



The
Sabbath
RECORDER

The 2007
Youth
Issue

June 2007

News for and about Seventh Day Baptists

After school's out,



the 'tests' go on...



Who are Seventh Day Baptists?

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

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

The seventh day

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

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

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:

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

The Lord has need of it

by Patty Petersen

Can you imagine your pastor not having a Bible? That is the reality for many Seventh Day Baptist churches throughout Africa. They have willing leaders but limited resources.

When the Missionary Society's Kirk Looper visited Sierra Leone recently, he found that only six of the 11 pastors had Bibles. In Zambia they tore a Bible into sections so that pastors could study one part, then trade sections. The Missionary Society purchased Study Bibles for a number of pastors in Sierra Leone, Tanzania, and Uganda, but more are needed.

Many of us have Bibles we no longer use; maybe they're even gathering dust. Do you have a Bible to spare? The Lord has need of it for His people in Africa.

When Jesus was preparing to enter Jerusalem, he told his disciples to go and get a colt for him to ride. *"If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' you say, 'The Lord has need of it'; and immediately he will send it back here"* (Mark 11:3).

We are collecting Bibles to send to African countries where English is spoken. You can:

1) Mail the Bibles (translations, not paraphrases) directly to the SDB Missionary Society, 119 Main Street, Westerly, RI 02891, *or*

2) Mail the Bibles directly overseas by asking the Missionary Society where and how to send them (write, or phone 401-596-4326, or e-mail sdbmissoc@verizon.net), *or*

3) Bring them to General Conference this year and put them in the collection box.

Money is also needed to cover high shipping costs. Checks can be mailed to the address above. In addition to Bibles, the Missionary Society would be glad to forward Bible Commentaries and Bible Dictionaries, as well as past copies of *The Helping Hand*.

Thank you for sharing the Word of God with our African brethren.



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Thanks, God

by Carlie Smith, Salem, W.Va.

Like many teenage girls, I have a problem: I'm a clothes addict. Some people would even call me a "compulsive shopper."

Ask anyone in my family, and they will tell you that I have too many clothes in my closet, and too many shoes to count.

In order not to have piles of clothes on my bedroom floor (I obviously can't fit all of them into my packed

God has given me a lot to be thankful for, but I take it all for granted. And it isn't just my clothes and my shoes that I'm not thanking God enough for. It's everything.

closet), I'm constantly going through my dresser, sometimes giving away at least two garbage bags full of clothing.

But do you know what I do when I'm done with all the "tossing"? I go out and buy more clothes!

I'm not saying that having a lot of clothes is a problem; my *addictive behavior* is the problem, and I need to fix it.

The other day was my monthly "cleaning-out-my-closet" day, and I asked myself, "How do I change this ridiculous, addictive habit?" God gave me the answer, and it's simple: I need to be thankful for what I already have.

God has given me a lot to be thankful for, but I take it all for granted. And it isn't just my cloth-



es and my shoes that I'm not thanking God enough for. It's *everything*.

I have a wonderful and loving family; a great church that I go to every Sabbath; I'm excelling in school and my extra-curricular activities; I have a room to myself (a rarity in our home); and I'm young and healthy.


All of these things are wonderful, but the greatest gift that I can never thank God enough for is eternal life with my Lord.

Hebrews 12:28 says, "Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be

thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe."

The "stuff" in life that I have put higher than so many other things won't even matter at the end of the day.

I have been way too caught up in my materialistic world. I haven't taken enough time to be thankful for the things that matter most in life.

"Thank you, God, for giving me all that I have. I'm sorry that it has taken me so long to realize that You have blessed me with so much. Thank You, Lord, thank You." 

The first-impression bug

by Emily Watt, Cheltenham, Md.



*“Jesus loves the little children,
All the children of the world...”*

Most of us can say that we know that song about as well as we know how to breathe, and I am positive that we all understand its message. As young children, we found it easy to comprehend and to live by it. Jesus loves all of us. Simple, right?

Then why do so many of us eventually lose sight of that message? We grow into teenagers, and the lesson we learned goes right out of our heads. We become bitten by the “first-impression bug.”

We form first impressions of people within 10 seconds of meeting them, and we believe that those impressions tell us all we need to know about a person.

I have been extremely guilty of “first impressionism.”

If I meet someone and don’t like the way he (or she) looks at me, it raises my hackles. That person probably meant absolutely nothing by “the look,” but the impression was already made. Many times I have to force myself to take a deep breath, step back, and wait to form a better impression. But that’s hard to do!

1 Samuel 16:7 says, “The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

We have to strive to see people with God’s 20/20 vision, not with our own nearsightedness.

Up until last year, I was a victim of both sides of the first-impression

bug. I judged others, but I was also judged.

I wore black all of the time, with chains and straps dangling from everything I wore. I also put on dark, dark eyeliner and black lipstick. I even had my hair dyed black and bleached white. In a world where many people attempt to be as inconspicuous as possible, I stuck out like a sore thumb.

highly valued among men is detestable in God’s sight.”

That Bible passage blew me away when I read it. Not only was my “image” detestable; so was everyone else’s. What is an image if not how one measures oneself against others?

I did a lot of soul-searching over the last year. *Why do I dress the way I do? Why do I act the way I act?* I came to a conclusion: God made me to be me. He made me in the best way to follow His will, just as He made all of us.

“We are not to conform to the pattern of this world, but we must be transformed by the renewing

***In a world where many people
attempt to be as inconspicuous
as possible, I stuck out like
a sore thumb.***

My appearance gave others the wrong first impression, in turn causing me to wrongly judge them.

The negative attention I received caused me to have negative impressions of others, and I reacted accordingly. *She probably doesn’t like me, so I don’t like her.* We have conditioned ourselves to live by standards set by others.

It is so difficult to find God’s truth in today’s world.

“You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of men, but God knows your hearts. What is

of our minds so that we will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will” (Romans 12:2).

In those 10 seconds when we first look at others, we must remind ourselves that God made us in a way that helps us to walk down our own paths and yet follow His will in the way we are supposed to go.

Until we are omniscient, omnipotent, and omnipresent, it’s safe to say that our judgment of others won’t be accurate. **SR**

The daily challenge

by Jackson Butler, Janesville, WI



Christians face all kinds of tests that Satan uses to try and pull us away.

*“How can a young man keep his way pure?
By living according to your word.
I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands.
I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.”
(Psalm 119:9-11, NIV)*

In the four Gospels, can you guess how many times Jesus quoted Scripture? The answer is 66.

If the Son of God knew and applied Scripture in life situations, shouldn't believers do so as well?

God wants us to plant the seed of His Word in our hearts. Paul says in Colossians 3:16, “Let the words of Christ, in all their richness, *live in your hearts* and make you wise. Use his words to teach and counsel each other...”

Putting God's Word into our hearts will guide us, feed us, and strengthen us.

I'm hoping that many of you are following our Conference President's example and trying to read the Bible in a year. I'm pushing my way through it and have gotten a bit behind (my life's a little busy), but I'm pressing on. It is absolutely essential that we look to God for strength and wisdom every day.

Spending time reading, studying, and meditating on the Scriptures is a great way to do just that. God's Word provides growth and we need to strive for that. As it says in Jeremiah 15:16, “When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear your name, O LORD God Almighty.”

Now, teenagers might think that we don't have any time to read the Bible with all the

sports, activities, and homework we have to do. But God will take anything! Even reading just a couple of verses or praying a quick prayer before a test, God appreciates it.

The goal of the Christian life should be to live according to His Word. Christians face all kinds of tests that Satan uses to try and pull us away. Tragically, sin and addiction can quickly rob us of the joy and freedom we should enjoy through Christ Jesus.

It's a daily challenge to keep your way pure. Verse 11 of Psalms 119 (above) shares the key to separating yourself from sin—by hiding God's Word in your heart.

So remember that His Word promises to guide us, feed us, and strengthen us. The key to this is planting God's Word in your life. And how do you do that? READ the BOOK!! **SR**

My Grandpa is my hero

by Stephany Tyson

There is a man I will always respect and admire.

He isn't a movie star. He isn't the President of the United States. He didn't win a Nobel Prize, and he wasn't awarded any purple hearts.

No, he is just a missionary, but he is even more than that. He is my grandpa.

the leadership of Bob Tyson. Many times he risked his life for the Lord's work. He did what he felt was right and nobody could back him down.

He was called a "fireball preacher" because when he preached, he never beat around the bush. He told people straight to their face what they were doing wrong. In the tent

not through with this mission. The Lord has kept it going over five years now without Grandpa, and there's no doubt that He will keep it going even longer. There will never be another Bob Tyson, but there will always be God, and Grandpa would want us to put our total trust in Him.

As I said at the beginning, Grandpa didn't win a Nobel Prize and wasn't given any purple hearts. But I can assure you that he will get crowns and awards in heaven.

