

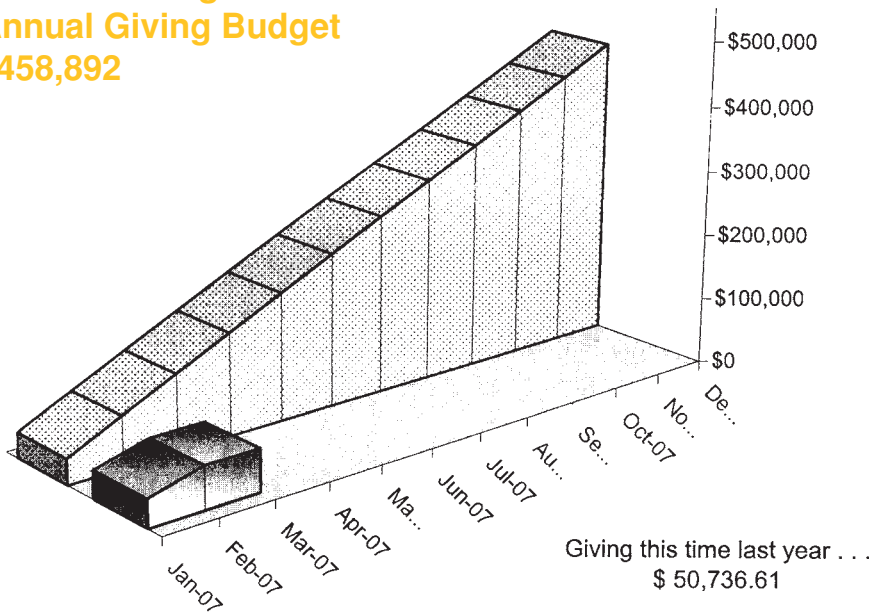
Vickie Ash Barnes Perine

HC 70 Box 8

Pullman, WV 26421

Ph: (304) 659-3499

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



	Month - Feb '07	Year To Date
Budgeted	\$ 38,241	\$ 76,483
Actual	\$ 21,370	\$ 63,544
Difference	\$ (16,871)	\$ (12,939)
% of Budget	56%	83%

PROP Giving	
Feb '07	\$ 1,272
Year To Date	\$ 2,736

Morgan Shepard, Treasurer

# Obituaries

**Fogg.**—Doris C. Fogg, 70, of Stow Creek Township, N.J., died in the Rainbow Center, Pittsgrove Township, on December 16, 2005. She had been in failing health for four months.

She was born in Bridgeton, N.J., the daughter of Millard B. and Linda (Harris) Carter. She lived in Stow Creek Township for 50 years, and prior to that had been a resident of Shiloh.

She was the wife of J. Harold Fogg Jr., who passed away in April of 1993.

Doris worked as a bookkeeper with Davis' Garage in Shiloh, Perkins-Dewilde Nursery, and Tony Storm Plumbing.

She was a member of the Shiloh Seventh Day Baptist Church, the Red Hats, and the Single Parents Society.

Survivors include two daughters, June F. Sudal and Diane F. Shestakoff, both of Stow Creek; one son, Joseph H. Fogg III of Stow Creek; one sister, Phyllis Mazza of California; and three grandchildren. In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by one brother, Freeman Carter.

Funeral services were held on December 21, 2005, in the Shiloh SDB Church, with Rev. Donald L. Chroniger officiating. Burial was in the church cemetery.

**Davis.**—Roger F. Davis, 74, of Verona, N.Y., died unexpectedly of heart failure on February 9, 2007, in the Oneida (N.Y.) Healthcare Center.

He was born in Verona on June 8, 1932, the son of LaVerne and Ruth (Sholtz) Davis. On August 10, 1963, he married DellaFern Lippincott in Milton, Wis.

Roger lived in Verona his entire life and farmed at Davisacres Farm until 1983. Upon retiring from farming, he drove a school bus for the

Vernon-Verona-Sherrill School District for more than 10 years. He served on the Advisory Committee of the Future Farmers of America at VVS, earning the degree of Honorary Chapter Farmer for his involvement.

As the owner of RFD Sharpening Service, Roger kept the saws and blades—as well as the minds of the community—sharp, believing “as iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another” (Proverbs 27:17).

Roger was a longtime poultry fancier, active in the Finger Lakes Feather Club. He served as assistant superintendent of the Poultry Building at the New York State Fair for 20 years.

