

SR The Sabbath RECORDER

January 2008

News for and about Seventh Day Baptists

Does Thinking of Foreign Missions...



*Make your
hair stand up?*

*Or give
you joy?*





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

Waiting until the
LAST MINUTE??



Postmark deadlines—

Team members:

January 10

Church projects:

January 31



SR Resurrection Cover Contest

Young artists need
to submit their work
by **January 15**

*See previous SRs
(They're on-line) for
more details*

Missionary Society Annual Meeting



The annual meeting of the members of the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society will be held at the Pawcatuck SDB Meeting House, 120 Main St., Westerly, R.I., on Sunday, March 16, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. for the following purposes:

- To elect voting members, a Board of Managers and officers to hold office until the next annual meeting and until their successors are elected.
- To hear and act upon the reports of the Board of Managers and officers for the fiscal year January 1, 2007, to December 31, 2007.
- To ratify the appointment of independent public accountants for the current fiscal year.
- To consider and act upon such other matters as may properly come before said meeting or any adjournment thereof.

The Board of Managers has fixed the close of business on February 29, 2008, as the time at which members entitled to notice thereof and to vote at the meeting and any adjournment thereof shall be determined.

—Cindy L Nadeau,
Secretary



Establ. 1844

January 2008
Volume 230, No. 1
Whole No. 6,935



A Seventh Day Baptist publication

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

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

This is the 163rd year of publication for *The Sabbath Recorder*. First issue published, June 13, 1844. Member of the Associated Church Press. The *Sabbath Recorder* does not necessarily endorse signed articles.



Kevin Butler
Editor

editor@seventhdaybaptist.org

Leanne Lippincott-Wuerthele
Assistant Editor

EC = Editor's Circle members

Contributing Editors

Rob Appel, Susan Bond, Andrew J. Camenga, Jessica Chroniger, Gordon Lawton, G. Kirk Looper, Andrew Samuels, Don A. Sanford, Morgan Shepard.

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

Features

- Rwanda: Outreach and cooperation.....4**
by Kirk Looper
Their Conference has spread to other countries, and now they're looking for pen pals from here.
- Kenya: Land of beauty and variety5**
by Kirk Looper
Beautiful, yes, but the travel is dangerous.
- Zambia: Strength and determination7**
by Kirk Looper
Despite the need for wells and buildings, growth continues in Zambia. And their annual meeting was exciting!
- Rez Connection: Mission for you.....9**
by Kirk Looper
Using "The Way of the Master" technique, more volunteers are heading to the Pine Ridge Reservation.
- Portage has growing pains11**
by Ron Elston
Church in central Wisconsin is being blessed.

Departments

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Women's Society 12 | President's Page 20 |
| <i>'Twas late September</i> | <i>We can do so much more</i> |
| Pearls from the Past 14 | Alliance In Ministry 21 |
| <i>Tricentennial worth remembering</i> | <i>Church CPR</i> |
| Christian Education 16 | Financial Faith 22 |
| <i>Rev. H.D. Clarke and the Orphan Train</i> | <i>A new year and a new start</i> |
| Focus 17 | Local news 23 |
| <i>Slow, steady in Tanzania</i> | <i>Colton, CA</i> 23 |
| The Beacon 18 | Family flux 24-26 |
| <i>Keeping promises</i> | <i>Marriage, Births</i> 24 |
| Reflections 19 | <i>Obituaries</i> 25-26 |
| <i>Revolving resolving</i> | Kevin's Korner 27 |
| | <i>What's with the gas can?</i> |



Rwanda: Outreach and cooperation

by Kirk Looper

Since my first visit there in 1994, the Conference in Rwanda has grown to almost 10 churches and continues to reach out to other communities.

Rev. Elie Nduwayesu has worked tirelessly to accomplish the goals that were initially established. As he expanded the area where SDB churches were located, he helped to develop new groups in neighboring countries—like the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Uganda. He also assisted the ministry in Burundi.

We here at the Missionary Society office have a lot of respect for Pastor Nduwayesu and appreciate his work throughout the Great Lakes SDB Conference that's made up of congregations in Rwanda, Burundi, and the Congo.

Last November, the Rwanda SDB Church Conference hosted delegates from all three of these countries in Ruhengeri town. They met to determine how the Conferences could jointly help improve the quality of God's work in the region. Visitors included Pastors Nduwayo Gilbert and Niyibigira Pampile from Burundi, and Makuza Nibakure from the Congo.

The guests wanted to see some members of the Rwandan Conference, so on Sabbath they visited the congregations in the Ruhengeri area. The next day, they went to churches in the western region, and on Monday they stopped at the church in the Nyamutera region.

The meeting on Sabbath was long and resulted in the following actions:

- 1) They expressed the need to communicate with indi-

vidual churches in the USA and Canada. They are interested in receiving addresses of pen pals who would be willing to exchange letters or e-mail messages.

Those interested would submit their address, gender, and age to the Missionary Society. In turn, this information would be sent to the General Secretary of one of the African countries represented at the meetings. They felt that these connections might result in more information being shared, especially on ways to reach out to neighbors, establish projects, etc. Another possible benefit would be building better relationships between Conferences.

- 2) They expressed concern about the conditions that exist in

Burundi and the churches there. It appears that many do not have roofs on their buildings, so they can't meet when it rains. They also are unable to gather during the hottest part of the day, because they aren't protected from the sun. They need sheets of metal for their roofs.



Rev. Elie and Bernadett Nduwayesu of Rwanda.



The Maranatha SDB Church leaders in Ruhengeri, Rwanda.

- 3) During 2007, the work in the Congo was disrupted by the war in the eastern part of the country. Many church members became displaced. They need support while away from their homes and businesses.
- 4) In Rwanda, the work is going well, and many new churches are being planted in spite of scant help in finding places to worship.
- 5) They felt that someone should come to their countries from the United States or Canada to help teach them and work with them.

The Rwandan area participants hope that other Conferences will



They are interested in receiving addresses of pen pals who would be willing to exchange letters or e-mail messages.

get in touch with them, offering encouragement and advice. They would also welcome financial support. They believe that

through such a partnership, some of their problems can be solved and many of their needs can be met. **SR**

Kenya: Land of beauty and variety

by Kirk Looper

There are beautiful sights as you travel from Nairobi to Kisii in Kenya, Africa. This country's foliage is amazing, and the variance in land types and temperature zones makes it delightful to the senses.

Even though the intense heat has an undesirable effect on your body, it's offset by all the other delights of this nation.

There are many more cars and trucks in Kenya than you might expect in a country with such a poor economy. This is true even in areas far away from main population centers, such as Nairobi.

Most of the Kenyan Seventh Day Baptist churches are located in the area around Kisii. It's characterized by high hills and rough roads, with the hillsides covered

Kenya's foliage is amazing, and the variance in land types and temperature zones makes it delightful to the senses.

with fruit and tea-growing plantations. The people here still live in grass huts, or in one or two-room buildings made of mud walls and dirt floors.

When individuals travel in Kenya, they either have to walk or take public transportation—both of

which can be dangerous. As in most African countries, thieves and murderers wander the roads and fields.

Public transportation is crowded. Unless you have money to board the "luxury" buses, travel is hot and slow. The cost of renting a vehicle is exorbitant, and it is often not in the best condition.

That is the one thing that Conference leaders in Kenya want for their General Secretary. A vehicle would allow him to visit new contacts and existing churches much more easily. This would be a tremendous encouragement to them!

The church work in Kenya extends from Kisii toward Nairobi. Growth is slow, but this is good because it gives the Conference time to mentor



A typical SDB church in Kenya where a building is needed.

new members, helping them to understand Seventh Day Baptist polity and beliefs.

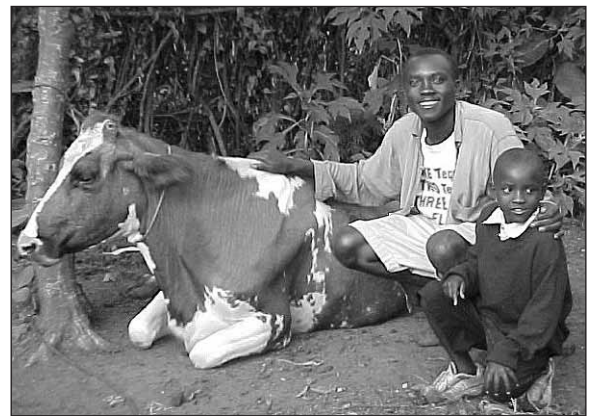
They often develop seminars to teach these concepts, but the classes are costly because they bring participants to one location so instructors don't have to constantly repeat their teachings.

These seminars usually burden the leadership because they are the main financiers of the training. One of the main leaders, Bishop Benard Mose, continually requests funding for these seminars, so any support would be greatly appreciated.

It's evident that one of the Conference's biggest weaknesses is the lack of funds to provide a meeting house. The cost of the roof is far greater than what they can come up with themselves. Each sheet of iron sells for over \$20, plus they need to pay transportation costs to get the materials to the construction site.

The buildings are usually very simple. With Seventh Day Baptist congregations furnishing most of the labor, basic church facilities can be built in a relatively short time. They currently have

Bishop Benard Mose shows the type of cow needed for church members.



A vehicle would allow the General Secretary to visit new contacts and existing churches much more easily.

13 churches with a total of 1,000 members.

Even though they have an active church-planting program in Kenya, the SDB congregations

that are already there need our prayers and support. Many are struggling to maintain their rolls of active members.

It would be good to support these churches so that they can eventually maintain themselves. It may also be wise to provide funds to train the young people in schools and colleges. If we can help fund education, these children will grow up to be productive members of society.

