



The
Sabbath
RECORDER

July-Aug. 2007

News for and about Seventh Day Baptists



*Growing
in Christ*

Step
by
Step



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:

•**Ron and Chris Davis**

(765) 649-0540

rcdavis16@sbcglobal.net

•**Perry and Amanda Barbee**

(814) 766-4585

pwbarbee@hotmail.com

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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Kevin Butler
Editor

editor@seventhdaybaptist.org

Leanne Lippincott-Wuerthele
Assistant Editor

Ⓔ = Editor's Circle members

Contributing Editors

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

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Winning Brazil for Christ— Step by step

by Jonas and Clarice Sommer

“He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit”
(Ephesians 2:17-18, NIV).



We live in a world without frontiers—an era in which Christians can place their “hands to the plow” and sow the seeds of the Gospel almost anywhere, even across borders.

Brazilian SDBs thank God for their partnership with the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society, and with the Denver, Colo., SDB Church [now the Next Step Christian Church of Thornton, Colo.]. The Denver church graciously allowed Rev. Rodney L. Henry to visit our country and speak at our 2007 Conference from January 9-14.

“Reverend Rod’s” sessions—certainly inspired by the Holy Spirit—caused a considerable awakening among our ministers and leaders. His words led many



We must continue our Christian walk, step-by-step. God is always present, directing our paths and taking care of us until Jesus’ Second Coming.

brothers and sisters to review their religious beliefs, deeply touching their hearts while fostering spiritual growth.

A more profound understanding of the Bible, and accurate interpretations are vital if God’s Word is to

live within our Seventh Day Baptist churches, promoting efficient ministries.

Rev. Rod taught us several things using a “step-by-step” approach:

First step: *The Basis of Salvation*

Focusing on the Bible, this step showed how man can return to God after being separated from Him. Man’s relationship with God is based on faith, and we are responsible to honor the covenant God placed on us.

Sin is what separates mankind from God; His holiness cannot be combined with sin. Nevertheless, God is love, and through His gracious plan, we can be brought back to Him.

Rev. Rod clearly stated that salvation can be achieved only through grace, independent from the Law and works.

Second step: *Intermediate State of the Soul after Death*

Pastor Rodney mentioned several theological theories about this subject, speaking in detail about some of them. He stressed the



Rod Henry (background) demonstrated the step-by-step method. Luciano de Moura (left) served as translator.

importance of *unity* without *uniformity*, emphasizing that divergent views regarding this topic can and do exist.

Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, Christians have freedom of conscience. Yet, our Seventh Day Baptist “Statement of Belief” has 10 basic points that cannot be changed because they define who we are as Seventh Day Baptists.

Since nothing specifically addresses this subject in these 10 points, we have freedom of conscience in this area. God’s Truth is something that believers need to discover, step-by-step, in their daily lives. Thankfully, we have the Bible

to read and explore to aid this search.

Third step: The Perseverance of the Saints

Although controversial, this subject led to some productive discussions and interesting questions.

Can a person who was regenerated, justified, and adopted by God lose his/her salvation? Is salvation permanent or conditional?

Several Bible verses indicate that our salvation is permanent, protected in heaven, and kept there for us (1 Peter 1:3-4; John 10:27-30, and Romans 8:38-39). Jesus said that a saved person will never be taken away from his hands.

Once God grants salvation, our job has only begun. We must continue our Christian walk, step-by-step. God is always present, directing our paths and taking care of us until Jesus’ Second Coming.

At one point during Pastor’s Rod presentation, some brethren were moved to tears as they reflected on the explanation of Isaiah 61:10 (NIV):

“For he [God] has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness...” Jesus created this justification when he walked the earth. A robe of righteousness was made from each of his attitudes, cover-

cont. next page



“Reverend Rod’s” sessions—certainly inspired by the Holy Spirit—caused a considerable awakening among our ministers and leaders.

ing us and allowing unrestricted access to our Heavenly Father.

Fourth step: Rod's sermon

During a Saturday evening service, Rev. Rod gave a sermon. And what a sermon it was!

Powerfully inspired by the Holy Spirit, he used the words in Acts 1:8 as his text: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Pastor Rod challenged all of us to become more involved in God's work. The Lord can use us much more efficiently when we willingly cooperate in His Kingdom, cultivating a right spirit and a truthful heart. If our members become truly committed, God can carry out marvelous things in the Brazilian Seventh Day Baptist Church.

Fifth step: Conference leaders

Effective Conference leaders are vital to the future of the Brazilian Church.

On January 15, Pastor Rod met with several individuals to discuss implementing the T.I.M.E. (Training In Ministry by Extension) program in Brazil. These people included:

Pastors João Teles dos Santos, Jonas Sommer, Eli Rangel, Leonildo Lebkuchen, Luciano Barreto Nogueira de Moura, Sidnei Grossklaus, Renato Negrí, José Bernardino de Oliveira, and Gilmar Lopes; seminary student Edvard Solles; and sisters Clarice Sommer and Liane Ferreira.

Much information was exchanged during the long day.

Pastor Rodney identified the primary needs of the Brazilian Church, opening the eyes of the participants in the process.

***May we be
living testimonies
of God's
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Step-by-step,
may we go out
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in the powerful
name of
Jesus.***

He said that the Brazilian Conference especially needs a program to prepare those who feel led to the ministry and yet are unable to attend a "formal" seminary. These people need a way to answer God's calling, and they need to know how the Conference can help them achieve their goals. In the long run, this will contribute to the growth of the Brazilian Church.

We closed the day by agreeing to develop a pilot plan for a Brazilian T.I.M.E. program. This would be made available to those at the Conference, and also offered to other pastors, leaders, and inter-

ested persons. The Conference hopes it can count on their American brethren to help implement this program.

With God helping us to put our plans into practice, the SDB Church in Brazil hopes to change and improve. Through our collective efforts, we have a great opportunity to increase our ministry base and grow as a Church. As SDBs become better known, we will be able to lead more unchurched people to Christ.

We have only this present opportunity to share the Good News with those we meet. We must not neglect this God-given task. If we do our job with enthusiasm, we will produce much fruit for the Lord's Kingdom, saving lives in the process.

As we work jointly with the Holy Spirit, utilizing His power to transform lives, may we be living testimonies of God's grace and love. Step-by-step, may we go out into life, preaching in the powerful name of Jesus.

Let us impact the "Jerusalem" of our locale, going on to Judea and Samaria, until we spread God's Word to the outermost limits of earth, all for the honor and glory of our Lord. Amen! **SR**



These leaders met to discuss implementing the T.I.M.E. program in Brazil.

My semester at Poieo

by Amanda Colvin, Nortonville, Kan.

Last summer during Summer Christian Service Corps (SCSC) training in Milton, Wis., Jessica Ryall came down from New Auburn to tell us all about a school called Poieo.*

My first reaction was that it sounded pretty cool, but I would never be able to go there. Well, almost a year later, here I am, typing this article to tell you about my stay at Poieo.

I attended Poieo training from February until May of this year. The first couple of weeks were mainly spent getting closer to God and forming a more intimate relationship with Him.

This was accomplished by taking time out of every day to just be with Jesus. I read my Bible, prayed, and listened to whatever God wanted to tell me that day.

I also watched several informative DVDs of John Bevere's teachings. The one that sticks in my memory the most is his message on "Drawing Near." That is what really made me take steps to get closer to God.

After that, we started doing outreach. We went to Appleton, Wis., to help get the word out about the new SDB church starting there. We did a prayer walk in the mall the first day, which went pretty well. The next day, we handed out flyers at the mall and at a Wal-Mart.

During my whole time at Poieo, I was involved in the weekly kids' programs.



Amanda Colvin (left) and Michelle Parrish (r.) handed out cookies while asking survey questions in Nortonville.

On Wednesdays after school, we held a King's Kids time for kindergartners to 6th graders, with games, snacks, and daily lessons.

In the evening, we hosted a youth group for junior high and high school students. After some games, we held a teaching time. Rachel Parrish, Lena Parrish, and Brooke North then led us in worship. This was a really awesome time, seeing a youth group truly on fire for God!

After worship, we gave the kids free snacks, plus they could buy other ones. This "concession stand" is the youth group's fund-raiser. When they want to do something, they have money to pay their way.

Each Poieo student has a final outreach project. For mine, Mich-

elle Parrish and I came back to my home church in Nortonville, Kan., so I could get a head start on my vision for the church. Since I was the only student at Poieo this semester, Michelle could come with me.