Bob Tyson is my hero, as he is to many others. When the Lord calls him home, this place will never be the same. But Grandpa's spirit will always be with us, because he loved his family and the ministry too much to ever really leave us.

He is a man of faith, courage, bravery, and a born leader. Most of all, he is a man of God, and there will never, ever be another man like him—this redneck missionary, fireball preacher, loving grandpa, this man of God, Bob Tyson. **SR**

Cowboys on horses armed with guns would surround the tent to listen, but Grandpa never hesitated. My grandma, however, could just "feel" the potential bullets coming by.

Bob Tyson was born in the small town of Villa Rica, Georgia. He was a preacher's son, but he was always the "redneck" of the family. He liked to race cars and blow up dynamite; always a tough guy.

He got married to a 17-year-old girl named Joan Costlow. They settled down in Villa Rica and got their own land, house, and cars—all paid for since they both had good jobs. They had everything they could ever want or need. But God had other plans.

In 1964, my grandpa was called to be a missionary. He and my grandma sold everything they had and went to Tennessee Temple University. After three and a half years of studying the Bible, they headed for the mission field in Honduras and Nicaragua, Central America. And that's where they've been ever since.

Today, Good Samaritan Baptist Missions is bigger than they could ever have dreamed, all because of

meetings, cowboys on horses armed with guns would surround the tent to listen, but Grandpa never hesitated. My grandma, however, could just "feel" the potential bullets coming by.

Yes, Bob Tyson was a born leader; strong and tough and very stubborn, but also very compassionate. He would always try to help anybody in need. He not only worried about their spiritual needs, but their physical needs, too. People might have feared him, but they all loved and respected him.

My grandpa's health started going bad a few years back and now he's not able to work anymore. Our family doctor said, "Bob, you've worn your body out for the Lord." And that's exactly what he did. He gave his whole heart and soul to the ministry, and his body is just worn out.

Everyone at Good Samaritan misses his leadership. Sometimes it might seem like we can't do it any more without him. But God's

Stephany Tyson is home-schooled and also attends a Christian school in Honduras. Her proud Dad sent this tribute to a number of religious publications. She has lived with her grandparents all of her life. You can read more about the mission at www.goodsamaritan.ms.



Bob Tyson with Stephany.

Pro fisherman with no legs, one arm, uses profession to witness to others

by George Henson

Clay Dyer has a dream job. He believes without a doubt that God called him to become a professional fisherman—and not just the “fisher of men” variety.

Making his living with a rod, reel, and tricked-out bass boat—complete with a fancy paint job paid for by a sponsor—Dyer would be the envy of most men, except for one detail. He was born with no legs, no left arm, and a right arm that stops above the elbow.

Doctors performed numerous tests on Clay when he was an infant, but they never determined the cause of his disability.

So, Dyer determined early on to “take lemons and make lemon-



Photos by George Henson

Clay Dyer refuses to let disabilities interfere with his calling to the pro fishing circuit.

to make them work for me,” he recalled. “I tried to be independent in everything I did.”

He even played T-ball and basketball, always using the same equipment as everyone else because he didn’t want any special allowances.

began entering tournaments at about 14.

“I’ve tried not to ever let adversity get me down, but push through the adversity,” he said.

“There came a time when I realized either I can choose to be independent, or I can be co-dependent and have someone else meet all my needs. I decided I wanted to be independent and show people that I could do things.”

One thing he did was to go to church with his family. But like many young men, he went through a period in his teen years when he did things he now regrets.

“During my teenage years, I got sidetracked and got involved in things I shouldn’t be doing, but thankfully never drugs or anything like that. Mostly, I was running with the wrong people,” Dyer recalled.

Dyer would be the envy of most men, except for one detail. He was born with no legs, no left arm, and a right arm that stops above the elbow.

ade,” he said. At age 4 or 5, he realized other children could run and do things he couldn’t. But that didn’t stop him from playing their games.

“I’d find the balls they were playing with and figure out how

The same is the case on the pro fishing tour. His reels, lures, and boat are just like his competitors, with no special equipment or tailoring.

Clay started fishing for catfish and bream at age 5, and

In June following his high school graduation, Clay was invited to a youth rally, where he made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ.

He recalls that day vividly, feeling unnaturally nervous and apprehensive. Throughout the rally, he said, the feelings only got more severe.

“I just couldn’t get comfortable, and when they had the prayer at the end, I looked up and I was all by myself—everyone else was at the altar.”

At the altar, a man he had known for most of his life greeted him.

Clay learned determination at an early age—a lesson he often shares when he speaks to church groups.

“How’s life going?” he asked.

Dyer replied, “It’s going good.”

“No, it’s not,” the man responded.

“I had never had anyone talk that boldly to me before,” Dyer recalled. He made his profession of faith that night and has never looked back.

“When you feel that much power, that much peace, there are no words to describe it to let anyone know how I felt,” he said.

Clay describes the last 10 years as “the most incredible ride” imaginable. Soon after his conversion, he asked God how He wanted to use him. He vividly remembers a dream in which he saw himself in a shirt with sponsor patches all over it.

“The only two types of people I had ever seen wearing those kind

of shirts were professional fishermen and NASCAR drivers, and I had a feeling it wasn’t NASCAR,” he said with a grin.

But he faced an obstacle.

“Pro bass fishing calls for two things, one of which I did not have. It takes a whole lot of commitment, and it takes a big-time sponsor, because it takes a whole lot of money,” he said.

That year, he took all the money he had and competed in the Alabama state championship bass tournament. After the tournament, some of the sponsors contacted Dyer and asked him to represent them. Since they were reputable companies, he agreed.

“It’s not about the national exposure for Clay Dyer, but a means of drawing people to Christ,” he said. “People ask me why I fish, and I tell them, it’s my witnessing field, my platform for testifying about what God has done in my life and what He can do in other people’s lives.”

While he loves fishing, Clay says it’s more important to know that he is in the center of God’s will for his life.

“I ask the Lord each day, ‘God, is this Your will for my life?’ And over and over, He has confirmed it for me,” Dyer said.

Not only has God allowed Clay to be a witness on the weigh-in stand, but also in the boats with his fellow competitors, many of whom are not Christian.

Dyer has fished primarily in the Stren fishing series, but he also has competed in big-time Wal-Mart FLW events as well.

He’s had 25 first-place finishes and over two dozen top-10 finishes during his career—quite an accomplishment for a guy who ties lures many times each day using only his lips and tongue.

While he loves fishing, Clay says it’s more important to know



that he is in the center of God’s will for his life.

Dyer describes that process when he speaks to churches.

“I hook myself almost every time I re-tie so that I can be on the weigh-in stand and be a witness for Christ. I sometimes then ask what kind of effort they are willing to go through so that they can testify to the power of Christ.”

One question Clay often gets asked is whether he was ever angry at God for the body he was given. He said he honestly never has been.

“I don’t like drawing attention to myself,” Dyer said, “but I’ve often felt like God has made me this way so He could use me the way He wanted. If I had been born differently, I probably wouldn’t have the opportunities I’ve had.” **SR**

This article first appeared in The Baptist Standard, news-journal of Texas Baptists.

No more 'holy huddles'

by Barbara Bedrick



DALLAS (ABP) — The single most important ingredient to the vitality of the 21st-century church is a new breed of leaders, according to a director at the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Those young leaders, Reggie Thomas says, must pioneer approaches away from the institutionalism many churches have promoted in recent years. And they must at all costs avoid the “holy huddles” so prevalent in some circles.

Thomas directs the BGCT’s congregational leadership team. He says church leaders who seek to be effective may fail if they don’t consider the most important social reality in the church: **culture.**

While some churches *conform* to culture in an attempt to engage it, Thomas said, others give up and *isolate* themselves. Then they form that “huddle” and stay within the four walls of the church.

Thomas spends his time developing young leaders so they’ll avoid the extremes of either secluding themselves, or completely conforming to pop culture.

“A lot of churches are out of touch with their community,” he said. “A lot of people don’t intersect with the church’s culture.”

Thomas spends his time developing young leaders so they’ll avoid the extremes of either secluding themselves, or completely conforming to pop culture. The former pastor of churches in California, Texas, and

Tennessee leads “creative church leadership” workshops across the state. Thomas considers being “missional” an essential characteristic of a 21st-century leader. He

encourages pastors and leaders to go into communities to meet people, instead of waiting for people to come to them.

A missional church is always changing, but always faithful to the Word of God, Thomas tells his clients. In other words, the church must change with the culture in order to engage the culture.

And considering that the church no longer holds the community standing

it once did in the 1960s and 1970s, Thomas implores leaders to get creative in the way they change.

“Leaders need to create a network around them for support, counsel, accountability, and implementation of vision,” Thomas said. “Don’t rely on previous ministry models. Seek to try different things to attract people to Christ.” **SR**

Communities don't prevent violence, but they help us cope

by Beth Newman, Richmond, Va.