While our Kenyan brethren can use our help, we should pray for *all* of the churches and Conferences in Africa. **SR**

Zambia:

Strength and determination

by Kirk Looper

Evelyn Mukumbo, who first met Seventh Day Baptists while attending Baptist World Alliance meetings, introduced our denomination to Zambia in 1986. After presenting that information to her people, they contacted Malawi SDBs to learn how to start organizing their own SDB churches.

The Conference in Zambia flourished quickly, growing to more than 30 churches. Despite a small setback in the late 1990s, they now have 20 churches with over 1,000 members.

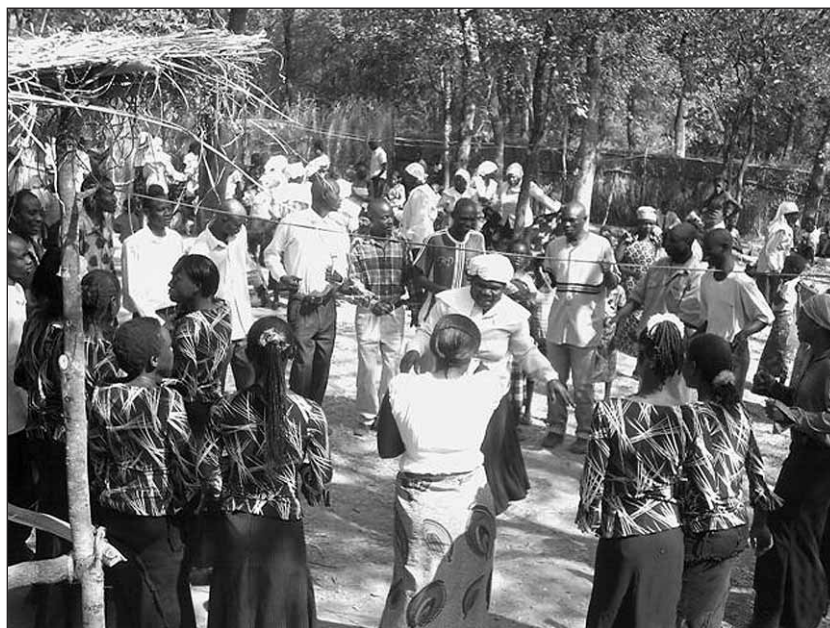
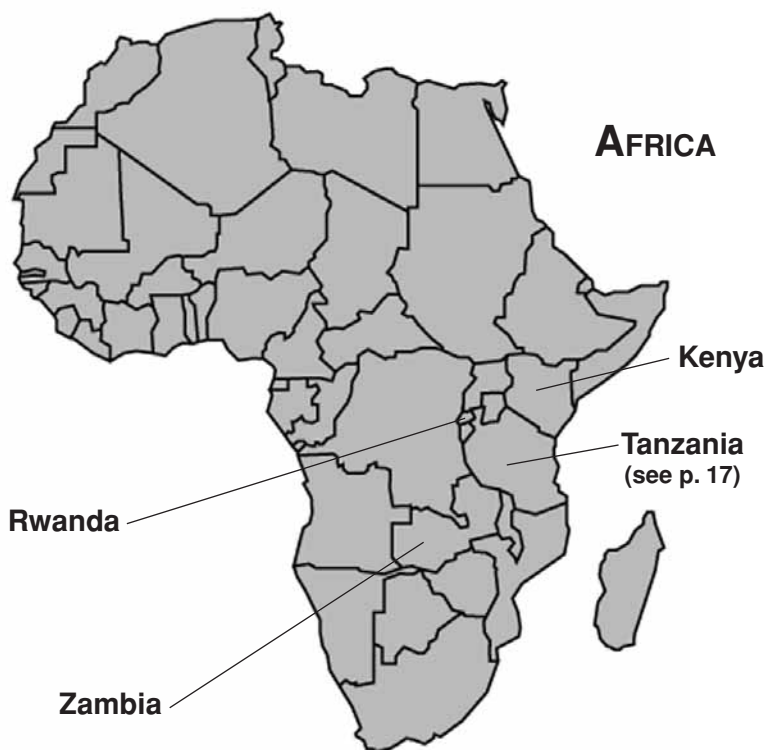
A church can be destroyed in a day, but rebuilding it can take a long time. We praise God for the tremendous job that was done—and is *still* being done—by the leadership in the Zambian church.

More wells needed

During the 1990s, many wells were dug to provide reliable water sources to villages where large numbers of SDBs live. Those wells continue to produce, but some are shallow and run dry during times of low rainfall. With adequate funding, these shallow wells could be drilled deeper and become more effective, filled with water year-round.

SDBs have also expanded into areas where there are no wells. Drilling new wells would help entire villages. If anyone is interested in help-

cont. on page 8



Various choirs rehearse then compete at the annual SDB Conference in Zambia.



One of the women's choirs singing at the Zambia Conference. Notice the grass wall in the background.

ing to fund this project, we would be glad to pass on the support.

Steady growth

The SDB Conference in Zambia is progressing very well, and God is at work there. A new church in Lusaka is growing steadily, and so is the one in Buchi—along with others in Solwezi and the rural area of Ndola. (Buchi is the “mother church” for all the others, and the one that missionary Jeff Hazen worked on.)

We look forward to the time when all of the churches in Zambia are constructed of blocks instead of mud and sticks, with roofs made of corrugated metal sheets. This type of building will protect congregations during worship services, as well as shield them from the sun’s intense heat.

Annual Conference

The annual meeting held each fall is always an exciting time for Conference members. These gatherings allow church delegates to discuss common problems and solutions. They depend upon these meetings to strengthen their rela-

tionships with one another and to plan what needs to be done in the Conference over the next year.

Delegates also hear testimonies of God’s love, and the sermons really instruct and convict. The various church choirs compete to win special prizes, and much of worship is spent

singing and praising God. It is an exciting and meaningful time for all who attend.

By the way, the Buchi SDB Church choir has released its first album in Zambia. The wonderful music allows one to hear the joy they feel when they worship God.

Under the stars

You would not believe how the Conference in Zambia is set up!

They usually find a large field covered with tall grass, five to six feet in height. After cutting the grass, they use it to construct the walls of a compound. Within this compound, they build individual rooms in which attendees may sleep and nurture their young children.

Cooking is done out in the open by individual families. Since the compound’s walls are so flammable, they watch these fires very closely. The delegates sleep on the ground and eat either standing up or sitting on tree stumps.

All in all, they enjoy their time together while discussing some vital points in their polity and beliefs.

Grateful for support

Generous donors from sister Conferences and churches help with the Zambian Conference’s expenses. The local Zambian churches are poor and can’t support the Conference the way they would like to.

Currently, the costs incurred by their latest meeting—hiring vehicles

The annual meeting held each fall is always an exciting time for Conference members. These gatherings allow church delegates to discuss common problems and solutions.

to transport church members, and providing food, water, and materials—have left them with a large debt. We pray that they will be able to raise enough money to cover these bills. God is good!

We also need to pray for the work being done in Zambia, and for the steady strength that General Secretary Quistin Chalwe will need as he continues to lead the churches. **SR**

Rez Connection: Mission for you

by Kirk Looper

Last June, Patty Petersen and three others from the Boulder, Colo., SDB Church spent a week at the Rez Connection, a faith-based ministry located next to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. Pastor Chet Marks and his family head up this mission project.

“It was a wonderful time and an excellent opportunity to learn a method of evangelism that was totally new to us,” Patty reported. “It also allowed us to meet a group of folks, including children, who would steal your heart and moisten your eyes.”

As I listened to these volunteers, I got the distinct impression that they were very thankful to be there.

The Native Americans living on the reservation are Sioux, many of whom won't live beyond age 50 because of rampant alcohol and/or drug use. Through this ministry, workers at the Rez Connection believe that they can change the lives of the children, resulting in a better outlook for them when they become adults. We here at the Missionary Society office believe the same thing!

Chet and his wife, Barbara, have eight children. Their love for Native Americans—and their desire to see them saved—led them to settle in this rather remote area of South Dakota. One of Pastor Chet's goals is to “train up” a new generation of leaders for the ongoing ministry to the Pine Ridge Reservation.

The compound is located in Batesland, S.D., and the ages of last year's volunteers ranged from 14 to adult. They slept on bunk beds in the church basement and worked on projects that Pastor Chet has developed.

Volunteers worked alongside the children as well as with Pastor Chet and Barbara, learning to evangelize and how to develop a closer relationship with God through Jesus Christ. They also helped with physical labor: weeding the compound's large gardens, moving compost

Workers at the Rez Connection believe that they can change the lives of the Sioux children, resulting in a better outlook for them when they become adults.



Paul Petersen with a baby goat they named “Mini Cooper.”



Part of the Rez Connection project was to help move hay bales at the compound.



piles and hay bales, and butchering chickens.

The volunteers spent a week studying the evangelistic method that Pastor Chet promotes and then went out to use the method “for real.” He took the team to a park in Martin, S.D., for Sabbath Day worship.

There’s a saying, “If you want to catch fish, you go where the fish are.” Team members shared the Gospel in a special program based on “The Way of the Master” materials written by Ray Comfort and Kirk Cameron.

Pastor Chet wants to train as many people as possible using



At Conference 2007, Patty Petersen and son, Paul, did a role-play of the evangelism method they learned at the Rez Connection.

We were pleased to hear that others were excited about the training at the Rez Connection.

The new team has decided that they would rather return to the compound in late spring or early summer. So, we need to set dates during that time. If

teers stay at least two weeks, allowing plenty of time to finish the training. This also gives them more practice actually doing the outreach. You need to decide how long you plan to participate before applying.

The cost of the program is \$200 to cover basic needs, plus \$100 per week for study materials, local travel expenses, and incidentals. The biggest expense will be getting there.

You need to arrange travel both to and from the Rez Connection. Pastor Chet can pick up those traveling by bus, train, or plane, but it would be helpful if travel times are coordinated for your group. That way, you won’t have to wait a long time for others to arrive before being picked up.