The week that we were here, we talked to my pastor [Stephan Saunders] about what I wanted to do. He advised us where to start, and we went out and did it.

We began with a door-to-door survey of Nortonville, asking people how long they had lived there, if they had a home church, and if they were interested in attending our church.

When this didn't go so well, we came up with the idea to bake cookies and hand them out as an "icebreaker." After getting Pastor Steve's okay, we made a lot of cookies and headed out again.

I felt that the cookies really helped us to get a better response to our survey. We still asked people questions, but the whole process seemed more natural and relaxed.

All in all, my Poieo experience was a great one. I feel closer to God now, and I feel like I'm doing what He wants me to do.

If you have any questions about Poieo—especially how you can get involved—go to the New Auburn church's web site at www.nasdbc.org. 

**Poieo (pronounced Poy-yáy oh) is a Greek word that means "to do" or "to produce."*

The growth of a church

by Terri Morgan, North Loup, Neb.

When most people think of a growing church, they envision a mega-church with thousands of members and two or three services every week. They assume that the construction of a bigger facility is imminent in order to accommodate their expanding numbers.

The Seventh Day Baptist church in North Loup, Neb., has grown. However, the Lord led our growth in a slightly different direction. Our response came individually as well as collectively when the Lord put the need for growth on the hearts of our members.

Jody and Heather Looper, and Seth and Joelle Williams recently moved to the Lincoln, Neb., area. Phil and Sheri Rood, and Rollie and Kay Davis already lived close to Lincoln.

These four couples, along with their children, began holding Bible studies in their homes. Still, they longed for a place to meet that would accommodate their growing numbers.

The Lincoln group and the North Loup church didn't realize that God already had His plan in motion.

One day in 2005, Chris Mattison (North Loup's pastor) announced in church that the Lincoln group was looking for a place to rent on Sabbath mornings. That location needed to meet three conditions:

- It needed to be in north Lincoln.
- It needed to seat about 50 people.
- It needed to fit into a relatively small budget.

Being a Lincoln native, I'm familiar with that city. The Lord led me to call the Havelock United Methodist Church (located in north Lincoln, by the way).



The Lincoln Fellowship meets at the Havelock Methodist Church.

**As the
“mother church,”
the members at
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feel a certain responsibility for
the Lincoln
group.**

I called the church the following Monday and left a message. Tuesday evening, the pastor called back. He introduced himself as “Pastor Murray” and asked how he could help.

Unbeknownst to me, he had served a church near North Loup for a long time, and both Pastor Chris and Heather Looper know him. He had been pastoring the Havelock church for only three months when we first talked.

I explained the Lincoln group's needs, and Pastor Murray stated that his current church has a small chapel that seats about 50. However, he would have to meet with church leaders to obtain permission for us to use the facility,

plus decide on rental costs.

They met and gave permission, and the Lincoln group has been meeting there ever since. But the Lord wasn't done yet!

As the “mother church,” the members at North Loup feel a certain responsibility for the Lincoln group. We have prayed for them and supplied a pulpit speaker once a month. *Enter Steve and Emily Graffius.*

A recent seminary graduate, Steve wanted to find a job as a pastor. With his apartment's lease running out, he also needed to find a new place for his family to live.

After sending out 300 résumés, he had 10 job interviews but no call backs. It was quite discouraging for a young man with a wife and new baby to support. *Enter an e-mail from Heather.*

The Lincoln group wanted the Graffiuses to candidate at their fellowship. So, on the last weekend of January, they traveled to Lincoln so Steve could preach.

After much prayer, the two groups realized that the Lord was leading them to proceed.

The North Loup SDB Church officially called Steve to the pastorate of the newly-named Lincoln Seventh Day Baptist Fellowship. Steve accepted the call and moved to Lincoln the end of February.

It's amazing what the Lord will do when we follow Him in faith, allowing Him to work out the details of our lives! There is comfort in knowing that He is in control, even when we can't see the outcome.

As for the growth of the North Loup church, we were not the ones who sowed, nurtured, watered, and sprouted that seed 165 miles away. It was the Lord's doing! **SR**

WordArt: The SDB logo

by Larry Graffius

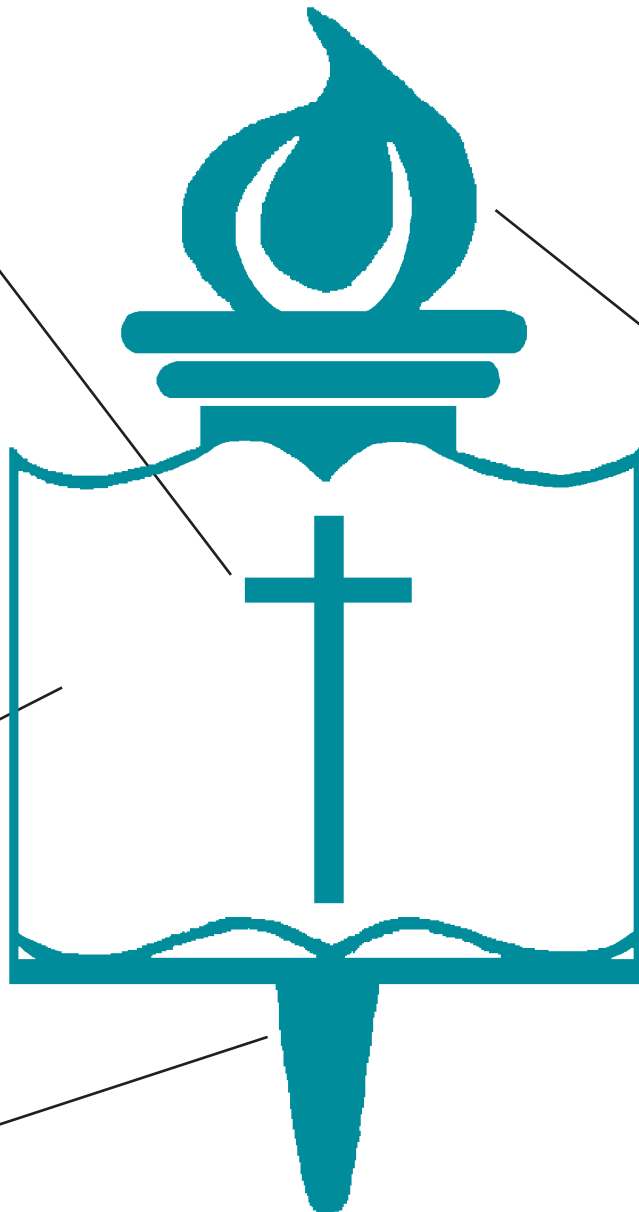
The Seventh Day Baptist logo is the symbol we use to represent our churches, our ministries, our Conference. For over 100 years, we have placed a logo design on our stationary and literature as a visual identification mark; it is our signature.

What does our logo stand for? What does it intend to communicate? Let's look at the components and their meanings:

At the heart of the logo, the central focal point is **the CROSS**. The cross represents our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. It is deliberately and appropriately placed in the center, for it is the central element of our faith. We believe that Jesus is the Son of God and because of his atoning death, we can have eternal life. Jesus Christ is the head of the Church and he is the Lord of our lives.

The basis of this belief, and the foundation of all that we practice, is the Word of God, **the BIBLE**. Seventh Day Baptists resoundingly affirm the truth that Scripture alone is our final authority in matters of Christian living and personal belief.

Inseparable from knowing and believing is proclaiming to others the good news of God's love to us in Christ. **The TORCH** represents our commitment to evangelism, teaching, and



living godly lives before others. Through Christian education and by sharing our faith with others, we respond to Jesus' call to go into all the world and make disciples.

Finally, the empowerment of all that we are and do comes through the Holy Spirit, represented by **the FLAME**. He is the dynamic enthusiasm at work within our lives; He is God living through us!

Our logo speaks volumes in a very small space! We proudly display it as the symbol for the General Conference of Seventh Day Baptists, USA and Canada. **SR**

Pastor Larry Graffius shared this article right before his tragic death in 1999. He was serving as chair of the denominational Sabbath Promotion Committee.

**Do you read The
Sabbath Recorder?**

**Do you study
The Helping Hand?**

**Do you have
a pastor?**

**Do you send a donation
to the SDB Budget?**

Your dollars make *The Sabbath Recorder* and *The Helping Hand* possible. Your dollars keep someone there for your pastor to talk to, learn from, and help you. Your dollars enable the Seventh Day Baptist Conference to serve your spiritual needs. Please send your dollars to support your denomination!