“We are all Hokies now.” So reads a banner that appeared at a Baptist church near our home. It tries to express the empathy that most Virginians feel in the wake of the terrible murders at Virginia Tech. The school is so large and its alumni base so vast that almost everybody knows somebody who is a Hokie.

But there is another and deeper sense in which we are all Hokies. The violence is a reminder of the fragility of life. The immediate reactions are horror, shock, and fear. If those students and teachers in the pastoral environs of the Blue Ridge are not safe, then who is?

What can we do to make sure something like this never happens again? How do we predict if someone is angry or psychotic enough to commit such an awful crime?

The deeper question, however, ought to cause us to realize how essential the bonds of community really are. I don't mean “essential” merely to attend to the potential murderers among us. Community makes us able to endure the inevitable intrusions of violence and evil into our lives.

The most radical action the Church can take is to form community as the body of Christ, so that we cease to understand ourselves as consumers or citizens or voters, and understand ourselves as part of one another.

But what does this really mean? The sheer size of many organizations makes knowledge of one another almost impossible. And even in those places

where we do have knowledge of the other, our tendency often is to see ourselves as separate—so that what happens to *you* does not, in the final analysis, affect *me*.

And yet in the body of Christ we find a different vision. We each belong to the whole body. This is different than “belonging” to a corporation or “belonging” to our job, both of which can easily lead to idolatry.



Community makes us able to endure the inevitable intrusions of violence and evil into our lives.

Belonging to Christ's body is rather what it means to live faithfully before God.

Belonging, in this instance, frees us from those false ideas that break down true community: violence, deception, alienation, and so forth. To belong to the whole body is to

see ourselves, and each other, as gathered and called to be a people for the world.

In this body, names are important. It matters that Jacob became Israel; that Lydia, a Christian convert, welcomed Paul and Silas into her home; that all those who have died are now a part of the wider communion of saints. In the body of Christ, we remember names and particular stories because in doing so we are remembering God at work in the world.

To belong to the whole body means God has given us gifts for the purpose of building it up. It's important to remember Scripture's words: “You are the body of Christ and individually members of it” (1 Corinthians 12:27).

Such an emphasis means that being members one of another is not our own doing. God created the Church just as God created Israel. God calls us to be part of a reality that He is creating.

In the final analysis, large-scale statements are about *who* we are as we move in our day-to-day lives.

Robert Brimlow, in his book *What About Hitler?*, addresses the oft-asked question of how Christians ought to respond to violence. His conclusion: Peacemaking is not a way to *solve* anything. It is a way of living our lives so that we are not destroyed by the violence we encounter.

May we embody the peace of Christ in our daily lives. **SR**

Beth Newman is Professor of Theology and Ethics at Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond.



To do good works

Matching a need with a gift with a passion

by Morgan Shepard

The SDB General Conference “...unites, encourages, and equips local Seventh Day Baptist churches in their endeavors to fulfill the Great Commission.” To that end, the SDB Memorial Board has instituted various programs to provide grants and assistance to churches.

In 1999, the five-year Million Dollar Project was created. The Memorial Board would provide up to \$500,000 in matching funds to churches as they reached out to new people in their communities.

From 1999-2004, eight churches and Associations received \$63,000 in matching funds for such projects as interpreting for the deaf, child-care for the community, and multi-media equipment for community outreach.

In 2005, the Memorial Fund renewed the Million Dollar Project under the new banner of the New Ministry Matching Program. The overall goal is the same, with the focus on *new* and *different* ministries.

Since that time, seven churches have received almost \$36,000 in matching funds for similar projects, plus community buildings and schools.

As Christians, we should be reaching out to show the love that Christ has for all of us. We need to do this

in ways that people will see—and believe in—the love of Christ.

Since Christ died for us to show us his love, the least we can do is reach out in love towards others. We can do this through direct evangelism or by providing much-needed community services.

One idea is to offer an event where you serve those who show up. Hopefully, these people will want to come back to find out what kind of a church you have.

Don’t focus simply on evangelism; consider such social services as a food bank, AWANA, or other after-school programs. (Children are the future of the Church!)

Applying for a grant is simple. The criteria are:

- For new and different ministries.
- \$10,000 in matching funds available to each church or Association over five years.

- Grants may not be used for salaries except for interpreters or similar services (check with the Memorial Board for eligibility).

- Equipment and advertising for new ministry.

- The Memorial Board requests a report upon the completion of the project, covering what was accomplished, what worked, and what didn’t work. In the event of a long-term project, they request progress reports at six-month intervals.

A proposal for the grant should include:

- A brief description of the current state of the church, including number of members, average attendance, annual budget, and any other items that might reflect on the proposal.

- Describe the new ministry you are proposing, including:

- 1) How you plan to invite new people to participate.
- 2) Detailed budget covering supplies, advertising, equipment, and salaries (as allowed).
- 3) How much you are specifically requesting from the Memorial Board in addition to how much the church will be providing.

- Describe what you hope to accomplish with this new ministry.


- Who in the church will oversee the project and will be responsible for communicating with the Memorial Board.

- Confirmation of church action (church minutes) showing the church authorized the new ministry.

“But by whatever means new ideas and programs are generated and by whatever path they are finalized, their ultimate success or failure remains the responsibility of the people in the pew” (from Historian Emeritus Don A. Sanford’s book, *Greater Than Its Parts*).

“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do” (Ephesians 2:10, NIV).

“As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead” (James 2:26, NIV).

The most important thing is to *match a need with a gift with a passion*. Providing a community service that reaches out to people in love is the best way to exhibit Christ’s love. 



The big splash

"Squish, squish... Squish, squish..."

That's the only sound the visiting preacher could hear as he closed the second revival service with prayer. Between services, an 18-year-old man had approached him, saying that he thought God was telling him to walk on water.

The preacher, while preoccupied with preparing for the second service, had responded, "Do whatever God tells you."

So, after the second service, the soaked teenager shared, "I tried seven times to walk on water down at the river, but I kept sinking."

Just then, the host pastor asked the evangelist to join him in visiting a lady crippled with arthritis. Later, while the two of them were praying for the woman in her home, the 18-year-old appeared and began to touch her.

The woman's joints relaxed, and she soon rose from her wheelchair to offer her visitors refreshments. In a few moments, she had been made totally whole.

Amazed, the ministers asked the young man how he knew to come there.

"God told me to come and lay hands on her," he answered.

This is a true story, related 20 years ago at a revival meeting in Clarksburg, W.Va. I thought of it recently as I read about Naaman and his servants in 2 Kings 5:1-3, 9-14.

Naaman, the commander of the king of Aram's army, was accustomed to his important role. But he had his eyes opened to the greater importance of obeying God, even in the small things.

These experiences inspire me to be more attentive to the Voice of God, to follow Him no matter what the results may be.

It would have been so easy for that young man in our first story to give up on listening or obeying after his failed attempt to walk on water. But then I think of the words of Louisa M.R. Stead's hymn:

" 'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
just to take Him at His Word;
Just to rest upon His promise,
just to know 'Thus saith the
Lord.'

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!

How I've proved Him o'er and
o'er.

Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus—

Oh for grace to trust Him
more!"

I am convinced that as we go
from day to day, listening to and

obeying God's still voice in the little things, He will continue to delight in doing the big things.

God has not changed since the day two fish and five loaves fed thousands of people. Nor since seven dips in the Jordan River cleansed Naaman of leprosy. Nor since Peter walked on water. Nor since an 18-year-old, attempting to do the same, failed but then went on to obey the next order he received from God.

Some of us like to make a "big splash." (Is that a birth-order thing?!) However, Olympic judges give the best scores to divers who enter the pool with no splash at all.

Whatever the size of *my* splash, I hope that my walk—whether quiet, or accompanied by a loud "squish, squish"—will more and more reflect my walk with the Lord. **SR**



***"I tried seven times
to walk on water down at the river,
but I kept sinking."***



A legacy from an old brick church

Recently, our Historical Society received the spring edition of *Goldenseal*, published by West Virginia Traditional Life. One of the articles in that magazine, “The Old Brick Church at Lost Creek,” was written by S. Thomas Bond.

Bond introduced his piece by stating, “During my childhood, every Saturday—known to us as the Sabbath—the church my parents, sisters, and I attended was the Lost Creek [W.Va.] Seventh Day Baptist Church. Both of my parents could trace their paternal lines and membership in the church back to shortly after the Revolutionary War.”¹

Reading that article led me to investigate the important role that the Lost Creek church has had in Seventh Day Baptist history over the past 200-plus years.

Some members of the Shrewsbury church in New Jersey [begun in 1745], migrated to Salem, W.Va., establishing a church there in 1789. Around 1790, other Seventh Day Baptists from New Jersey and Pennsylvania migrated to towns in western Virginia, including Salem, Hacker’s Creek, and Lost Creek.

In 1805, Rev. John Davis of the Salem Seventh Day Baptist Church founded the Lost Creek church. Several lay and ordained ministers led the church from 1805 until 1850, when Samuel D. Davis became pastor.

