



The Sabbath RECORDER

February 2009

News for and about Seventh Day Baptists

The 2008 Sessions of the SDB World Federation



*Delegates meeting at Carthage College
Kenosha, Wisconsin USA*



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



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



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Ⓔ = Editor's Circle members

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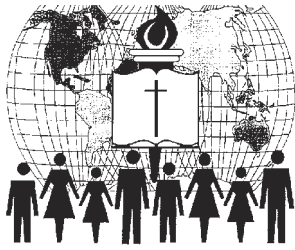
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Who is that singing? The 2008 World Federation Sessions

by Janet Thorngate

With a parade of flags from 11 countries, the seventh quinquennial session of the SDB World Federation opened in Kenosha, Wisconsin, on July 28, 2008. The last World Fed gathering on American soil was held in 1986.

Delegates and observers from six continents cheered as each flag was placed in its stand behind the podium. The flags formed a colorful backdrop for the week's full program of praise and worship, reports and business, seminars and discussion.

WF President Joe Samuels' theme, "Be Ready, Christ Is Coming" (based on Revelation 22:12-20), set the tone for worship times led by Pastor Jan Lek of the Netherlands. Jan was later elected General Secretary for the next five years.

Evening preachers explored various facets of the theme: Pastor Jonas Sommer of Brazil, Sister Claudia Ferguson of Jamaica, Pastor Gabriel Bejjani of the USA, and Brother Nedd Lozani of the Central Africa Conference. Pastor Dale Thorngate (later elected the next WF President) led the Sabbath eve communion service.

What's happening in your country?

Interest peaked as each delegation reported on the work of their Conference. There was much activity since the last session in Brazil in 2003.

Photographs and displays helped dramatize the personalized presenta-



Interest peaked as each delegation reported on the work of their Conference. There was much activity since the last session in Brazil in 2003.

tions throughout the week. A theme running through many was outreach and activity beyond their own Conference borders (see the feature on page 8).

Need for leadership training, particularly of pastors, also surfaced in many reports. In Malawi, the Central Africa Conference seeks lecturers for their Makapwa Bible College with a goal of upgrading the certificate-level curriculum to diploma and degree courses.

We're in this together

Reports from General Secretary Calvin Babcock, President Joe Samuels, and the Executive Committee noted encouraging developments in several Conferences visited over the past five years. These included President Samuels' trips to the British Conference and the Central Africa Conference (for their Centennial

celebration); Vice President Bejjani's visits to Australia, New Zealand, Nepal, and India (Kerala); and Vice President Andy Samuels' time as pastoral assistant to the Mill Yard church in London.

In 2005, for the first time in the Federation's history, the full Executive Committee, including regional vice presidents, met face-to-face between sessions.

Delegates accepted the Executive Committee's recommendation that African Conferences in Burundi, Kenya, and Zambia be accepted into membership of the Federation, this action to be affirmed by ballots from all member groups.

With regret, the delegates also accepted the recommendation to remove the Mexican Conference from membership due to "their decision not to cooperate in the purposes of the Federation." They also accepted the name change of the reunited Philippine Conference, now the United Seventh Day Baptist Churches of the Philippines, Inc.

Between committee work and business sessions, seminars offered fresh looks at a variety of topics: "Prepare for Effective Evangelism" by Gabe Bejjani and Andrew Samuels; "Church Administration" by Joe Samuels; and "Computer Skills" by Kirk Looper, Cal Babcock and Jan Lek. The Sabbath history video series, *The 7th Day: Revela-*

tions from the *Lost Pages of History*, LLT Productions, provided another option.

It got personal

By midweek, delegates had become better acquainted through mealtime visits in the busy Carthage College cafeteria and break-time walks along the shore of Lake Michigan. All Federation sessions are conducted in English, but you could hear laughter as someone bravely tried to learn a little Cebuano or Dutch.

Patty Petersen and Bethany Chroniger discovered they could communicate in Spanish with Pastor João Telles dos Santos, President of the Brazil Conference. Yet nothing seemed more powerful, or clear, than hearing Pastor João's prayers in Portuguese. And how moving was the Malawi quartet (Nedd and Alefa Lozani, and former missionaries David and Bettie Pearson) singing in Chechewa.

