



The
Sabbath
RECORDER

2009
Missions
Issue

January 2009

News for and about Seventh Day Baptists

Which way
will you go...



for the
Lord?



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 a people with a difference.

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

Join the Card Shower to recognize 70 Years of Marriage!

The children of
***Ernest and
Helen Bond***
Invite you to send their parents
Anniversary Cards to celebrate
them becoming one on
February 24, 1939

Please send cards to:
Ernest and Helen Bond
1350 Yauger Road
Mount Vernon OH 43050

A Banner Year!

I love banners, so I'm asking your church to make one for Conference 2009.

Create your banner around the Conference theme of "**Pray**," or one of the Scripture Memory verses. Please begin praying as you put together your creative team.

Have fun and make plans to display your banner at General Conference next year in Lancaster, Pennsylvania!

*To God be the Glory,
Ed Cruzan, President 2009*

A good size for banners is 60 inches high and 36 inches wide, with a rod and cord to hang it. I can't wait to see them!



EST. 1964

SUMMER CHRISTIAN SERVICE CORPS

Students: Are you a high school senior or in college, and willing to serve with next year's Summer Christian Service Corps?

Churches: Do you wish to host an SCSC team for service and outreach?

Applications for team members and church projects are on the SDB Conference website at seventh-daybaptist.org. Please print the applications from the website and send all completed forms (for both members and projects) to: SCSC Committee, c/o

Milton SDB Church, 720 E. Madison Ave., Milton WI 53563.

All team member applications must be postmarked by **January 10, 2009**, and all church project applications must be postmarked by **January 31, 2009**. There will be NO exceptions.

If you have any questions, please contact the Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church at the above address, or e-mail the SCSC Committee at scsc@miltonsdb.org.



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Ⓔ = Editor's Circle members

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Nicaragua: An open country for SDBs

by Kirk Looper

Seventh Day Baptists were first introduced to Nicaragua, Central America, in 2002. More recently, a group representing the Conference of USA and Canada, made a visit there to survey the damage done when Felix—a Category 5 hurricane—came ashore.

Some of the people most affected by the hurricane were the Miskito tribe living along the eastern coast of Nicaragua. It was estimated that over 3,000 died or were lost due to the storm.

Entire villages disappeared, including their domestic animals, farms, and fruit trees. Dead animals and people were strewn through the area.

Nearly 90% of the villages were left with no food, clothing, or bedding. Severe health risks were present. The sorrow was almost more than they could bear.

Contact was made with Dr. Abraham Stevens (Houston, Texas) and Pastor Helmer Umana (Arlington, Va.) to help coordinate the SDB work in Nicaragua. They organized a group to travel there to see the damage and take some needed relief from donors.

It was a blessing for them to take time out for that trip. We thank them very much.



Dr. Abraham is originally from Nicaragua, and Pastor Helmer came from El Salvador. They were able to meet with the church leaders, working and traveling with them throughout the region.

The men were successful in reaching many of the residents

and brought back a report that was much better than the one we first received. However, the situation there continued to be critical. Even at this date we find that the needs of the churches are great.

In 2007, the SDB United Relief Fund released money to help some



Pastors and leaders of SDB churches met together in Nicaragua.

They have applied to register with the government and have been given notice that they need to meet with the officers in charge of registration.



Pastor of the SDB church in Puerto Cabalás, Nicaragua.

victims. These funds were sent to Dr. Abraham for medical, food, and water needs. He took these funds to Nicaragua when he returned in the fall. It was a big help.

Over the past few years we have been in contact with one of the groups on a regular basis. Visiting them a couple of years ago, we were introduced to a young man who was leading the groups that wanted to form a Conference.

(A different group indicated a desire to join in 2002, but they explained to us that they were unwilling to abandon their beliefs that were incompatible with Seventh Day Baptists.)

We are cooperating with the

group led by Eliseo Filimoro Valendre Garcia. He is working with his father and is very active in the church ministry there.

This past year we were able to visit the country again and discovered another group that was quite compatible with our polity and beliefs. While planning for the trip, they corresponded with Pastor Umana and were eager to continue organizing the Conference and to start churches. They already had two groups interested in joining.

It was encouraging to hear them discuss plans and see the change in the people attending the meetings. They have applied to register with

the government and have been given notice that they need to meet with the officers in charge of registration to defend their desire to start an SDB Conference there.

We are encouraged by their enthusiasm. I am looking forward to hearing of their work and their desire to develop other ministries in that region.

The Missionary Society would like to express our thanks and appreciation to Dr. Stevens and Pastor Umana for their work in this field. People like this make it easier for us to spread the Gospel through the support of the Seventh Day Baptist Conference, USA and Canada. **SR**



First SDB Conference in the Congo

by Kirk Looper

The first Annual Conference of Seventh Day Baptist Churches in the Democratic Republic of Congo was held in Bukama City, August 23-30, 2008. The city of Bukama is located in the middle of Katanga Province, in the southeast part of Congo.

Several types of transportation were available to reach the meetings—vehicles, trains, boats, and planes. It was a great joy for delegates to meet together with different SDB church members.

The hosts in Congo were also delighted to receive a Zambian delegation from Kitwe, including Pastor Mathew Mweleka and Edward Mumba.

The excitement was so great that the Conference for 2009 is already in the planning. They invite all SDBs from around the world to attend with the hope of sharing the living Word of God.

The 2008 Conference had a rough beginning. The guests from Zambia did not arrive on time, so they missed their train that was to take them to Bukama. They needed to locate a vehicle to carry a large number of people.

They ended up renting a large truck that was able to hold all the people and their belongings. It would take several days to get there because the travel is not direct or regular.

A different vehicle was furnished for other executives and guests—



The Christian Ladies Department of the Bukama SDB Church in Congo. They invite women from our Conference to visit.

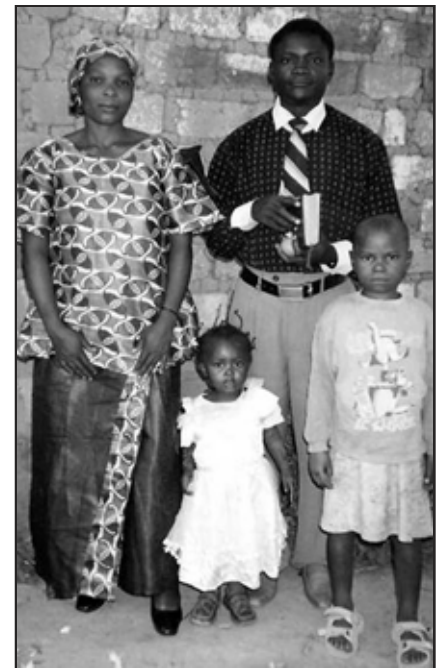
14 in number—to travel to the meetings. The trip usually takes 12 to 14 hours to reach Bukama, and they had to do it in a six-seat Land Cruiser.

The travel was rough. They reached the shores of the Walaba River at 2:00 a.m. and crossed it at 6:30 a.m. They were very happy to reach the SDB Church in Bukama at 9:00 that morning.

The tired passengers were pleased to see us and surprised to meet the Zambian brothers. The new arrivals were quickly taken to the guesthouse for freshening up.

Shortly thereafter we were entertained with singing by the women from the Bukama church. Both men and women carried this type of singing through the Conference.

Bible Studies were led by the Zambian delegates, and Pastor



Pastor Fidele Kabange and his family. He is an elected legal representative of the SDB Church, Congo.

AFRICA



Democratic Republic of Congo

The sessions held the attention of all who attended and challenged us to think about our relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

Mweleka held a Bible seminar throughout the Conference. The sessions held the attention of all who attended and challenged us to think about our relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

We were reminded to keep studying the Scriptures every day to prove ourselves ready and able to defend what we believe and know as truth. All of our efforts to worship, study, and evangelize will not go unrewarded—both here on earth as well as in heaven.