He leaves behind his wife, DellaFern, of Verona; two daughters, Carolyn Nelson of Rome, N.Y., and Paula Davis of Appleton, Wis.; one brother, Olin, of Oneida; two grandsons; and many nieces and nephews. Four brothers preceded him in death: Kenneth, Duane, Willis, and Donald, who died in infancy.

Funeral services were held on February 13, 2007, at the Campbell-Dean Funeral Home in Oneida, with Rev. Kevin Butler officiating. Burial will be in the New Union Cemetery, Churchville, N.Y.

**Hays.**—Mary Ann (Hollock) Hays, 72, died on February 16, 2007, at the Cardiovascular Institute of Mississippi in McComb.

She was born on March 20, 1934, in Manilla, Ark., the daughter of Jesse and Bessie (Belle) Hollock. In June of 1952, she married Rev. Ralph Hays. The couple spent many years serving Seventh Day Baptist churches in Adams Center, N.Y.; Texarkana, Ark.; and Metairie, La.

Mary was a licensed practical nurse and an ICU technician. She also worked as a houseparent at the Magnolia School in Metairie.

Mary had been disabled for nearly 34 years. Because of her disabilities, she and her husband moved to

Pike County, Miss. There, Ralph and his brother, Jack, opened Sunshine Mountain Home. (That facility closed last year.)

Mary, who attended church every Sabbath, loved the library programs with Miss Mattie and her Special Friends group. She also loved her little dog, Abby, her faithful companion.

Survivors include her husband of 54 years, Ralph of Chatawa, Miss.; one daughter, Samiel Kalin of Denton, Texas; one son, Ralph Hays Jr. of Milton, Wis.; two brothers, Jesse Hollock of Meridian, Miss., and Chuck Hollock of Slidell, La.; and many nieces, nephews, and friends.

A memorial service was held on February 24, 2007, at the Sunshine Mountain SDB Church in Chatawa. Her body was donated to the University Medical Center in Jackson, Miss.

## Death Notice

Deacon **George Stillman**, 80, of Houston, Texas, died on February 25, 2007.

### Dear *SR* Correspondents,

Thank you for keeping us informed of your family news. You may e-mail your updates to us at:

*editor@seventhday  
baptist.org*

If you mail in obituaries cut or copied from the newspaper, please make sure that the death and service dates are listed, along with the location of the burial. Thank you.

# News from 'Cereal City'

by Judy Parrish

Rev. Kory Geske, after serving four years as Associate Pastor of the Battle Creek, Mich., Seventh Day Baptist Church, assumed the pastorate of our church this past January.

Kory moved here from Milton, Wis., in 1994 to do summer youth ministry, and has lived in Battle Creek ever since. His family includes wife, Jackie, and their three children—Tiffany, Elijah, and Natalie. (They're expecting a fourth child in late July.)

Matthew Lawson, from Riverside, Calif., is another SDB currently serving in Battle Creek. He first arrived in 2004 as part of an SCSC team. In 2005, he ministered as Summer Youth Pastor, and he returned in 2006 for a one-year pastoral internship.

Matthew has remained active with our Youth Fellowship and their Sabbath School class. At times, he also preaches at the Aroma Coffeehouse and during Sabbath morning worship. He and his wife, Sandi,



*Pastor Kory Geske*

live in one of the Parish House apartments.

Many activities and ministries are ongoing in Battle Creek.

Sermons can be heard each week via our church's website: [www.bc.seventhdaybaptist.org](http://www.bc.seventhdaybaptist.org). Our entire worship service is videotaped for local Access Vision broadcast as well.

The Aroma Coffeehouse grew

out of our Sabbath evening contemporary service. For over four years, it has featured live Christian bands, Bible preaching, and beverages, all without charge.

We are in our third year of using the CALLED (Church Administered Lay Leader Education) program, with participants completing various modules according to how long they've been in the program.

Four from our church—two teens and two adults—went on a medical mission trip to Jamaica last summer, and we are supporting a trip to Guyana this August.

Volunteers from our church support many organizations and programs, including the regional Food Bank and local Food Closet, Charitable Union, Haven of Rest Mission, and the Angel Tree Project.

"On the Rock," our annual summer music extravaganza, features Christian bands, Gospel presentations, recreation, and a free barbecue at Camp Holston. Christian vocalist Jonathan Martin, a Dove Award winner, headlined OTR last year and will do so again this summer.

The Battle Creek SDB Church is Christ-centered, Bible-believing, and transforming. Pastor Kory's vision for us is to put "**L.E.G.S.**" on our ministry—**L**eadership, **E**vangelism, **G**eography, **S**ervice. **L.E.G.S.** propels us to action and moves our ministry forward.