Samuel Davis Davis was born on July 6, 1824, and was only 3 years old when his father died. He eventually became a member of the Lost Creek church, where

he served (as health permitted) for more than a quarter of a century. Under his pastoral leadership, the church increased its membership from 65 to about 200.

Davis’ biographical sketch in *Seventh Day Baptists in Europe and America* states: “...his most trying experience in his pastorate at Lost Creek was that of the events of the Civil War. The political views of the members of the church were widely divergent fundamentally, and there was every incentive to precipitate unguarded actions, as well as great danger of arousing blind and unreasoning passions. Himself an uncompromising abolitionist, he was diplomatic enough not only to retain the confidence and affection of all his church, but likewise to prevent any outburst, or open rupture to it.”²

From 1856 to 1858, over 30 articles in the weekly *Sabbath Recorder* were devoted to an issue within

the Lost Creek church. Corliss Randolph in his book, *History of Seventh Day Baptists in West Virginia*, devoted a full chapter—11 pages—to this crisis.

When the Salem and Lost Creek churches applied for admission into the Eastern Association, they were initially accepted. But the strong abolitionist sentiment in the North led to the rejection of Lost Creek’s application after it was learned that one member of the church owned a slave.

The August 21, 1856 *Recorder* set forth the conditions of the enslavement:

1st The will of Deacon Bond provides that the colored person shall be set free at such time as circumstances will admit it, without endangering the heirs, and they think they have paid for their raising.

2nd The colored persons are held as objects of charity, and not as property.



Inside the Lost Creek sanctuary, long before their Christian Education wing and other changes.

3rd The holders are responsible for their taxes, doctor's bills, support and behavior.

4th One of them is a superannuated lady; the other is a young man of feeble constitution between twenty-five and thirty years of age.

5th The holders intend to carry out the will, and try and make the colored persons comfortable while they remain with them.

6th They cannot be set free and let them remain in Virginia, without subjecting them to the difficulty of being sold for their support.

7th If the colored persons are willing to go, and some responsible man will come forward and give bonds, with approved security, they will be taken to a Free State, and given them their freedom, and see that they are provided for throughout life as they are here, the holders will let the colored persons go and will pay their expenses.³

A following statement indicated that Deacon Bond's heirs were members of the Lost Creek church, and that the church acknowledged the circumstances of the slaves' presence:

"If that connection is a disparagement to them as Christians, or the Eastern Association, or the denomination, the remedy can be easily applied, and I am sure that none would rejoice more at its application than



Burning the parsonage mortgage in 1967. Deacon Leland Bond (in lighter suit) became Conference President in 1969. Pastor Fran Saunders stands at far right.

the Lost Creek Church and the heirs of Deacon Bond."

Fortunately, the Lost Creek church survived this crisis and was accepted by the Association and General Conference.

In addition to his service to the Lost Creek church, Samuel Davis spent much of his time on the home mission field. It was said, "He was literally a pastor to every church in the Association, a spiritual father to them all. The indelible impress of his personality and the fingerprints of his moulding hands are everywhere. And he wrought wisely and well."

His son, Boothe Colwell Davis, served as pastor of SDB churches in Waterford, Conn., and Alfred, N.Y. He also was president of Alfred University from 1895 to 1933, with Emeritus influence until his death in 1942.

The Lost Creek church has been prominent in numerous denominational roles.

General Conference was held there

in 1884, at which time the Women's Board was organized. It was a pioneer in the Daily Vacation Bible School and Christian Endeavor programs as early as 1929, and was among the first to establish the Lord's Acre project to support church and denominational interests.

The number of Lost Creek pastors who served as denominational leaders during the past 100 years would be hard to match. This includes Herbert Van Horn, editor of the *SR* from 1931 to 1945; Eli Loofboro, field missionary; Harley Sutton, first director of the Board of Christian Education; Rex Zwiebel (also directed the BCE); and Leon Lawton, missionary and executive of the Missionary Board.

During the last 50 years, nine General Conference presidents have either served as pastor or been active members in the Lost Creek church. That's quite a legacy. **SR**

¹*Goldenseal, West Virginia Traditional Life: Spring 2007, pp. 35-39.*

²*Seventh Day Baptists in Europe and America, Vol. II, p. 900f.*

³*Sabbath Recorder, Vol. 13, #7, p. 27, July 24, 1856.*



An early Vacation Bible School in Lost Creek.



Youth and Young Adult events at Conference

Unless you attended Conference last year, you may think the eligibility requirements imposed on activities for younger people at General Conference consist of a confusing mess of age-based and grade-based rules that change for no apparent reason during the day.

Well, the truth is that the rules *were* confusing and did depend on when events occurred and who was overseeing the activity. There was no good way to make things straightforward.

A simpler system

Action at the 2005 General Conference cleared the way for the Board of Christian Education to simplify things.

All divisions for all school-age people are now based on the *grade* the individual has completed—regardless of when the Conference event occurs. The chart on this page shows where the divisions occur.

Junior or Senior High?

Even with the simpler system, there are still two points for possible confusion.

Youth who have completed 9th grade must choose whether they will be in the Junior High or the Senior High group for the week. They may *not* switch back and forth between the groups.

Once an individual has made a choice by participating in an activity, that person will not be permitted to change the group they elected to join. (This election does not affect participation in the evening youth

activities—those activities include both Junior and Senior High youth.)

Youth or Young Adult?

The second point of confusion is for 18-year-olds.

While they may participate as youth at General Conference, those who choose to attend Young Adult Pre-Con have elected to be considered Young Adults. As such, 18-year-olds who attend Young Adult Pre-Con may not participate in youth activities at General Conference.

Other important policies

- Only children and youth participating in morning activities will be able to participate in afternoon recreation.

- Afternoon recreation involving off-campus activities will include children kindergarten through 6th grade.

- We will offer a separate, on-campus recreation time for pre-

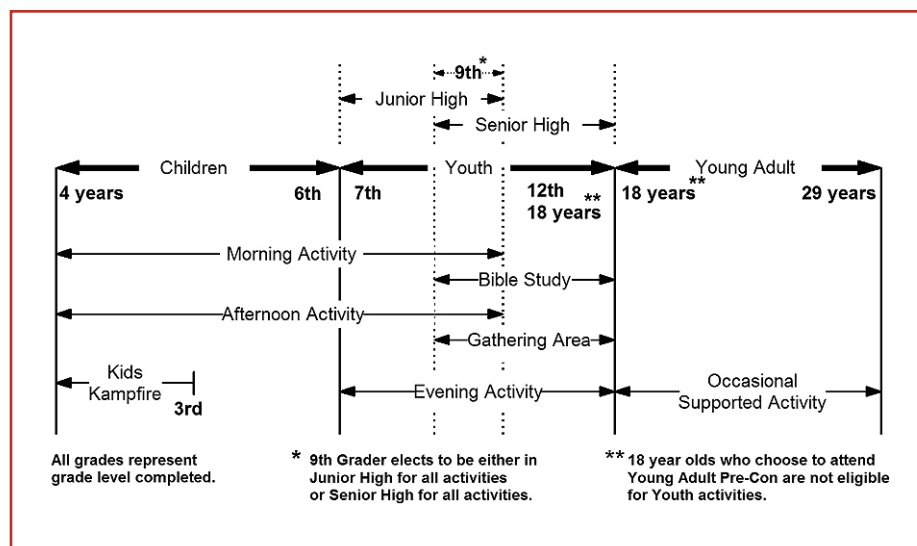
schoolers. If a parent wants the preschooler to participate in the off-campus activity, a parent or designated adult (other than the recreation staff) must accompany the child.

When state law requires a child seat for the transportation of a child, a parent or designated adult must provide transportation for that child, and then stay with them for the duration of the activity.

Kids' Kampfire

We encourage parents and sponsors to have their children, even younger ones, attend the evening worship service. We also know that some younger children will be better served with an opportunity for gathering in a separate space during that time.

Most evenings of the week, the Board of Christian Education provides Kid's Kampfire for those aged 4 years through those who have completed 3rd grade. **SR**





FOCUS on Missions

More needs in Sierra Leone

by Kirk Looper

In January, I visited our SDB brethren in Sierra Leone, on the northwestern coast of Africa.

The SDB-sponsored schools in that country are named for Seventh Day Baptists connected with missions. The orphans who attend do not pay fees, so money to operate the schools must come from other students' parents. This dependency has led to a shortage of funds, which in turn means that some teachers haven't been paid for several years.

The teaching materials are in poor condition, and all of the schools need chairs, desks, and chalkboards.

The children wear uniforms, with the schools supporting the orphans. One uniform costs \$5, and school fees amount to about \$50 per student, per year. Teachers are paid \$50 a month. If you feel led to help in these areas, please do. Any donation is greatly appreciated.

HIV/AIDS is a huge problem in Sierra Leone, and its citizens have only recently been freed from the stranglehold of war. Most of the orphans lost their parents due to AIDS or warfare.