Our friends in the Congo expressed gratitude for the success of the Conference, and pray for an opportunity to entertain you at their next session in 2009. Be alert and watch for the dates of this meeting.

If you are interested in attending, you are welcome to contact Pastor Fidele Kabange Numbi at B.P. 1635 Lubumbashi, R.D. Congo. You may phone him at +243 99 525 7172. His e-mail is kabangenumbi2003@yahoo.fr. **SR**



The Seventh Day Baptist Elders in Congo addressed an invitation to missionaries to attend their General Conference.



Lebanon: A step in the right direction

by Kirk Looper

Why Lebanon? The purpose for visiting this country to the north of Israel was to establish groups wanting to affiliate with Seventh Day Baptists.

These contacts in Lebanon are friends and relatives of Rev. Gabriel Bejjani. Pastor Bejjani is originally from there and has been ministering in California for many years.

We decided to invite Ron Elston to make the trip because of his expertise in evangelism and Seventh-day Adventism. (A Seventh-day Adventist faction may be coming into the churches.)

Initially we planned to visit Cairo, Egypt, as well. However, the contacts there did not respond in time.

These are men who are dedicated to the service of God through Jesus Christ. They have plans for development and outreach.

That trip will need to be made at a later date. We also visualize using Lebanon as a base to help reach other Middle Eastern countries.

Lebanon is a small country located on the eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea. It is about the size of Rhode Island, the smallest state in the U.S. It covers about 4,000 square miles and holds 4 million people,

with half of the population located in its capital, Beirut.

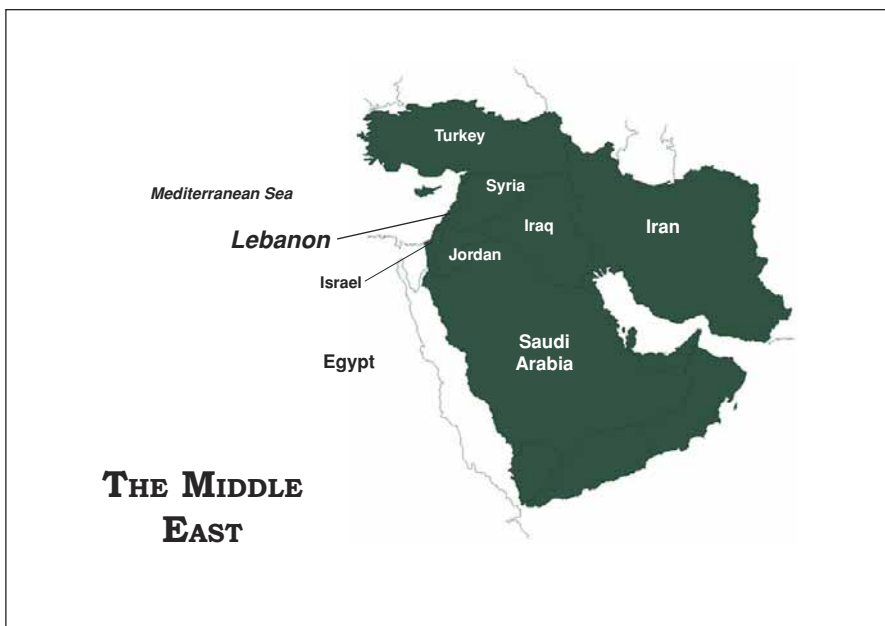
It is a beautiful country with plains and mountains that rival those in Switzerland. The area containing the Cedars of Lebanon is very beautiful in a rugged sort of way and sits 3,000 feet above the coast.

Our plans for this trip included Pastor Gabe going ahead of us to make preparations. Upon arrival he arranged for our stay, obtained a car for travel, and set up visits to some of the communities where the groups are located.

He chose three places that exhibited a desire to start a church. These included Ka hale, Kfar hazir, and Ain Romaneh.

Ka hale is in Beirut, Ain Romaneh is located in the mountains above the capital, and Kfar hazir is about an hour's drive north of Beirut. These are Christian communities and therefore do not have a strong conflict with the Muslim factions.

One aspect that helps us feel secure about the development potential is that each group has strong



leadership. We visited and participated in the services they held. In Ka hale the leader is Antoine Zogby. Alfred Daher leads the group in Kfar hazir, and Nassif Bishara is the leader in Ain Romaneh. These are men who are dedicated to the



An ancient Cedar of Lebanon at the entrance of a cedar forest in Bsharri, Lebanon.

service of God through Jesus Christ. They have plans for development and outreach.

Each group numbered close to 50 and noted that others are interested. We look forward to hearing of the growth and development of each church.

One would be remiss not to mention the plans they have for organizing and developing schools in their respective communities. They long to provide education for their children, which is necessary for them to excel in the world today.

Most of the parents sacrifice much to make sure that the children have this benefit. Education there is expensive and not available to just anyone.

Church members want to establish schools and make them available to their children. To realize this dream, they plan to rent facilities and hire teachers in the near future.

Schools located throughout the towns offer a lot to those who can afford to attend. It is estimated that the church-run schools will earn returns and that will enable them to expand to other communities.

Initially, they would be drawing teachers from their churches. Right now they have enough teachers to start at least one elementary school. Even the administrators are selected from the churches.

The big drawback that exists now is that they do not have the funds to get the school off the ground. This is an area where we can help. If we can provide funds for them to start one school it would not be long before they could afford a second one. People from the community are willing to pay the cost of education, and the outlook for a school's success is tremendous.

Schools there are found in many different places. They may be located in their own building, the first floor of a business complex, or maybe in an apartment building. It appears that if there is an empty space, a school can be planted.

Let us pray that our friends in Lebanon are able to provide their children with the education they need. **SR**

Missionary Society Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the members of the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society will be held at the First SDB Church of Hopkinton Parish House, 8 Church St., Ashaway, R.I., on Sunday, March 15, 2009, 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, 2008, to December 31, 2008.
- 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 28, 2009, as the time at which members entitled to notice thereof and to vote at the meeting and any adjournment thereof shall be determined.

—Beverly Kilts,
Secretary



North to Alaska

by Ron Elston



The Alaskan Highway on the way to Tok.

The National Missions outreach continues to grow as a new Seventh Day Baptist work has begun in Tok, Alaska. The group is located about 200 miles south of Fairbanks.

In November, Missionary Society Executive Director G. Kirk Looper and I flew to Fairbanks, rented a car and drove to Tok to visit with the prospective group.

The Weaver family hosted a two-day meeting that included several interested families from the community. An intense question and answer session covered our polity, the structure of an SDB church, what the Associational principle is, and how General Conference works.

From that meeting developed a core group, leadership, and the Tok Seventh Day Baptist Church.

Eric Weaver, a former missionary, leads the group. The Lord has blessed them with several experienced teachers, and a young people's group is being formed. We are encouraged by reports of new interest and visitors.

Please pray for this new witness for the Lord and Seventh Day Baptists. A late spring trip is being planned back to Tok. **SR**



Ron Elston (r.) met with Tok residents Eric and Vickie Weaver. Eric is serving as the local church leader.



The Weaver home in Tok, Alaska.



Thanks for serving

At the October Missionary Society Board meeting, Gordon and Beverly Kilts received an award for their leadership and service to the National Field Development Team (NFDFT). Rev. Ronald J. Elston Sr., National Director of Extension, presented the award at the Missionary Society meeting in Ashaway, R.I. **SR**

Preaching Good News and safety in Yakima

by Ron Elston



Rev.
Ron
Elston

The Ahtanum Community SDB Church of Yakima, Wash., recently held a series of evangelistic meetings. Rev. Ron Elston Sr., National Director of Extension, served as the evangelist.

