



The  
**Sabbath**  
**RECORDER**

February 2008

*News for and about Seventh Day Baptists*





## Who are Seventh Day Baptists?

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

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

### The seventh day

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

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

## Robe Nominations

The SDB Women's Society is accepting nominations for the Robe of Achievement for 2008. Please see the recent *SRs* for more details, or apply on-line at [www.sdbwboard.org](http://www.sdbwboard.org).

**Deadline is  
March 31, 2008**

## Medical Mission to Guyana



Another medical mission to Guyana, South America, is scheduled for June 20-30, 2008. We are looking for people with medical skills.

Five clinic sites will be held close to Georgetown. Interested? Contact:

**Ron and Chris Davis**  
(765) 649-0540  
[rcdavis16@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rcdavis16@sbcglobal.net)  
**Perry and Amanda Barbee**  
(814) 766-4585  
[pwbarbee@hotmail.com](mailto:pwbarbee@hotmail.com)  
Send your contributions to the SDB Memorial Board, designated "Guyana Medical Mission."



## Celebrate 300 years with us!

In 2008, the First Seventh Day Baptist Church of Hopkinton, R.I., is celebrating 300 years of ministry in America.

Commemorative anniversary ornaments are now available as part of this special Tri-Centennial. When you donate \$100 to the ongoing ministry of our Conference's oldest existing church, you will receive a complimentary ornament as a "Thank You." We have a limited number of these beautiful keepsakes, so we encourage you to request yours soon.

Donations can be sent to: **First SDB Church of Hopkinton**  
**PO Box 438**  
**Ashaway RI 02804**

Please make your checks payable to the church  
(Back side of the ornament is to the right)





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# Reaching out in southeast Atlanta

by Marlene Campbell

The Seventh Day Baptist group in southeast Atlanta, Ga., got started out of the need for a church on that side of the city.

A lot of Seventh Day Baptists had relocated to Georgia from New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Florida, and Jamaica. At the time, the closest SDB church to most of us was the Metro Atlanta church in Hiram, Ga. That meant an average drive of over an hour to get there. Initially, a few of our members traveled to “Metro” for worship.



*Members and friends of the South East Atlanta SDB Church.*

## Find other “transplants”

Over time, we became aware of other SDBs who had moved to the south side of the city. Like us, they needed a closer place to worship.

We contacted these people and also asked other SDB churches to spread the news about us to relatives and friends living in the Atlanta area.

With the Metro Atlanta congregation serving as our “mother church,” we began worshipping in our homes in 2001. During those early years, our average attendance was six.

## We need a building!

God continued His movement of relocating people to Atlanta, and news of our meetings spread rapidly.

With the difficulty of maintaining a rotation in individual homes—plus the lack of visibility as a church—it became apparent that we needed to find a church building to rent.

Since almost no one had even heard of Seventh Day Baptists, it became that much harder for us to

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***We became aware of other SDBs who had moved to the south side of the city.***

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find rental property. That task became especially challenging because those who were willing to offer us a place quoted prices of \$1,500 to \$2,000 per month, for four hours.

## Trusting the Lord

We know God is our Provider. Although there were only six consistently-attending members, we took our request to the Lord.

Sure enough! God’s favor was on us, and we were able to find a

church for far less than the average rental rate.

Today, our average attendance is 30 for Sabbath School and 55 for midday-services. We will be forever grateful to the South Atlantic SDB Association and the SDB Missionary Society for assisting us with pastoral leadership.

## Sabbath School and worship

Last September, we held a workshop for those interested in becoming Sabbath School teachers. We currently have seven children in primary classes and 12 young people attending Sabbath School and midday worship.

The “primaries” are occasionally in charge of the midday service, while the young people lead us on fifth-Sabbath months. They have regular youth meetings, and work at a state-run halfway house for abused children. There, our youngsters help with homework, feed and read to the children, and take part in a variety of activities.

## Church activities

In September, the youth sponsored a concert in Atlanta with the Gospel group, VIZION. It was well-attended, and many were challenged to live for Christ.

Our young people are proud winners of the South Atlantic Association Bible Bowl competition for four consecutive years; three years as a combined team with the Metro church, and this year with their own team.

Members of the South East Atlanta church visit a hospice on the second Sabbath each month, ministering to the patients, their families, and the staff through songs and prayer.

## Love to fellowship

Another church outreach is our Family Night, held on the last Saturday of each month. We invite friends to join in an evening of fun and games, movies, and other entertainment.

Last summer, we held a Sabbath School picnic at High Falls Park. Everyone was invited, and we all had an enjoyable day in spite of sore joints and bruises from various activities. (I'm talking about the adults, not the kids!)

## New people, new challenges

As Seventh Day Baptists, we enjoy a variety of church management and worship styles. Think of all that diversity housed in one location with the aim to get organized!

As we face challenges, the Holy Spirit teaches us many things: Lessons in humility and patience, appreciation of diversity, and how to listen to others because God speaks through them as well.

Most importantly, we learn how to truly rely on God. I mention this to encourage other small groups that

are facing some of the same challenges. Our struggles became opportunities for spiritual growth because they all came with a lesson.

## Getting organized

We now have a five-member Diaconate Board and a Board of Trustees, along with various committees which oversee all of the ministries of our church.

As I mentioned before, our membership is primarily comprised of SDBs who have relocated to the region. These families need to find a new place of worship in their new location.

Our congregation is also composed of individuals who have come to the truth of the Sabbath, or who have become disillusioned with their own denomination and are seeking alternative Sabbathkeeping churches.

## Looking ahead

We believe that these reasons present wonderful opportunities for evangelism since we can provide the church options many are seeking.

The South East Atlanta SDB Church plans to focus more on evangelism in 2008. We also hope to become even more involved in our community. *SR*



*The church rents this facility in Stockbridge, Ga.*



*Members from South East Atlanta have won the annual Association Bible Bowl for four straight years.*

# “Consider it pure joy...”

by Candi Link and Sarah Shick

All Nations Church began meeting for worship on September 26, 2003, in the Creston neighborhood of Grand Rapids, Mich. Under the leadership of founding pastor, Nathan Crandall, the church was supported by the other Seventh Day Baptist churches in Michigan.

I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (NIV).

## Many changes in short time

Since its founding, All Nations has gone through many changes: moving locations, births, deaths, and leadership changes which have led to God

## Victories and growth

In the beginning, worship services were held on Friday nights, allowing the White Cloud church members to support this new plant by participating in the services. These Friday night gatherings continued until September of 2006, when the All Nations Church began worshipping at 11:00 on Sabbath mornings.

The SDB General Conference of the USA and Canada accepted All Nations as a member church in August of 2007.

In addition to Grand Rapids’ growth, a Bible study group was formed in Muskegon, Mich., under the leadership of Haywood Floyd, a member of All Nations. In July 2006, Haywood received a license to preach and began leading worship services in Muskegon.

***It is evident that  
God is working among us,  
and the church is being called  
to continue to serve  
the Grand Rapids area.***

The name and calling of the Grand Rapids church was taken from Jesus’ words found in Matthew 28:18-19: “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely

placing individuals in unexpected roles. The congregation is a “daughter” church of the White Cloud (Mich.) SDB Church.

Pastor Nate was White Cloud’s associate pastor before accepting the call to start up a church in the Grand Rapids area. He ministered under the guidance of White Cloud’s senior pastor, Bernie Wethington.

## Severe trials

God impressed on the leaders of the All Nations congregation that 2007 would be a year of trials. They understood that it would be difficult, not only



*The All Nations Church in Grand Rapids.*



*Jenna Wethington leading music.*

as a church but as individuals as well. However, we were unprepared for the depth of severity in both regards.

One of the first trials as a church family was the prolonged illness and death of Faye Post, a committed member from early on. The church was then faced with the announcement that Pastor Nate had accepted a call from another Seventh Day Baptist church and would be moving to Wisconsin in mid-August, following the birth of the couple's fourth child.

This led to an additional trial as the Crandall family grieved the tragic loss of their unborn baby, Elisha, on July 18, on the cusp of their out-of-state move.

### Regrouping to stabilize

During this time, the majority of church members also endured extremely difficult hardships in their own lives. But, with God's grace and guidance, the church family was stabilized through the cooperation of key members and new attendees. They successfully joined hands in the struggle to fill primary roles and the other functions required for church existence.

Pastor Floyd has been called to another SDB church. Beginning in 2008, he will seek additional training and guidance to fulfill his role in God's light.

### Reevaluating and confirmation

With this call, the All Nations Church was once again forced to reevaluate leadership roles while continuing to seek and respond to God's will. Over the course of 2007, church attendance went from an average of 32 to 17.