If you want the Missionary Society to obtain plane tickets for you, we will be glad to help. But you are expected to send the cost for the tickets “up front.”

We are anxious to get you started on your mission trip—just send for your application form. We encourage you to start raising the needed funds. If you want help with this, we will be glad to share what has been successful in the past. **SR**

***There’s a saying,
“If you want to catch fish, you
go where the fish are.” Team members
shared the Gospel in a special program
based on “The Way of the
Master” materials.***

this program and is even willing to travel to churches all over the U.S. to do it. The time spent at the Rez Connection excited Patty so much that she wanted to take another team there during spring break in March.

Soon after Conference, requests for information about the Rez Connection started coming into the Missionary Society office.

you are interested in either time slot, you can apply by sending a letter or e-mail to the SDB Missionary Society [119 Main St., Westerly, RI 02891; sdbmissoc@verizon.net], requesting an application form. Be sure to include your age, postal or e-mail address, and which team you are interested in joining.

Pastor Chet prefers that volun-

Portage has growing pains

by Ronald Elston

It's so exciting to return to a church that you helped to plant!

This past November, my wife Bonnie and I met and worshipped with the Outreach Bible Church in Portage, Wis. What a blessing! When I saw the growth and excitement of those who are reaching out into their community with the Good News of Jesus, it made me feel great.

After greeting us with a warm family welcome, Pastor Daron Smalley led the adult Sabbath School, followed by the worship service. It was so great to see Danny Smalley and his wife as part of the praise band!

Sometimes, it makes me feel old when I see young adults who were children just a few years ago. (It seems like only yesterday!) But to see these individuals now, leading in praise and worship—PTL!!

Pastor Daron's Sabbath morning message followed the singing of congregational hymns. It felt good to simply sit and be spiritually fed.

After a fellowship dinner, members discussed church growth and

formulated ideas of how to expand their current facility or build a new one. The SDB Missionary Society will be assisting with options for expansion, and we will also help purchase equipment to complete their audio-visual system.

Portage is a beautiful place to live or just visit. The town motto is, "Portage, Where the North Begins."

Established in 1854, Portage is the third oldest settlement in Wisconsin. It has a rich historical background, including the Portage Canal, an Ice Age national and state scenic trail, an Indian agency house, surgeon's quarters, and Society Hill.

Portage takes great pride in being home to historian Frederick Jackson Turner and Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Zona Gale. Interestingly, the Outreach church met in the Zona Gale Center for the Arts for

several years before building their current facility.

The Missionary Society has worked with the Outreach Bible Church during each stage of its development, and we are excited about its new growth.

If you are ever traveling through Wisconsin—or just need a place to relax and be blessed—visit the Outreach church. I'm sure you'll receive a warm welcome.

For more information about the church and its ministry, contact Pastor Daron Smalley at the Outreach Bible Church, 235 Northridge Dr., Portage, WI 53901. Phone: (608) 745-0891. **SR**



Pastor Daron Smalley (r.) leads the adult Sabbath School class.



Danny Smalley and his wife help lead the praise band.



The Outreach Bible Church members pose in front of their building in Portage, Wis.



'Twas late September

Yes, it was late September, but Marie Ward was right on time for what was to be a life-changing experience. Jan Graffius picked her up before dawn that Tuesday at her home in Edgewater, Fla. Here is Marie's account:

First, I thank Jan for taking me to the North American Baptist Women's Union (NABWU) Assembly. She had everything mapped out and timed to a tee, knowing I hadn't been to most of the places we would see.

The drive to Washington, D.C., was beautiful. Picking up Susan Bond in West Virginia and rendezvousing with Linda Graffius in Maryland, I enjoyed the mountains, valleys, lakes, and rivers along the way.

We got a little lost in Washington, circling the Pentagon a few times, but we finally found our way to our hotel in Arlington, Va. After settling into our nice 8th-floor room (most cozy as we bunked and periodically picnicked together), we got ready for the Assembly's opening ceremony.

The Parade of Banners was awesome! There were banners representing major missionary groups and churches from everywhere. Susan and Margie [Jacob] carried our Women's Board banner. About 350-400 women attended, plus Jim Jacob. (Just kidding. A few other men were there, too.)

I appreciate Jim because if it weren't for him, Margie couldn't do as much as she does for the denomination—which is a lot! His smiling face always makes me feel at home.

Our own Ruth Probasco was there, also. She is the Grant Projects Chairperson for the Baptist Women's Day of Prayer. She also represents our SDB General Conference Women's Board, which Margie presides over.

During the opening ceremony, we sang the Assembly's theme song, "Come Hear—Go Tell," inspired by the words, "We saw it, we heard it, and now we are telling it" (1 John 1:3, The Message).

A group called Flash Points, made up of four women from Chicago, used interpretive dance to bring songs, Scripture, and the love of Christ to life. Beautifully choreographed, their witness drew us nearer to God.

The classes and Bible studies were powerful. Molly Marshall, President and Professor of Theology at Central Baptist Theological Seminary, spoke twice at the assembly. She also taught a class entitled, "Discovering and Refining the Call."

Molly taught us that the best witness question is, "What are you looking for?" She shared this quote: "Our deep longing intersects with the world's great need."

She taught that—like Abraham, Sarah, Paul, and Peter—our identity is changed when God calls us. She then listed steps to help us discover and refine our call:

1. *Attentiveness.* Learning and discovering by quieting the heart—the only faculty that gives access to God.
2. *Praying* the Scriptures or holy reading.
3. *Companioning.* Hearing the voice of God through people who stir, affirm, and tell the truth.
4. *Discernment.* This takes practice. A Quaker once said that he never saw where God opens doors, only where they had shut behind him. The road ahead emerged only as he walked on it.
5. *Care of the Body.* Sometimes we haven't taken care of ourselves enough to believe God would use us.
6. *Sabbathkeeping.* Balancing work and rest.
7. *Worship.*



Gathering around the SDB banner at the NABWU Assembly in Arlington, Va. (l to r): Jim Jacob, Susan Bond, Ruth Probasco, Marie Ward, Linda Graffius, Bethany Chroniger, Margie Jacob, Karen Umana, and Jan Graffius.

My friends and I also enjoyed other classes. All of the speakers reminded us that we each have our own story to tell.

Marie's story

While in Washington, D.C., I was surprised at how much the monuments and memorials interested me.

At Arlington National Cemetery, I witnessed the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. I also saw the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials; and the Vietnam, Korean, and World War II Memorials.

When I returned to my job at a care facility in Ocean View, Fla., I felt empowered. I asked God to use me each day, and He did!

As I cut men's hair, I told them about my trip. I would ask, "Were you in any of those wars?" One man said, "I was in three."

All of the men had their own stories. I would listen, and they would ask me about the memorials. One man turned completely around in his wheelchair and asked if the figures of the soldiers in the World War II Peace Garden were life-size. (I assured him they looked real.)

I felt that I made a connection with some of the men, which I never would have made had I not visited Arlington or asked God to use me.

Continuing to ask God each day to direct me, He answered.

I stopped by the room of two ladies to tell one of them that I would cut her hair the next day. This woman is a strong Christian, but I didn't know about the lady in the far bed.

I talked to the Christian woman (I'd had many contacts with her), but something was different. It was in my own attentiveness. I listened to her.

She told me she couldn't sleep at night, and we talked for some time. I asked why she couldn't sleep, and she starting talking about past abuse, and about a son who had been mentally challenged his whole life.

As I listened, I remembered to tell her my story.

I told her that Jesus is the True Counselor, and that He had counseled me by bringing past pains to my mind. Jesus ministered to me, allowing me to grieve about first one thing, then the next. He did this for me two nights in a row.

"When Jesus counsels you, you are truly healed," I told her. "And that's the end of it."

Tears came to her eyes, but that wasn't the end of it. The lady in the bed beside her had been listening, and she began to tell *her* story.

At the age of 6, she lost her parents and was put in a foster home. There, she was repeatedly abused.

She said that she would lie there and pray to God to let her die.

She looked about 70, and I got the impression that she had carried those painful memories all her life. As she began to cry, I was able to hold hands and pray with both women—just because I had told my story.

God touched these two women in a way that brought emotional healing to them during their last days on earth. They got to know Him in a very special way.

Because of my upbringing, I've always had trouble getting close to people. Upon arriving at the Assembly, I thought, *Why did I come here?*

But as I allowed the Word to enter my heart and listened to the women speak, God began to break down some of the walls that I had built up around me.

I cried and ended up hugging one speaker who told about her daughter dying in her arms, and how she then went into her closet to pray that God would restore her child—like He did for the woman in the Old Testament who aided the prophet Elijah.

The SDB Women's Board paid my fees to attend the Assembly, and I'm truly appreciative. This experience will last me a lifetime! **SR**

Marie Ward is a member of the Daytona Beach, Fla., SDB Church.

Robe of Achievement—2008 Nominations

The SDB Women's Society is accepting nominations for the Robe of Achievement for 2008. Please consider a woman in your church who meets the following criteria for nomination:

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

A complete résumé must be submitted containing a life history, including her achievements and activities. Without a résumé in hand, the committee

cannot make a competent choice among many nominees. If an individual has been nominated before, and you still want that person considered, please resubmit the name as well as the updated résumé.

Send nominations to:
Laura Hambleton, Chair
SDB Robe Nominations
1568 Megan Bay Circle
Holly Hill, FL 32117

or apply on-line at: www.sdbwboard.org

Deadline: March 31, 2008

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



Tricentennial worth remembering

In 1971, Seventh Day Baptists celebrated the 300th anniversary of the Newport, R.I., church, the first SDB church in America.