Preaching, Bible study, and special music was enjoyed each evening, followed by fellowship.

After the evangelistic series, Rev. Elston conducted the first "Safe Church" seminar, touching on ways

to ensure safety at our local places of worship. The focus was to educate the local leadership on security procedures inside and outside the church.

Pastor Stan Fox commended the Missionary Society for this new program. The Ahtanum group is in the process of building a new church

facility where security measures can be built into it.

For more information on the Safe Church seminar, contact the SDB Missionary Society at the Board office in Ashaway, R.I. (401) 596-4326, or at the National Missions office in the Midwest at (573) 857-2016. *SR*



The new Safe Church program underway in Yakima.



A recent visit to the Word of Life SDB Church in Appleton, Wis. Visitors included G. Kirk and Vivian Loper, Ron and Bonnie Elston, and Calvin Babcock. We were blessed by the worship and fellowship dinner. Word of Life is sponsored by the Outreach Bible Church of Portage, Wis. Pastor Dale Smalley (above left) leads the group.



Adoption follow-up

by Morgan Shepard



As we enter a new year, please consider a gift that will help a family and child realize a dream of coming together.

“Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the One who sent me” (Mark 9:37, NIV).

The November 2008 *Sabbath Recorder* had several inspiring stories about Seventh Day Baptists who opened their homes to foster children and adoption. Within the Memorial Fund, there are two funds available to assist in adoption.

The Timmy Mackintosh Children’s Fund

This fund promotes adopting children in need of homes. It was established for those who feel a call from God to support adoption but do not feel they can actually adopt children,

and those who believe God would have them adopt children but do not have the financial means for the initial adoption expenses.

Currently the fund has over \$3,000 in the endowment, earning about \$250 per year income. The fund is set up such that new contributions are distributed when a request is approved.

The Lottie Baldwin Fund

The Lottie Baldwin Fund is for “the support and education of poor and needy children or young people.” The idea grew out of Miss Baldwin’s desire for a Seventh Day Baptist orphanage. The fund has also been used to support various SDB camps.

This fund currently has over \$18,000 in the permanent endow-

ment, generating approximately \$850 per year in income.

In the past two or three years, the Memorial Fund has made five grants to families in support of adoptions. Considering that most adoptions can cost upwards of \$20,000 the \$1,100 generated annually by these endowments do not make a large impact.

As we enter a new year, consider a gift that will help a family and child realize a dream of coming together. Your gift will make a difference for a child looking for a loving home.

“The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me’ (Matthew 25:40, NIV). **SR**



Invisible, yet solid

It had almost been amusing, our writing résumés and filling out applications after all these years.

At first, Rich wanted part-time work so he wouldn't "rust out" in front of Fox News, with peanuts in one hand and his Wall Street Journal in the other. Then, as with thousands of others affected by our country's dwindling economy, finding work was no longer just an option.

I threw my support behind my man, admiring his initiative and perseverance. Then, when it looked like he was actually going to be hired, the heaviness of loss engulfed me. (I'd gotten rather used to his being around after six years of retirement.)

Not wanting to spoil Rich's good mood, I saved my tears for God. As I prayed, these words formed: "You are solid. You, Whom I can't see, are the most solid."

How comforted I felt when a few minutes later my devotional guide led me to 1 Peter 1:3-12— "God hath begotten us... an inheritance incorruptible... you greatly rejoice, though now for a season ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: that the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold... might be found unto praise... at the appearing of Jesus Christ: whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable."

God affirmed my feelings and words with His Word. As He has shown me before, not a word is on my tongue but what He knows it (Psalm 139:4).



God affirmed my feelings and words with His Word. As He has shown me before, not a word is on my tongue but what He knows it.

The hope expressed in these verses is lived out by "First Lady" Cathy Cruzan, wife of our 2009 General Conference President. Read here her testimony:

Ed's Conference theme of "Prayer" has been put to good use. Last year, as we were preparing to go to Europe, I was told I had stage 4 CKD (Chronic Kidney Disease) and would have to prepare for dialysis.

The doctor reluctantly agreed to let me go on the trip, but I would need to have a fistula put in as soon as I got back. A fistula is where they attach an artery to a vein to make it easier for dialysis. It takes approximately six months for the procedure to be fully functional.

We prayed that God would help me make it until the fistula was ready to use before I needed dialysis. God granted our request and I still have not needed to start dialysis.

Another problem I had was pain in my legs. It became so strong that I wanted to go on dialysis to take the fluid away to help with the pain. I prayed and others prayed that God would grant our request to lessen the pain, even if it meant I had to go on dialysis.

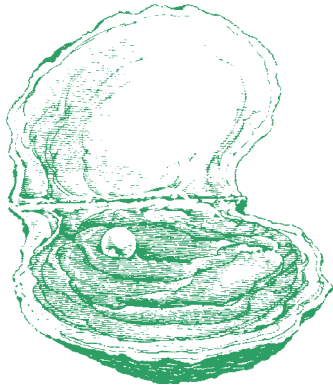
God answered our prayers by taking the pain totally away. To this day the pain has not returned.

My kidneys are also stable for now. I will take one day at a time and enjoy each moment!

2008 was a very emotional year for me. With our three daughters—Jackie, Anna and Jeannie—we saw Anna married in February, Jackie graduated from college in April, and Jeannie from high school in May. In June, Jeannie went into the Army and Anna had our first grandchild. In September we had to move Ed's mom (who had lived with us for two years) to an adult care home. Then in October, Jackie got married and moved to California. What a year!

Through all of this, God has blessed me. Amidst all the prayers, I have been at peace with everything that has happened. God is so good—all the time. **SR**

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



A special edition hymnbook

Last year, the Historical Society received an old hymnbook that may have been used in the Jackson Center, Ohio, SDB Church. It had a copyright date of 1896.

My first reaction was to simply add it to a collection of hymnbooks from the past. The small hardcover book had 200 numbered pages, bearing the title “Life-time Hymns.”

As I looked at it again, I noticed this subtitle on the cover: “Seventh Day Baptist Edition.”

The book’s preface carries the acknowledgment of the composers, writers and publishers, thanking them for the permission to use their valuable copyrights. To those thanks was added this note: “For Sabbath

schools, social meetings, and great out-door assemblies, we believe Life-time Hymns is without a peer.”

The first pages of the hymnal (numbered *vii* to *xiv*) appear to have been inserted later. That section, entitled “Order of Sabbath Service,” was said to be used “in the Chautauqua Amphitheater every Sabbath morning, and for use in Assemblies, Conventions, etc.”

Discovering this unique hymnal brought a new dimension to a reference in chapter 20 of the book *A Choosing People: The History of Seventh Day Baptists*. That chapter noted an address given by the SDB Sabbath Reformer A.H. Lewis called, “Sunday Laws, Past and Present.”

What was intriguing was the location. Lewis gave the talk in front of several hundred clergymen at a summer assembly in Chautauqua, N.Y., in 1881. His

words were drafted into a tract and widely circulated to thousands more.

Two years later, George H. Babcock suggested establishing a headquarters for the Bible Sabbath in Chautauqua, where all publications on the subject “could be had by earnest inquirers, and the sign above could be a constant reminder that there was a Sabbath of Jehovah in contradistinction to the Sunday of pagan Rome.”

As General Conference met that year, delegates adopted a resolution expressing the opinion of many that a Seventh Day Baptist headquarters be established at Chautauqua. Said headquarters could furnish a rallying point and a means of supplying information to those who seek to know the Sabbath truth.

A committee was appointed to solicit funds and erect a building for that purpose, with the understanding that the Conference not be involved with the expense in any way.

Subsequent Conference session minutes reveal that no further action was taken and the matter was dropped.