Seventh Day Baptist Center
PO Box 1678
Janesville WI 53547-1678

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) 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, 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, request the “Grapevine” and become an insider of SDB news today.



Websites

Our Conference’s overall website may be found at:

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.

Are local Baptist churches autonomous?

by Beth Newman

A philosopher once said, “The meaning of a word is its use.” He didn’t mean that a word can mean “anything,” but rather that words can mean different things according to their context.

I remember arguing with a former professor about this. I offered the word “circle” as having a singular meaning. Doesn’t it always refer to something round and, well, circular? His response: “What about a women’s circle?”

Similarly, how do we understand the word “autonomy”? When applied to the Church, is autonomy a kind of individualism, drawn large—another version of “me and Jesus got a good thing goin’”?

So understood, autonomy contradicts the Scriptural vision that the oneness of the Church is the will of God (Eph. 4:4-5).

Furthermore, if by “autonomy” we mean totally independent, can any particular church truly be autonomous? Scripture itself is a gift of the early Church.

Given these concerns, I was delighted to see that the Baptist World Alliance recently held a symposium in Germany to address the question: “Are Baptist churches autonomous?”

From my perspective, the most interesting statement to emerge from the gathering is, “We affirm that for Baptists, the local church is wholly church, but not the whole church.”

The affirmation rightly emphasizes a commitment to the local gathering of God’s people. Any particular gathering of the body of Christ is *fully* the Church. The local church, no matter how inconsequential by dominant cultural standards, is Christ’s body in and for the world. There is no mega-church that is more important.

A common emphasis in Baptist life has been the Gospel promise that “where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” Since God gathers the Church, we are free to celebrate the notion that small is beautiful. In this sense, autonomy does not mean

look upon each other—in different congregations, in different Christian traditions—as brothers and sisters in Christ.

This is not the same thing as glossing over real theological differences and divisions. It is a call to acknowledge that because of

Any particular gathering of the body of Christ is fully the Church. The local church, no matter how inconsequential by dominant cultural standards, is Christ’s body in and for the world. There is no mega-church that is more important.

independent. Rather, it lifts up the significance of God working through the particular.

To say the local church is wholly the Church also recognizes that the local congregation is *sui generis*, or unique. The Church is that body of people in continuity with Israel who participate in and witness to God’s new creation.

The Church is not without sin and unfaithfulness, but it knows what everyone will eventually acknowledge. In Jesus, God has broken the walls of enmity that separate us one from another and from God.


But the local church, the BWA symposium claimed, is not the *whole* Church. Why not? Why can’t a particular congregation—or denomination—see itself as more or less self-contained? Simply put, Christ desires to have one united body so the world might know that the Father has sent the Son.

Such unity does not mean uniformity. But it does mean that we

Christ, there is one body, even if it is clouded over by our blindness and sinfulness.

Baptist forebears confessed a similar conviction. In the Baptist Confession of Faith of 1689, they wrote that “all members of each local church are engaged to pray continually for the good and the prosperity of all churches of Christ, wherever located, and upon all occasions to assist all other believers, within the limits of their own areas and callings, in the exercise of their gifts and graces.”

It follows, therefore, that churches should seek fellowship with one another, they wrote.

The emphasis on the local church provides a window for Baptists and other Christians to see how we are members, one of another, under Christ. 

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



Full circle

Christopher Columbus could have saved Queen Isabella time and money if he had put a Bible in her hands, and turned to Isaiah 40: "It is [God] that sitteth upon the circle of the earth..." (KJV).

Columbus didn't have to prove that the world was round, but it's nice that he did. God doesn't have to prove that He sits on that circle, but it seems that He does so daily.

What got me "going in circles" was the suggested Scripture meditation in *The Helping Hand* for May 18—Revelation 22:16. Here, Jesus Christ himself proclaimed, "I am the Root and the Offspring of David..." (NIV).

Think of it! In the beginning, God created the man through whom David, one day, would be born. Then, through David's line, Jesus would come into the world to lead us back in royal procession to be with him for eternity.

No wonder eternity is symbolized by a circle!

Jesus came "full circle"; he is the beginning and the end. Just as we can jump onto a circle at any point and find that our perspective remains the same, we can count on the fact that Jesus, at any point in time, knows our every thought, our every need, our every circumstance. He promises to be our supply, and the fullness of his riches is limitless.

Sur-round-ed by a huge company of witnesses, we have every reason to rejoice as we stand on our part of the circle and look to Jesus. Some of the "witnesses" who have helped steady my gaze during just the last day or two are:

- 1) God's Word in Hebrews 11:23-28 and Genesis 29, along with

Pastor Charles Stanley's *In Touch* magazine, reminding me of the faith of Moses and Joseph;

- 2) The Holy Spirit reminding me how Sarah obeyed her husband, Abraham, and how the LORD intervened to prevent him from disaster (see Genesis 20);
- 3) Leanne Lippincott-Wuerthle's "Reflections" in the May SR, inspiring me to once again meditate on what's lovely;
- 4) The old hymn "Faith of Our Fathers" that recently popped into my head, its meaning richer now that my father is with our Heavenly Father. My memories of that hymn include singing a duet with childhood friend Shelley Potter and playing it on my clarinet.

Now that my husband and I have begun reading *Foxe's Book of Martyrs*, this hymn takes on even greater significance: "Faith of our fathers, living still, in spite of dungeon, fire, and sword: O, how our hearts beat high with joy, when-e'er we hear that glorious word! Faith of our fathers, holy faith! We will be true to thee till death."

There are more witnesses on my list, but I am dedicating the rest of this page to telling you about faith-building, circle-widening opportunities in the near future for all SDB women to consider.

First, regarding General Conference in Oregon July 29-August 4, here are some friendly reminders from our SDB Wom-

en's Society President, Marjorie Jacob:

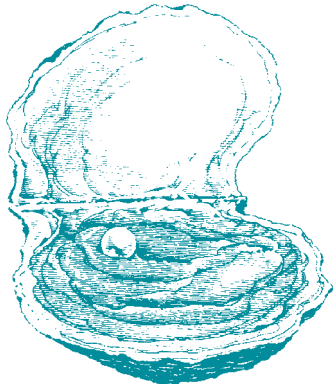
- Bring or send your crafts to be sold at the Summer Christian Service Corps (SCSC) Craft Table.

- Bring or mail your Ladies Aid group's annual report (60 copies) to be distributed at the Women's Society Luncheon and Annual Meeting. (If necessary, you can mail one copy to Margie for her to make copies to take with her.)

- Bring your SCSC and Love Gift offerings to the Women's Banquet.

Second, registration information was sent to the churches regarding the North American Baptist Women's Union Assembly in Arlington, Va., from September 19-22. I'm hoping many of you can go. For more information, contact me at (304) 884-8897, or Margie at (386) 649-4195, or jmjacob@funport.net. **SR**

Note: The Women's Page in the March SR drew a written response from one of our readers. Quoting Proverbs 12:10, she pointed out the importance of properly caring for animals. I apologize for seeming to promote carelessness when I wrote about dropping off our cat, Shalom, in the country. On behalf of the array of wondrous animals God has created, I pass on her reminder that we should spay and neuter our pets, making sure they have good homes.



Seventh Day Baptists and Brown University

When our General Conference meets in Newberg, Ore., July 29–August 4, another conference will gather in Charleston, S.C., that has some relevance to Seventh Day Baptists.

This group will celebrate the 300th Anniversary of the Philadelphia Baptist Association that founded Brown University in 1764. Brown was the first Baptist college in America, with Seventh Day Baptists playing an important role in its establishment.

In *The History of Brown University*, Walter C. Bronson quotes a 1768 statement by Isaac Backus: “Several who have formerly sent their sons to college have been disappointed, as the clergy have found means to draw them over to their party; which has discouraged others from sending their sons.

“The Baptists in general have been so much abused by those who boasted of their *Learning* that it is not strange if many were prejudiced against such men. These conditions must be changed if the Baptist denomination is to work out its destiny under God. To get an educated ministry, the Baptists must have schools and colleges of their own.

“First, because Baptist youth, living for four years in a college atmosphere strongly charged with influences hostile to their faith, might cease to be Baptists or at least become lukewarm.