Our newly-adopted Mission Statement gives evidence of our calling and commitment:

"To go out into the world and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all people, making disciples by teaching and training them in the Scriptures. We will exercise our spiritual gifts to build up the church as we gather for worship, fellowship, prayer, and service to the glory of God our Savior." **SR**

## 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

### Communication conundrum

"I know you believe you understand what you think I said, but I'm not sure you realize that what you heard is not what I meant."

How many times did you have to read that one?

I'm not sure where I found that quote, but it certainly applies to what happened to us recently.

Janet was battling a yucky winter cold, so she really didn't feel like cooking supper. Being the man of the house, I quickly volunteered to pick up some-

thing at a drive-thru.

I asked my wife what she would like. Between sneezes and blowing her nose, she seemed to perk up while remembering a certain kind of pizza from one of those bake-it-at-home places. She thought it was called "chicken alfredo." She didn't want one with tomato sauce.

So I called ahead and ordered a "chicken alfredo" pizza.

"What??" came the response.

I explained that we weren't sure what it was called, and that we (she) just wanted cheese and chicken on the pizza.

"Oh, then you just want a one-topping. That will save you some money."

I love the sound of those words. I hopped in the car. (Along with my coupon that would save even more!)

The smell of pizza toppings and dough was wonderful. I gave the girl my name, and she pulled our ready-to-bake pizza off the rack.

Mounds of cheese (go Wisconsin!) and chicken chunks were piled high. All on top of a layer of... tomato sauce. I stopped breathing.

"Um, I thought I asked for just cheese and chicken." Awkward silence.

Checking the order, she said, "Yes, sir. This is a one-topping, with chicken."

"But, I (she) didn't want tomato sauce."

Awkward silence.

"Sir, we can make you another one."

I declined, mentioning that she (I) was too hungry to wait for another pizza construction. I would just have to face the Wrath of Jan.

Miscommunication.

We baked and ate the pizza—tomato sauce and all—

but it wasn't our (her) first choice. In the grand scheme of things, no big deal.

But miscommunication *can* be a big deal. This story from Steve Farrar's book, *Family Survival in the American Jungle*, points that out.

J. Edgar Hoover "ran" the FBI—no question about it. As a result, almost all of his subordinates were on the lookout for ways to impress their powerful boss.

A young FBI man was put in charge of the Bureau's supply department. In an effort to cut some costs and impress his boss, he reduced the size of the office memo paper.

One of the new memo sheets soon ended up on the Director's desk. Hoover took one look at it, determined he didn't like the size of the margins on the paper, and quickly scribbled on the memo, "Watch the borders!" The memo was passed on through the office.

For the next six weeks, it was extremely difficult to enter the United States by road from either Mexico or Canada. The FBI was watching the borders.

Why? They thought they had received an alert from their chief. But they hadn't. They had transformed an innocuous comment into a solemn warning.

I can think of something even worse than miscommunication: no communication at all.

There's an old story about Judge John Lowell of Boston.

One morning the judge was at breakfast, his face hidden behind the newspaper. A frightened maid tip-toed into the room and whispered something into Mrs. Lowell's ear. The lady paled slightly, then squared her shoulders resolutely and said, "John, the cook has burned the oatmeal, and there is no more in the house. I am afraid that this morning—for the first time in 17 years—you will have to go without your oatmeal."

The judge, without putting down his paper, answered, "It's all right, my dear. Frankly, I never cared much for it anyhow."

Please look at all of the communication options we're offering on page 5. If you're not into all that electronic stuff, drop a letter in the mail or pick up the phone—we'd love to hear from you!





Important Memo:

To: Friends of  
The Sabbath Recorder  
From: Editor Kevin Butler

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE SABBATH RECORDER IS FUNDED BY YOUR GIFTS? YOUR DONATION TO THE SABBATH RECORDER IS PART OF THE TOTAL SDB DENOMINATIONAL BUDGET.

I HOPE THAT YOU HAVE BEEN ENJOYING THE MAGAZINE DURING THIS PAST YEAR AND WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE A TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION TO THIS PART OF OUR SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST CONNECTION AND OUTREACH. MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND THANK YOU.

GRACE AND PEACE,

*Kevin*



***YES!*** *I want to help the ministry of The Sabbath Recorder!*

- Enclosed is my GIFT for *The SR*  
 \$100    \$50    \$25    \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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