The Chautauqua Assemblies, held in western New York State since 1874, continue to draw large crowds each year. Lectures and programs focus on the arts, education, religion, and recreation.

One can only speculate as to what such a move to establish a “Sabbath headquarters” would have done. The Sabbath doctrine could have been shared with the masses who were drawn to the Chautauqua movement for education, fine arts, culture and religious stimulation—fertile ground for spreading the blessings of the Sabbath.

Five years later in 1888, another suggestion was made that the General Conference itself might establish a permanent office. Top considerations for the location had to refer to means of access, building expenses, and if attendants could find accommodations at their own expense. A committee to study this matter reported that the losses would much outweigh the advantages.

Although the idea of a central location was considered periodically, a fear always surfaced about

One of the largest wooden structures in the eastern U.S., the Chautauqua’s Athenaeum Hotel was one of the first to have electric lights.



centralization. Some said that any concept of a “headquarters” would detract from the idea of local autonomy, and the benefits derived from more diverse participation.

It was some 36 years later that the need for a denominational center was perceived as a necessity. It was not so much for the audience, but for our publishing operation and

general administration. Steps were taken to locate a building in an urban rather than a vacation area.

A few people did respond to A.H. Lewis’ dynamic preaching in large gatherings. But his success came in personal one-to-one witnessing to those in rural communities (and his writings) which were not dependent on the masses. **SR**

Enter our new
E-Card Contest

Our SDB E-card site now allows you to send e-invitations, where you can include a map to your event, keep track of responses, and more!

To celebrate this addition, we are holding a contest.

What: Design a Postcard, Flash, or Invitation

Where: Submit it to
webmaster@seventhdaybaptist.org

When: Deadline is January 20, 2009.

All Voting will be on-line

Winner will get a new SDB logo hooded sweatshirt and your name will be announced in the March SR

See www.seventhdaybaptist.org for complete rules and submission requirements

Are you following the SDBlog?

* * *

The “SDB Exec” web log

(known internally as ‘SDBlog’)

features posts from our agency executives.

Check it out at:

seventhdaybaptist.org

And while you’re there, shop at the E-Store or sign up for E-Gifting!



The Unfettered King

Think about living under the rule of an all-powerful (in human terms) unfettered king. Imagine living with the knowledge that your land, your house, your bank account, your family, your friends, even your body are always truly available for use as the king sees fit.

Can you even contemplate that as reality?

I shudder at the thought. I don't want anybody having that kind of say over me, those I love, or the things I have.

I am pleased to live in the United States, where certain rights, privileges and protections are assumed. I like having things go my way, and I like controlling my time and my stuff and my communication.

But it can be entrancing, exciting and intoxicating to wield that kind of freedom and power—and much of the time I don't even recognize the toxic effects. Sometimes, God brings me up short and helps me see those effects. I'm not just unwilling to yield all to a hypothetical king, I resist yielding all to Christ—even though I should.

As we recognize that Jesus emptied himself to take on human form, we proclaim "From him, and through him, and to him are all things."

Turning from our sin and believing in the work of God through Jesus, we yielded our lives to the One who reigns over all. Jesus Christ is King and Lord of all.

We proclaim Christ as King for we know that he established a kingdom, a kingdom to which we belong. He is not a king fettered by the legacy

of bad decisions and capitulation to those who could overthrow him. Instead, he is a king who will see all things bow at his feet. Every created thing is his by right and by rule. Does this reality influence how you live? It should.

Consider: A king decided to explore the world. On his way out of town, he told a trusted servant to take care of the royal estate and the kingdom. The king was gone

Every created thing is his by right and rule. Does this influence how you live? It should.

a long time, and the servant was faithful for years. Eventually, the servant began to think of the estate and the kingdom as his own. He moved into the king's bedroom, wore the king's crown, and paraded with the king's scepter.

When the king returned, the servant tried to ignore him; then he tried to subdue him, and finally tried to kill him. The king had the servant arrested, bound, and thrown out of the kingdom.

Consider: A king set out to survey his kingdom. As he traveled, he took pride in the smooth roads, weed-free fields, well-constructed houses, and

wonderfully behaved citizens. As he neared the end of the journey, he came upon a stretch of horrible road through fields tattered and torn by brambles and punctuated with the skeletal remains of long-forgotten houses. As his pride gave way to anger, he had the people of that land gathered, bound, and thrown out of the kingdom.

When the king owns all and has expectations for how it will be used, each subject of the kingdom becomes responsible for carrying out the desire of the king. Every subject becomes a steward.

For Christians, we have such a king, and we are the stewards. In the cases above, those who forgot the reality of the kingdom forgot the reality of the king. They treated the king's stuff as though he would never be around, and they were wrong. The king's response was, "If you do not recognize me as king, you are not part of my kingdom."

Have you recognized God as the Unfettered King of your life?

The Board of Christian Education has developed a Stewardship Seminar based on this perspective of stewardship. The seminar explores the Christian's responsibility to be a steward and exercise proper stewardship. Provocative questions make you think about whom you are serving. Beyond time, beyond finances, beyond relationships, beyond other resources, this seminar challenges us to consider with care our subtly shifting allegiances and to realign them with the only God, our true King. **SR**



Projects for Rez Connection

by Kirk Looper

We are once again offering an opportunity for you to spend a few weeks on the open plains of South Dakota. The Rez Connection, led by Pastor Chet Marks, promotes Jesus Christ as an alternate option to the lifestyle that threatens the Sioux Nation.

Pastor Chet works with the children of the Oglala Tribe. He encourages them toward a better life than many of the adult tribe members. He is dedicated to helping them learn about Jesus and the love God has for them. He wants the children to understand that God has not turned His back on them and welcomes them into His family.

Chet believes in children and feels that their success will ensure the continuance of the Tribe. He has eight children of his own, and with the great help of his wife Barbara, holds school for them at home. He also teaches several of the Sioux children in his school. These are children who might not complete their education if it weren't for the Marks family.

He has an understanding of the Native American culture since he has lived on or near the reservation for many years. Interacting with the people, he respects their laws and beliefs.

We are planning to hold two or more programs at the Marks residence this year. One project will be during Spring Break, and others will be in June, July, and August. The length of the project will be determined by those participating.

The program includes training in evangelism and meeting people, as well as some manual labor working on the grounds. If you are interested in this work near the Sioux Reservation, contact the Missionary

Society and ask for an application. If you have already participated in a project and have sent a new application, we thank you.

Patty Petersen, from Broomfield, Colo., will lead the team during the spring. If you want to be included in this project, contact her at ppetersen57@hotmail.com. She will give more information to help in your preparations. It is best if you contact her as soon as possible so she can make the overall plans for the project.

Projects for the summer months will be led by Pastor Chet. We advise that a team include an older adult to help coordinate the group when they are not directly under Pastor Chet's supervision. This would include the meal and dorm arrangements.

To apply for these projects, please contact the SDB Missionary Society at 19 Hillside Ave., Ashaway RI 02804. Or e-mail us at sdbmissoc@verizon.net. You will receive an application to complete and return to us.

Again, urgency is needed as plans have to be made for the dates you want to attend. We also suggest that you recruit others to attend—it is good to have friends to support and encourage you.

The cost of the project is \$200 plus \$100 for each week that you stay. The \$200 is for the materials and supplies used on the project. The \$100 will be for food and supplies to house you.

Don't forget that it's also your responsibility to pay for your travel to South Dakota. These funds can be raised through your church, friends, relatives, and others with whom you communicate.

You can fly or take a bus into Rapid City, S.D., and be picked up by Pastor Chet, or if you drive, we can send a map to show you the way.