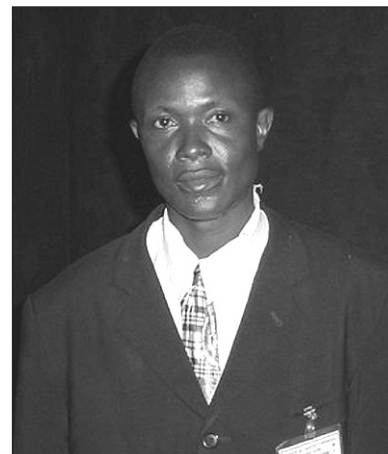
Pastor Francis Matia Jr., a former Seventh-day Adventist, is skilled in defending SDB polity and beliefs. He was elected president of their Conference in 2004, and is helping them secure future successes.

The Conference needs money to help pay for their pastors' educational needs. We sent them the International T.I.M.E. (Training In Ministry by Extension) program developed by Pastor Rod Henry, and also the CALLED (Church Administered Lay Leader EDucation) program developed by the SDB Board of Christian Education.

These programs serve as "stop gap" measures to train pastors and lay leaders, but they aren't meant



Elder Willie Williams is the General Secretary of Sierra Leone's SDB Conference.



Pastor Francis Matia serves as president of the Sierra Leone Conference.

to take the place of formal education. We continue to pray for funds to help better educate their leadership. I'm hoping that they will get in touch with the Central Africa Conference concerning their Bible College.

I'm deeply concerned about the future of Sierra Leone's young people, especially the orphans. They all appear to have many hurdles to overcome. These youth live in a country that's being devastated by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Many adults have already died, leading to a lack of family and governmental support.

Many of these orphans already have AIDS and will never reach maturity. Of those who make it to adulthood, few will have advanced beyond the 8th grade.

The outreach of Sierra Leone's SDB Conference is hampered by the lack of published materials. We could supply them with tracts, books, etc., but shipping costs are very high and thus prohibitive. Funds otherwise used for printing and shipping could be used more efficiently and effectively if they were put towards purchasing a computer, printer, and photocopier for their office. This

would allow them to translate materials and also develop new ones.

Securing these items would give the Conference the opportunity to earn money through a business center while providing employment for a handful of their members.

A business center is a valid project. Many are already located in Freetown's business section, but there are none on the outskirts of town. Funds to buy or rent office facilities would also help them validate their business and Conference. The cost is currently projected at \$10,000, and we pray that funds will be donated for this purpose.

I see a very successful Conference in Sierra Leone in the near future, but they need your encouragement through donations and prayers.

Our brethren there are hard workers who delight in the gifts that God has given them. They look forward to a time when they will have a large number of churches and be well known in their country. Right now, their churches are full of members committed to God and His ongoing work. **SR**



the BEACON

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

June 2007

IMPORTANT NOTE about Youth Pre-Con:

The Board of Christian Education will be charged a fee if anyone shows up at the Youth Pre-Con site before 4:00 p.m. The owners of the Youth Pre-Con site are hosting a group immediately prior to our arrival, and need until 4:00 p.m. to clean. Please understand this and respect their needs.

If you need to leave a Youth Pre-Con camper before 4:00 p.m., please take them to the Young Adult site. The Host Committee will provide transportation to the Youth site at an appropriate time.

Attention Pre-Con Campers

2007 Youth Pre-Con Camp

2007 Young Adult Pre-Con Camp

Dates:

July 25, 4:00 p.m.—
July 29, 1:00 p.m.

Campers:

Ages 15-18 (or compl. 9th)

Location:

Molalla Retreat
Molalla, Ore.

Director:

Pastor Christian Mattison
North Loup, Neb.

Cost:

\$125.00 on or before
June 30, 2007
\$155.00 after June 30

*Medical Form required—
in May SR*

Dates:

July 25, 4:00 p.m.—
July 29, 1:00 p.m.

Campers:

Ages 18-29

Location:

George Fox University
Newberg, Ore.

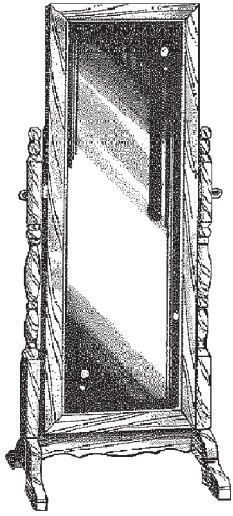
Director:

Pastor Wayne North
New Auburn, Wis.

Cost:

\$160.00 on or before
June 30, 2007
\$190.00 after June 30

Mail your Registration Form from the May SR
or check educatingchristians.org



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

Please pass the food— to someone else

"Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you...?"

"I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me" (Matthew 25:37, 40, NIV).

Recently, I watched a TV program called, "The Top Ten Places to Pig Out." A camera crew traveling around the United States filmed people as they attempted to "finish off" mammoth amounts of food.

In one segment, individuals were confronted with eating a hamburger. But this wasn't your ordinary hamburger. It consisted of three pounds of ground meat, with six patties sandwiched between 12 slices of cheese. The "kicker"? It came with five pounds of French fries.

And what was the reward for accomplishing this gluttonous feat? Anyone meeting the challenge had a hamburger named after them.

Another segment was filmed at the headquarters of Ben and Jerry's. There, "contestants" tried to consume a serving of ice cream. But again, this wasn't your ordinary serving.

Clerks filled a huge bucket with 20 scoops of ice cream, four sliced bananas, four crumbled cookies, five brownies, and a river of chocolate syrup.

The other eight segments of the show were equally stupefying. By the end, I was also "stuffed." Not

with food, but with disbelief, disgust, shame, and outrage.

The rest of the day, I couldn't get many of those images out of my head: the nine-pound, 20-egg omelet smothered in hash browns; the five-pound stack of pancakes swimming in syrup; the man who ate 15 dozen oysters; the two college students who tried—and failed—to consume a pizza almost as big as the table they were sitting at.

Then I thought of other images: the TV and magazine pictures of both the young and the old, starving to death in Africa. Seeing young children with bloated stomachs is especially heart-wrenching. All of these visions continually bombard my mind and conscience.

I can't even *begin* to imagine what it's like to be one of a million African refugees packed into an area the size of New York's Central Park; to "grocery shop" on a rubbish heap instead of at a well-stocked store.

Many children in the United States—the richest country on earth—go to bed hungry.

We are blessed. We are also a nation of overweight and morbidly obese people. We spend billions of dollars on diet foods and drinks, weight-loss programs, and exercise equipment, while people in other nations die for want of a loaf of bread.

Even our pets are overweight. In January, *Time*

magazine reported that the Food and Drug Administration approved the first diet drug for the more than 3 million obese dogs in the U.S.

One of the "jobs" of being a Christian is to be God's hands and feet. This means caring for non-believers and believers alike. "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink" (Romans 12:20, NIV).

This divine directive to care for others encompasses a cornucopia of needs—spiritual and emotional as well as physical.

At times, this can seem an overwhelming task. But, with God's help, we can do it, one person at a time. We simply need to open our pocket-books as well as our hearts. **SR**

Note: You can help fight hunger by giving to our SDB United Relief Fund. Another effective, worldwide relief organization is "Samaritan's Purse," founded by Franklin Graham.



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

Battling distractions



Friends, we live in evil times; no doubt about it. We are continually faced with the media hyping the most violent, degenerate stories and undermining basic morality. Yet that should not defeat us.

The Word of God encourages and challenges us, “Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain... Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong. Do everything in love” (1 Corinthians 15:58; 16:13-14).

Satan loves to have us succumb to his subtle deceptions. I have discovered two activities that throw me off-track: jigsaw puzzles and the number game, Sudoku.

When I focus on these activities, they become an addiction, a waste of time, a deception. I lose all sense of

and give ourselves fully to the work of the Lord.

Worldly influences in our lives can gradually lull us into accepting a mediocre way of living. Ungodly solutions to our problems become options, and we begin to accept second-best, rather than waiting for God’s best. This compounds our problems.

That’s why the Word of God speaks of diligence, perseverance, testing the Spirit, and being on guard. We need to put on God’s full armor.

Paul writes in Ephesians 6:13-17, “Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the Belt of Truth buckled around your waist, with the Breastplate of Righteousness in place, and

time and shirk my responsibilities, thinking that I’m doing something worthwhile. But I have learned to limit their power over me.

What areas in *your* life do you need to prioritize? With the world in chaos, we need a sense of urgency to be on guard

with your Feet fitted with Readiness that comes from the Gospel of Peace. In addition to all this, take up the Shield of Faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the Helmet of Salvation and the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God” [my capitals].

God’s Word is Truth. It establishes the standards of godly living. Each of us needs to make God’s standards our standards. We need to stand firm and not be swayed by the world.