“Secondly, because many Baptists are indifferent or even averse to higher education, and could best be won over by means of institutions controlled by their own sect.”¹

In October 1756, the Philadelphia Association funded the first Baptist Academy in Hopewell, N.J. Its success paved the way for the establishment of a Baptist college.

The Philadelphia Association’s decision to locate a university in Rhode Island was based upon two major factors:

First, Rhode Island had no public school or college, and was originally settled by Baptists.

Secondly, Baptists still composed a greater part of the state govern-

Brown was the first Baptist college in America, with Seventh Day Baptists playing an important role in its establishment.

ment and, therefore, it was the likeliest place to have a Baptist college established by law.

On October 24, 1764, Governor Samuel Ward, a member of the SDB Church of Hopkinton, R.I., signed the school’s charter. Other SDBs from both Newport and Hopkinton were among the strongest supporters in establishing that Baptist college.

Col. Job Bennett, a judge of the Superior Court, helped draft Brown’s

charter and served on the Board of Trustees from its beginning until his death in 1784. Col. Bennett also served as its treasurer from 1767 to 1775.

In addition to Ward and Bennett, other SDBs on that first Board of Trustees included Rev. John Maxson of Newport (1764-1778) and Joshua Clarke of Hopkinton (1764-1789).

John Tanner of the Newport church joined the Board in 1768, serving until his death in 1785. Pastor William Bliss was a trustee from 1785 to 1793, and Joshua Babcock of the Hopkinton church served on the Board of Fellows from 1764 to 1783. (That body was charged with the academic affairs of the college.)

Brown University’s charter specified that of the 36 trustees, 22 “shall forever be from the Baptists or Anabaptists; five elected from the Friends or Quakers; four from the Congregationalists; and five from the Episcopalians.”

The charter further stated that the succession in this branch “shall forever be chosen and filled up from the respective Denominations in this Proportion, and according to these Numbers, which are hereby affixed and shall remain in Perpetuity immutably the same.”²

According to the listings of Morgan Edwards, Seventh Day Baptists were included among the Baptists without distinction as to



Founded in 1764 as the College of Rhode Island in Warren, R.I., the school registered its first students in 1765. It moved in 1770 to its present location on College Hill, overlooking the city of Providence. In 1804, in recognition of a gift from Nicholas Brown, the College of Rhode Island was renamed Brown University.

their Sabbath observance.³ Any discrimination tended to be based on matters other than one's denominational affiliation.

Appendix B of Bronson's *History*, entitled "Early Laws of the College," was taken from the Corporate Records of 1783 and

immediately withhold unnecessary noise, repair to the hall, and behave with decency during the time of exercise.

- 2) The senior class, when required, shall read a chapter out of the Greek Testament into English before morning prayers,

On October 24, 1764, Governor Samuel Ward, a member of the SDB Church of Hopkinton, R.I., signed the school's charter.

covered such items as admissions; scholastic exercises; religion, and moral and decent conduct; the library; and rooms in college.

Some of these laws were extremely detailed and restrictive:

"No person may expect to be admitted into this College unless, upon examination by the President and Tutors into this College, shall be found able to read accurately, construe, and purse *Tully* and the Greek Testament, and Virgil; and shall be able to write Latin in prose, and hath learned the rules of Prosody and Vulgar Arithmetic; and shall bring suitable Testimony of a blameless life & conversation."

Further down on the list were such admonitions as:

"No student may read any book in the hour of study, excepting the Classics, or tend to illustrate the subject matter of his recitation, for the time being."

"It is not permitted any one, in the hours of study, to speak to another, except in Latin, either in College or College Yard."

Another section concerning religion, and moral and decent conduct included:

- 1) On ringing of the Bell for morning and evening prayers, all the members of the College shall

the President or Tutor calling on whom they think proper of the class to perform this duty.

- 3) Every student shall attend public worship every first day of the week, where he, his parents or Guardians shall think proper, provided that any who do not attend with any officer of instruction produce vouchers, when demanded, of his steady and orderly attendance.

Appended to this last statement was a note applying to Seventh Day Baptists: "Such as regularly and steadily observe the seventh day as a Sabbath, are exempted from this Law; and are only required to abstain from secular employment, which would interrupt their fellow students."

A later reference applied to students of Quaker persuasion:

"No Student, excepting those who stately attend the Friends Meeting, is permitted to wear his hat within the College walls; nor when speaking to or spoken to by, or is in company with, an officer of instruction unless he be permitted by them to put it on."⁴

Other restrictions were placed on playing cards, and on any unlawful games, swearing, getting drunk, using obscene language or idle words, keeping company with persons of

known bad character, or "attending at places of vain Sports."

Among the early graduates of Brown University, class of 1771, was the sixth offspring of Governor Samuel Ward, who bore his father's name. He was a trustee of the school from 1790-1800 following a distinguished career as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Revolutionary War.

Ebenezar David, a 1772 graduate of Brown, was the son of Rev. Enoch David, a Seventh Day Baptist leader in the Philadelphia area. The Hopkinton SDB Church ordained Ebenezar following his graduation.

After returning to Philadelphia, Ebenezar enlisted in the Federal Army and was soon appointed a chaplain serving at Valley Forge. In 1777, he resigned from the chaplaincy to study medicine in Providence, R.I.

Ebenezar's biographer speculates that his interest in medicine may have been aroused during his year in the army, when his chaplain duties led to make almost daily trips to hospitals to visit the sick. Sometimes men with relatively minor wounds died from diseases that medical science at the time was incapable of preventing, much less curing.

The death rate was high, and the lists of victims sometimes included doctors who contracted diseases from their patients. Ebenezar David was one of those unfortunates.⁵ He died on March 19, 1778. **SR**

¹Bronson, "History of Brown University," 1764-1914, Providence, published by the University, 1914, pp. 6-7.

²"Historical Catalogue of Brown University," 1764-1914, published by the University, 1914, pp. 2-13.

³"Materials Towards a History of the Baptists," by Morgan Edwards, edited by Eva Weeks and Mary Edwards, *Heritage Papers* (Danielsville, Ga.), 1984, Vol. 1, p. 197.

⁴Bronson, *op. cit.*, p. 519.

⁵"A Rhode Island Chaplain in the Revolution," edited by Jeanette Black and William Greene Roelker, *Rhode Island Society of Cincinnati, Providence, R.I.*, 1949, p. xxvi.



Pre-Con memories

From my first day at Pre-Con, I was hooked.

More than 40 kids roughly my age had come for fun, food, Bible studies, and making friends. Some of the people at that Pre-Con had grown up with me at Associated Conferences, while I met others for the first time.

Many of those I met became lifelong friends, people I continue to see at General Conference sessions and as I travel around the country.

The long-term results of gathering at Pre-Con weren't yet clear to me back in 1985, but I knew the time had been well spent, and I looked forward to attending the next one.

That 1985 Pre-Con was held in Canfield, Ark., one of the last times both Youth and Young Adult Pre-Con were held at the same site.

I don't remember any difficulties caused by both groups being on one site; actually, it was fun to see the young adults wandering around. However, I now realize that there were probably tensions between the two groups. Most likely, the directors of both Pre-Cons had to make scheduling compromises that shifted the overall experience away from what they were trying to create.

One of my more intriguing memories of that Pre-Con is that Pastor Gordon Lawton and his wife, Linda, were the directors. God allowed our paths to cross many more times after that. In fact, nine years later, Pastor Gordon was my mentor while

I served as summer pastor for the Richburg, N.Y., church.

Fifteen years after my first Pre-Con, the Lawtons were pastoring the church in Little Genesee, N.Y.—which I joined when I began serving as executive director for the Board of Christian Education. We're still friends today, with Gordon and I working together on the Coordinating Leadership Team and General Council.

I also have not-so-wonderful memories of my initial Pre-Con.

Camping in Arkansas in August made a distinct impression on me: That state can be hot, dusty, and sweaty. I also remember the bugs.

Depending on where you went on campus, you could find red ants, chiggers, ticks, and scary-looking spiders. If I recall correctly, the medical threat that year was Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. Memorable!

"Pre-Conners" are often asked to present a program at General Conference. The one chosen for that year was called, "There's a Reason."

While I don't remember all of the Pre-Con musicals I took part in, many of the songs from that particular one still stick in my mind.

The point of the musical was to teach us that Jesus Christ is the one by whom we should measure our lives. The words from one of the songs pop up in my mind rather consistently:

"Everyone is doing it." This is the song you sing. But saying this, is saying that everyone's your king.