We look forward to hearing from you and truly believe that you will be blessed for the time that you give to the Rez Connection. **SR**



Pastor Chet Marks often takes his Rez Connection ministry into town to interact with and witness to the people near Pine Ridge, South Dakota.



the BEACON

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

Jan. 2009

Fruit of the Spirit... with additives

by Christopher Davis

“But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the spirit, let us keep in step with the spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other” (Galatians 5:22-26, NIV).

During the summer, our house is filled with all sorts of fresh fruits from our local farm market. We make a trip there at least twice a week! The delicious apples, strawberries, peaches, and tomatoes are a constant part of our mid-year diet.

Then summer turns to fall and fall turns to winter, and there are no fresh fruits growing here in New Jersey. Therefore, if you want to get some sort of fruit, you are stuck at the supermarket buying something from halfway around the globe, and packed so high with preservatives and additives that it doesn't even taste like the real thing.

It may have the same color of the fruit, the same shape as the fruit, be called the same fruit, but it definitely does not taste the same.

This can relate to Paul's writing in Galatians about the Fruit of the Spirit. These are all the good quali-

ties that make us a good Christian.

We can love all we want, display tremendous self-control, and have everlasting patience—but if we have extra things added such as envy and conceit, then we are not in right standing with God.

Those extra “additives” can put us in a place that we don't need to be. Those little additives can mount up and mask what we need to portray to the world—the message of Christ. We can look like a Christian, walk like a Christian, and talk like a Christian, but something is definitely not right; not with God.

This is what keeps Christians separated from the world. The world has plenty of loving, peaceful people

who do not have a relationship with the Lord.

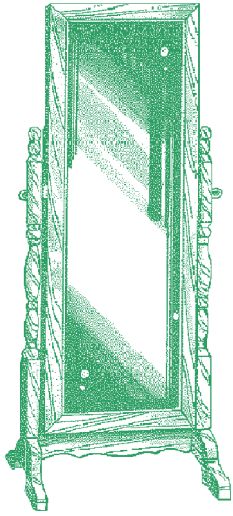
They can be as gentle as a lamb, but still not know the Lamb of God. They can display incredible self-control, but not have God in control.

There are plenty of “good people” in the world, but if they do not know Christ, they are not going to heaven. End of story. In their heart, there also lies conceit and envy—those extra additives.

Paul is trying to say that if we are completely within God, then we will stay in His Spirit in all things, and will have no need for additives.

All in all, we can have all the fruit we want. But with additives, it is just not right. **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*

Time changes time

"My days are swifter than a runner;... they skim past like boats of papyrus, like eagles swooping down on their prey" (Job 9:25-26, NIV).

I have trouble grasping the fact that a New Year has once again entered our homes. Part of me hesitated to let 2009 in, at least not so soon. As my great Aunt Alma—twice removed—once observed, "The faster I goes, the quicker time flows."

Growing up in Milton, Wis., it seemed like summer vacation lasted forever. (I'm sure it seemed like that to our parents, too.)

There were days when I ran around like crazy, playing baseball one minute, and 'Cowboys and Indians' the next. But those "lazy, hazy days of summer" flowed in slow motion. We returned outside after supper, and even the appearance of the moon didn't deter us from our appointed rounds of playing with the neighbor kids.

My view of time back then was that it moved at a snail's pace. But that changed as I grew older.

As a teenager, I had to read a book entitled, *1984*. It was written in 1949 by Eric Arthur Blair, under the pseudonym "George Orwell."

When I first heard of that book, the world of 1984 seemed light years away. The irony is that 1984 is now a

quarter-century away in the opposite direction.

Then there was the science fiction movie, *2001: A Space Odyssey*. That Stanley Kubrick film was released in 1968, the year after I graduated from Milton College.

Again, 2001 seemed light years away, existing only in my imagina-



tion. "By the time that year rolls around," I calculated, "I'll be 56." In my 23-year-old mind, that meant I would have one foot in the grave and be ready to collect my pension.

When the calendar was about to flip over to 2000 and the new millennium, I listened to all the dire warnings concerning "Y2K."

Would we be able to buy food, have running water, use our stoves, heat our homes, and fill our cars with gas? I didn't panic, but I did

buy some extra groceries to store in our basement—just in case. (In hindsight, there are worse things in life than subsisting on Hostess Twinkies and chocolate bars.)

Now, the year 2000 is already nine years behind us. Hard to believe.


Last September, our Milton Union High School class of 1963 held its 45th reunion. As I drove to the gathering, one thought kept recurring: *This is something my parents should be doing, not me.* Now it's doubly difficult to convince people that I'm 49, since I would have had to graduate from high school at age 4.

It's strange how our view of time changes as we change. At age 63, I now believe "old age" starts in the mid-80s. And if, Lord willing, I make it to *that* age, I'm sure my idea of "old" will morph into triple-figures. I'm a strange creature when it comes to aging, but I have a strange feeling I'm not alone in my strangeness.

The bottom line is, we don't have to be rocket scientists to figure out that time passes quickly and that life on earth is brief. As 1 Chronicles 29:15 puts it so succinctly, "Our days on earth are like a shadow."

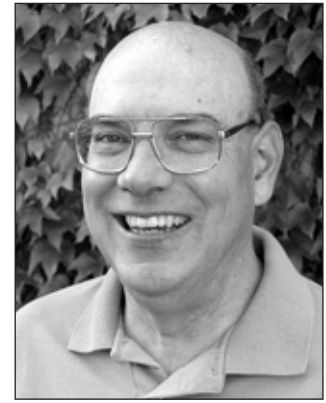
Christians acknowledge the "fleetingness" of life on earth, but we view it differently than non-believers. Our perspective is positive and faith-based, but real.

When we breathe our last, life truly begins. Our shadow-life is gone as we bask in the Light of our Lord for all eternity. **SR**



PRAY— 1 Thess. 5:17
SDB General Conference
 July 26–August 1, 2009

Lancaster (Pa.) Bible College



The President's Page
 by Ed Cruzan

Perspective on the peace of prayer

I will now undertake the paradoxical task of trying to explain that which transcends all understanding. Using my own experience, I'm going to explain to you the *peace of God!*

Wow! So I begin with Philippians 4:6-7, which reads, "Don't be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Recently, as I lay awake in the early morning hours, my mind was consumed with all the things I had to do.

There were things I had to do for work, things I had to do for some friends, things I had to do for and with my family, things I had to do for my church, things I had to do for General Conference, and things I had to do for my own spiritual life. (Just to name a few!)

As you can imagine, I was feeling overwhelmed and anxious. How would this long list ever get accomplished? I didn't have the time or the energy to get all of these things done!

With this anxiety came the full range of attached emotions: fear,

resentment, bitterness, desperation, fatigue, discontent, restlessness, helplessness, and hopelessness. I was broken!

God has always been good to me in more ways that I can count, and for that I am thankful. During these early morning hours He has allowed me to pray with Him.

He has brought a clarity to my prayers that I seldom—if ever—experience during any other part of the day. On this particular morning, this is what He revealed to me, layer by layer:

God separated all of the things that were generating my anxiety. He caused me to see that not one of these things by itself was bad, beyond my ability, or overwhelming. This is when I began to experience the peace of God that morning.

Next, God revealed to me that none of these things would result in catastrophic consequences if they were not completed by me on time, or if ever. You see, in my own world, in my own mind, the things I had to do were all of "grand importance." However, as God spoke to me, in His world and in His Kingdom, all of these "grand" things of mine were of no eternal value. Further peace from God came over me.

As God peeled back one more layer, He revealed part of the essence of His peace. It was the contentment and tranquility that tells our spirit: God is God; He is in control of all things and everything that is important will be all right.

At that moment of revelation, the peace of God which transcends all understanding not only stood guard over my heart but also over my mind in Christ Jesus. To Him be glory and honor!