God's plan for All Nations is not yet clear. However, it is evident that God is working among

*Yup, they must be SDBs. Look at all of that good food!*



us, and the church is being called to continue to serve the Grand Rapids area.

### Lessons in perseverance

Before all of these major trials began, the church was drawn to James 1:2-4 and 1:12: "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of any kind, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything... Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised

to those who love him" (NIV).

These words continue to be a source of strength and inspiration as we surrender everything to God's will.

Throughout all of these trials, those who remain have developed deeper and more meaningful relationships with each other and with God. As a result, our focus is to continue to work towards fully submitting to God's authority and devoting our lives to His service. **SR**



*Another neat SDB connection: the church meets in this well-maintained building on Plainfield Avenue in Grand Rapids. Plainfield, N.J., was the site of the old denominational building.*

# Can you say “Feliz Sábado”?

by Kevin Butler

Juan Amaya was an elder in the Seventh-day Adventist church. When he changed his views on eschatology (study of the end times), it was time to leave that group.

Pastor Juan says that he became “disappointed in religion.” He eventually visited other churches including the Assemblies of God and some Messianic Sunday-keepers.

It was while attending a Church of God 7th Day that Juan heard about Seventh Day Baptists.

Intrigued, he e-mailed the closest church—the Central SDB Church in Maryland—and struck up a friendship with Pastor Justin Hibbard.

Juan visited the church in Mitchellville, started bringing some of his friends, and within six months, the Spanish House of Worship became a branch church of Central.

“I was so grateful with how the SDB Missionary Society and Brother Ron Elston helped us in that process,” Pastor Juan shared.

Joining with Seventh Day Baptists gave Juan “identity.” He also appreciated the rich history and heritage of the church.

“For so long, we believed in the Law. Now, we believe in both the Law and Grace of God.”

## Enter another group

At one of the House of Worship services, Juan asked someone from another Sabbathkeeping church to share special music. The pastor of the other group was Helmer Umana.

“I had heard of Seventh Day Baptists back in 1986 while I was at the School of Theology in Denver,” Pastor Helmer said, “but when I



*From earlier days at the Spanish House of Worship.*

**Joining with  
Seventh Day Baptists  
gave Juan “identity.”  
He also appreciated  
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the church.**

moved to California, there was no SDB church in that neighborhood. That was the church I had been looking for!”

Pastor Helmer Umana had also been wrestling with some of the teachings of his church hierarchy, particularly the beliefs about the Holy Spirit. His local church eventually became independent.

While translating the Seventh Day Baptist Statement of Belief, he started to laugh with joy. “This is what *we* believe!” he exclaimed. “I read our beliefs and compared the two. They were the same!”



*Pastor Juan Amaya*

## Two become one

After a couple of years of worshipping separately (with SDB ties), the two churches joined as one in the fall of 2006. The group is known as the SDB Christian Church and they meet in Arlington, Va.

“It took some time to get used to the change, and we did lose a few families in the transition,” said Pastor Amaya. “Some of them left for nearly a year, but they are starting to return.”



The majority of their church members are from El Salvador (reflecting the Salvadoran neighborhood), but they also draw worshippers from Korea, Vietnam, Mexico, and Chile. They have held two recent baptism services and have welcomed 10 new members.

### Making a day of it

Sabbath days at the SDB Christian Church might look a bit different from many of our North American churches. Their members dedicate the whole day to God, church, and family.

Sabbath School runs from 10:00 until noon. The adult classes use the *Helping Hand* (SDB) quarterlies, while the youth follow the same topic from a non-denominational source. The books are in Spanish, but the youth group communicates in English.

After lunch, the women get together at 2:00 p.m. for ministry discussion and a Bible study. The men watch the younger children during that hour.

Then Divine Worship arrives at 3:00 p.m., and everyone comes together. The spirited worship is conducted in Spanish, but they are careful to provide translation when needed.

### Joining the Conference

When they became part of the Conference last August, Pastor

so good to become a member of the Conference.”

Both men say that they love SDBs and their openness. They have felt comfortable from the beginning and have been treated with love and respect.

“This is the right time to be serving the Lord. We want to build a better church and denomination.”

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***While translating the Seventh Day Baptist Statement of Belief, Helmer started to laugh with joy. “This is what we believe!” he exclaimed.***

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Umana felt that it was “mission accomplished!”

“I would have loved to have had more of our church members there in Oregon,” Helmer said. “We had been working so hard on the process, and now it feels

### Ready to reach out

Right now, Pastor Juan Amaya serves on the new Hispanic Committee of the SDB Missionary Society, and is a consultant with the Board of Christian Education.

The pastors are willing to help other SDB churches in reaching out to Spanish-speaking worshippers. Their Spanish translation of the *Helping Hand* is going to El Salvador, Nicaragua, Spain, Puerto Rico, Ecuador, and other churches in the United States.

“Our vision is to reach out—both outside and within the United States,” reports Pastor Juan.

May God bless this new vision, for His glory. **SR**



Pastor Helmer Umana (left) felt like “mission accomplished” as his church joined the SDB Conference last August at George Fox University in Newberg, Ore.

# A long-standing connection finally made official

by Stan Fox

In 2007, the Ahtanum Community Church of Yakima, Wash., officially became a part of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference. It has been a long journey, too extensive to detail here. But here are some highlights:



## The long journey

The journey goes back to when I was part of a Sunday-keeping church. I actually preached on “Why We Go to Church on Sunday.”

Not long after, I rethought the material I had used for that sermon. While I had many reasons for giving that talk, there was little Scripture to support them. Even the Bible verses I did use had to be “stretched” to back up my arguments.

## Searching the Word; writing to New Jersey

I’m not totally sure when I started my journey to examine the seventh-day Sabbath, but I began with the Scriptures. Later, I read about Seventh Day Baptists in Frank Mead’s book on denominations. Being a Baptist, that group caught my attention.

In the back of the book, I found an address for the SDB national offices. I sent a letter to them in Plainfield, N.J., and they referred me to Pastor Duane

***Being satisfied that the seventh-day Sabbath was biblical, the church body requested that we vote to determine if we should change our services from Sunday to Sabbath.***

Davis of the Seattle, Wash., SDB Church.

Conferring often with Pastor Davis, he definitely confirmed my beliefs and gave me insight into the Sabbath.

## Preaching, study, questions

Even though I was with a Sunday church, I was always careful to be honest when mentioning the Fourth Commandment in my sermons.

I became the main pastor of the Ahtanum Community Church in 1995. At the beginning of 1997, I

preached three messages, one of which was about the Sabbath. This led to requests for a Bible study on that topic. Many in the congregation seemed very interested and had numerous questions.

## Putting it to a vote

Being satisfied that the seventh-day Sabbath was biblical, the church body requested that we vote to determine if we should change our services from Sunday to Sabbath. We decided that 100% of those present at the meeting would have to vote



The Ahtanum Community Church in Yakima, Wash.

“Yes” for the change to take place. We also agreed that a notice about the balloting would have to appear every week in the church bulletin for one month prior to the vote.

I have no doubt that the Lord was in charge as all of this came together.

We held our first Sabbath service on the second weekend of August, 1997, and had our share of interesting experiences as a result. We had—and still have—Seventh Day Adventists visit occasionally. I have found that this just goes with the territory.

### Independent, yet connected

The Ahtanum church remained an independent Sabbathkeeping



Pastor Stan and Gladys Fox

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***We didn't face any rejection over this major change, but our church certainly drew attention!***

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church for nine years. During that time, we sometimes fellowshiped with other SDB churches in Washington and Oregon. We were careful not to isolate ourselves from other churches, participating now and then with some Sunday churches for certain events.

Happily, we didn't face any rejection over this major change, but our church certainly drew attention! As important as the Sabbath is, we realize that we are bound together with other Christians by the blood of Christ.

### Another vote, another victory

Last year, we decided to become part of the SDB General Conference. Being of like faith, we felt that the

move would help give us an identity. This task was accomplished by a unanimous vote of the delegates at the 2007 Conference in Newberg, Ore.

We are proud to be a part of the larger Seventh Day Baptist heritage and look forward to our future together. I thank the many SDB brethren who encouraged and helped us in so many ways to reach this point. You have been a real blessing!

### Touching lives

We have a Sabbath Eve service (on Friday nights), and a worship service on Sabbath following Sabbath School. We have also started a mail outreach to new people moving into our community.

This past December, we were excited about Christmas and our ministry at a low-income apartment building in the city. We gave away some food baskets, and visited the residents on Christmas Eve. Throughout the evening, we handed out New Testaments, sang carols, and served refreshments.