To be a slave to everyone just isn't very cool; for saying

this, is saying that you're everybody's fool.

There is a type of slavery that proves you're not a fool. In saying this, we're saying that to be Christ's slave is cool.

So keep you heart and eyes on Christ. Now there's a song to sing!

In saying this, we're saying that Jesus Christ is King!

So what did Pre-Con mean to me in 1985? It meant creating new friendships while strengthening old relationships; learning new things about bugs; hearing the Gospel message and responding to it in faith; discovering more about Conference; and, in a very real sense, falling in love with this particular group of God's people.

What do you remember about *your* Pre-Con days?

If you would like to share a testimony of how God used Pre-Con to change your life, please drop me a note. I would love to hear about the many ways God has used this ministry in people's lives.

If you know of young people who are Pre-Con age, encourage them to attend. This year, Pastors Chris Mattison and Wayne North are planning encouraging lessons, writing solid schedules, and gathering supportive staffs. Their efforts to make both Pre-Cons great will fall short unless "retreaters" show up in droves.

Please do your part by making sure that everyone who is eligible has the chance to go. **SR**



FOCUS on Missions

From Sudan to Nebraska

by Ronald J. Elston

Last year, a group of Sudanese Christians in Omaha, Neb., contacted the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society. They were interested in starting an SDB church in their area. (Their home country of Sudan is in northeastern Africa, just south of Egypt.)

A number of subsequent visits helped the group develop their vision for an SDB work in Nebraska.

Area Seventh Day Baptists were contacted and advised about the group's desire. The Sudanese made several visits to our Nebraska churches in North Loup and Lincoln. Leaders from those churches assisted with some vital early development and encouragement.

Representatives from the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Board and the local churches assisted the Sudanese group in locating a meeting facility.

With communications a "must," Missionary Society Executive Director Kirk Looper guided the new group in purchasing and setting up a computer system for word processing and e-mail.

The national office of the Missionary Society spent a great deal of time helping the group draw

up a covenant, constitution, and bylaws.

There is much work involved in church planting. The search for a mentoring church resulted in Texarkana, Ark., sponsoring the branch.

Realizing the distance factor that some of our sponsors and

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branches have, the Missionary Society—through CAST (Contact and Support Training)—has developed a program where we bring together the leadership from the two groups. The leaders get acquainted and discuss what the relationship means, providing responsibility and accountability.

In some cases, a National Field Development Team member is

assigned to work as a mentor between the two groups.

Recently, such a gathering took place with sponsoring church pastor Mynor Soper meeting with the leadership of the Sudanese group. Also present were Marian Soper, Kirk Looper and his wife, Vivian, and National Director of Extension Rev. R.J. Elston. The meetings were held in Atlantic, Iowa.

Pastors Soper and Elston also attended the Sabbath services in Omaha, where Mynor brought the morning message.

The meetings were a blessing and necessary for communication between the two groups. The Sudanese currently rent a facility in the Omaha area, and list a membership of 123.

We have seen an added blessing as the group in Omaha continues to send missionaries back to the Republic of Sudan. Later this summer, Kirk will join several from the church and visit Sudan on a special missionary trip. Thanks to this working relationship, doors have been opened for ministry through our International Missions.

We are blessed and honored to welcome these fine folks to the Seventh Day Baptist family. **SR**



Sudanese SDBs meet in Omaha, Neb.



The Sopers with Sudanese leaders.



the BEACON

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

July/Aug. 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.

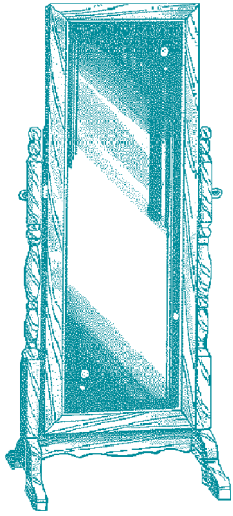
Director:

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*

Proud to be an American

As long as I can remember, I've loved the Fourth of July—our celebration of independence here in the U.S. It's not my favorite holiday (Christmas holds that spot), but it still ranks right up there.

This "love affair" seems a little strange since it certainly wasn't inherited. My father, even as a young boy, intensely disliked the Fourth. The window-rattling fireworks that most of his peers reveled in were anathema to him.

Back in the 1950s, Dad built floats (chicken wire stuffed with napkins) for the grocery store he worked at and drove them in the Independence Day parades. In later years, he watched the parades with his family and treated his grandchildren to a few amusement park rides. But that was the extent of his holiday celebration.

I, on the other hand, love everything about the Fourth: the parade (a high school classmate and I meet on the same corner to enjoy it together); the carnival in the park with its rides, games, and gourmet food (cotton candy, snow cones, and funnel cakes); picnics with family members; running into old friends; viewing the fireworks and watching my grandchildren react to them; delighting in the patriotic spirit that imbues the entire town.

Sitting on the curb with my grandkids at the "candy parade," the sight of aging, uniformed veterans proudly

marching beside Old Glory always puts a lump in my throat.

As much as I enjoy the parade each year, the evening's fireworks display is still the *pièce de résistance*. The sight and sound of exploding "shells" and their trailing embers still amaze and thrill me. The colors are daz-

I'm proud to live in this beloved nation that we daily take for granted. Our country is far from perfect and yet millions of people still long to live here.

zling, and the loud concussions echo in my chest—like when a bass drum passes by. No wonder Francis Scott Key was inspired to write "The Star-Spangled Banner"!

Of course, all of those booms and bangs frighten some of the younger children. But as they grow older, they'll eventually join their parents in repeating those two mystical words: "Ooohh... aaahh."

The fireworks end in a roof-raising climax of multiple explosions, ultimately extinguished in an ocean of applause. Then a large, glowing American flag springs to life, spewing red, white, and blue

sparks that leap into the summer air. As those sparks disappear, my heart swells with pride.

I'm proud to live in this "Land of the Free" and this "Home of the Brave"; this beloved nation that we daily take for granted. Our country is far from perfect and yet millions of people still long to live here.

I'm proud of all the men and women who sacrificed their very lives through seven major wars, starting with the American Revolution. With their blood, they bought us the freedom to gather whenever and wherever we want, to speak our minds, to chase our dreams, to worship God without fear of reprisal.

Most of all, I'm proud of Americans, the most generous people on earth. They remain so, even when bashed by the very individuals and nations they strive to help.

This Fourth, I pray that God will continue to bless our nation—this cultural melting pot, this vast land of mountains and rolling plains that stretch from sea to shining sea. **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

Conference 2007 at George Fox University

Once again, Conference time is approaching. Excitement is building among the Host Committee members, who are busily preparing to give everyone a great experience.

The entire campus staff is doing everything they can to make our stay enjoyable.

I just made my last visit to the beautiful GFU campus, taking a final look at the various areas assigned for the week's activities. The entire campus staff is happy that we are returning, and they are doing everything they can to make our stay enjoyable.

The availability of on-campus apartments increases the options for a comfortable time with great Christian fellowship. Golf carts will be available for transportation between buildings. If you are in a wheelchair or dependent on a walker, a few rooms are available for you specifically. Just be sure to let us know your needs.

I would like to entice you to come to Conference this year by listing our Bible Study leaders and evening speakers:

Monday: *God's Word is Truth*
A.M. — Pastor Steve Crouch
P.M. — Pastor George Lawton

Tuesday: *God is Sovereign*
A.M. — Pastor Matthew Berg
P.M. — Pastor Dale Rood

Wednesday: *Christ is Divine*
A.M. — John Pethtel
P.M. — Pastor Kory Geske

Thursday: *The Holy Spirit Indwells*
A.M. — Pastor Ken Burdick
P.M. — Pastor Stan Fox

Friday: *The Lost Are Really Lost*
A.M. — Pastor Steve Graffius
P.M. — Pastor Paul Andries

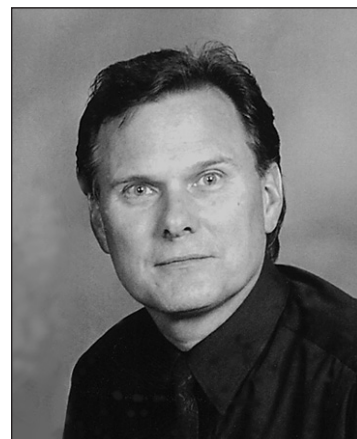
Sabbath: *Worship God in Spirit and in Truth*
A.M. — Pastor Herb Saunders

* * *

I'm looking forward to seeing you at the 195th session of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference, USA & Canada. God's blessings on all of you! **SR**

We will again have **Seminars/Workshops** on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. The offerings this year include:

- *Davidic Dance*—
Vivian McNeme
- *Creative Conversations: The Art of Effective Ambassadorship*—
Pastor Shirley Morgan
- *History of the Sabbath*—
Janet Thorngate
- *Sabbath School: Not an Option?*—
Paul Andries
- *Making the Helping Hand Useful*—
Rev. Andrew Camenga
- *Church Treasurer Seminar*—
Morgan Shepard
- *Town Hall Meetings with the Executives*—
Rob Appel
- *John 14:6-12, He Does, We do, They do*—
Poieo Staff



by Executive Director
Rob Appel

Executive Director annual report

Stability. When it comes to today's Church, stability is so important.