This is what Jesus tells us: "All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid" (John 14:25-27).

As believers, we already have the peace of God dwelling within us. Jesus gave it to us; it is part of the fruit of the Spirit.

Let God's peace be released in you through prayer so you may truly and continually experience the peace of God that transcends all understanding through Christ Jesus! **SR**



by Executive Director
Rob Appel

Four New Year's resolutions

It's that wonderful time again when we, in a flurry of optimism, make great promises to ourselves about what we are going to do in the New Year. The problem is that we usually abandon them about the second week in February.

I want to suggest four resolutions that could make a radical difference in your life. Following through on them might cause some significant changes.

1. Forget your Failures

"Forgetting what is behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:13-14).

Paul is saying that we must not allow ourselves to be bogged down by our past failures. This advice has stood the test of time. I don't know of any more relevant or practical advice for us at the start of the year.

We all have failed in some way over the past year. Fortunately, we probably won't see our failures recorded for history but they are recorded in our hearts and minds.

If we dwell on our past, it stops us from moving forward for the future God has in mind for us. I think that the start of a new year is a good time for you to rise to that challenge and say, "I am going to—with the help of God—forget my past."

2. Give up your Grudges

"Bear with each other and forgive each other whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you" (Colossians 3:13).

Did you catch that? God is challenging you to give up your grudges. A grudge is an unforgiving spirit that leads to unforgiving attitudes and unforgiving actions.

Grudges destroy marriages. Grudges break up families. Grudges ruin friendships. Grudges split churches.

If Christ can forgive you and your sin, then you can give up your grievance at whatever the cost! The question is... will you do it?

3. Restore your Relationships

When I turn on my computer, sometimes a little window pops up to ask if I want to check and see if my programs are working properly. God in His Word issues a very similar invitation: *"If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone"* (Romans 12:18).

By using that phrase, "it depends on you," God is personally challenging us to do all we can to restore our relationships.

Some relationships have gone wrong because of what other people have done. But let's be honest—some of our relationships have gone wrong because of what *we* have done.

If we have caused a rift in a relationship, then we have the responsibility to do everything to restore it. That "everything" includes the one thing we all probably find most difficult: asking for forgiveness.

Will you rise to that challenge and make a commitment to restore your broken relationships in this new year?

4. Free yourselves of your Offenses

Christ died to set us free. The Holy Spirit has given us the power to be free. However, many of us choose to obey our old master—sin. *"Do not let sin control the way you live, do not give in to its lustful desires... we are no longer slaves to sin"* (Romans 6:2).

God is issuing the challenge for us to turn our back on our offenses. Our challenge is to free ourselves of sin and to stop letting it control the way we live. God wants us to stop obeying our old master. We can have the victory over it! You are no longer a slave to sin, so don't live like one.

It all boils down to this: Will this New Year be just a calendar-changing event for you, or are you willing to rise to these challenges from God's Word, make these commitments, and make it a *life-changing* event? Are you willing to make these four commitments for 2009? **SR**

We came, we chucked, we...

by Valerie Probasco, Shiloh, N.J.

It all started with an invitation. The Shiloh, New Jersey, SDB Church was asked to be part of the Annual Pumpkin Chuckin' event hosted by a local church.

Requirements? The youth were to build a catapult or trebuchet (pronounced *treb-you-zjay*) of any size, using any materials, that was capable of hurling a 5- to 7-pound pumpkin as far as possible.

Restrictions? No compressed air or explosives.

As soon as the idea was presented to our Senior High group, they knew it had to be done.

The first step was to bring in an expert—not necessarily an expert in squash-propulsion or aerodynamics, but certainly an expert in creative construction of destructive devices for harmless fun.

My husband Bill called on the talents of Ryan Cruzan (Marlboro SDB) to be trebuchet chief engineer. Our dedicated builders consisted of Cory DuBois, Sean Davis, Sean Smith, Travis Burlingame, Matt Layton, Kevin Evans, and Christopher Davis.

After one planning session and three workdays, we arrived at the big event. It was quickly obvious that we had missed a memo. Our trebuchet was literally *half* the size of the other four competitors.

My subconscious response was, "Well, I guess this will be a practice year." I actually said to more than one person, "As long as the pumpkin goes forward, that'll be great!" (Especially since one of our practice shots went 95 feet backwards...)

"If we break 200 feet that would be awesome"—since we had only done that a couple times.



The Shiloh-Marlboro Youth ready to load the trebuchet. Kneeling (l. to r.): Sean Davis and Matt Layton. Standing: Kevin Evans, Sean Smith, and Cory DuBois.

Why didn't I trust God for something BIG? Why didn't I put it to prayer? *God, I'm trusting You for a huge distance.* No, I had prayed days before the event, but the gist of my prayer was, *Dear Lord, please don't let anyone get hurt using these crazy things.*

Just then, engineer Ryan said, "I was looking at the weights these other guys have, and because the arms are so long, they're going to lose a lot of power just moving them. We're not out of this yet." That was encouraging.

We couldn't have designed this without Ryan. He continued to be logical and encouraging in the face of great odds.

I think we all need to encourage each other at all times, because one

of us might be looking at the "giants," while another can see the "milk and honey."

That's one of the great things God designed in His Church. We are designed to be encouragers for each other. We are meant to look at Him for the bigger picture and to not lose hope.

We made our three shots for the Distance Competition and reached 288 feet, beating our practice best by over 40 feet. The final results were not shared until the end of the day, so we went on to the Accuracy Competition.

An important point here is that we didn't know what the "Accuracy Competition" was until the day of the event. So, with no prior practice, we set up to hit a scarecrow target (affectionately known as "Fred") at 50 feet.

Here's how it went:

1st attempt— Our machine didn't fire because the safety was still on "Do over"— The pumpkin went 7 feet backwards

2nd attempt— We grazed Fred's shirt for a technical "hit"

3rd attempt— We hit Fred smack in the face, cracking his wooden frame, and became the only team in history to hit Fred!

This is where all the Sabbath School teachers out there insert an object lesson about David and Goliath. How could I limit our potential? Just on size? Just on my meager perception of things?

How often does God have to repeat to us that "nothing is impossible" with Him? How often do we have to be reminded to put our trust in Him, and He will have



The team poses in front of "Fred," the hapless target of the accuracy competition. That's chief engineer Ryan Cruzan behind Fred.

I don't know how many people in that crowd of 400 had heard of SDBs before that day. Maybe even the least among us can do mighty things if we trust in our mighty God. He alone knows how efficient and effective we can be if we just get out there and chuck some theological pumpkins.

We were not ashamed of our little trebuchet. And we are surely not ashamed of the Gospel. Let's chuck it out there and see what God can do!

In faith, in hope, in confidence—with grace—let God do His thing. But it's got to start with us picking up that pumpkin. **SR**

everything covered? How many lessons can we learn from a pumpkin and a trebuchet?

God meets us where we are, and that day it was on the pumpkin chuckin' field.

At the awards ceremony, we wound up winning all three categories for the whole event: Distance,

Accuracy, and Best Overall. It was hard not to be proud of our little machine.

It was also hard not to liken it to Seventh Day Baptists in general. Small but mighty. It just goes to show that even the smallest of denominations can chuck a mean pumpkin.

The great saga of this victory can be seen on YouTube! Search for "Shiloh SDB Trebuchet" parts 1 and 2.

Heading toward financial peace

(From the Milton, Wis., SDB Church newsletter)

Congratulations to the Milton Church's first graduating class of Financial Peace University.

Seventeen people completed the 12-week course in the fall. During that time, the group paid off over \$54,000 of their debt, received (and said "No" to) over 3 million dollars in credit card offers (in junk mail), and cut up about 80 credit cards on their way to becoming debt-free.