Last year, Baptists celebrated the 300th anniversary of the Philadelphia Fellowship. Seventh Day Baptists—in their early years—were vital members of that fellowship, even helping to found Rhode Island College in 1774. (It was renamed Brown University in 1804).

This year, Seventh Day Baptists can again join in a 300th anniversary: the founding in Rhode Island of the First Hopkinton SDB Church, originally called the Westerly church. Hopkinton had strong ties with Newport's tricentennial since most of its members (in 1708) were transfers from the Newport church.

In 1902, the SDB General Conference held its centennial celebration, going back to its origin at Hopkinton. During the 1800s, 16 of General Conference's annual sessions were held at what was often referred to as the "Mother Church," with its descendants "swarming like bees to the hive."

The origin of the Hopkinton church is closely linked to that of the Newport church, and to Samuel and Tacy Hubbard. Two of their daughters had moved to the western portion of the Rhode Island colony.

Ruth, married to Robert Burdick, was the first to embrace the Sabbath, in 1666. Her sister, Bethiah (who had married Joseph Clarke), followed in 1667. John Maxson and his wife also accepted the Sabbath.

A letter written by Ruth Burdick in 1675 indicated that they had held meetings and observed communion previous to that year. In 1680, a meeting house was erected, serving for the next 155 years.

During those early years, Obadiah Holmes—who had preached so hard against the Sabbathkeepers in Newport—extended his tirades against those in the western portion of the Province.

For 37 years—from 1671 to 1708—the two congregations functioned as one church. Earliest records referred to "the Church of Rhode Island and Westerly," with "Rhode Island" referring to the Isle of Rhodes, and "Westerly" to Hopkinton, Charleston, and Richmond. The pastor, William Hiscox, lived in Rhode Island, but the church clerk, Joseph Clarke, lived in Westerly or Hopkinton—along with Elders John Crandall and William Gibson.

In his history of the Eastern Association (Vol. 2 of *Seventh Day Baptists in Europe and America*), William L. Burdick pointed out what he felt was the inaccuracy of assigning 1708 as the year the Hopkinton church was founded. It had essentially been coexisting with the Newport church for 37 years prior to that date.



A raised pulpit graces the sanctuary of the First Hopkinton SDB Church in Ashaway, R.I.

The Newport portion remained active in both church and state affairs through the remaining part of the century. But it was the Hopkinton segment that, for over a century, was the "mother church" to those migrating westward.

When the Piscataway, N.J., SDB Church was founded in 1705, the Newport church ordained Edmund Dunham in Hopkinton. Most of the early migrations of SDBs into Connecticut, New York, and points west originated from the Hopkinton church.

Thus it was not by happenstance that our General Conference was organized at Hopkinton in 1802, its yearly meetings acting as a beehive in drawing representatives back to their origin.

Since the Hopkinton SDB Church preceded General Conference

records, it's difficult to get an accurate membership count prior to 1808. That year, 764 members were recorded.

There is some evidence that more than 1,000 individuals claimed membership in the Hopkinton church. However, it could be that many who had migrated and joined other churches simply did not have their names removed from the membership rolls. (Even today, many church records don't give an accurate count of non-resident members, or those who have died.)

Probably no other church in our denomination has spawned, either directly or indirectly, more new churches in the western migration of SDBs during the 18th and 19th centuries than Hopkinton. Most of our

***Probably
no other church
in our denomination
has spawned,
either directly or
indirectly, more new
churches in the
western migration
of SDBs.***

churches in New York State have solid connections to that mother church.

A plot of land bearing the name "Little Rhode Island Cemetery" exists in my hometown of Little Genesee, N.Y., because so

many of the area's early settlers were from either Hopkinton or Newport.

Fifty years ago, I received an invitation to consider a pastoral call to the Hopkinton church. At the time, I was deeply involved in the construction of a new sanctuary at New Auburn, Wis. In my rejection letter, I noted that it would be wonderful to be there to help celebrate the 250th anniversary of that church's founding. As it turned out, few—if any—in that church were aware of that milestone.

Now, 50 years later, the "other grandfather" of two of my granddaughters—Elizabeth and Tacy Camenga—is currently pastoring the Hopkinton SDB Church in its tricentennial year of 2008, A.D.

History can be a rewarding experience as God closes doors and opens others. **SR**

Denominational Dateline

January

- 18 Judson University Trustee Meeting, Rockford, Ill.—Rob Appel
- 26 Garden of Prayer, St. Stephen, S.C.—Appel
- 27 Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society Board of Managers Fourth Quarter Meeting, Westerly, R.I.—Kirk Looper
- 27 SDB Board of Christian Education Executive Committee Meeting, Alfred Station, N.Y.—Andrew Camenga
- 30-2/1 New Baptist Covenant gathering, Atlanta, Ga.—Appel

February

- 1-3 Council on Ministry (COM) Annual Meeting, Daytona Beach, Fla.—Gordon Lawton
- 2 Christian Community SDB group, Decatur, Ga.; and Palm Tree of Deborah, Stone Mountain, Ga.—Appel

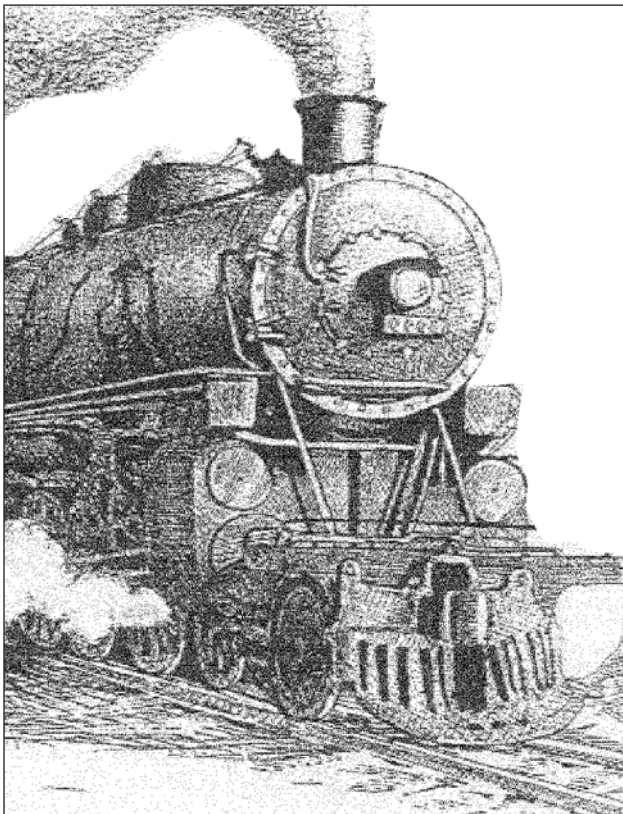
- 2-3 Seventh Day Baptist Memorial Board Quarterly Meeting, Daytona Beach—Morgan Shepard
- 4-6 Visit pastors in Florida—Lawton
- 7-8 Coordinating Leadership Team (CLT) meets in Daytona Beach, Fla.
- 9-11 General Council meets in Daytona Beach

March

- 1 Washington, D.C., Seventh Day Baptist Church; and SDB Christian Church, Arlington, Va.—Appel
- 3 Baptist Joint Committee Executive Committee, Washington, D.C.—Appel
- 16 Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society Board of Managers Annual Meeting, Westerly—Looper



Rev. H.D. Clarke and the Orphan Train



This art is on the cover of a new book about the Orphan Train.

“Did you ever think that a train could save a life? Well, it saved my sister’s life and mine.”

Those words begin a story about the Orphan Train Conductor, Rev. H.D. Clarke, and his work to place several hundred orphans in homes in the western United States.

The children at the center of the story, James and Isadore Ethel Doyle, were actual orphans. Their dialogue in the

book was created by the author, imaginatively reconstructed based on Rev. Clarke’s notes about how he worked with children.

Yvonne Stephan wrote the story, and Debbie Bond illustrated it. Copies are available from the SDB Board of Christian Education office for \$2.50 each, plus shipping.

To place an order, call the office at (607) 587-8527, or

e-mail us at sdbbce@educatingchristians.org.

The booklet ends with this brief biography of Herman Clarke:

“Herman Devillo Clarke was born on November 26, 1850 in Plainfield Township, New York. His parents were Nelson and Maria Clarke. He attended DeRuyter Institute, Winfield Academy and Alfred University in New York as well as other academies.

“Clarke became the pastor of the 1st and 2nd Seventh Day Baptist Churches at Verona, New York in 1882. He later pastored churches in Independence, New York; Dodge Center, Minnesota; and Garwin, Iowa.

“He married Miss Anna M. Jennings on September 17, 1874. They had three children named Mabel, Florence and Elvan. They also took many orphan children into their home on several occasions.

“While Clarke was the pastor of the Dodge Center church he became interested in the New York Children’s Aid Society and began working to place children. He continued in this type of work for 15 years, in Dodge Center, Minnesota; Cincinnati, Ohio; and in Battle Creek, Michigan.

“Rev. Herman Clarke wrote several books and many articles. Clarke died at the age of 78 on December 25, 1928. He was buried in Dodge Center, Minnesota.” **SR**



FOCUS on Missions

Slow, steady in Tanzania

by Kirk Looper

As early as 1992, believers living in Tanzania contacted the Missionary Society office, wanting to become Seventh Day Baptists. However, none of them were willing to take the next step where true sacrifice comes into the picture.

Finally, in 2001, a pastor in that country contacted us for guidance as he started to organize churches. These grew, ultimately, into the SDB Conference in Tanzania. They now have about 10 churches and continue to organize new groups.

Members of other denominations sometimes enter SDB gatherings to cause dissension and arguments. They have really challenged our brethren there. This kind of activity has worsened since February of 2007.

Armed with negative intentions, these infiltrators act as if they want to become part of a Seventh Day Baptist church—either as “ministers to be” or simply as members of the congregation. Ultimately, they have failed in their mission to hurt SDBs.