Thirty years ago, all the discussion would have been about growth, without even mentioning "stability." But in 2007, the Church in America is in decline. These days, there is a lot to be said for a Christian group that shows stability in tough times.

So it is with great pleasure to report that the Seventh Day Baptist Conference is growing! We are growing in the number of member churches, and in the attendees in church each Sabbath morning.

While this is very exciting news, it is not enough.

What are we doing about the unsaved who are among the 150,000 people who perish in this world every day? Are we reaching out to the lost and hurting, and those who have never heard the Gospel message?

Do you know why the Church isn't as effective today as it once was? We are not *being* the Church!

The Church used to be more than just a place of worship. It was where you went to get healed, to get help, to get back on your feet again.

Much of that was taken away when government-funded social programs began. And while those social programs have grown out of control with power and greed, the Church has faced problems of identity and purpose.

Friends, we can't afford to "play church" anymore! We cannot use our churches for simply two hours once a week. My good friend Don Graffius once said (and I steal his line often), "Are we two-hour Seventh Day Baptists, or are we 24/7th day Baptists?"

Try the 24/7 style. You'll get a better connection to God, enjoy His many blessings, and become a "life-changer" for someone else.

At Conference later this month, I am going to challenge everyone to take the next step in how we function as a body of believers. I'm actually going to make some proposals in my speech on the Conference floor.

I look forward to the possibilities that lie ahead for the Seventh Day Baptist Conference here in North America. These could become our most challenging years, as well as the most rewarding in our long, rich history.

Executive Director's stats

Since Conference 2006, I made 18 church visits/speaking opportunities, seven Association Meetings, and toured five potential Conference sites. I attended five Board meetings, three Ecumenical meetings, three CLT meetings, and two General Council meetings (with two additional conference telephone calls). I also made two mission trips, gave an SCSC presentation during

their training, and attended most of the Summer Institute in an auditing capacity.

I am happy to report that your Coordinating Leadership Team (CLT) continues to work in harmony, and team members are involved with each other through collaborative efforts, support, and communication. We are always cognizant of the work before us, and ever mindful of the history behind us. Our "AIM" is to have an Alliance In Ministry!

The level of ministry optimism shows that there can be breakthroughs in the near future. To make sure that we reach the next level of ministry of and for Seventh Day Baptists, I am confident that we can foster an environment of trust between the churches and the ministries of our Boards and Agencies. I'm very excited to see how it all comes together.

We have an AIM together! Our AIM—our Alliance In Ministry—will unite us in an effort to reach all we can for Christ.

Thank you all for your support and prayers. *SR*





“...if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the gospel of God’s grace” (Acts 20:24, NIV).

The Race Is Not Yet Over

by Morgan Shepard

“You were running a good race. Who cut in on you and kept you from obeying the truth?” (Galatians 5:7, NIV).

In a race, the first one to finish gets the prize. In the financial operation of the General Conference, the goal is not necessarily being the “fastest” but being consistent. We’ve been running a good race and for those who have been a part of this effort, **thank you for all your support!** However, the race isn’t over.

As we prepare to head to Newberg, Ore., for the 195th Seventh Day Bap-

tist General Conference at the end of July, I want to give you an update on how things are going financially for the Conference.

As the chart below shows, we are within 12% of meeting our needs, compared to last year when we were 25% behind. This is not too much to overcome in the time remaining!

While overall giving is down compared to this time in 2006, the Boards and Agencies sharpened their pencils last year and reduced their budgets as they continue to be faithful stewards of what you and God have given them.


Month	Budgeted Monthly Giving	Actual Monthly Giving	Cumulative Budgeted Giving	Cumulative Actual Giving	Actual vs. Budgeted Monthly Giving	Actual vs. Budgeted Cumulative Giving	% of Yearly Giving
Jan-07	\$ 38,241.42	\$ 42,173.60	\$ 38,241.42	\$ 42,173.60	\$ 3,932.18	\$ 3,932.18	110%
Feb-07	38,241.42	21,370.46	76,482.83	63,544.06	(16,870.96)	(12,938.77)	83%
Mar-07	38,241.42	15,480.28	114,724.25	79,024.34	(22,761.14)	(35,699.91)	69%
Apr-07	38,241.42	60,095.32	152,965.67	139,119.66	21,853.90	(13,846.01)	91%
May-07	38,241.42	28,448.39	191,207.08	167,568.05	(9,793.03)	(23,639.03)	88%

Agency	Giving Jan. - May '07	Goal Jan. - May '07	% of Goal
BCE	\$ 18,886.46	\$ 22,268.33	85%
COM	29,150.57	27,410.83	106%
GS	63,609.20	72,333.33	88%
HS	472.22	833.33	57%
MS	25,071.41	23,357.50	107%
TCC	17,581.92	22,562.50	78%
WS	3,909.80	13,333.33	29%
Total	\$ 158,681.58	\$ 182,099.17	87%

Individually, our Boards and Agencies are doing well and are heading toward meeting their needs during the rest of 2007. Some will hold their annual fund-raisers later in the year.

In addition to meeting their goals, they also need a consistent cash flow. When you get to Conference, talk with the Board and Agency executives and find out what their needs are for the rest of the year.

As we mentioned last month, **“match a need with a gift with a passion.”** Consider a special gift for the Conference Offering on Sabbath, or check out E-Gifting to provide a regular monthly gift. Let’s finish strong together!

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith” (2 Timothy 4:7, NIV). 

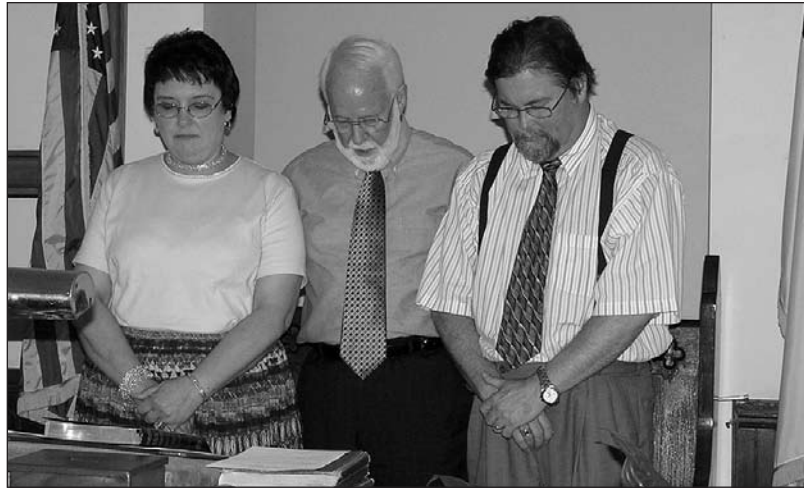
Lost Creek installs new pastor

by Gordon Lawton

On June 2, 2007, Rev. Perry Cain was installed as pastor of the Lost Creek, W.Va., Seventh Day Baptist Church.

The Rev. Dr. Dale D. Thorngate of the Salem, W.Va., SDB Church presented the charge to the new pastor and led in the prayer of consecration. Pictured in the photo are (l. to r.): Linda Cain, Pastor Dale Thorngate, and Pastor Perry Cain.

Pastor Perry has served as assistant pastor in SDB churches in Salem; Shiloh, N.J.; and Columbus, Ohio. He was pastor in Columbus [now located in Pataskala, Ohio] from 1981-1987. He was ordained by the Columbus church in 1981.



Since 1987, Pastor Perry has worked at Salem International University, and more recently, as the principal counselor at Crimson Counseling in Clarksburg, W.Va.