We aren't a large church, but we want to do what we can to touch the lives of others and show them God's love. ✠

# Mission trip to Jamaica was a “YES”!

by Veronica Johnson  
Miami, Fla., SDB Church

A special mission trip to Jamaica took place last July.

Our young people spent the better part of two years preparing for this adventure in ministry and service, submitting themselves to several weekends of training and monthly orientation sessions. They learned about servanthood, cultural sensitivities, understanding spiritual gifts, teamwork, leading a child to Christ, sharing your testimony, Christian camping, developing a devotional life, and understanding why kids act the way they do.

In the context of Vacation Bible School (VBS), they were instructed on teaching lessons, and leading games, music, and crafts.

What was drilled into our hearts and minds was that we were going to Jamaica to serve that country’s SDB Conference. Uppermost, we wanted to be a blessing, not a burden, to them.

We named our mission group “Youth Expedition in Service” (YES), signifying that the participants had responded positively to the Lord’s call to be servants. The word “no” would never be part of our vocabulary when an assignment or task was to be done for the Lord.

Team members took on the challenge of raising at least \$250 toward the cost of the mission, and their training supplied them with many fundraising ideas. The youths/young adults came up with \$1,945, showing that most of them raised more than the required amount.



*Vacation Bible School kids pose with “YES” Team members in Jamaica.*

The majority of the team members arrived in Jamaica on the evening of July 12. The group consisted of seven youths and young adults: Jaidean and Stefan Buddle, Cortney Charlery, Ashley Henry, Tsafiq and Tsahai Samuels, and Colleen Saunders.

The six chaperones were Pastor Andrew and Kay Samuels, Christine Francis, Erica Henry, Karlene Virgo, and Angelyn Walters.

The first day was spent working at Maiden Hall, the SDB Conference Center and campsite. The young people were immediately busy, setting up and arranging beds, mopping floors, and cleaning bathrooms. They wanted to ensure that the facilities would be ready to host Conference attendees. (The meetings would start in a mere two days!)

On Sabbath, we divided into two groups, each visiting one church for the day. Some went to Galena, where our team was able to minister during a music celebration. The others went to Port Maria, where our pastor, Andy Samuels, preached. That night,

our six Dance Ministers were featured at a concert sponsored by the Port Maria church.

In both of these churches, we were welcomed with open and loving arms. All of us were blessed by the overwhelming friendliness, and the love of the Lord was evident without reservation.

General Conference began the following day. Pastor Andy was asked to bring greetings in the opening service, which was recorded for broadcast on radio and television. We were privileged on the following Sunday to hear parts of that broadcast.

On Monday and Tuesday nights, our team ministered in music in the nightly worship services.

Our pastor’s wife, Kay Samuels, assumed responsibility for the Vacation Bible School, and all team members pitched in and played various roles to increase the program’s effectiveness.

Daily attendance at VBS ranged from 12 to 35 kids, most of them

*cont. on page 22*



## Confessions of a past president

*As Ruth Burdick's tenure as our 2007 General Conference President ended, I asked if she had learned anything through the year that she had not already mentioned in the monthly SR President's Page. She shared these thoughts:*



Throughout our lifetime as believers, God calls us out of our "comfort zone" and into His "faith zone."

This was the challenge I faced when I decided to become Conference president. It's all about trusting God. When the theme (*Tell the Truth... the Whole Truth*) came to my mind that first night, I knew my answer to the call would be "Yes."

The beginning of that journey seemed easy. The outline for daily themes and scriptures fell into place, and my plans were taking shape. I felt excited about the vision for the Conference program, including the seminars, speakers, and Bible study leaders.

Then gas prices skyrocketed and, one by one, my plans changed. At first, I was disappointed, but then I realized that God's plans are so much greater than what we can even imagine.

Yes, speakers changed, seminars were substituted, attendance numbers diminished, and I was scrambling for Interest Committee chairmen. But I also had a deep sense of peace while watching these new plans unfold.

Again and again, the changes were confirmed by a testimony, a conversation, a sense of God's presence, and a growing excitement that what *God* wanted was truly taking place. This was a gift He gave me

throughout the year, even when I injured my knee in January and needed surgery.

That unshakable trust has continued to grow and develop. I'm assured that God is faithful in all situations to be with me, to guide me, to stop me when needed, to change me to be what He wants me to be.

In my Bible reading, God gave me new favorite passages to remind me of His plan and sovereignty. He encourages me and reminds me to focus on His will. Deuteronomy 32:3-4 reads, "I will proclaim the name of the Lord. Oh, praise the greatness of our God! He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he."

Deuteronomy 33:27 says, "The eternal God is your refuge, and un-

derneath are the everlasting arms." I rest in that thought.

Are you facing a tough situation? Are you trusting God with all your worries and anxieties, or are you limiting Him by trying to take control? Are you leaving the timing of your desires up to God, or yourself?

Our limitless God loves us so much that He wants to give us the best He has to offer. But we need to trust in His leadership, His life, and His timing. This means putting aside our "supposed" wants and concentrating on *His* desires.

As we strive to grow into the people God wants us to be, He will shower us with the abundant blessings He mentions in His Word. As you seek that out, enjoy the process. **SR**

### Women's Society News

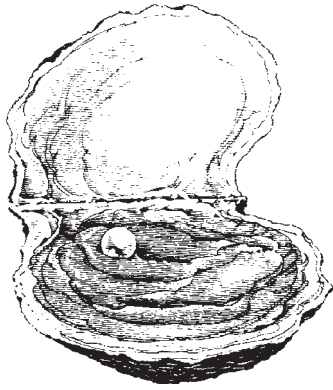
Reading the reports of all of our church women's groups is a lot like strolling through a glorious garden filled with a variety of flowers, each similar enough to create a beautifully balanced bouquet.

This month I want to highlight the WSSS of Hebron, Pa. (No, their secretary didn't stutter when signing those initials at the end of her 2007 Conference report!)

The two extra "S"s stand for "Study and Serve." Thus, WSSS refers to the Women's Study and Serve Society.

One aspect of Hebron's uniqueness is their interesting programs, each of their average-of-six women taking turns providing them. These include giving a talk on the Cancer Light Connection; Ten Tips to Reduce Stress; a book review on *When I Lay My Isaac Down*; a couple of travelogues featuring the Chincoteague/Assateague Islands [I believe wild horses run there] and a butterfly conservatory; a talk on snoring; Calculating the High Cost of Clutter; and much more.

Doesn't this make you want to call those ladies for more details?



## That old spinning wheel

The old spinning wheel in the parlor is often used as a symbol of colonial days when raw materials of flax, wool, or cotton were transformed into thread for weaving fabric.

The function of that big wheel is to propel the “distaff,” which *Webster’s* describes as: “The staff for holding the bunch of flax or wool from which the thread is drawn in spinning by hand or the spinning wheel; hence symbolically the work or activity of women or woman’s authority or domain; the distaff side, that is the mother’s side, the female side of the family.”

History tends to focus on the “big wheel” when in reality it is the *distaff* which provides the thread that weaves the fabric of history.

Nowhere was this more prominent than in the beginnings of Seventh Day Baptists in Newport, R.I., with Samuel Hubbard’s distaff, Tacy.

In his journal, Samuel credits his wife with coming to the belief in baptism of believers, which forced them to move to Newport in 1648. It was here that Samuel wrote in his journal, “My wife took up the Lord’s holy 7th day Sabbath the 10th day of March 1665.”

Samuel and his three daughters—Ruth, Rachel, and Bethiah—followed, along with Bethiah’s husband, Joseph Clarke. (Joseph was the nephew of Pastor John Clarke of the First Newport Baptist Church from which they had separated.)

The couple’s oldest daughter, Ruth, married Robert Burdick in

1655, when she was only 16. Robert, formerly a member of the First Baptist Church in Newport, was listed among the initial members of the First Hopkinton SDB Church, founded 300 years ago.

The Burdick’s progeny included daughters who married Maxsons, Crandalls, Babcocks, and many other Seventh Day Baptist lines.

The second Hubbard daughter, Rachel, married Andrew Langworthy. That surname has also been prominent in many SDB churches through the years.

Bethiah and Joseph’s daughter, Judith, married a Maxson, and another daughter, Elizabeth, married Rev. John Davis.

Thus, through the *distaff* side of Seventh Day Baptist churches, a sizable proportion of these members have dominated much of the past three centuries of SDB history.