The church plans to start another introductory class in January.

For more information on Financial Peace University, go to the Dave Ramsey website, www.dave Ramsey.com. Also, watch for some of Dave's debt-busting principles to appear this year in Morgan Shepard's "Financial Faith" pages in the *Sabbath Recorder*. **SR**



Living like no one else! Front row (l. to r.): Scott Bascom, Erika Bobzien, Rich and Diane Gallegos. Middle row: Kelly Bascom, Cheri Appel (Rob was traveling), Joel and Doneta Osborn, Grace Nickel, Janet Butler. Back row: Greg Lovelace, Mark and Linda Bentz, Kerith and Jeff Hintz, Morgan Shepard, Warren Nickel, Kevin Butler.

New member

North Loup, NE
Christian Mattison, pastor
 Joined by letter
 Marion Brannon

Birth

Dutcher.—A daughter, Jacey Grace Dutcher, was born to Jamie and Jennifer (Lippincott) Dutcher of Janesville, WI, on August 4, 2008.

Marriage

Schauer - Mattison.— Caleb Schauer and Rebekah Faith Mattison were united in marriage on October 4, 2008, at the North Loup, NE, Seventh Day Baptist Church. Rev. Christian Mattison (father of the bride) officiated.

Obituary

Shadel.—Florence Ethlyn (Sayre) Shadel, 100, died on November 1, 2008, at her home in Milton, Wis.

She was born to George and Florence (Barnhardt) Sayre in Milton Township on July 4, 1908. After Milton High School, Ethlyn graduated cum laude from Milton College with a degree in Latin. She participated in girls' athletics while in school, especially loving basketball. She taught Latin and girls' sports for one year in Hume, Ill.

Ethlyn married Stuart Shadel in 1930 in the home they built on Madison Avenue where she lived until her death. Together they raised three children. Stuart died in 1995.

She was a talented pianist and a soprano soloist. She was still playing piano as a centenarian. Ethlyn was an avid supporter of high school and college athletics as well as other community events. In the 1930s, she was a director of the Milton College Glee Club, and a leader of the Milton 4-H Club in the '40s. She learned to

play golf in her 50s and played weekly with a local group.

Ethlyn was a prominent supporter of incorporating the village of Milton Junction, plus the unification of the two towns in 1965. She was elected to the Milton School Board in 1952 and served for 20 years. For that service, she received the AARP's National Women's History Month Award in 1995. For her many contributions to the Milton community, she received the Citizen of the Year award in 1977 and the Pillar of Milton award in 1979. In 1987, Ethlyn and Stuart were both inducted into the Milton College Athletic Hall of Fame, then the Milton Area Athletic Hall of Fame in 2005.

A lifelong member of the Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church, Ethlyn actively participated in a variety of church activities. She was a member of the Women's Literature Group for several decades, and also enjoyed hosting women's groups at a licensed game farm each year.

She enjoyed traveling, and her most memorable trip was a 32-day animal safari in Africa at age 88.

Ethlyn is survived by her three children, Stuart Jr. of Johnstown, Wis., Sally Hasselbrack of Seattle, Wash., and Scott of Janesville, Wis.; six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on November 7, 2008, at the Milton SDB Church with Pastor George Calhoun officiating. Burial was in the Milton Junction Cemetery.

2008 SDB General Conference Operating Budget

Board / Agency	Monthly Operating Budget	Monthly Giving Towards Budget	Received Nov '08	Over / (Short)
Conference Services*	\$ 22,635.13	\$ 16,513.25	\$ 9,166.62	\$ (7,346.63)
Council On Ministry	13,017.33	5,410.25	2,668.04	(2,742.21)
Missionary Soc.	25,083.33	4,879.83	2,960.26	(1,919.57)
Tract Council	12,142.17	4,750.00	2,047.89	(2,702.11)
Christian Edu.	9,676.67	4,470.33	2,345.79	(2,124.54)
Women's Soc.	3,116.67	2,475.00	393.06	(2,081.94)
Total	\$ 85,671.30	\$ 38,498.67	\$ 19,581.66	\$(18,917.01)

* Includes: Conference Services, Building Operations Fund, Christian Social Action, and Ecumenical Affairs

Other Sources of Income for monthly operating budgets include: income from investments, sales and withdrawals from savings.

Budget Overage / Shortfall Year to Date	\$(49,275.21)	88% Of Budget
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Morgan Shepard, Treasurer

Death Notice

Douglas Mark Sanford, 56, of Stoughton, Wis., died on December 7, 2008.



Women's Society Robe of Achievement

2009 Nominations

The SDB Women's Society is accepting nominations for the Robe of Achievement for 2009. 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, 2009

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

Denominational Dateline

January 2009

- 5-6 North American Baptist Fellowship gathering, North Carolina—Rob Appel
10 In-Service Training School graduation, Plainfield, N.J.—Kevin Butler
24 CPR session, Boulder, Colo.—Butler
24-25 Memorial Fund Trustees quarterly, Riverside, Calif.—Morgan Shepard, Appel
24-25 Missionary Society Board of Managers, Ashaway, R.I.—Kirk Looper
25 Board of Christian Education Executive Committee, Alfred Station, N.Y.—Andrew Camenga
31 Teacher Training, Shiloh, N.J.—Camenga
31-1 Council on Ministry annual meeting, SDB Center, Janesville—Gordon Lawton

February

- 7 John Pethtel Ordination service, Metro Atlanta, Ga.—Lawton, Appel, Nick Kersten
19-20 Coordinating Leadership Team meetings, Daytona Beach, Fla., SDB Church

- 21-23 General Council meetings, Daytona Beach

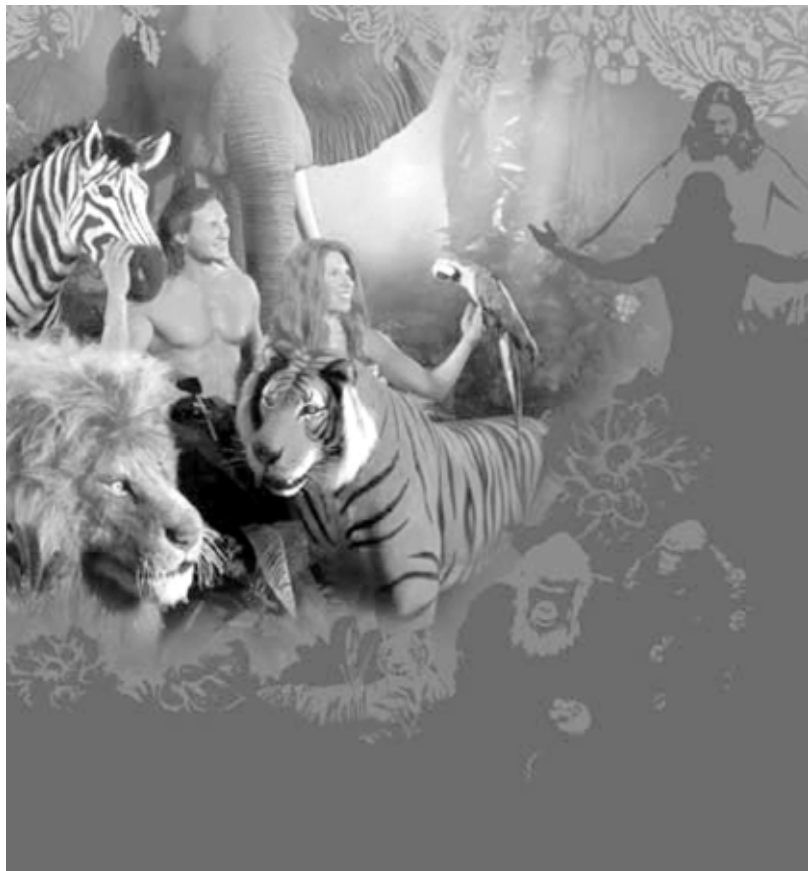
March

- 2-4 Baptist World Alliance Executive Committee, Washington, D.C.—Appel
5 Baptist Joint Committee Executive Committee, Washington, D.C.—Appel
7 Cumberland, Maryland, SDB Church—Appel
14 Diaconate Workshop, Metro Atlanta—Camenga
28 Riverside, Calif., SDB Church—Appel