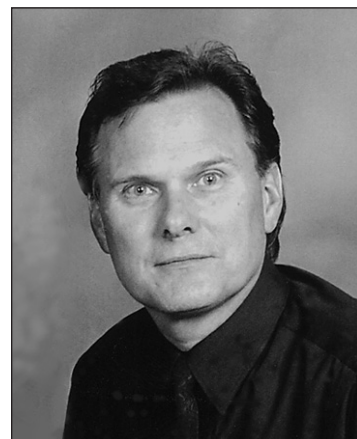
To do so, we first need to read the Scriptures to know what those standards are. How are you doing with my challenge to read the entire Bible in a year?

As we come to Conference, I would love to hear testimonies about your reading experiences. Some have already told me of their renewed interest in the Old Testament, the sense of the “whole plan” of God, the expectation of new things God might reveal, the heightened sense of commitment and dedication to a daily Bible-reading time, and the passionate desire to read more.

Twice in Matthew (10:22; 24:13), Jesus encouraged believers by saying, “He who stands firm to the end will be saved.”

“So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter” (2 Thessalonians 2:25).

Amen. 



by Executive Director
Rob Appel

A 90-day challenge

In November 2005, I wrote about a plan that I called the “**90-Day Tithe Program.**” I did not receive feedback from anyone that they took me up on the challenge.

So, should we assume that all SDBs are tithing to their local church? Hardly, since many of our churches are struggling to support their ministries, or worse yet, scrapping some ministries just to keep their church doors open in the community.

So, we are going to try again!

Almost everyone knows about tithing. It is an age-old concept endorsed by nearly every major religion in the world.

My vision is that all Seventh Day Baptists tithe. Why? Because there is a blessing in the lives of those who tithe cheerfully. Why wouldn't I want that for all believers, and especially all Seventh Day Baptists?

Together, we can make the Church work again for social and humanitarian causes. Those who choose not to tithe, as God instructs us to do, will miss the personal upgraded relationship with the Lord, and also the blessings.

I know that some of you might give the excuse that the Church does not need my money—“They already have enough.” Others of you will say, “God doesn't need money; what would He do with it?” These are the great “cop-outs.”



Of course, God does not need your money! However, those who are in true need can use our help and money. And left up to us, we might do little-to-nothing to identify them or help them in their time of need.

My ideal concept would be for the local church to also tithe by taking 10 percent of their annual budget and committing that to the Conference. In turn, the Conference would take 10 percent of that budget and tithe to the World Federation to help our brothers and sisters around the world in their endeavors to spread the good news about Christ.

Your local church efforts would create new ministry opportunities around the world, touching people's lives in ways you could not imagine. The “domino effect” would take place as these new witnesses carry the Good News to all they come in contact with.

So I have a personal challenge to each of you. I would like those who have not tithed to take the next step in tithing.

If you will commit to tithe for just a three-month period, it will give you the chance to witness firsthand the gift of tithing. (Yes, it is a gift. God gave gifts to us, and we are to pass on those gifts to others.)

You can listen to all the tithing testimonies until the “cows come home,” but they will mean nothing unless you try tithing for yourself. It is something that you have to experience on your own.

I would love to hear back from you about the changes in your finances, and the gifts God blessed you with that you never experienced before. This is the “90-Day Tithe Program.” As this concept is applied, it can literally take the local church, our Conference, and the world, and let them work together as God intended us to do.

Giving:

- creates human dignity
- opens up possibilities
- miraculously changes lives
- works at your very soul and radiates outward to every area of your life

As we show the world that Seventh Day Baptists are truly an Alliance In Ministry, let us take the next **bold** step in our walk with God. Let us have the AIM to obey God's desires by being those who help others through our tithes.

The next step is yours... are you up for it? **SR**

Chaplain continues deployment

by Jerry Johnson, U.S. Army

When I last wrote, I said that the next time you would hear from me, I'd be back in New York. Well, right before our 3rd Brigade was scheduled to head home, our tour of duty was extended for up to 120 days. In fact, about 150 soldiers had already arrived in the U.S., and they had to turn around.

Understandably, the initial response to all of this was anger and despair—plus frustration that the Army would wait until the last minute to extend tours when the commanders on the ground were asking for only 1,200 additional troops.

My family wasn't happy either, even though this meant I would receive \$1,000 extra per month in incentive pay.

The morale around here is being challenged every day. We have people out on the front lines who have pushed hard to get to the finish line, which they thought was 12 months away. Effective April 11, deployments became 15 months—at least until things change in Iraq and Afghanistan. So the challenges continue.

In this tour extension, I haven't stayed with my regular unit. Instead, I was sent to Kabul, Afghanistan, to work at the NATO/ISAF headquarters. Talk about a culture change!

For one thing, the atmosphere is completely European. People from 37 nations are represented, so the food, shops, rooms—you name it—make it seem like you're in Europe. The compound also has three bars, so the American soldiers (other than me) get to have their two beers or glasses of wine each night.

The base is crowded, but living conditions are excellent. A Euro-



Chaplain Jerry Johnson prays at a chapel in Kabul.

pean company runs the dining facility. Although the food is less varied, it's more nutritious and fresh than at the American installations.

The chapel accommodates about 40 worshippers, and was renovated during my first two weeks here. It's called St. Martin of Tours, which again reflects the European presence. We are set up for Protestant, Catholic, and Orthodox services.


The only negative is its location in the far back corner of the compound. This limits our ability to promote chapel programs, but once soldiers find us, they keep returning. I've been able to start a Bible study in James, and lead prayer meetings, a *Purpose Driven Life* study, and two weekly worship programs.

At a training meeting with the rest of our chaplains, I discovered that I'm being reassigned *again*. This time, I'm heading back out into the operational combat zone in the northeast sector.

I should have regular contact with the people who have been with me since the founding of our brigade (in the fall of 2004), but I will no longer be with them on a permanent basis. This means that I will eventually head back to the states with the infantry soldiers rather than the field artillery.

I will have to put on a new "operational thinking cap" for my final few months here. This particular infantry unit faces fierce fighting. One of their companies has lost 10 men, and the unit as a whole has lost about 20 soldiers during this deployment.

Please pray for me as I attempt to minister in a new setting. Like so many other units, the Chaplain Corps is stretched very thin. I appreciate your prayers on all fronts, that the Lord's will would be done.

Pray especially hard for our soldiers and their families—and those in other branches of the military—during this difficult time in our nation's history. When I write again, I hope I'll be able to say, "Mission accomplished!" 

Texarkana church gets challenged

by Pastor Mynor Soper

We make it a practice each year here in Texarkana (Ark.) to have at least two special spiritual-emphasis weekends at our church, inviting guest speakers.

These are extended weekends, sometimes beginning on Thursday night and running through Sabbath night, involving a total of four or five messages. On other occasions, we invite a special guest for just one evening presentation.

Through the years, we have heard some excellent speakers. Their ministries have included revival messages, talks emphasizing evangelistic outreach, and preaching centered on basic spiritual renewal.

In November, we felt privileged to hear an interesting and challenging speaker, one who managed to incorporate all of the above “ingredients” into three presentations.

How Dr. Davis dealt with his deployment challenged all of us to commit ourselves even more deeply to obeying Jesus Christ.

Dr. Paul Davis of Salem, W.Va., is a layman and a dedicated Seventh Day Baptist. He presented his messages from a different perspective than most believers. They not only encompassed his Christian experience growing up and becoming mature in his faith; he shared them through the eyes of a doctor and military man.

Paul spoke about that familiar

biblical injunction, “Love your enemies.”

When he was sent to Iraq, he thought he would be ministering—spiritually as well as physically—to his own countrymen (and women) who had been wounded in that conflict. That prospect excited him. Instead, he was assigned to a separate hospital that treated captured enemies. That was “a different deal” and a real challenge!

How Dr. Davis dealt with this situation and the effect it had on him challenged all of us to commit ourselves even more deeply to obeying Jesus Christ. Each presentation was unique, challenging, and “on target.”

We thank God for laymen like Dr. Davis; people who are willing to give of their time and energy to testify about their journey with God, inspiring and challenging others.