Aside from heredity, it has often been the distaff side of the family that has preserved our church growth. For example, when the Joseph Goodrich family migrated

from the East and settled in Milton, Wis., in 1839, it was his wife, Nancy, who wrote:

“With myself and I presume others it had been a subject of ardent prayer that God would give us grace and wisdom to erect an altar to Him in this great wilderness land. There was a small society of Congregationalists not far distance. They kindly invited us to join with them when reasonable, but God had said that the seventh day was the Sabbath, and now the Sabbath was upon us. Oh what a responsibility rested on my soul! I hoped some one would mention the subject, but they did not. I could wait no longer, women’s rights or not. I felt that consequences reaching into eternity rested on the course we might take that day. I said to them, ‘This is the Sabbath and how will we spend it?’ ”

Other SDB women in history have been instrumental in countless ways.

On a more personal level, with the passing of Ilou, my helpmate of 59 years, I lost more than a wife. She truly was an asset to my mission as historian.

In her genealogy study, we dug into church and cemetery records of Seventh Day Baptists in many states, leading to such compilations as membership records of SDB churches in central and western New York (and bordering Pennsylvania), as well as the beginning of the Newport church.

My “helper” will be missed, but Ilou’s legacy will live on in the countless ways she contributed to the preservation of Seventh Day Baptist history. **SR**





## Past, present, and future

by Morgan Shepard

*“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past” (Isaiah 43:18, NIV).*

**Past...** The final giving figures for 2007 are in, and it’s time to take one last look behind us as we peek ahead into 2008.

Three Boards and Agencies exceeded their budgeted goals for designated and undesignated giving for 2007!

### 2007 Designated & Undesignated Giving

Agency	2007 Total	2007 Goal	% of Goal
Board of Christian Ed.	45,094.68	53,444.00	84.38%
Council on Ministry	59,100.52	65,786.00	89.84%
General Services	142,897.17	173,600.00	82.31%
<b>Historical Society</b>	<b>2,167.22</b>	<b>2,000.00</b>	<b>108.36%</b>
<b>Missionary Society</b>	<b>60,657.95</b>	<b>56,058.00</b>	<b>108.21%</b>
<b>Tract &amp; Comm. Council</b>	<b>55,782.64</b>	<b>54,150.00</b>	<b>103.02%</b>
Women’s Society	16,369.46	32,000.00	51.15%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 382,069.64</b>	<b>\$ 437,038.00</b>	<b>87.42%</b>

Overall, the General Conference was closer to meeting its goal than in previous years.

Thanks to you, we will continue to provide the ministries and programs to support your local church.

*“See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?...” (Isaiah 43:19).*

**Present...** As we begin 2008, the ministries of the General Conference are off and running.

In February, the Coordinating Leadership Team (CLT) and General Council will meet to continue the way ahead for this year and how all the Boards and

Agencies can support the local churches through the “Alliance in Ministry.”

General Conference President Andy Samuels is calling us to be hungry for the limitless God in 2008. There is no time like the present to reach out to our communities to show the love of Christ!

In addition to **SDB CPR** (Commitment, Purpose, and Revival) through the General Conference, there are grants from the Memorial Fund for new ministries that reach out to your communities. Reach out now!

*“I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland” (Isaiah 43:19).*

**Future...** What will 2008 hold in the future for the General Conference? I really don’t know. To be totally honest, that’s entirely up to you.


Where do you want to see growth and change? What’s important to you? In order for the General Conference to be completely effective, we need to hear from you.

**Call us! Email us! Write us!  
JUST TELL US!**

**(608) 752-5055  
mdshepard@seventhdaybaptist.org  
PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547**

What I do know is what “Financial Faith” will cover this year. In addition to keeping you informed on the financial status of the General Conference, we will discuss:

- New IRS requirements for 403(b) retirement accounts that will affect your church and pastor;
- Gift Annuities that can provide for both your family and church;
- How to handle money from a Biblical perspective.

2008 will be an exciting year for Seventh Day Baptists as we strive to be “streams of life to the world!” 



## Nominate a teacher!

Teaching a Sabbath School class is not easy.

Most teachers volunteer their time and try to fit preparation for the class into an already busy life. Some work all day, care for children or parents at night, lead in civic organizations, coach a sports team, and also teach a Sabbath School class. We are absolutely amazed by those who carry that kind of load and teach their classes well.

However, a person does not have to be amazingly busy to be a good Sabbath School teacher. God has given some people the gift of time in order to listen carefully to what His Word is teaching and to help others hear it.

Great Sabbath School teachers help us gather around the Word

and lead us in becoming hearers and doers of God's will.

Do you have a Sabbath School teacher who is like that? If so, nominate that person for the SDB Board of Christian Education's Teacher of the Year. The candidate chosen will receive the Crystal Apple Award.

We like honoring good teachers. One recent Crystal Apple recipient lives in North Loup, Neb. This is what fellow church members said about him:

"Jim Goodrich is a faithful and creative Sabbath School teacher. He finds games and stories that enhance the lessons he teaches. As he leads his upper elementary class, the young people and their parents are encouraged. His life is obviously dedicated to the Lord and His work.

"Jim's teaching makes children want to attend his class, and they always have good things to say about him. Yet, Jim provides more than just a fun time. Once children have been through his class, they know their Bible and enjoy studying God's Word."

Nominate one of your outstanding teachers to be this year's Sabbath School Teacher of the Year. We would welcome the challenge of picking from among the many excellent teachers across our Conference.

Nomination forms and the program's requirements are sent to each church in February. You can find the same materials on our website ([educatingchristians.org](http://educatingchristians.org)). Submit your nomination by June 30, 2008. **SR**



### In the last 10 years, the following have received the Crystal Apple Award:

2007 — **Ed Cruzan**  
White Cloud, Mich.

2006 — **Wesley Greene**  
Pataskala, Ohio

2005 — **James E. Goodrich**  
North Loup, Neb.

2004 — **Lucinda Snyder Torkaman**  
Alfred Station, N.Y.

2003 — **John W. Griffin**  
Paint Rock, Ala.

2002 — **Larry Bird**  
Washington, D.C.

2001 — **Judy Parrish**  
Battle Creek, Mich.

2000 — **Esther A. Burdick**  
Waterford, Conn.

1999 — **Marilyn Merchant**  
Riverside, Calif.

1998 — **Earl W. Hibbard**  
Central, Md.





# New churches in El Salvador

by Kirk Looper

I was excited to learn about some new contacts in El Salvador, South America. I could hardly wait to hear about the work being done there, and the extent of their interest in starting Seventh Day Baptist churches.

The communication came through Pastor Helmer Umana of the SDB Christian Church located in Alexandria, Va. After a long period of correspondence, those in El Salvador finally decided that it was time to get serious about starting an SDB Conference there.

Arrangements were made for Pastor Helmer and his son to travel to El Salvador to make initial contact with the interested parties. The Umanas were eagerly welcomed and a new relationship began.

As a follow-up, I planned a trip to El Salvador (on behalf of the Missionary Society) to help them take the next step: getting registered with the government and start the basic setup for the Conference. This included organizing the interested churches into a group that could work together.

We left for El Salvador on November 30, 2007. The first few days were spent talking to church leaders who wanted to initiate the new organization. Speaking for the group were Pastor Manuel and Ruth Alvarez.

We learned that the churches involved had left another Sabbathkeeping group several years ago. We wanted to make sure that these people were not simply moving from one denomination to another.

Pastor Manuel and his wife explained that there were 10 churches that wanted to start a new Conference. This would become the nucleus. This nucleus would then be responsible to develop the constitution, by-laws, Statement of Beliefs, and governmental registration. Once the group is established (and possibly during the establishment), other interested churches could join with them.

As they develop the required paperwork, they will continue to correspond with Pastor Helmer to ensure that these papers are along the lines of Seventh Day Baptist polity and beliefs. This will be a heavy burden for both pastors since the documentation must be in both Spanish and English. We look with anticipation for them to complete this job.

We also visited two other churches, one in San Juan El Espino and the other in San Martin. They both held services on the Sabbath we were there.

Staying for lunch at the church in San Juan, we discussed the Mayan culture of that country. They showed us some of the ancient artifacts that they had collected out of their fields. Then they displayed the crafts they had recently made to sell to tourists. It was exciting to meet people with such dynamic cultural history.

I look forward to helping the Salvadorans finish organizing their Conference and to watch their continued growth. We could see God's hand in all of this work and know that without Him we could not have witnessed these developments. **SR**



*Church fellowship at San Martin, El Salvador.*



*Mayan artifacts found by church members.*



# the BEACON

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

February 2008

## Unsung hero

by Jessica Chroniger

Sometimes life can be hard, especially when you've never thought to look for trouble.

As a member of the marching band at my high school, I was fortunate enough to earn the position of woodwind captain. It has been really exciting to be able to help the band succeed, particularly since it's my last year of high school.

Recently, I've been in a not-so-nice mood after each band competition.

At the award ceremony at the end of the night, normally all of the captains and student directors have the honor of going out onto the football field to receive the awards on behalf of the band. Much to my dismay, a co-captain and I have been excluded from this since the beginning of the marching season.