April

- 2-4 NABWU Executive Board, Northbrook, Ill.—Marjorie Jacob
18-19 Memorial Fund Trustees quarterly, Shiloh, N.J.—Shepard, Appel
20 Lancaster (Pa.) Bible College—Shepard, Appel
21-25 SDB Pastors' Conference, Shiloh—Lawton, Appel, Kersten

Miss the first Creation? See it again at Sight and Sound during Conference 2009



IN THE BEGINNING

Sight and Sound's epic musical brings Creation to life! Be there as God makes the heavens and the earth and all the extraordinary animals. Experience God's pleasure at His most awesome creation, Adam and Eve, and the complete beauty of their unbroken relationship with Him. Witness the fall of Adam and Eve and their glorious restoration. With spectacular special effects, *In the Beginning* promises to be an experience beyond your imagination! Enhanced by some magnificent staging, stirring musical compositions, and captivating live and animatronic animals, the stage will spring to life with the phenomenal story of Creation!

Sight and Sound Theatre is the largest faith-based live theater in America, located in Lancaster, Pa. It's about five miles from Lancaster Bible College, site of this year's SDB Conference. The Conference Host Committee is organizing a trip to see "*In the Beginning*" as one of the workshop options on Thursday afternoon, July 30. Individuals can purchase tickets directly from Sight and Sound, but there is a discount rate if tickets are obtained as a group. Show time is

1:00 to 3:30 pm and the discounted cost is \$44.65 for adults, \$28.00 for teens, and \$16.00 for children 4-12. The very popular shows usually sell out in advance. In order to assure seats, we must receive reservations and payment by **April 30**. For more information about Sight and Sound, go to www.sight-sound.com.

Please send this form (with your check made to "Conference Host Committee") to: Thomas Davis, Treasurer, Jericho Road, Bridgeton NJ 08302.

Name _____

Number of Tickets:

Address _____

Adult _____ x \$44.65 each = \$ _____

Teen _____ x \$28.00 each = \$ _____

Number needing transportation to the Theatre: _____

Child _____ x \$16.00 each = \$ _____

You will pick up your tickets at the **Registration Desk** at Conference. Tell your friends about Sight and Sound!

TOTAL enclosed: \$ _____

KEVIN'S

ORNER

Where is the Hope for 2009?

What are you hoping for these days?
Do you hope that—

- your kids and grandkids will “turn out” all right?
- the stock market will rebound in time for you to have some actual retirement income?
- the warring and fighting would end and our troops could get home?

We hope for a lot of things, don't we? And while everyone hopes, not everyone places their hope in the same thing.

So we should probably define what “hope” is:

Hope is “desire for future good.”

Hope is a real necessity for real living. Hope is like food and water for life—but even more! In hope, there is a belief that life has meaning; that there really is something beyond just eating and drinking and having more kids to produce the next generation!

With hope, we don't remain neutral about the future.

The Bible tells us that (ultimately) God is in control. That should fill us with hope. All throughout history, God has been making preparations. He has been in control of history.

This hope—knowing that He is in control—encourages us to see beyond the present! We should be “desiring that future good.”

Don't we need that kind of hope? Because there really is no today without a tomorrow to hope for. Holocaust survivor Victor Frankl wrote about his concentration camp experiences. He said that the prisoner who lost faith (losing hope in the future) was doomed!

Having the hope that God is in control gives us the future. And we get that from the Word of God, right? At least in the Gospels, right?

How many times do you think the word (noun) “Hope” appears in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John? Those books contain so many words, and so many

words of Jesus. So, do you think “Hope” appears maybe 50-100 times?

In the thousands of verses in the Gospels, the noun “hope” appears a total of ZERO times!

Check your concordance! “Hope” jumps from Zechariah in the Old Testament all the way to the book of Acts. (Now, the verb—or action—of hope shows up, but only five times in the Gospels.)

So how can we find hope in the Word when it isn't even mentioned that often?

Jesus himself is the reason for our hope.

Jesus *was* the noun “hope” in the Gospels. He was hope in the flesh.

The religion of his day, Judaism, was a practice of hope, with all that desire and anticipation for the Messiah. The disciples and followers knew that in Christ was realized the HOPE of Israel.

Jesus trained others in love and in faith, but—at least in his own words—he remained pretty silent about hope.

I believe it's because he presented *himself* as the realization of their hope.

In Christ there is hope!

Charles Spurgeon said, “Faith goes up the stairs that love has made, and looks out the window which hope has opened.”

Jesus was the hope of his day, and he talked often about coming back. That makes Jesus the center of both our present *and* future hopes.

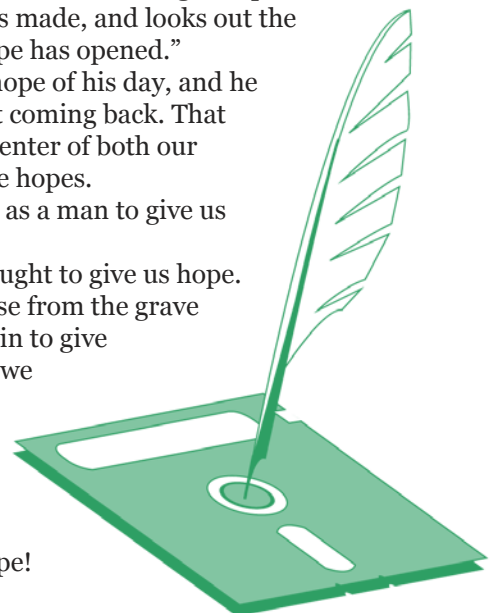
Our Lord came as a man to give us hope.

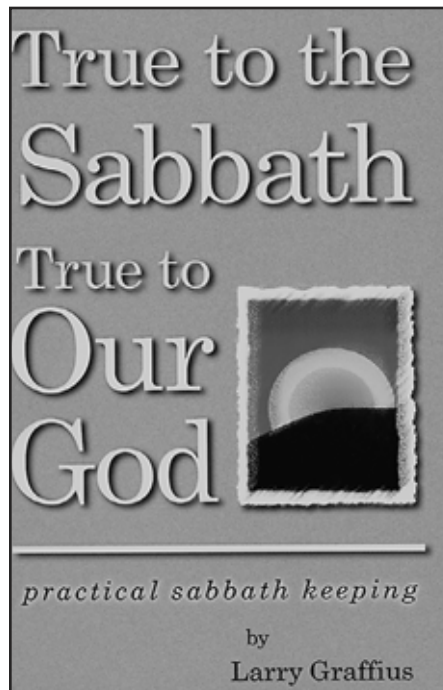
He lived and taught to give us hope.

He died and rose from the grave and is coming again to give us the best future we could ever want:

a hope of everlasting life in the presence of God.

Jesus is our hope!





Why is Sabbath keeping
a significant principle
for believers?

What does it mean to
keep the Sabbath
Holy?

How do we practice
Sabbath keeping
today?

True to the Sabbath, True to Our God by Rev. Larry Graffius is a fresh, relevant Bible Study of God's command to "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy." You will discover new meaning and practical application of this often overlooked principle of Christian living.

God has designed the Sabbath as a day of rest, worship, blessing, and service. As you explore these exciting topics, you will be challenged to a deeper level of consistency and commitment in your spiritual life.

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