Our churches in Tanzania continue to grow at a slow to moderate pace. In the long run, this may be a good thing, since those wanting to join Seventh Day Baptist churches will have more time to be sure that this is where they really want to be.

Another problem for our Tanzanian brethren is one that is common throughout our Conferences in Africa: Those wishing to lead a church expect to receive wages similar to what they had been earning elsewhere. This type of pastor leaves as soon as he realizes that this is not the case. Thus

far, the Conference has lost 10 pastors due to these money concerns.

Outreach programs vary, ranging from house-to-house visitation to street ministries. With these, members pass out tracts and other religious materials. They plan to expand these programs to include more evangelistic meetings and visits with neighboring villagers.

This year, SDBs in the United States sent nearly 10 boxes of Bibles to help with this outreach. There is an increasing demand for *The Helping Hand* as well as other Bible study materials. The leaders have computers and printers, but they continue to need translation programs and a photocopier. (While they have completed some translations, others are in process.)

Like other SDB Conferences in Africa, the Tanzanians need a vehicle so their General Secretary can more readily travel to meet with new contacts and coordinate the work.

Tanzania is one of the largest nations in this part of eastern Afri-



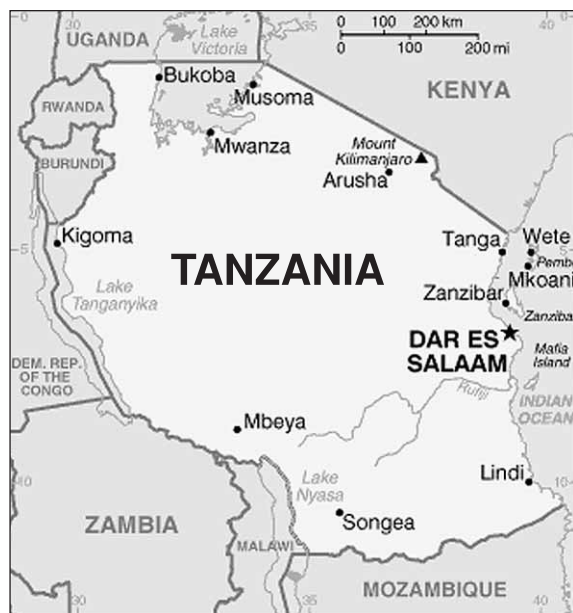
Pastor Robango Ryakitimbo serves as General Secretary of the Conference in Tanzania.

ca. Its main cities are far from each other, and Conference officers are spread far and wide. The treasurer is in Dar es Salaam, the president is in Mbeya, and the General Secretary is in Arusha.

With the continual formation of new groups hoping to become churches, it's easy to see how travel expenses may escalate to the point that it will be more economical to buy a vehicle.

We pray that the Lord's work in Tanzania will continue, ultimately reaching the villages that lie between the large cities.

We also pray that their ministry will enable orphans and widows to survive on more than just a marginal income. Training is an important element in reaching this goal. Schools and clinics run by Seventh Day Baptists would bring them a higher level of credibility than some of the local programs currently being offered. **SR**





the BEACON

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

January 2008

Keeping promises

by Brooke North, New Auburn, Wis.

I make a lot of promises, but too often I don't carry through. I've learned that it's easy to say "I promise," but it's much harder to actually *do* what I said I would do.

A promise is making a pledge or assuring someone that something will happen or be done—for certain.

Some people classify promises as big or small. The truth is, a promise is a promise, no matter how large or little it is.

Matthew 5:37 says, "Simply let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No' " (NIV).

When you make a promise, stick with it. Don't shove it to the side because it doesn't seem important to you. If God didn't want us to keep promises, He wouldn't keep the ones He promised us. He pledged that He would never leave us, never forsake us, never flood the whole earth again...

The point is, God hears every promise we make, and He wants us to hold true to them—like He holds true to *His* promises.

Last summer, the New Auburn, Wis., SDB Church joined other churches in sponsoring a youth conference—called "Set Apart"—in the town park. Our church's Youth Group asked everyone in the congregation to commit to a one-hour time slot for prayer. Many spent those minutes praying around the park during the conference.

I chose to pray from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. What I didn't know was that, during that same time, basketball, volleyball, and ultimate Frisbee® tournaments would be going on. I love sports, especially volleyball and basketball. So instead of praying for an hour, I played in those games.

During the volleyball match, my Dad's cell phone rang. (I happened to have it with me.) My sister was



on the line, panicking. She thought my horse was dying!

I freaked out, too, because I love and adore my horse. So I ran to get my dad and we sped down the road.

On the way, we called the vet and asked what could possibly be the

problem. He replied that it was probably West Nile disease, which is incurable.

As soon as we pulled into the driveway, I ran to find my horse. He was standing again, but looked sick. I kept him on his feet until the vet arrived to examine him. My family and I anxiously waited to hear the diagnosis.

Much to our relief, it turned out to be colic—sort of a stomach-ache that horses can get if they eat rich hay.

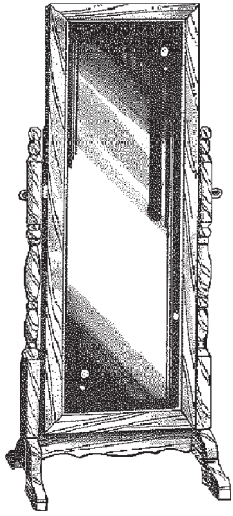
If a colicky horse lies down for a long time, it could die because the stomach gets all tangled up. Luckily, my horse didn't lie down long enough for that to happen. All I had to do was walk him around his pen for two hours while his stomach settled.

While walking my "baby," God spoke to me:

Brooke, since you didn't want to pray for the one hour you promised and committed to, why don't you pray for two hours, right here?

I felt foolish and embarrassed for not fulfilling my promise. And God, knowing that I had promised one hour of prayer, made me not only hold to it; He *doubled* what I had promised.

So, before you make any promises, remember that God is listening. He just might hold you to whatever promises you make, perhaps even doubling the outcome! **SR**



Reflections

by Leanne Lippincott-Wuerthele

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

Revolving resolving

People view January in a variety of ways.

For some, it means the calm after the storm of the holidays. It's a time to sit back and turn down the volume of life for a little while.

For others, it means a respite from the world of academia. College students can abandon their books for a few more weeks, basking in the glow of an extended Christmas break.

January also means it's time to start paying off all of those credit cards we used to spend money we didn't have on presents people didn't need or want. It also means property tax bills filling our mailboxes—at least here in Wisconsin.

For many of us, January is a time of reflection and new beginnings. Every year, I find myself making the same old resolutions:

- I'll eat only one pound of dark chocolate a day rather than my customary five.
- I'll start—and stick with—an exhaustive (exhausting?) exercise program that involves sit-ups as well as walking and bicycling. (And I'll do all of these healthy activities on the days of the week that don't start with the letters F, M, S, T, or W.)
- I won't snack after 10:00 at night. (If I start eating cash-

ews at 8:00 p.m., I should be finished by 9:55.)

- I will go to bed early, get up early, get to work early, and get out of work early. (Ask my boss, "Rev. Kev," how faithful I am in keeping *this* resolution!)

Like a lot of Christians, I also make some "serious" promises to myself—and God: I'll read my Bible every day; I'll make more of an effort to get to Sabbath School instead of showing up simply for church; I'll pray more and complain less.

Obviously, that's frustrating. But then another strange—and wonderful—thing happens. In spite of all of my failed attempts to become a better person, God still loves me. He forgives my failings—my "humanness," if you will—while encouraging me to keep trying.

I can continue to *try* to be more Christ-like, but because of the Gift of His Son, I don't have to *be* Christ. Obviously, none of us can reach that pinnacle of perfection, but we can enjoy the climb, blessing others as we strive to walk in His steps.

By the time March rolls around, most of my heartfelt New Year's resolutions have gone the way of the dodo bird.



I also promise that I'll be satisfied with what I have instead of constantly "bugging" God about what I want. I'll be kinder, and focus less on myself and more on others. I'll try especially hard to be a better wife, mother, daughter, sister, aunt, employee, and friend.

But every year, a strange thing happens. By the time March rolls around, most of my heartfelt resolutions have gone the way of the dodo bird. They're dead, extinct, gone. Shot down before they've had a chance to really take wing.

So, when I eat two chocolate chip cookies at midnight and then fall asleep before finishing my prayers, God may shake His head. But then He pulls the blanket up over my shoulders, tucks it under my chin, and kisses me on the forehead. Sometimes I think I can even hear Him speak.

"Try a little harder tomorrow, Leanne," He whispers in my ear. Then He adds, "And remember; I'll always love you, no matter what." **SR**



A LIMITLESS GOD FOR A HUNGRY PEOPLE

2008 SDB General Conference August 3-9
Carthage College, Kenosha, Wisconsin



The President's Page
by Pastor Andrew Samuels

We can do so much more

When my church in Miami, Fla., raised my salary last year, I stood before the congregation and thanked them for putting me in the top 1.14% of the richest people in the world [according to data from Global Rich List].

Wow! I'm richer than I thought! And that may be true for many of us.

What will it take for me to give some of my newfound wealth to those who need it most? All I have to do is make a choice:

- I can buy 15 organic apples for \$8, OR 25 fruit trees for farmers in Honduras to grow and sell fruit at their local market.
- I can spend \$30 on a DVD box set of "ER" OR buy a first-aid kit for a village in Haiti.
- For \$73, I can purchase a new mobile phone OR a new mobile health clinic to care for AIDS orphans in Uganda.
- For \$2,400, I can buy myself a second generation High Definition TV OR provide schooling for an entire generation of children in an Angolan village.

Most of us can do so much more to help less-privileged people. What we need are servants' hearts and increased awareness. More of our churches need to become externally, rather than internally, focused.