Let's welcome Perry as he brings pastoral and counseling experience, as well as musical abilities, with him to Lost Creek. **SR**

Leonardsville-Brookfield welcomes new leader

The Rev. Gene Smith has assumed pastoral responsibilities of the Leonardsville-Brookfield, N.Y., Seventh Day Baptist Church.

Pastor Gene, lured out of retirement, felt the call to get back in the pulpit.

"I want us to reach out to the many unchurched of those com-

munities," Pastor Smith said. "And I want the church people to get involved in that outreach."

The church meets in Leonardsville from May through October, with congregants worshipping in Brookfield during the colder months.

Gene and his wife, Marie, continue to live in Sherrill, N.Y. **SR**

Thank You
for your prayer support and generous response to the Center on Ministry's letter in April (which included the seminary student prayer card).

Thank you also for your continued support of COM through the SDB Alliance In Ministry.

—Gordon Lawton
Director of Pastoral Services for the Council on Ministry

Chaplain Johnson back safely

The subject line on the e-mail simply said, "I am home!"

That missive on June 16 from U.S. Army Chaplain Jerry Johnson let his family and friends hear some more-than-welcome news. After a year in Afghanistan (and the last

several weeks near the front lines), Pastor Jerry made it back to his family in Lowville, N.Y., close to his home base of Fort Drum.

The Johnsons thank all of their Seventh Day Baptist friends for their fervent prayers. **SR**

New members

Fort Lauderdale, FL
Andrew Samuels, pastor
 Joined by letter
 Edward Williams
 Lucille Williams

Miami, FL
Andrew Samuels, pastor
 Joined after testimony

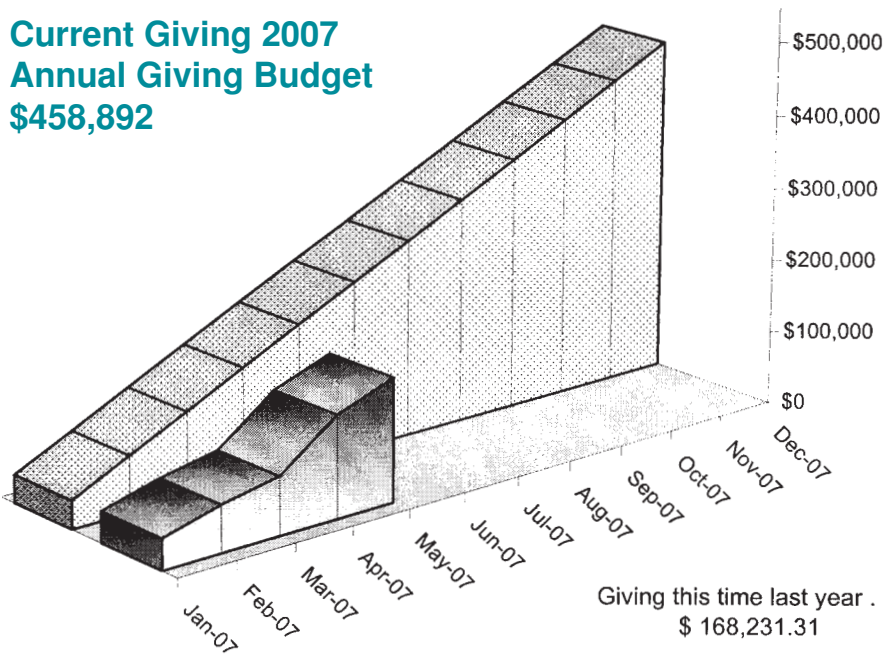
Betty Anderson
 Marc Downes
**Next Step Christian
 Thornton, CO**
Rodney Henry, pastor
 Joined after baptism
 Kelly Parker
 Joined after testimony
 Adam Mackintosh

Marriages

Parkan - Tabor.—John Michael Parkan and Shelley Anne Tabor were united in marriage on March 17, 2007, at Bel Air Bay Club in Pacific Palisades, CA. Rabbi Arthur Rosenberg officiated.

Monroe - Shank.—Joshua Nathan Monroe and Dawna Renee Shank were united in marriage on March 24, 2007, at Remount Baptist Church in North Little Rock, AR. Pastor Cliff Hutchins officiated.

Current Giving 2007 Annual Giving Budget \$458,892



Giving this time last year . . .
 \$ 168,231.31

	Month - May '07	Year To Date
Budgeted	\$ 38,241	\$ 191,207
Actual	\$ 28,448	\$ 167,568
Difference	\$ (9,793)	\$ (23,639)
% of Budget	74%	88%

PROP Giving	
May '07	\$ 727
Year To Date	\$ 4,644

Morgan Shepard, Treasurer

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!

Obituaries

Mares.—William “Bill” J. Mares, 78, died on April 19, 2007, at Sacred Heart Hospital in Eau Claire, Wis.

He was born on April 10, 1929, in Chetek, Wis., the son of Frank and Frances (Skubal) Mares. In 1950, he married Judith Nelson, who died in April of 1995.

Bill was a dairy farmer and later worked for implement dealers.

He was a faithful member of the New Auburn, Wis., Seventh Day Baptist Church, serving as a trustee for several years. He was also active on the local school board and the town board.

Survivors include his wife, Mary; three sons, Darrell, John, and David; three daughters, Susan Clark, Lori Mares, and Jane Curavo; one brother, Stanley; one sister, Lucille Zachery; six grandchildren; seven step-grandchildren; one great-grandchild; one step-great-grandchild; and many nieces, nephews, and friends.

In addition to his first wife, Bill was preceded in death by one son,

Joseph, and one brother, Clarence.

A memorial service was held on April 24, 2007, at the New Auburn SDB Church, with Pastor Wayne North officiating. Interment was in Lake View Cemetery in Chetek.

Randolph.—A. Nellie (Kuyper) Randolph, 81, of Hopewell Township, N.J., died peacefully was a lifelong area resident of Shiloh, N.J.

She was born in Shiloh to William and Mari (VanderKolk) Kuyper. For 55 years, she was the wife of David A. Randolph. He died in 1999.

Nellie was a 1943 graduate of Bridgeton, N.J., High School, and worked as the office manager for Townsend Oil for several years before retiring. She also worked at the former Perkins and DeWilde Nursery, and at Price Brothers Lithograph Company in Bridgeton.

She was a longtime member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church in Shiloh, where she was a member

of its Ladies Benevolent Society and the Willing Workers Sabbath School class. She also was active on various church committees.

Nellie enjoyed exercising at Curves in Hopewell, and was their oldest active participant. Her favorite hobby was spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Survivors include two daughters, Kathleen V. Sloan of Hopewell Township and Nancy R. Davis of Stow Creek Township; one brother, Derk Kuyper of Florida; five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. One sister, Alive Weaver; one brother, Henry “Bill” Kuyper; and twin great-grandsons predeceased her.

A memorial service was held on June 9, 2007, at the SDB Church of Shiloh, with Pastor Don Chroniger officiating. Interment was at the Seventh Day Baptist Cemetery in Shiloh.

Denominational Dateline

July

- 8-14 Pacific Firs, Camp McCollough, Covington, Wash.—Andrew Camenga
- 15 Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society Board of Managers Meeting, Westerly, R.I.—Kirk Looper
- 24-25 CLT (Coordinating Leadership Team), George Fox University, Newberg, Ore.
- 25-27 General Council meets, George Fox University
- 25-29 Youth Pre-Con, Molalla, Ore.
- 25-29 Young Adult Pre-Con, George Fox University
- 28-29 SDB Memorial Fund Quarterly Meeting, George Fox University—Morgan Shepard

- 29 Seventh Day Baptist Council on Ministry Mid-Year Meeting, George Fox University—Gordon Lawton
- 29-8/4 General Conference, George Fox University

August

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

September

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

Give to those who gave so much.