During the last competition, my heart sank when I found out that I wasn't going to be receiving the awards for the band yet again. The directors kept giving the job to some people who don't do nearly as much for the band as my friend and I do.

Because I'm a captain, I have the authority to tell the directors how I feel about this situation. I can either make the rest of their season miserable by speaking up, or I can simply take pride in the

fact that we're winning first place, something that has probably happened only twice in 30 years.

As Christians, what we do in the tough situations can set us apart from everyone else.

Most people would probably make a big deal about not being recognized, or say that the system is unfair. However, we need to remember that our friends, families, and even the people we seldom talk to are always watching what we do.

If others see professing Christians yelling or becoming enraged, what will they think about becoming a believer themselves? They might actually end up thinking that being a Christian isn't special after all. In fact, they might come to believe that people who go to church and pray are the same as those who don't.

When Jesus was on earth, he went through many tough situations. For instance, Jesus healed a crippled man on the Sabbath. The Pharisees saw this and were outraged. Jesus, however, asked if it was better for a man to do good on the Sabbath or evil.

You see, Jesus didn't talk back or throw a fit. He quoted Scripture and remained calm.

This is exactly how we should be living *our* lives. Jesus knew the

Scriptures so perfectly that when he was in a difficult situation, he went back to them. Those very words showed him the right way to react.

A lot of people don't realize how reading the Bible impacts their everyday lives. Even one verse can decide whether your day is going to be a great one or not.

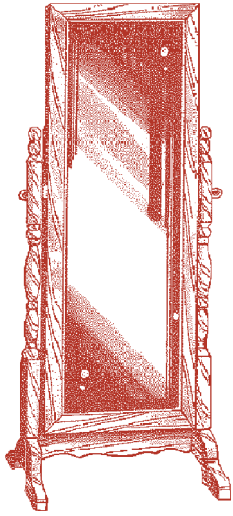
I came across this passage in Philippians 2:3-4: "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others."

These verses helped me realize that although I might not be acknowledged by our directors, I know that I'm an asset to the band. Even when I don't feel appreciated, I know that I believe in a God Who loves me and calls me His own.

Jesus was not always acknowledged for what *he* did. In fact, the Pharisees were always trying to make him falter, but he didn't.

My challenge for you this upcoming month is, read your Bible! If you're not into reading, try looking at just one verse a day. I promise that once you start digging into the Word, you'll get hooked and not want to stop.

In the long run, these Scriptures will help you out in more ways than words can explain. **SR**



# Reflections

by Leanne Lippincott-Wuerthele

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

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## More alive than ever

I finally received the phone call that I had dreaded getting. It was also the phone call that I had been praying to receive. My father, Robert Martinsen, was dead.

When I went to bed before that middle-of-the-night call, I knew that Dad's death was imminent. The Hospice nurse at Edgerton (Wis.) Long-Term Care Center said that "Pop" might live a few more days, or he might not. "He may not make it through the night," she cautioned.

My sister Jean, and her husband Mark, had driven down from Manitowoc that afternoon to join me in saying our good-byes. (Our brother, Jim, would be flying in from California the next day.)

Dad turned 95 last July 6th. It always seemed ironic that he was born so close to the Fourth because he disliked that holiday—all the noise and hubbub, I guess. Quite often, he celebrated his birthday in conjunction with Jim's, who was born July 3rd.

But the past several years, his birth date was no longer a day of joy for him. His mind was sharper than mine (which isn't saying much!), but his body—his earthly "tent"—was tattering rapidly.

Like many older adults, Dad's list of ailments (and accompanying stash of pills) seemed to increase monthly. He began having multiple health concerns in addition to the hearing

and eyesight problems common to old age. What finally took him was COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease).

As we approached Dad's bed during his last hours, it was obvious that he didn't have enough breath to speak. He communicated by scrawling words on a clipboard that we had difficulty deciphering.

The greatest gift God gave us that day was Dad's mind, still clear and as sharp as ever. He definitely didn't need a clipboard to understand what *we* were saying! And we said a lot.

As I stroked Dad's forehead, Jean read several Bible passages to him. At one point, Jean got very close to his face and said, "I love you, Dad. You were the best father a daughter could have." He gave a "thumb's up," so we knew he understood.

While in Dad's room, my sister and I shed buckets of tears, but we also filled a barrel with laughter.

When Jean said, "Dad, you always gave us everything we wanted," I was indignant.

"No you didn't, Pop!" I emphatically retorted. "I always wanted a pony, and I never got one. I had to be Roy Rogers without a horse."

Jean and I laughed, and a hint of a smile crossed Dad's crooked mouth and parched lips.

The human part of us mourns losing the companionship of a loved one. But when that companion is a Christian, we know that death is a gate opening wide rather than a door slamming shut.

Jean and I were thrilled that Dad would soon be with God. There would be no more wheelchairs or catheters, nebulizers or medicine. Dad would soon be running, and dancing with Mom, and doing all those marvelous things that require sturdy legs and strong lungs.

Robert Lyle Martinsen had a long, full life, and he was more than ready to enjoy the welcoming embrace of his Heavenly Father. We need to release our loved ones so they can partake of that blessed reunion.

The nurse said that Dad was dead. But she was wrong. Dad is alive; more alive than he's ever been. **SR**



Dad, a "gentleman farmer," posing by his in-town chicken coop. He raised ducks and chickens for some 60 years at his home on Plumb Street in Milton, Wis.



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## A LIMITLESS GOD FOR A HUNGRY PEOPLE

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



*The President's Page*  
by Pastor Andrew Samuels

### Challenge to plant churches

Seventh Day Baptists have never been big on numbers. In fact, someone once described us as “weighing more than we count.” I think that person meant that our influence and significance to the Kingdom of God goes well beyond our numerical statistics.

My challenge is that we become more intentional about planting churches in these last days. Starting new churches is one of the most effective ways to fulfill the Great Commission that our Lord handed down to us.

I see three pillars upon which we can build this new intentionality.

#### Three pillars

First, from the perspective of our denominational leadership, we can seek to identify areas and communities where new churches can be started, and then initiate efforts to launch them. This would require a radical shift in our mindset. Instead of latching onto efforts that have already begun, we would have to become initiators ourselves.

I know some will refute this idea by saying, “That’s not how we do things.”

My reply is, I’m led to challenge us as a people, and our churches, to do some things we’ve never done

before—not only when it comes to church planting, but in every area possible. This is one way to show our deep hunger for the Lord, Who is limitless.

When we truly long for and yearn after Him, we don’t simply keep on doing the things we’ve always done. Instead, we open ourselves to how He may choose to feed us.

Secondly, we can identify and recruit those among us who have been gifted with the abilities to be church planters. We can help individuals discover and develop their God-given skills, thus facilitating lives of fulfillment in God’s service.

Thirdly, our existing SDB churches can seek to become either “senders” or “sponsors” when it comes to church planting opportunities.

Some of our churches can commission members to plant other churches in nearby communities. This idea may not appeal to everyone because it would break up some fellowship groups, and people would miss seeing each other on Sabbath. This is an inward-focused attitude that prevents us from extending ourselves beyond our comfort zones.

The Miami, Fla., SDB congregation started two church plants: the West Palm Beach church in 1992,

and the Fort Lauderdale church in 2003.

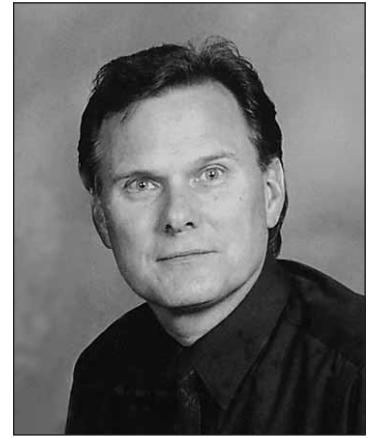
Although the circumstances in these two groups were different, the separation anxiety was enormous! People literally shed tears as they experienced the loss of brothers and sisters they had come to cherish.

In both plants, the “mother church” (Miami) suffered a significant loss of income, valuable personnel, and momentum. But, in the end, more opportunities were provided for people in various locations to find a place of worship.

I wish that I could say that the Miami church thoroughly understood what we were doing back then as we stepped out in faith, allowing the Lord to do His work of church planting. The truth is, we were clueless—of which I was chief. But we wanted more out of our walk with the Lord, and we knew He stood ready to enlarge our (and His) territory.

We rejoice in the four new churches that joined our ranks last year, and we look forward to other SDB churches that the Lord will give birth to in the near future.