Both of the SDB churches in

South Florida that I have the privilege of serving have adopted (as part of their Mission statements) the concept of empowering their members to develop a life mission in the world.

With that in mind, one of my New Year's challenges to my flocks is to encourage every individual to embark on a mission trip of some nature within the next five years.

What a privilege and a blessing it is to serve others! And you don't even have to go overseas. Some mission trips simply mean crossing the street, right in your own neighborhood.

I have had the advantage of participating in mission trips to Haiti, England, and my native Jamaica.

Just this past summer, I led a group of seven youths and young adults—along with six chaperones—on a mission trip to Jamaica. There, we were abundantly blessed by our ministry to a people who demonstrated a deep hunger for the Lord. In our limited but meaningful ways, we were able to bring smiles to faces, joy to hearts, and hope to despairing individuals.

But the Lord has also given me equally fulfilling mission opportunities in inner-city Miami, our church neighborhood. We have had occasion to engage in kindness/servant evangelism, and are developing a more intentional philosophy for that type of mission.

Servant/kindness evangelism can be defined as "demonstrating the kindness of God by offering to do some act of humble service with no strings attached."

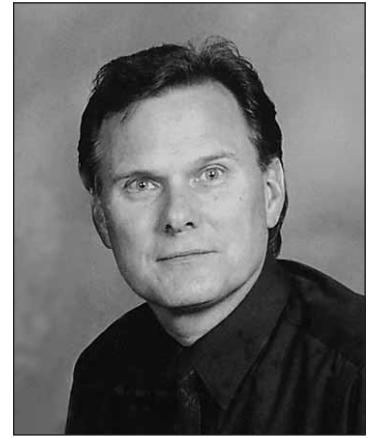
We have given toys and "care packages" at Christmas to children and families in the community. We have done the same with clothes donated by our members. Every Wednesday, an average of 60-70 families receive a box of groceries from our food pantry.

In all of these missions, we are seeking to meet people's felt needs because of the love of Jesus in us. And we do it without any obligation on the part of the recipient.

In Matthew 25:35-36, Jesus says, "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat; I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink; I was a stranger and you invited me in; naked, and you clothed me; I was sick and you visited me; I was in prison, and you came to me."

Verse 40 continues, "...To the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of mine, even the least of them, you did it to me."

When we see hunger and thirst, and nakedness and sickness, and imprisonment in those around us, they are Jesus in disguise. Let's not miss out on opportunities to serve Jesus. Let's stop making excuses! **SR**



by Executive Director
Rob Appel

Church CPR

What does it mean to be a Seventh Day Baptist in today's world?

Who we are right now is a product of the past. We should remember who and where we were in the past in order to be where we need to be today.

So, where are we headed in 2008?

The old goal

When I started as Conference Executive Director in 2004, I set a goal of 15 new Conference churches by the year 2020. Considering that we had added only a handful of churches since 1998, that seemed a pretty lofty objective.

However, what seems lofty to us may seem pretty low to God.

At Conference last year, we added four new churches. The possibility exists that we may add another four or five this year. That means that in three-plus years, we could add from four to nine churches to our numbers.

Sights too low?

Fifteen churches now seems a rather modest goal. Have we been setting our sights too low for what God has in store for us?

Sometimes our biggest obstacle to becoming instruments for God is ourselves. We're too busy pushing our own agenda instead of His.

What if I were to say, "To be a Sev-

enth Day Baptist today, all we need to do is have an attitude like Christ and treat everyone like He treats us."

Well, folks, it's just that simple! No rocket science needed here!

If we empty our agenda of all our wants and desires, and then fill that void with God's Spirit, that would get us into harmony with the Lord. You know... that whole "God's will" thing we talk about? Well, let's not just *talk*.

"Doing" over "talking"

Some of our churches understand this "doing" instead of "talking" or "thinking" about change. Their membership is increasing as they emerge in their communities, causing internal spiritual growth in the process.

How did many of these churches reach that point? The MORE 2000 program, that's how!

MORE 2000

Back in 1992, Pastor Rod Henry developed a ministry entitled, *Mission Of Revival and Evangelism*. Its goal was to lead churches to discover their purpose and then set things in motion to achieve more than they thought they could.

How did they do it? They worked as a unified body of believers, focused on a purpose for their communities.

Well, the year 2000 has come and

gone, and it looks like the MORE 2000 program did, too. Two of the books that were instrumental in the process are out of print and not easily found. But God is good all the time, and we've been able to purchase 45 copies of each volume.

Calling for CPR

We are now making the MORE 2000 program available on a "first-come, first-serve" basis and renaming it, "**SDB CPR**." The latter initials stand for "**Commitment**," "**Purpose**," and "**Revival**."

If your church would like to know more about this program, please call the Center at (608) 752-5055, or e-mail me at robappel@seventhdaybaptist.org. I will contact you as soon as possible.

What is it that God expects of us? Of you? Of your church?

Seventh Day Baptists have been in North America since the 1670s. God hasn't kept us here that long just to see us fade away. We can't change the past, and we can't control the future. But we can do things today that will affect tomorrow.

Do you want to be a difference-maker?

I suggest that you seriously consider the ministry of Mission Of Revival and Evangelism and take the **SDB CPR** training in your church. It just might save some lives! **SR**



A new year and a new start

by Morgan Shepard

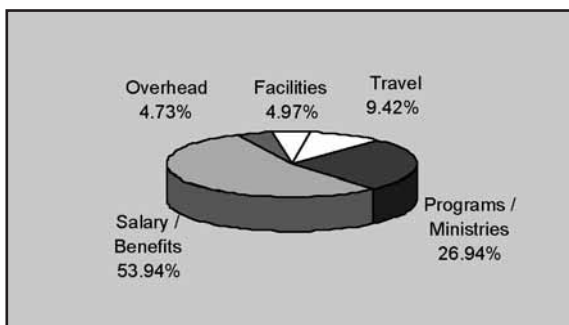
“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost” (Matthew 28:19, NIV).

Happy New Year! Believe it or not, 2008 is upon us! We are incredibly thankful for all the gifts you gave in 2007. Through your generosity, the General Conference, and Boards and Agencies, were able to continue our mission: To unite, encourage, and equip your local church to fulfill the Great Commission. But how exactly do we do that?

While meeting in Newberg, Ore., last summer, the General Conference approved the 2008 income needed by the Boards and Agencies. But one question never asked during the presentation of the overall denominational budget was, “How will this money be used?”

Unless you attend all the relevant Conference Interest Committees and look at each of the individual budgets, you never see all the expenses or “program side” of these ministries at one time. So, how do you really know how your gifts are being used?

Examining all of the 2008 budgets show the usual expenses in running a ministry: Program and ministry costs, overhead, facilities costs, travel, and salaries/benefits. The pie chart shows how those costs are allocated for all the Boards and Agencies that receive funds from your gifts (designated and undesignated).



Just about 54 cents of every dollar is used for salaries/benefits for full and part-time employees. Twenty-seven cents of each dollar finds its way back out to work among the churches in programs and ministries. Almost 10 cents of every dollar is used for travel. Less than five cents is used for overhead and facilities, each.

So what does all this really mean?

It means that for every dollar given, 90 cents is in service to you and the local church! **Programs** and **ministries** directly serve and affect your church. **Servant leaders** of the Boards and Agencies oversee those vital ministries, and they **travel to serve you at the local church.**

What are some of those programs?

•**Board of Christian Education:** *The Helping Hand*, the Nurture Series, Pre-Cons, seminars.

•**Missionary Society:** National Missions, International Missions.

•**Council on Ministry:** Summer Institute, Seminary Tuition Assistance, T.I.M.E. program.

•**Tract and Communication Council:** *The Sabbath Recorder*, tracts, mailings to churches.

•**Women’s Society:** Summer Christian Service Corps (SCSC), Day of Prayer, Love Gifts.

•**General Services:** The “face of SDBs” through Ecumenical relations and the SDB Center, disaster aid through Christian Social Action, and a vision for SDBs through the General Conference.

As you think about where you want your gifts used in fulfilling the Great Commission, look to your local church and community first. That is where you can make the biggest difference.

Then consider the work of the General Conference and all the Boards and Agencies. In addition to your gifts, tell us where we can better serve you through new programs that help you impact your community.

No matter where you give, your gift will make a difference! **SR**

World Fed sessions coming to U.S.

by Luan Ellis

The Seventh Day Baptist World Federation will host delegates and observers from all over the world when it meets July 28–August 2 on the campus of Carthage College in Kenosha, Wis. President Joe Samuels' theme is, "Be ready! Christ is coming" (Revelation 22:12-20).

Sessions will include Bible studies, reports from member Conferences, seminars, and possible tours of local interests. If you would like to be an observer at these meetings, contact Calvin Babcock for further information.

We encourage churches and Associations to consider sponsoring a foreign delegate to the sessions. This could involve raising funds to help with transportation and host-

ing costs, and even inviting that person to your church after Conference to speak about the SDB work in their country. This would be an exciting time of renewal for your church and area!

If you would like a delegate to visit your church after Conference, you must make your request as soon as possible so travel arrangements can be made. Again, contact Calvin for more info.


Estimated costs are \$61.20 a day, for 13 days; and \$1,500–\$2,000 for airfare to the United States. Money will also be needed to cover the delegate's travel to your church. As we receive further information about who is planning to attend, we will share that with you.

The Seventh Day Baptist World Federation asks that you continue to pray for their work, for the planning of the August sessions, for the delegates who will be trying to secure permission to enter the U.S., and for all our Conferences throughout the world.

Thank you for your continued support of the World Federation!