Thanks, Paul! **SR**

Denominational Dateline

June

- 1-4 Missionary Society Africa Committee, and World Federation Executive Committee Meeting, Alfred Station, N.Y.—Kirk Looper
- 2 All Nations SDB Church, Grand Rapids, Mich.—Rob Appel
- 2 Installation for Pastor Perry Cain, Lost Creek, W.Va.—Gordon Lawton
- 8-10 Southwestern Association, Texarkana, Ark.—Ron Elston, Appel
- 13-27 Short-Term Mission, Blantyre, Malawi, Africa—Looper
- 18-29 Summer Institute on Seventh Day Baptist Polity, SDB Center, Janesville, Wis.—Lawton
- 22-24 Appalachian Assoc., Camp Joy, W.Va.—Appel
- 24-27 SCSC Training, Milton, Wis.—Andrew Camenga

July

- 8-14 Pacific Firs, Camp McCollough, Covington, Wash.—Camenga

- 15 SDB Missionary Society Board of Managers Meeting, Westerly, R.I.—Looper
- 24-25 CLT (Coordinating Leadership Team), George Fox University, Newberg, Ore.
- 25-27 General Council meets, George Fox University
- 28-29 Seventh Day Baptist Memorial Fund Quarterly Meeting, George Fox University—Morgan Shepard
- 29 Council on Ministry Mid-Year Meeting, George Fox University—Lawton
- 29-8/4 General Conference, George Fox University

August

- 18 Garden of Prayer, St. Stephens, S.C.—Appel

September

- 19-22 North American Baptist Women’s Union (NABWU) Assembly, Arlington, Va.—Marjorie Jacob

New members

Alfred, NY
Pat Bancroft, pastor
 Joined after testimony
 William Schultze
 Jennifer Schultze

Washington, DC
Paul Andries, pastor
 Joined after testimony
 Jamal Chester
 Jonathan Tull
 Nadine Bates
 Joined after baptism
 Joshua Andries

Marriages

Duran - Vaught.—John Edward Pacubat Duran and Melody Amanda Vaught were united in marriage on April 15, 2007, at the home of the groom’s parents in Portland, OR. The bride’s father, Rev. Jerry Vaught, officiated.

Mackintosh - Mims.—Jonathan Christopher Mackintosh and Rebecca Lyn Mims were married on April 21, 2007, at the Montanaro Farm in Los Olivos, CA. Pastor Scott Hausrath officiated.

Updates at www.seventhdaybaptist.org

Conference forms

This year’s General Conference registration forms are now posted. You can find the link on the home page, right-hand column, beneath the Conference dates.

The forms are pdfs. You may type in your names and room/board requests, and the computer will calculate your costs. You will still need to mail the form to the registrar.

Please note: the 4-bed apartments are NOT available this year.

Women’s Forum

The SDB Women’s Society, based in Florida, has just developed a new on-line discussion forum for women.

To access the forum, ladies may select the “Community” drop-down menu at the top and click on “Women’s Resources.” You will need to register and apply for membership in the Women’s Resource and Support group.

New Directories

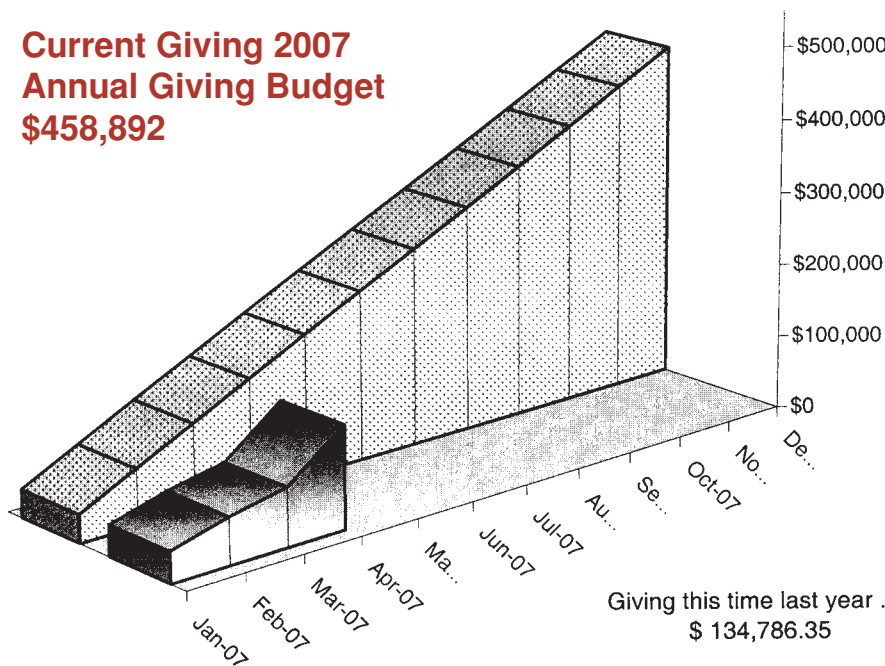
Thanks to the hard work of Rob Appel and the General Services staff, the new 2007 SDB Directory is available—in 2007!! The price is reduced to \$7.50 plus \$1.50 for postage.

If you need more than one Directory, please contact the Center at 608-752-5055 and we can invoice you. Or, place your order at our E-Store, and let the computer do the calculations.

And NEW this year is the SDB Directory on CD, just \$5 including shipping and handling.

Thanks for
 being part of our
Alliance In Ministry!

Current Giving 2007 Annual Giving Budget \$458,892



Giving this time last year . . .
 \$ 134,786.35

	Month - Apr '07	Year To Date
Budgeted	\$ 38,241	\$ 152,966
Actual	\$ 60,095	\$ 139,120
Difference	\$ 21,854	\$ (13,846)
% of Budget	157%	91%

PROP Giving	
Apr '07	\$ 945
Year To Date	\$ 3,917

Morgan Shepard, Treasurer

Obituaries

Saunders.—Charles B. Saunders, 101, of Edgerton, Wis., died on May 17, 2006, at the Edgerton Hospital and Health Services Long Term Care.

He was born on April 19, 1905, in Gentry, Ark., the son of Herbert and Harriet “Hattie” (Babcock) Saunders. On November 20, 1929, he married Lenora Babcock on the home farm in Albion (Wis.) Township. She died in June of 1995.

Charles was a member of the Albion Seventh Day Baptist Church. He was also a past member of the Odd Fellows. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, gardening, gathering and cracking black walnuts, and spending time with his family and friends.

He is survived by two daughters, Priscilla Ann Nicoll-Kures of Bradenton, Fla., and Lenora Kay Tellefson of Edgerton; three sons, Richard of Bradenton, and Soren and Perry, both of Edgerton; 18 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild. He was preceded in death by five brothers, Ernest, William, Ori, Perry, and Herbert; two grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter.

Funeral services were held on May 22, 2006, at the Albion SDB Church, with Pastor Michael Burns officiating. Burial was in the Evergreen Cemetery in Albion Township.

Robinette.—Harold “Harry” Robinette, 68, of Lewistown, Pa., passed away on October 9, 2006.

Harry was born on May 19, 1938, in New Enterprise, Pa., the son of John W. and Mae (Dimond) Robinette, and graduated from Replogle School in New Enterprise. He joined the Salemville (Pa.) Seventh Day Baptist Church in 1948.

He served in the U.S. Air Force and often spoke of his tour of duty in Alaska where he was last stationed. Following his military service, Harry was employed at the New

Holland Farm Equipment manufacturing plant in Belleville, Pa., and retired from there.

Surviving are his wife, Naomi (Aumiller) Robinette of Lewistown; two daughters, Ella and Mae; one son, Eric; two grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held on October 12, 2006, at the Barr Funeral Home in Lewistown, with Rev. William Herrick officiating and Rev. Edward Sutton assisting. Interment was at the Woodlawn Cemetery in Millroy, Pa.

Blough.—Eric “Skip” Blough, 59, of Bedford, Pa., died at his home on December 9, 2006.

He was born in Salemville, Pa., and was educated in local schools. Eric served in the military, and was provided a military service following his funeral.

Eric was a member of the Salemville Seventh Day Baptist Church.

Survivors include his mother, a brother, and three children.

Funeral services were held at the Timothy A. Berkebile Funeral Home in Bedford on December 12, 2006, with Rev. Edward Sutton officiating.

Reierson.—David R. Reierson, 69, a lifelong resident of Edgerton, Wis., passed away on February 6, 2007, at Meriter-Park Hospital in Madison, Wis.

He was born on April 1, 1937, in Edgerton, the son of Claire and Rose (Hayes) Reierson. He graduated from Edgerton High School in 1955. On July 9, 1983, he married the former Alice L. Olson.

Dave was a self-employed truck driver, specializing in transporting cattle. He enjoyed showing cattle at the State Dairy Expo, and showed state champions at the Wisconsin State Fair. He also enjoyed stock car racing and fishing.

In addition to his wife, Alice, survivors include one brother, Greg of Edgerton; two sisters, Roselyn “Rosie” Geske of Milton, Wis., and Donna Lane of Frederick, Md.; one aunt, and many nieces, nephews, and friends.

Funeral services were held on February 9, 2007, at the Whitcomb-Lynch-Albrecht Funeral Home in Edgerton, with Pastor Michael Burns officiating.

Robinette.—Floyd E. “Tiny” Robinette, 70, of Lewistown, Pa., passed away on March 21, 2007, with his family at his bedside.

Floyd was born on April 11, 1936, in Everett, Pa., the son of John W. and Mae (Dimond) Robinette. Following graduation from Replogle High School in New Enterprise, Pa., he attended Shippensburg (Pa.) State College and Montana State University on football scholarships. He joined the Salemville (Pa.) Seventh Day Baptist Church in 1946.

After serving in the U.S. Navy, he was employed at the New Holland Farm Equipment manufacturing plant in Belleville, Pa., and retired from there after 30 years of service.