PASTORS:

Leroy C. Bass C. Rex Burdick David S. Clarke

Leland E. Davis Ralph L. Hays Sr. Melvin G. Nida

David C. Pearson Donald E. Richards

Don A. Sanford Victor W. Skaggs

Edgar F. Wheeler

OTHER RETIREES:

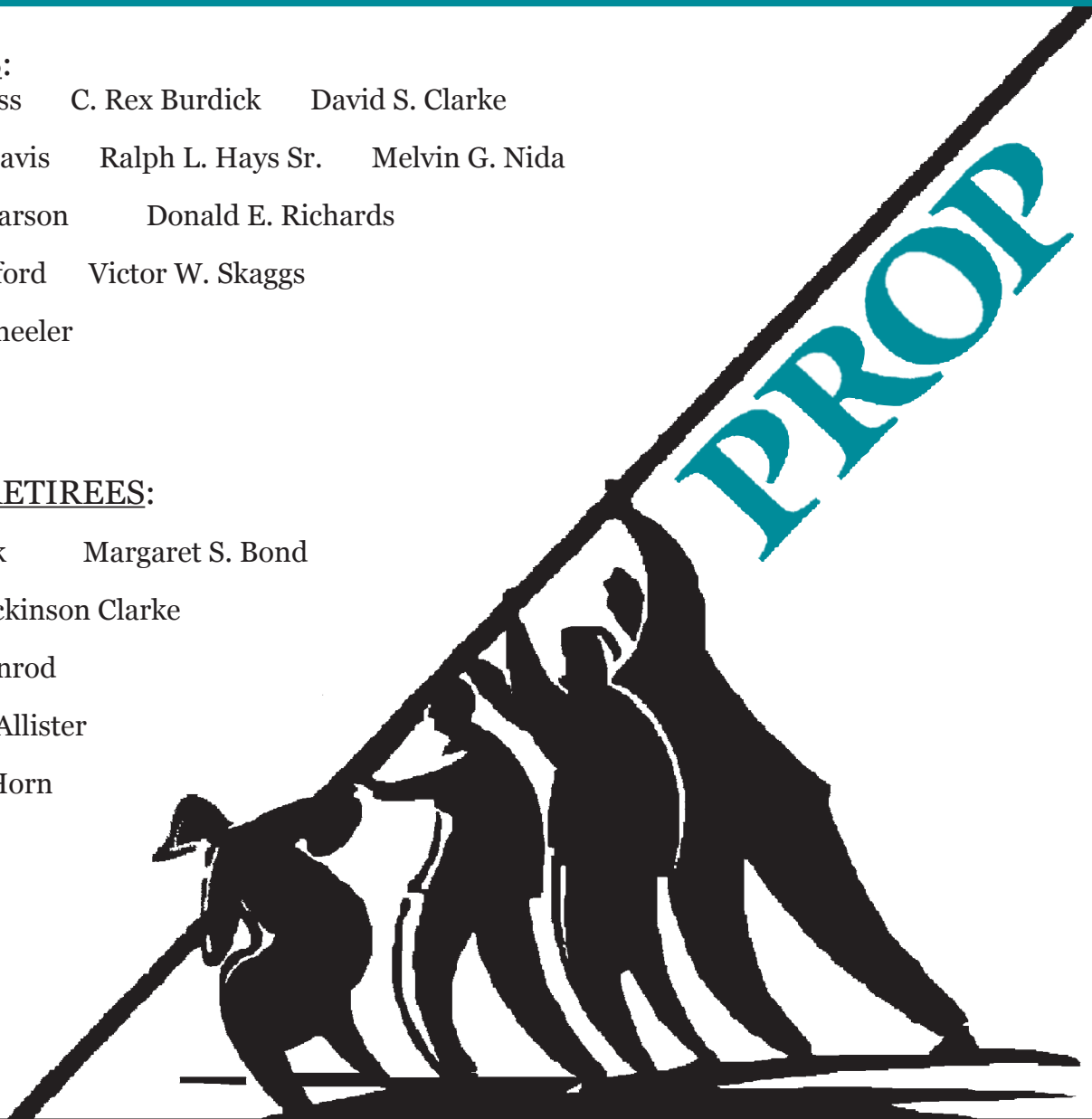
Ida Babcock Margaret S. Bond

Ethel D. Dickinson Clarke

Joyce L. Conrod

Jean D. McAllister

Doris Van Horn



Pastors Retirement Offering Project

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

Send your donation to:

PROP, Seventh Day Baptist Center, PO Box 1678, Janesville WI 53547-1678

KEVIN'S

ORNER

Home away from home

It's June 6th.

Besides reflecting on the 1944 allied invasion of France (D-Day), my wife Janet and I marked another red-letter day. June 6 was our first official "date" in 1975.

My plans for an oh-so-exciting evening included a competitive round of miniature golf. The rain won. It started pouring around the 8th hole, so it was on to "Plan B."

We quickly headed to a mall to catch the movie "Earthquake"—featuring the new technology of "Sensurround" moving

and shaking the theater during the quake scenes.

Well, something must have "clicked" between us, because we've been "moving and shaking" together ever since. We dated for three more years, were engaged for another, and got married at the end of the summer in 1979.

The end of this summer holds another important anniversary for us. It will mark the 25th year since we moved away from our families in New York state. That's literally half our lives ago!

Twenty-five years away from "home." Seminary for three years in Ohio, then to a pastorate for three more, and then on to Janesville.

So much has happened in those two-and-a-half decades. Our oldest is off on her own; our second girl was gone for two years, then returned; our third got married, and they are now with her parents after spending a year in Denver; and our youngest plans to be a "big man on campus" come September.

With all of this happening so "quickly," my biggest question remains: Will I really be able to set

up a separate den/home office? Janet sure hopes so. She wants my desk and accompanying clutter out of our bedroom!

Being away from the homestead in New York forced us to become independent pretty quickly, and I believe it brought us closer as a family. Plus, being involved in our annual SDB Conference has taken us all over the country. It's sometimes mind-boggling as I minister to those who have rarely been beyond their local county line.

But before I get too puffed up about our travels, I have to remind myself that these folks have chosen to "stay put" near their own families. This hits me hard especially at holiday time.

Having our kids far removed from grandparents and cousins has been quite tough sometimes. That's why it's been so special that our church friends have become family. (Wasn't that really part of God's plan, that we be brothers and sisters?)

I don't know of any other conference of churches that could be more "family" than Seventh Day Baptists.

We have some who move away and are on their own without local church support.

We have some who leave for a while, then come back.

Others get married and move to their spouse's home turf.

Some head off to school.

We're family. And I wouldn't have it any other way.



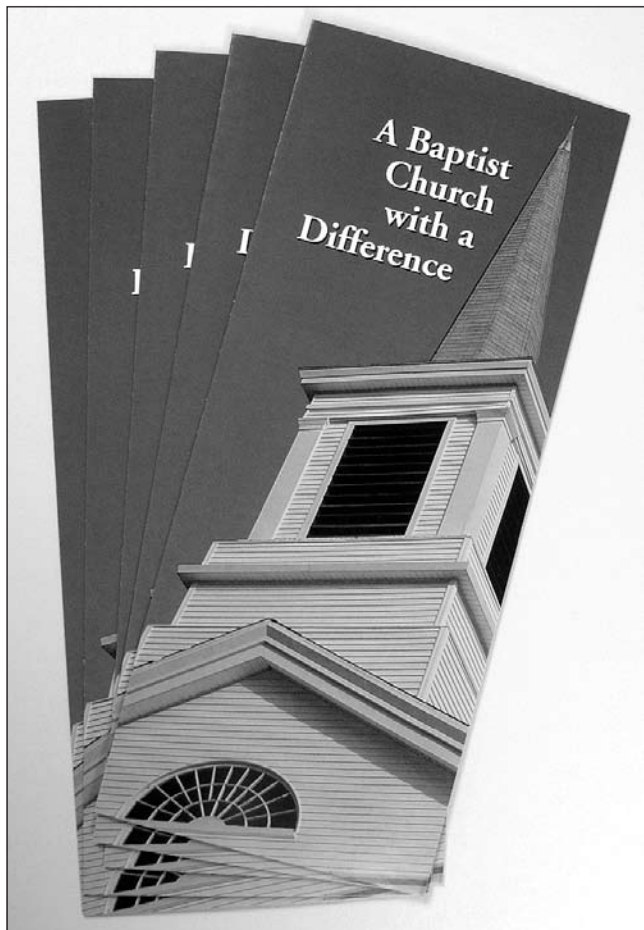
What does your local church mean to you?

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. Deadline is September 30. Thank you!

Check out the Difference!



A New & Improved Baptist Church

Our best-selling tract, “A Baptist Church that’s a little different” has become “A Baptist Church with a Difference.”

It features a crisp new digital photo on the front, with the title in reverse type to stand out against the purplish-blue cloudless sky. The new back panel format makes it easy to mail to new contacts.

The content holds the same basic historical sketch, and our Statement of Belief.

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