For further information, contact: Calvin Babcock, PO Box 515, Friendship, NY 14739; Phone: (585) 793-7556; E-mail: cmbabcock@msn.com

Contributions may be sent to:

Luan Ellis, Treasurer
614 Pleasant Valley Rd.
Alfred Station, NY 14803 

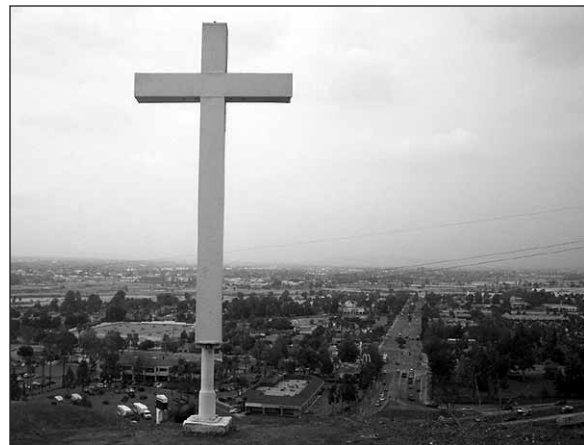
Called to Colton, Calif.

by Ron Elston




Pastor George Lawson and his group at the Maranatha Community Church are reaching out into Colton, Calif., with the message of Christ. Here he is (above) securing their AWANA Club sign. The church facility they rent is in the background.

Pastor Lawson desires your prayers as they minister



Pastor George took us to this special place overlooking Colton. He comes here to pray for the lost of the area. Kirk Looper and I joined him in prayer.

to this vast area. We are blessed to have such people who are willing to step out in faith to plant new churches for the Kingdom. 

See our
website for the
SDBlog

The "SDB Exec" web log (known internally as 'SDBlog') features posts from our agency executives. Check it out at seventhdaybaptist.org.

Marriage

Gada - Richardson.—Timothy Gada and Maggie Richardson were united in marriage on November 4, 2006, at the Milton, WI, Seventh Day Baptist Church. Rev. George Calhoun officiated.

Births

Graffius.—A son, Anthony Javier Graffius, was born to David and Kim Graffius of Virginia Beach, VA, on July 16, 2007.

Camenga.—Triplets were born to Johnmark and Cathy (Rogers) Camenga of Enterprise, FL, on July 21, 2007. Their daughters



are Catherine Wescott Camenga and Evalyn Josephine Camenga, and their son is Jonah Micaiah Camenga.

Dear SR Correspondents,

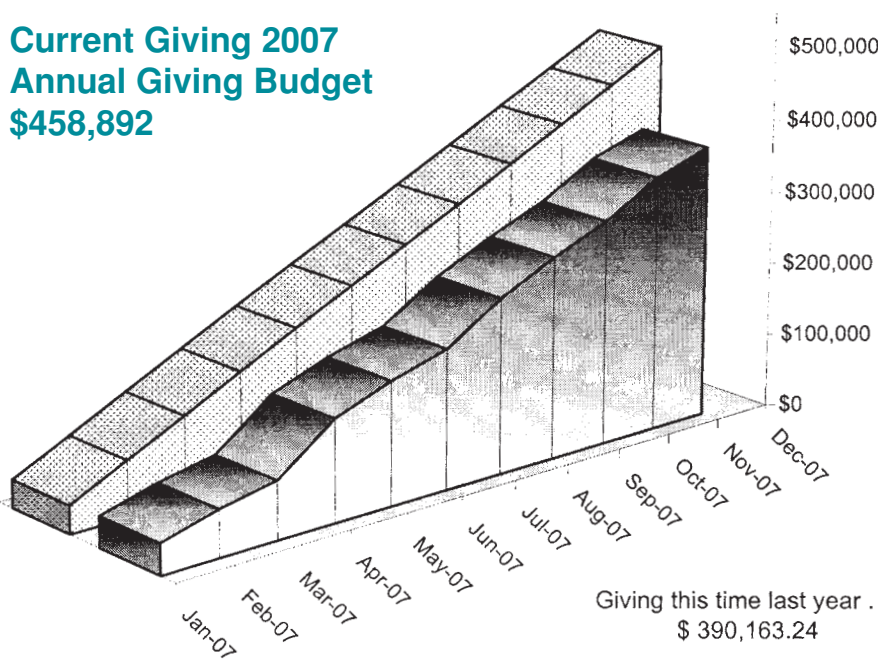
Thank you for keeping us informed of your family news. You may e-mail your updates to us at: editor@seventhdaybaptist.org.

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

Gada.—A son, Thomas Isaac Gada, was born to Timothy and Maggie (Richardson) Gada of Spooner, WI, on September 2, 2007.

Myers.—A son, Nicholas James Myers, was born to Mark and Katie (Colvin) Myers of Hampton, VA, on November 28, 2007.

Current Giving 2007 Annual Giving Budget \$458,892



	Month - Nov '07	Year To Date
Budgeted	\$ 38,241	\$ 420,656
Actual	\$ 24,259	\$ 371,952
Difference	\$ (13,983)	\$ (48,703)
% of Budget	63%	88%

PROP Giving	
Nov '07	\$ 610
Year To Date	\$ 8,433

Morgan Shepard, Treasurer

Thanks!!

All of the Boards and Agencies of the General Conference want to thank you for your generous gifts throughout 2007. May the Lord bless you in this new year.

Beginning in March 2008 (the first time to report 2008 giving), we will change how we report your gifts. Instead of only showing income, we will also list the expenses and what is needed to keep these ministries going on a monthly basis. Our hope is to better communicate to you and remain more accountable for what you give.

—Morgan Shepard, Treasurer

Obituaries

Salmon.—Cirina A. Salmon, 61, of Brooklyn, N.Y., died on April 13, 2006, at Lenox Hill Hospital in Manhattan.

She was born on January 26, 1945, in Trelawney, Jamaica, West Indies, the third child of Robert and Vera Wynter. She was baptized and became a member of the Wakefield Seventh Day Baptist Church at age 13.

Two years later, Cirina went to live with Deacon Salmon and Sister Enid Murphy of Mountain View in Kingston while she attended Crandall High School in Jamaica. After graduation, she taught for a few years at St. Cecelia Preparatory School before migrating to the U.S. She married Eldred Salmon in 1974.

Cirina worked for 35 years at the Lenox Hill Hospital where she was well known for her hard work, reliability, kindness, and compassion. For this and more, Cirina received a special recognition by this top New York City hospital a few years ago.

Cirina joined the New York City SDB Church during the 1970s, and was ordained a deaconess in 1998. She worked on many committees and boards within the church, reaching out to all the members with the love of the Lord. She encouraged faithfulness to the local church and the call of Christ, and her contribution to the renovation of the church building was invaluable.

During her last days, Cirina was still talking to and advising church leaders, either in person or on the phone. When she unexpectedly showed up for services one Sabbath morning, the congregation experienced a special time of joy and encouragement from her presence, as well as her testimony of God's goodness in her life.

Survivors include three sons, Robert, Michael, and Steven; three sisters, Josephine, Jean, and Dawn; two brothers, Rupert and Fred; sev-

en grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

A "Homegoing Service" was held at the New York City SDB Church on April 15, 2006. Pastors Ericessen A. Cooper and Harold Smith officiated.

Bevis.—Mildred Elizabeth Zahnd Bevis, 88, passed to her rest on July 10, 2007, in Florence, Ala. She was born on September 17, 1918, the daughter of Walter and Jennie (McClure) Zahnd.

Mildred accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior in her youth, and lived a life of service and devotion to God. She was a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, but in recent years, she was a supporter of the Paint Rock, Ala., Seventh Day Baptist Church, pastored by her son. She visited several SDB churches and attended Conference as well.

Mildred was a registered nurse and graduated from Northwest-Shoals Community College with an Associate's degree in nursing. She was first employed at Coffee Memorial Hospital, then at Colonial Manor Hospital, both in Florence.

The position she loved the most—and the one to which she seemed well suited—was with the Lauderdale County Board of Education as a school nurse.

Mildred's survivors include one son, Pastor John Bevis of Huntsville, Ala.; and one granddaughter, Laura Leigh, of New Orleans, La. Her husband, R.V. John Bevis, preceded her in death.

Funeral services were held at the Greenview Memorial Chapel in Florence. Several church members assisted with the service. Burial was in Greenview Cemetery, with her son conducting the committal service.

Hurley.—Delores J. Hurley, 75, of Appleton, Wis., passed away on August 31, 2007, at Cherry Meadows Hospice.

She was born on April 23, 1932, in Appleton, the daughter of John and Esther (Reitz) Jacobs. She graduated from Appleton High School in 1950.

In 1951, Delores graduated from Deaconess Hospital X-Ray Technician School in Milwaukee, Wis., and worked at several Milwaukee area clinics.

On January 26, 1952, she married George Hurley, and they went on to share 55 years together.

In 1960, Delores moved back to Appleton to join the family business, Jacobs Meat Market, founded in 1945 by her father and his brother, Leonard. (That family business still continues today.) Delores worked there for many years, retiring in 2004.

Delores was a member of the Word of Life Seventh Day Baptist Fellowship in Appleton, and a former member of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church.

She served on her high school reunion committee, and will be remembered as a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother. She was a kind and gentle person who enjoyed spending time with her family and church.

Survivors include her husband, George, of Appleton; one daughter, Deborah Brooks, of Kaukauna, Wis.; one son, Charles, and one brother, Edward Jacobs, both of Appleton; six grandchildren, and nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by one grandson, Richard Hurley.

Funeral services were held on September 4, 2007, at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Appleton, with Revs. Dennis Ellisen and Dale Smalley officiating. Interment was in Riverside Cemetery, Appleton.