Floyd was an avid outdoorsman, and enjoyed coaching youth football.

Survivors include his wife of 51 years, Susan “Jane” (Peters) Robinette; two sons, John of Clinton, Iowa, and Steven of Lewistown; one daughter, Nancy of Scotland, UK; two sisters, Ruth Ott of Martinsburg, Pa., and Melissa Dyban of Fort Wayne, Ind.; three grandchildren, eight step-grandchildren, 22 step-great-grandchildren, one step-great-great-grandchild, and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by one brother, Harold.

A memorial service was held at Ellen Chapel in Lewistown, with Rev. Edward Sutton officiating. Interment was at the Mount Rock Cemetery in Lewistown.

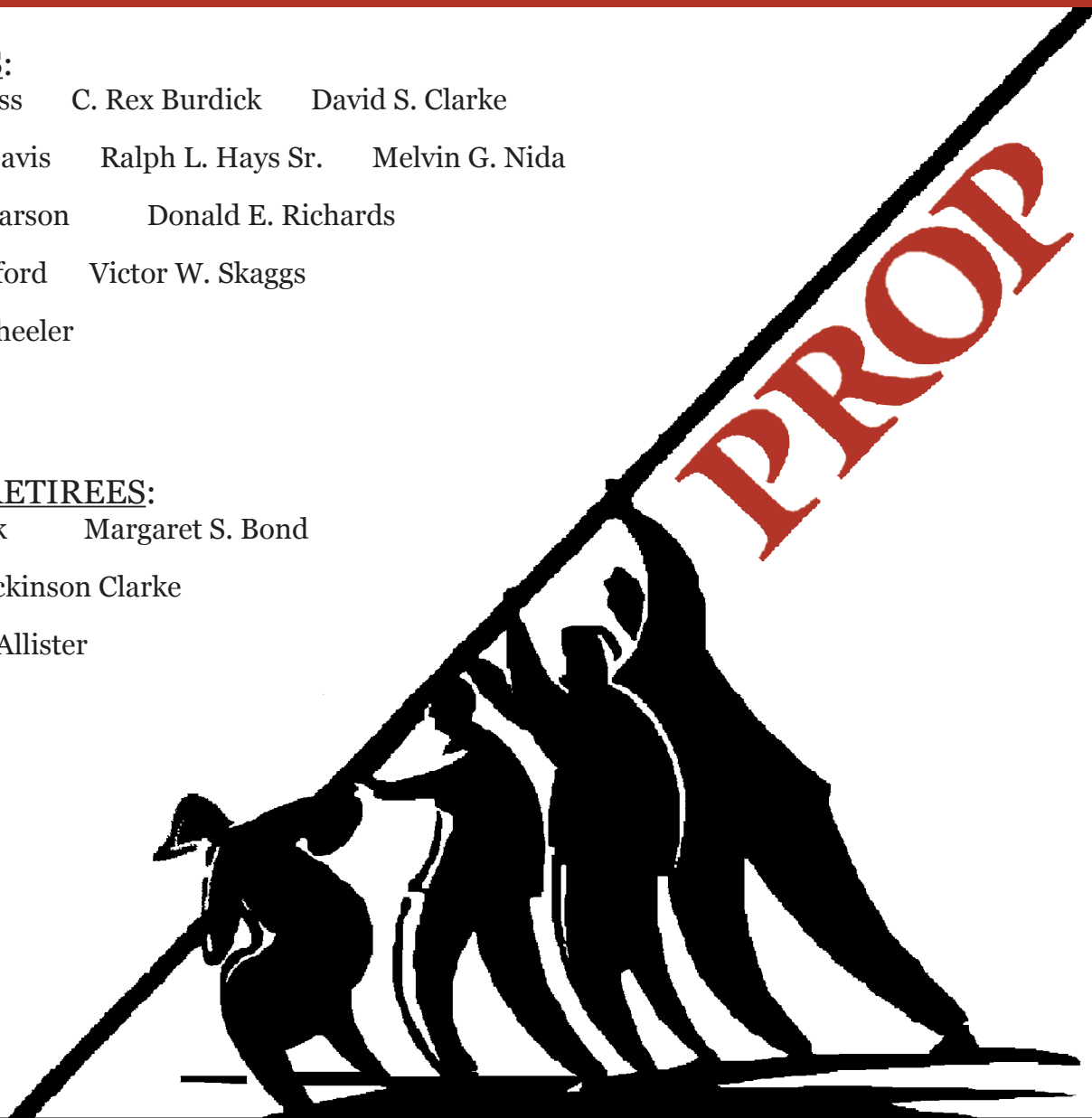
Give to those who gave so much.

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Pastors Retirement Offering Project

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

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KEVIN'S

ORNER

(Nearly) empty nest

After a dozen years of visiting our local high school, I'm finally getting close to knowing my way around it. Pretty soon, it won't matter.

Janet and I have been crossing the items off the calendar: the last show choir performance, the last band concert, the last talent show, the last prom, the last men's choir song, the last batch of graduation announcements, the last marching band parade...

Jackson's high school career—and a 12-year run of various Butlers roaming the halls of the Joseph A. Craig High

School in Janesville—is just about over.

In 1996, Norman and Vicki Burdick shared a session at General Conference on coping with the “empty nest.” I remember feeling that “our time” wouldn't be for another *so many* years. Our oldest had just started high school.

Highlights of Norm and Vicki's powerful Bible study appeared in the following June *SR*. My Korner reported on how I felt during that Conference study.

After complaining about being near the front of the auditorium (with nowhere to hide my tears), I said:

“Thankfully, I was able to compose myself during Norm's excellent and more cerebral portions of the study—just in time to blubber while listening to another heart-grabbing song. Norm would again provide some solid teaching, my eyes could move from deep red to slightly pink, and then Vicki would share a real-life mother's perspective from her personal journal. I could have used a bath towel.

“I sat there thinking: ‘How ridiculous!’ I calculated, ‘I've got three more years until our first one flies the coop, and 11 more to go with Jackson!’ Well, now it's two and 10 more years; didn't that Conference start just the other day? Time is flying beyond warp speed.”

I guess that those “so many” years have sped by as “so few.” Jackson heads north this fall to attend

a state university.

Yesterday, when I asked a co-worker to reflect on her empty nest situation, she mentioned how awkward and “different” things were at first. Their lives were so focused on their kids. Thinking about their current status, her face beamed with, “It's kinda nice!”

Many more resources have appeared since 1997. Entire websites are now dedicated to dealing with the empty nest.

One of them shared these words from a “Transitional Life Coach” named Ruth Rusk:

Even though this time can be difficult, it can also be a time of refreshing and a time for new beginnings. It can be a time of reflection, and a time to rejoice for a job well done.

Did you ever have dreams that you put on the back burner, and said to yourself, “Maybe when the kids are grown”? Now is the time to bring those dreams out, brush them off, and move forward. Maybe you had always thought about going back to school or starting a business.

Ever wanted to try your hand at painting? Or maybe you always wanted to start writing. Maybe now is a good time to start a journal. What are you particularly good at? Turn it into an extra source of income. There are many things that you can do to alleviate the feelings of sadness and loneliness.

I am reminded of the verse in Ecclesiastes 3:4, which says, “A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance.” Let this be your time to laugh and your time to dance.

I'm not sure how much laughing or dancing we'll be doing right away, but I do hope that it won't take too long to say, “It's kinda nice!”

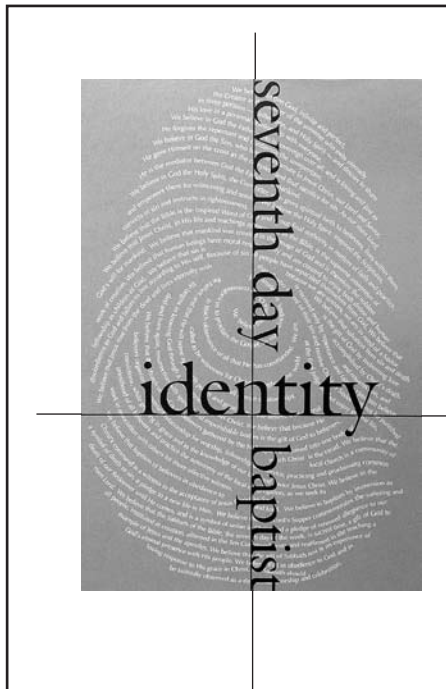


What does your local church mean to you?

Later this year, we would like to feature your answers to this important question.

Please send us your thoughts and memories of how your church has affected your life, or what impact the church has made in your community. If possible, limit your comments to 500 words, so we can share as many essays as we can.

You may send your testimony to The Sabbath Recorder, PO Box 1678, Janesville WI 53547, or e-mail it to editor@seventhdaybaptist.org. Thank you!



*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 75 cents postage; e.g., \$1.25 for one). Please call us for larger orders so we can calculate the shipping costs. Or, go to our on-line store and the checkout system will calculate the shipping for you.

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