At General Conference this August, we hope to further challenge SDBs in the area of church planting by offering a workshop which could significantly change our perspective for the better. *SR*



by Executive Director  
Rob Appel

## Outreach through advertising

During our meetings prior to Conference last summer, the General Council once again talked about advertising Seventh Day Baptists. Discussions in the past brought no real sense of how we should proceed. However, this past year, we agreed on how we should advertise. But then another question arose: Where?

On July 30, 2007, the Council reported to the Conference that they were developing an advertising campaign using billboards in neighborhoods surrounding Seventh Day Baptist churches.

The first step is to test market this method of advertising with new as well as established churches. A committee was established to ensure that this would happen. Those assigned to take on this mantle of responsibility are Kevin Butler, Director of the American Sabbath Tract and Communication Council; Pat Cruzan, a graphic designer who has helped the Conference and Memorial Board with a number of clever and unique campaigns; and myself, Conference Executive Director.

Task number one was to find a logical place to do the trial run. As they say in the real estate business, "Location, Location, Location!" But where was this location to be?

The committee looked at many options across the continent. We considered churches in rural as



well as urban areas, college towns, and bedroom communities. We discussed vibrant ministries already established, and ministries that churches were looking to launch. And we talked about being able to monitor the results of this billboard ministry.

We felt that each location should have a campaign directed specifically towards their ministry outreach. This will make the billboard ad more effective in its ability to grab the viewer's attention and hold it for a split second as people speed down the road.

So, where do we start this new undertaking?

Well, believe it or not, it all came down to location, location, location. Who would have guessed that?

With two of the three members of the subcommittee in Milton, Wis.—and with a Milton SDB Church member working for the billboard company—it only seemed to make sense to have the trial run in Milton, working out all the kinks before taking it to the next location.

Also, the Milton church has an active Wednesday night ministry for kids through the AWANA program, and a high school ministry. Milton is also expanding their building to include a multi-function facility for a future youth center outreach serving the community.

So, how can you help? By *donating* funds, *suggesting* further locations, and *praying* for a successful venture in this new area for Seventh Day Baptists. **SR**

from the surrounding community. They appeared to be immensely touched by our ministry. Team members connected well with the children as we tried to help them understand how they could be personally related to God through Jesus Christ.

On Thursday afternoon, some of our team served as officials for the Annual Circuit Bible Quiz, with Pastor Andy acting as one of the quiz-masters. During this event, our dancers once again had the opportunity to minister.

One of our team members, Erica Henry, works as a physician’s assistant. She was in great demand to use her skills and training to help with an assortment of injuries and minor ailments. Anticipating these needs, she brought along a generous amount of medical supplies.

Sabbath was the culmination of Conference activities, with at least 500 people attending. Pastor Andy shared the message during the worship service. The following day was for shopping, time at the beach, and relaxing.

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***We were going  
to Jamaica to serve  
that country’s  
Conference.  
Uppermost, we wanted  
to be a blessing,  
not a burden.***

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While on the island, our primary means of transportation was a 12-passenger mini-bus driven by Pastor Andy. By the time we returned to airport in Kingston to board our flight home, we had become intimately familiar with just about every pothole in the St. Mary parish!

Our wider church family participated in this mission in a variety of ways. People served as “prayer partners” for individual team members, and there were also training facilitators, Planning Committee

members, encouragers, and financial contributors.

Our congregation donated at least 25 pairs of new children’s shoes, plus clothing, to our Jamaican brethren. In all, we shipped five large barrels of donated items.

We were even able to include a large shipment of tracts and other SDB literature ordered from the SDB Center (in Janesville, Wis.) by the Jamaica Conference.

This trip was a true expedition in service, and our mission was accomplished. Some of the youths/young adults are already clamoring to return in 2008, and some would even like to attend camp in Jamaica.

We believe that many good seeds were planted, and we excitedly anticipate the lasting fruit that is yet to be seen.

Our deep appreciation goes to the SDB Memorial Fund trustees for their encouragement and support of this venture. It was indeed an investment with returns that are out of this world! **SR**

## **A Mission’s Impact**

### ***Team members reflected on their work in Jamaica. Comments included:***

“Years of planning were put into this trip and never once did it cross my mind that it would really be something that would transform my life.”

“The kids, how could I forget them? I felt like a teacher because they were always calling me ‘Miss,’ but I enjoyed interacting with them.”

“I learned that ‘mission’ was about giving of one’s time and service to help others. I also learned that we need to appreciate even the small things in life, and that it’s not all about us, but about God.”

“In Jamaica I was able to gain some self-control, and I hope to continue to practice that. I also now understand that patience and respect should play a major part in a Christian’s walk.”

“I found myself looking past some things—like not having air-conditioning in certain places and bumpy roads—and really focusing on ministering to the people and showing them God’s love.”

“God reminded me that this mission trip was not for me; instead, it was designed to serve others. I soon learned that many of our apprehensions proved to be more bearable than we thought.”

# Year-end Communion held at Baker's Bridge Meeting House

by Phyllis Mattison



*Amanda Snyder prepares the elements.*

On December 29, 2007, members of the Alfred Station, N.Y., Seventh Day Baptist Church family met at the Baker's Bridge Meeting House for a Communion service and covenant renewal.

Someone had thoughtfully warmed the original congregation's meeting place so we could meet in comfort. (That was greatly appreciated by all!)

We recounted some of our blessings of the past year with gratitude, and are looking forward to our church's future.

At the service's conclusion, we felt fulfilled and had a new resolve for greater unity and dedication. We look within ourselves for a deeper growth of the Holy Spirit. **SR**

## Denominational Dateline

### February

- 1 Publishing seminar, Madison, Wis.—Kevin Butler
- 1 Worth Tax Seminar, Lancaster, Pa.—Kirk Looper
- 2 Christian Community SDB group, Decatur, Ga.; and Palm Tree of Deborah, Stone Mountain, Ga.—Rob Appel
- 2-3 Council on Ministry (COM) Annual Meeting, Daytona Beach, Fla.—Gordon Lawton
- 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
- 24-29 Missions trip to Kiln, Miss.—Appel

### March

- 1 Leonardsville-Brookfield, N.Y., SDB Church—Butler

- 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
- 15 Ahtanum Community Church, Yakima, Wash.—Conference President Andy Samuels
- 16 Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society Board of Managers Annual Meeting, Westerly, R.I.—Looper
- 22 Ordination Council for Helmer Umana, SDB Christian Church, Arlington, Va.—Lawton
- 29 Pacific Coast Association, Colton, Calif.—Samuels

### April

- 19 New York City SDB Church—Samuels
- 19-20 Seventh Day Baptist Memorial Board Quarterly Meeting, Salem, W.Va.—Shepard, Appel

## New members

**Bradenton, FL**  
*Michael Spearl, pastor*  
 Joined after testimony  
 Jean Holt  
 Laura Mirabal

**Central, MD**  
*David Taylor, pastor*  
 Joined by letter  
 Saul Alonzo  
 Heather Alonzo  
 Rev. Lawrence Watt  
 Raakeli Watt  
 Joined after testimony  
 Joshua Jackson  
 Jason Jackson  
 Gina Jackson  
 Linda Watson  
 Shawn Watson  
 Dakota Watt  
 Emily Watt

**Fort Lauderdale, FL**  
*Andrew Samuels, pastor*  
 Joined after baptism  
 Jennel Johnson  
 Adrienne Russell  
 Joined by letter  
 Edward Williams  
 Lucille Williams

*Winifred Hoffman and Friends* have released their second CD of Country/Gospel music, “*Violets and Dandelions.*”

Songs include old favorites such as “Where the Roses Never Fade” and “How Great Thou Art,” along with other meaningful selections.

Many of the songs are not expressly “Gospel” but have a common thread of nature’s humble wonders and the importance of the people in our lives—all pointing to our Heavenly Father.

Seven artists are featured on the album, with a variety of instruments: pedal steel guitar, autoharp, hammered dulcimer, Baroque recorder, mandolin, and banjo. Winifred (Milton, Wis., SDB Church member since 1987) and her daughters, Martha and Miriam, do most of the vocals.