Cartwright.—Robert J. Cartwright, 55, of Scio, N.Y., died on September 28, 2007, in the town of Alma, N.Y., as a result of injuries sustained in a car accident.

cont. on next page

He was born on December 5, 1951, in Wellsville, N.Y., the son of Bruce and Ruth (Buckley) Cartwright. He was a graduate of the Bolivar, N.Y., Central School, class of 1969, and graduated from Alfred (N.Y.) State College in 1971.

On December 23, 1983, he married Susan Werrick in Alfred.

Robert was a U.S. Army veteran, serving from 1971-72. He worked for Loohn's Dry Cleaning Co. in Hornell, N.Y., and was later employed in the maintenance department of Alfred State College. He owned and operated TLC Services.

Bob was an associate member of the First Seventh Day Baptist Church of Genesee in Little Genesee, N.Y.

In addition to his wife, Susan, survivors include one daughter, Lydia K. Bolen of Gaylord, Mich.; one stepson, David A. Richter of New York City; his mother, Ruth Bottoms of Scio; four sisters, Mary Steesy of Interlaken, N.Y., Margaret Taylor of Greenbelt, Md., Martha Cook of Takoma Park, Md., and Sue Ann Drake of Shinglehouse, Pa.; one brother, Gregory Bucher of Savona, N.Y.; one stepsister, Shirley Vandepoll of Blaisdell, N.Y.; one stepbrother, Jack Bottoms of Elma, N.Y.; three grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by one brother, Francis E. Bucher; two stepfathers, Francis Bucher and Charles H. Bottoms; and one stepsister, Sara Jayne Dahlgren.

A memorial service was held on October 3, 2007, at the First SDB Church in Little Genesee, with Pastor Kevin Palmiter and Rev. David Taylor officiating. Burial was in Wells Cemetery, Little Genesee.

Sanford.—Ilou Sanford, 79, of Milton, Wis., died on November 4, 2007, at Edgerton (Wis.) Hospital, after several years of failing health.

She was born on April 11, 1928, in Jackson Center, Ohio, the daughter of Dr. Granville J. and Cretora

(Leininger) Miars. Ilou attended Milton College in 1945, where she met fellow student Don A. Sanford of Little Genesee, N.Y. They were married on October 29, 1948, in Milton.

The following year, Ilou accompanied her husband to Alfred (N.Y.) University, where he earned his Master of Divinity degree. At the same time, she completed her courses there. In 1951, she received a BA degree in English from Milton College.



Ilou (Miars) Sanford
1928–2007

The couple served four Seventh Day Baptist pastorates: Independence and Andover, N.Y.; New Auburn, Wis.; and White Cloud, Mich. While in White Cloud, Ilou taught 2nd grade for three years.

Returning to Milton in 1967, Ilou taught 7th grade English at Milton Junior High School for 19 years. After both retired from teaching, Don became the denomination's Historian, and Ilou did volunteer research at the SDB historical library in Janesville, Wis. This led to Ilou's interest in genealogy, resulting in three books on church membership of Alfred, N.Y., and Central New York State. She also co-authored (with Don) the *Newport Seventh Day Baptist Trilogy*.

While the Sanfords contributed much in preserving the past for Seventh Day Baptists, perhaps an even more significant legacy for the future is the faith developed in their own family. All five of their adult children are active in Christian churches, with

four of them Seventh Day Baptists "from Cali to Rhody." Furthermore, it looks like their grandchildren will follow suit, following God wherever He leads them.

Survivors include her husband of 59 years, Rev. Don A. Sanford of Milton; three daughters (who, coincidentally, all married SDB preachers' sons), Donna Bond of Bridgeton, N.J., Doreen Davis of Renton, Wash., and Deirdre Camenga of Milton; two sons, Douglas of Stoughton, Wis., and Dean of Bakersfield, Calif.; two sisters, Carol Aiken of Burlington, Wis., and Mary Burdick of Sanger, Texas; 10 grandchildren, one great-granddaughter, and 13 nieces and nephews. Two sisters, Joy Cole and Adeline Lee Howard, preceded her in death.

A memorial service was held at the Milton SDB Church on November 9, 2007, with Pastor George Calhoun officiating.

Death Notices

Evalyn Rosanna (Skaggs) Camenga, 97, died in Whitewater, Wis., on August 20, 2007.

Kenneth Arnold Camenga, 97, died in Whitewater, Wis., on September 18, 2007.

Rodney P. North, 87, died in Bloomer, Wis., on October 23, 2007.

Thelma E. (Freet) Stewart, 95, died in Kirkwood, Mo., on November 13, 2007.

Ira E. Bond, 88, died in Winchester, Kan., on November 15, 2007.

Marie Gravunder, 78, died in Bloomer, Wis., on November 18, 2007.

KEVIN'S

ORNER

What's with the gas can?

Wisconsin (among many other states) got hit hard with snow and ice in December.

On one brisk Tuesday morning, I woke up to the news that all of the local schools were closed—a pretty rare occurrence for the Janesville district. The reason? Freezing rain and the possibility of a half-inch of ice, before turning to snow later in the day. It sounded like a treacherous recipe for hazardous travel.

Since the Milton schools were also closed, Janet had the day off from her responsibilities at the Milton church. I, on the other hand, decided to head to the Center. (I wanted to pick up some work and take it home before the worst part of the storm hit.)

Checking the weather radar one more time, I started my car. Our snow blower was low on gas, so I decided to grab our red plastic gas can to fill it up.

Unsure of exactly when the freezing rain or ice would start, I thought it would be wise to fill the can at a gas station on my way to the Center, in case it wasn't safe to stop on the way back.

Pretty smart thinking, I surmised.

After filling the can and watching the skies, I headed toward Kennedy Road. Pulling into the parking lot, I also thought it would be wise to set the gas can outside of my car so the fumes wouldn't overwhelm me later. (I couldn't keep the car windows down because heavy snow and rain was already in the air.)

Really smart thinking, I agreed with myself once again.

Oh, and I thought it would be wise to put the can in plain view, outside the driver's door, so I wouldn't drive away without it.

This guy is a genius! I declared to myself with confidence.

"Did you know that there's a gas can by your car?" asked anonymous Center employee #1. (This person's office overlooks the parking lot.)

My first thought was, *Yeah, it's kinda hard to miss a bright red can on snow-covered pavement...*

"Yes, I put it there," I finally answered seriously.

"Why do you have a gas can?" she, I mean, the anonymous Lutheran employee asked.

Hasn't she heard the forecast? I wondered.

I was ready to come back with a smart-aleck remark when Center employee #2 popped in the office to say, "Hey, there's a gas can by your car!"

"I know. Thank you. I put it there. It's for our snow blower. And it's outside the car because—"

"So, what's with the gas can??" just-arriving Center employee #3 interrupted, joining the "party."

The way the conversation was going, it quickly became apparent that it was time to grab the paperwork I came for and head back home. And, yes, I remembered the gas can.

We had fun talking about an obvious and generally harmless gas can, but it made me wonder about relationships.

When we notice something "out of place" in someone else's life, do we mention it? If a loved one's attitude or personality takes a downward spiral, do we ask them about it?

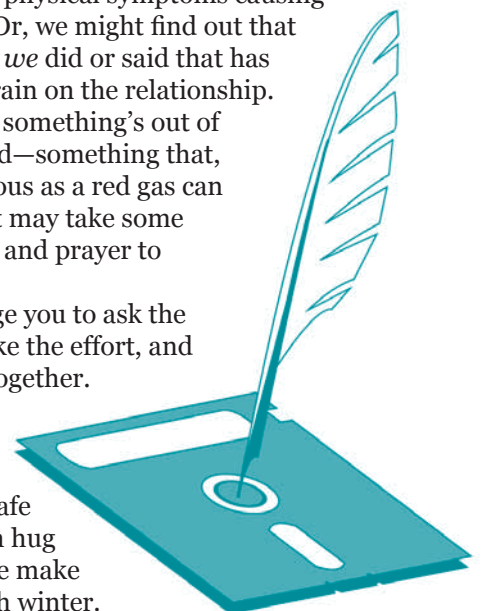
When behavior patterns change from the norm, shouldn't we try to find out what happened?

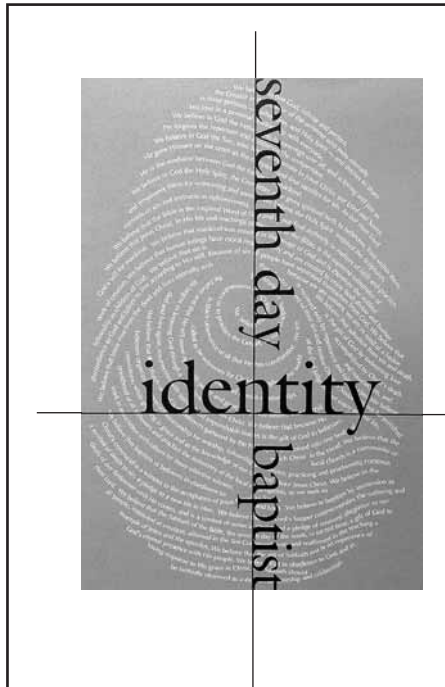
It might turn out to be a harmless thing, or there could be physical symptoms causing the disruptions. Or, we might find out that it was something *we* did or said that has poured freezing rain on the relationship.

If you see that something's out of sorts with a friend—something that, to you, is as obvious as a red gas can on fresh snow—it may take some questions, effort, and prayer to work it through.

But I encourage you to ask the questions, to make the effort, and to pray about it together.

Seasons and feelings do change with time, but a dry, safe place and a warm hug can help someone make it through a tough winter.





*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.

Mail orders to:
Seventh Day Baptist Center
PO Box 1678
Janesville WI 53547

(608) 752-5055
checks payable to
Tract and Communication Council

E-Mail Orders to:
media@seventhdaybaptist.org
and we will bill you

On-line credit card orders are
made through PayPal.
Go to our store at
www.seventhdaybaptist.org