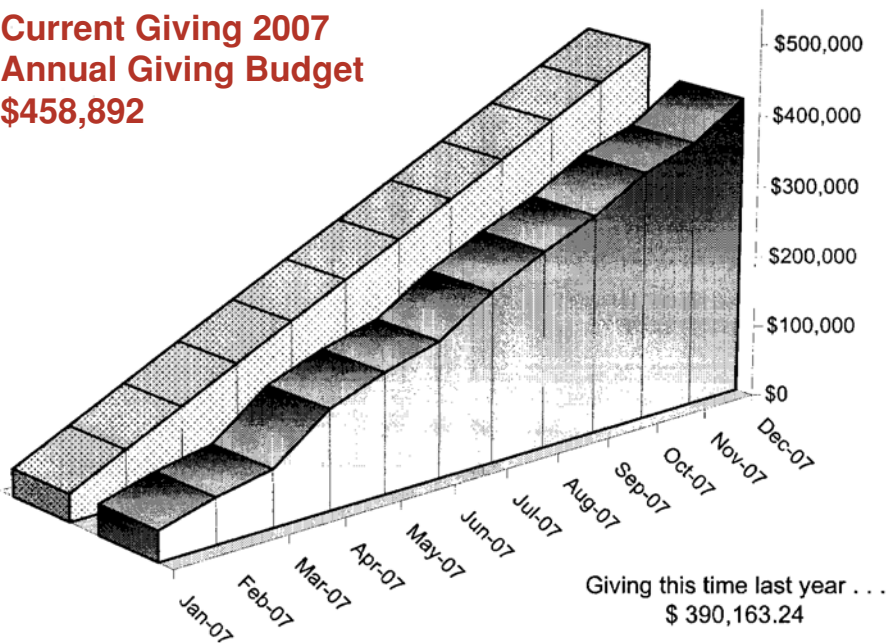
**Proceeds** will support the SDB Missionary Society.

The CD is **\$15 postpaid**, available from:

**Winifred Hoffman**  
 4279 E. 12th Rd. Ph: (815) 246-9523  
 Earlville, IL 60518 bestyetaisires@juno.com

Winifred’s first CD, “*It’s Different Now,*” is still available for \$12. All proceeds go to Tim and Jayme Osborn’s teaching work in Morocco.

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



	Month - Dec '07	Year To Date
Budgeted	\$ 38,241	\$ 458,897
Actual	\$ 46,572	\$ 418,524
Difference	\$ 8,330	\$ (40,373)
% of Budget	122%	91%

PROP Giving	
Dec '07	\$ 1,054
Year To Date	\$ 9,486

Morgan Shepard, Treasurer

## Death Notices

**Ella Belle (Kagarise) Staples**, 93, Northfield Falls, Vt., died on Sept. 1, 2007.

**Bennie A Peil**, 83, of Apple Valley, Calif., died on September 18, 2007.

**Jeffrey W. Kagarise**, 30, of Salemville, Pa., died on December 7, 2007.

**George Lyons**, 74, of Scarborough, Ontario, Canada, died on January 1, 2008.

**Clarence “Whitey” White**, 76, of Lanark, Ill., died on January 9, 2008.



# Obituaries

**Camenga.**—Evalyn Rosanna (Skaggs) Camenga, 97, died on August 20, 2007, in Whitewater, Wis., following a period of declining health.

She was born on July 29, 1910, in the Seventh Day Baptist parsonage in Nile, N.Y., the daughter of Rev. James L. and Hettie (Whitney) Skaggs.

Evalyn's childhood was spent in parsonages in Shiloh, N.J., Nortonville, Kan., Plainfield, N.J., and Milton, Wis. Residence in Milton provided her with the opportunity to attend Milton College, where she met Kenneth A. Camenga. She and Ken were married on June 3, 1931, in the Milton parsonage, with her father officiating.

After Ken graduated the next year, they relocated to Brookfield, N.Y. They later lived in several locations because of his work.

For many years, the couple were lone Sabbathkeepers, worshipping and studying the Bible at home. Fellowship was provided by involvement with local churches and trips to SDB churches whenever possible. Their longest stay was in Beaver Dam, Wis., where they lived from 1945 to 1980.

Evalyn put great energy into home life, improving her abilities through a variety of vocational study courses that she applied to personal projects. These included millinery, creative writing, upholstery, and tailoring. She was a talented seamstress, making many of the clothes for all family members.

Following Kenneth's retirement, the couple began wintering in the Daytona Beach, Fla., area. The SDB church there provided a ready-made circle of friends, including some folks they had known in college days.

Eventually, they sold their Wisconsin house and made a permanent home in Daytona Beach. The church there recognized Evalyn's willing

service and dedication by calling her to ordination as a deaconess. Many members and visitors remember how they felt encouraged by her smile and ability to listen.

Evalyn's survivors include three sons, Rev. C. Justin Camenga of Ashaway, R.I., Dr. David L. Camenga of Milton, and Rev. John H. Camenga of South Daytona, Fla.; one sister, Margaret Bond of Shiloh, N.J.; one brother, Rev. Victor Skaggs of Boulder, Colo.; nine grandchildren, and 20 great-grandchildren. Her husband of 76 years, Kenneth, died on September 18, 2007, less than a month after her own death. She was also predeceased by two brothers, Allison and J. Leland Skaggs.

Funeral services were held on August 25, 2007, at the Daytona Beach SDB Church, with Pastor Wray Winborne officiating. Burial was in Daytona Memorial Gardens.

**Camenga.**—Kenneth Arnold Camenga, 97, died on September 18, 2007, in Whitewater, Wis., following a brief illness.

He was born on June 11, 1910, on the family farm near Brookfield, N.Y. the son of Claude Whitford and Florence (Clarke) Camenga. He attended Milton (Wis.) College, graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1932. Prior to his final year at Milton, he married Evalyn Skaggs on June 3, 1931.

Graduating at the depth of the Depression, Kenneth and Evalyn returned to the family farm near Brookfield, where they worked with his parents until he secured employment with a large food manufacturing company. His duties included quality assurance, product formulation, and process development.

In 1945, the company transferred Ken to their factory in Beaver Dam, Wis., where he continued to work until retiring in 1975. Early in his retirement years, he served as a food

product development consultant.

Ken had a wide range of interests, including home construction, electronics, and travel. He was a member and president of Barbershoppers and Toastmasters. He also served on the Beaver Dam School Board at various times serving as treasurer, vice-president, and president.

Ken and Evalyn were active in Seventh Day Baptist churches throughout their early lives, so they chose to retire in Daytona Beach because of the SDB church there. The church recognized Kenneth's willing service and dedication, ordaining him as a deacon. He also served as vice-president and trustee of the church. Visitors commented on his ability to make them feel welcome.

Survivors include three sons, Rev. C. Justin Camenga of Ashaway, R.I., Dr. David L. Camenga of Milton, and Rev. John H. Camenga of South Daytona; nine grandchildren, and 20 great-grandchildren. His wife of 76 years, Evalyn, died on August 20, 2007. He was also predeceased by three brothers, Carlos, Harold, and Lawrence, and one sister, Elmina (Camenga) Warner Sholtz.

Funeral services were held on September 26, 2007, at the Daytona Beach SDB Church, with Pastor Wray Winborne officiating. Burial was in Daytona Memorial Gardens.

**North.**—Rodney Perry North, 87, passed away on October 23, 2007, at Bloomer (Wis.) Hospital.

The second of five boys, he was born on November 17, 1919, in Chippewa County, Wis., the son of Arthur and Kittie (Cole) North. On April 4, 1942, he married LuVerna Fox in Milton, Wis.

Rodney worked as a perk and soil tester, plumber, precision machinist, and a gravel pit owner and operator. An active member of the New Auburn, Wis., Seventh Day Baptist Church, he served on numerous

boards and was instrumental in the actual building of the church.

Rod was a “jokester” who enjoyed visiting with people and telling a good story. He also enjoyed fishing, hunting, watching birds and deer around his apple tree, and spending time with his family.

In addition to his wife, LuVerna, of New Auburn, survivors include one son, David, of Baldwin, Wis.; two daughters, Karen Werle of Chippewa Falls, Wis., and Nancy Kreibach of LeRoy, Kan.; two brothers, Douglas and Norris (“Ike”), both of New Auburn; six grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren; and numerous other relatives and friends. Two brothers, Duane and Warren, preceded him in death.

Funeral services were held on October 27, 2007, at the New Auburn SDB Church, with Pastor Wayne North officiating. Burial was in the New Auburn Cemetery.

**Stewart.**—Thelma E. Stewart, 95, died on November 13, 2007. She was a 70-year resident of Kirkwood, Mo. She was born on November 5, 1912, in Garwin Iowa, the daughter of Benjamin A. and Nora (Lippincott) Freet. She was the granddaughter of Rev. Darwin C. and Evaline (Van Horn) Lippincott, and the wife of the late Leigh T. Stewart.

Thelma was a cook for the Kirkwood School District for over 20 years, and was a lifelong member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church.

Survivors include three sons, Norman, Steven, and Dennis Stewart; four daughters, Nora Yahl, Susan Petersen, Eleanor (“Sally”) Moylan, and Laura Stewart; 24 grandchildren, 42 great-grandchildren, six great-great-grandchildren; and other relatives and friends. In addition to her husband, Leigh, she was preceded in death by one brother, A. Wayne Freet.

Funeral services were held on November 19, 2007, at the Bopp Chapel in Kirkwood, with Rev. Ronald Elston officiating. Interment was in Oak Hill Cemetery.

**Bond.**—Ira E. Bond, 88, of Nortonville, Kan., died on November 15, 2007, at the Winchester Geriatric Center in Winchester, Kan.

He was born on December 4, 1918, in Nortonville, the third child of Clifford G. and Sarah Alena (Maxson) Bond. He graduated from Nortonville High School in 1938.

On August 8, 1942, he married Alice Floreen DeLand in Nortonville. She died on December 25, 1989. On November 10, 1990, he married Barbara Jean Fast in Eldorado Springs, Mo. She passed away on January 1, 1998. On July 4, 1998, he married Darlene Marie Crouch Smith in Nortonville, where she still resides.

Ira sang tenor in male quartets in school, church, and for funerals. He worked as a machinist for the former L.F.M. Foundry in Atchison, Kan., and later as an electrician for the University of Kansas in Lawrence.

He was an active member of the Nortonville Seventh Day Baptist Church and belonged to the Civil Conservation Corps (C.C.C.) of Kansas City, Mo. He especially enjoyed reading, tinkering and puttering, fixing with his special talents anything he could find.

In addition to his wife, Darlene, survivors include one son, Clifford, of Topeka, Kan.; two daughters, Irene Saunders of Nortonville and Flosi Cornelison of Mission, Kan.; four stepsons, Craig Smith of Cave Springs, Ark., Jerry Smith of St. Joseph, Mo., Scott Smith of Lexington, S.C., and Kirk Smith of Lexington, Mo.; one brother, W. Allen Bond of Marion, Iowa; nine grandchildren, and 19 great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by one brother, Gerald; one sister, Alma E. McClure; and a grandson, Clay.

Ira’s final testimony included, “I hungered to love and be loved, but love was not enough. A Voice of Authority told me I ought to be good. That power surely was a Person, because no dead, unthinking article or substance can make rules. That person is greater than I. That is God! At the feet of that Person, and to

that God I yield, and from that impulse of Worship and obedience, flows deep satisfaction. *Full Circle!*

“I confess my many sins and God has forgiven me, through the death of His son, Jesus Christ, who died in my place a long time ago, at Calvary.”

A memorial service was held on November 17, 2007, at the Nortonville SDB Church, with Rev. Stephan Saunders officiating. Ira donated his body to the University of Kansas Medical School in Kansas City.

**Gravunder.**—Marie Gravunder, 78, passed away on November 18, 2007, at Country Terrace in Bloomer, Wis.

She was born on June 17, 1929, in Yosemite, Ky., the daughter of Claude and Mattie (Lyons) Coleman. On July 3, 1977, she married Orland Gravunder in North Branch, Minn.

Marie was a member of the New Auburn, Wis. Seventh Day Baptist Church and its Women’s Fellowship. Although wheelchair-bound after several hip surgeries, Marie—through her own determination and with help from family and friends—seldom missed a church event. She always wanted to be there!

Marie thoroughly enjoyed studying the Bible and discussing its truths. She also liked listening to music, quilting, camping, reading, and spending time with her family and friends.

Survivors include two daughters, Molly Birch of Turtle Lake, Wis., and Crystal Ellison of Dresser, Wis.; one stepdaughter, Wanda; five grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, numerous step-grandchildren and step-great-grandchildren; and other relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by her husband, Orland; one son, Timothy; one stepson, Lloyd; and one grandson and one great-granddaughter.

Funeral services were held on November 24, 2007, at the New Auburn SDB Church, with Pastors Wayne North and Mike Evans officiating. Interment was in the Calvary Ridge Cemetery in Yosemite.

# KEVIN'S

## ORNER

### Be an encourager

A co-worker's wife was to undergo the same procedure that I'd had done on my foot about five years ago. Her anticipation of the pain brought more than a bit of fear.

The best advice I could give her husband was, "The needle they give you to numb the area is the worst part."

I didn't have the heart to tell him (or his wife) that the shot was one of the absolute *WORST* "worst parts" that I had ever gone through. It hurt like crazy!!

The following morning was my turn to lead the Center's weekly chapel and prayer time. Remembering the distress of that procedure caused me to check the Internet for a short devotional on pain and suffering.

One special site I found was Rest Ministries ([www.restministries.org](http://www.restministries.org)). Their purpose statement explains that they are "a non-profit Christian organization that exists to serve people who live with chronic illness or pain, and their families, by providing spiritual, emotional, relational, and practical support through a variety of programs and resources."

This is not an official endorsement, since I didn't study their materials thoroughly. But they are members of the Evangelical Press Association, the Christian Small Publishers Association, and affiliated with Joni and Friends International Disability Center.

The devotionals I read looked good (I did find one for chapel). What struck me the most were the short biographies of the writers, and their strength to carry on through their chronic pain. See if you can match up the authors with their ministry or message:

1. **Pat's** brain tumor surgery left him unable to do most physical activities. He is also a survivor of cancer and has two stints in his heart.
2. **Denny** lives with Chronic Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyneuropathy and cancer.
3. **Melissa** has had Fibromyalgia syndrome and osteoarthritis for over 21 years.
4. **Tammi** has suffered with Chronic Fatigue Immune Dysfunction Syndrome ("CFIDS") for 14 years.
5. **Kay** lives with Dilated Cardiomyopathy (a form of congestive heart failure), Diabetes, and Bipolar Disorder type 1.

- A. Has several Internet ministries, leads a Home Bible Fellowship on Sunday nights and is a freelance writer.
- B. Has strong faith that God will see her through even the most difficult of days.
- C. Wants others with pain and depression to know they can have hope in God.
- D. Passion is encouraging others with chronic illnesses to draw closer to Jesus Christ and find hope and strength in Him.
- E. Prays that you will join her on her journey to trust God at every turn, to pray fervently—even if God is silent—and to learn that we are more than our ailments.

Actually, the authors and descriptions are in the exact same order (i.e., 1-A, 2-B, and so on. 'Denny' is female).

A lot of us suffer from long-term chronic pain. The bigger question is, "How do we cope with it?"

Do we, as it says in 2 Corinthians 1:4, "...comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God"?

Do we exude the passion and well-wishes for others as in categories A through E above?

Or do others who have heard "all about" our ailments avoid us in the grocery line for fear that they'll hear even more details?

As I shared in my chapel devotional, Timothy, the faithful companion of Paul, was sent to encourage believers who were going through trials and afflictions. *We* are to do the same with those around us.

All it takes is a card, an e-mail, a note, or a word of encouragement to enable our suffering friends to carry on.

**Be an encourager!**



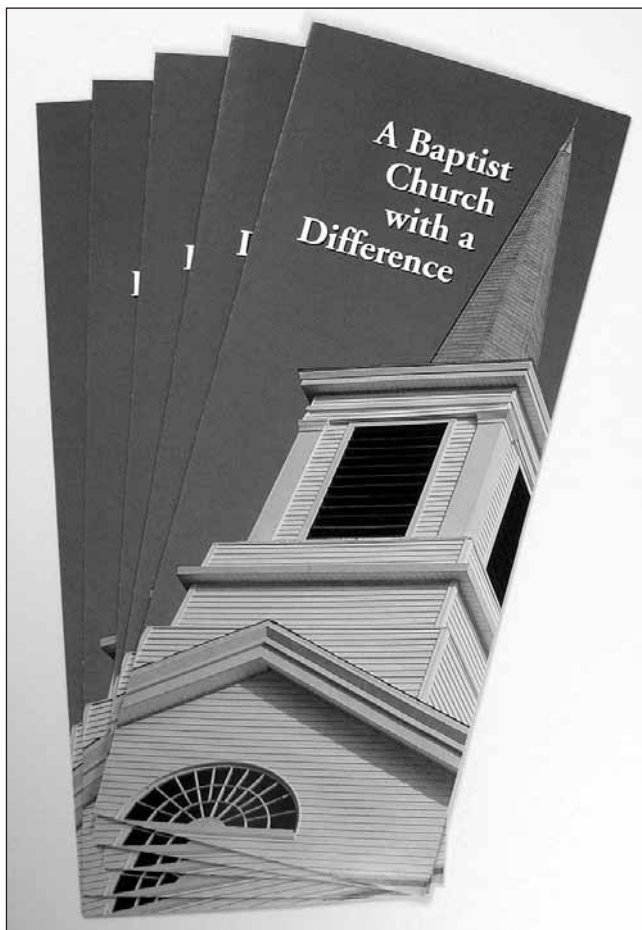
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