Ah yes, music—that other international language. We had Maureen Siolo at the piano, or Pastor Michael Cummings or Pastor Samuel Sterling finding the key to accompany, or Jan

Officers and delegates pledged themselves to increase efforts in communication and more effective fundraising.

Lek or Lois Steir leading songs.

New friends who had not attended previous sessions included the Lozanis from Malawi; Michael Cummings, new pastor at Mill Yard in London; Claudia and Carlton Ferguson and Errol Wilson of Jamaica; Brian Liddell of New Zealand; Fiona Siolo (wife of Marlo) of Australia; Clarice Sommer (wife of Jonas) of Brazil; and several observers from the United States.

Once again, however, the fellowship seemed incomplete because other Conferences were unable to send delegates, some because of travel or visa problems. These included both India Conferences,

Nigeria, South Africa, Poland, and Myanmar (Burma). No delegates came from Guyana, but Elnora Andries (Guyanese American) was able to represent them.

International praise

The tempo picked up on Thursday as SDB young adults—attending the Pre-Conference Retreat on the same campus—joined delegates for morning praise. The extra guitars, violin, drums, and keyboard inspired everyone—or was it the Holy Spirit?

A passerby asked, “Who is that singing?”

“A bunch of Seventh Day Baptists,” came the reply.

“Where are they from?” she asked.

“From all over the world!”

“It’s not a professional group?” she asked incredulously. “How long have they been singing together?”

“About 45 minutes,” came the answer. “It always happens whenever they’re together.”

Both the young adults and the General Council of the USA and Canada Conference joined the delegates Friday evening to welcome the Sabbath with a special commu-



A Malawi quartet: Nedd and Alefa Lozani, Bettie and David Pearson.

*So, was this Bible
in English,
Portuguese, or Dutch??*



Clarice Sommer (Brazil) reads along with Ruth Lek (Netherlands).



nion service. Sabbath morning, all 40 WF participants piled on a bus for a beautiful drive across eastern Wisconsin farm country for worship and Sabbath School with the church in Milton.

The church hosts fed them lunch so they could go from Milton to Janesville for an afternoon open house at the Seventh Day Baptist Center. This included visits to the historical museum and library, and offices of the General Conference Executive Director, Memorial Fund, Tract and Communication Council, Historical Society, and Council on Ministry.

Winding down, Winding up

Sabbath night, back in Kenosha—time to relax.

A talent show included everything from duets, quartets, solos (serious and hilarious), to goofy poems, crazy jokes, and tall tales revealing another side to many personalities.

Sunday morning’s wrap-up included an impressive dedication and commissioning ceremony for the new officers, and special appreciation to

those who had served the Federation faithfully: President Joe Samuels, Executive Calvin Babcock (since the resignation of Frits Neuwstraten early in the term), Treasurer Luan Ellis (completing her second five-year term), and Recording Secretary Andrea Davis Huffman (unable to attend this session); Patty Petersen (secretary pro-tem for this session), and Kirk Looper and the Missionary Society for much assistance throughout the five-year period.

Pastor Al Paypa of the Philippines extended the invitation for the Federation to meet in the Philippines for the 8th quinquennial session in 2013. Invitation accepted!

Most of the delegates were able to stay the following week for the USA and Canada Conference sessions. On opening night, they were warmly welcomed as they entered the lovely chapel with their dramatic parade of flags. Sharing from the rich traditions of each culture, they responded to Conference President Andrew Samuel’s request to lead each day’s “Morning Praise from Around the World.”

During the special recognitions on



Newly elected World Federation President Dale Thorngate (at podium) directed many thanks to outgoing officers Luan Ellis, Joe Samuels, and Calvin Babcock.

Sabbath afternoon, new Federation President Dale Thorngate honored outgoing President Joe Samuels with a plaque of appreciation for his 44 years of service to the SDB World Federation. As a delegate from Jamaica to the original CoWoCo meetings (in Salem, West Virginia, 1964), Brother Joe was one of the signers of



The Young Adult Pre-Con praise band livened up the music.



Claudia Ferguson (Jamaica) leading in prayer.



Jonas Sommer (Brazil) reads to the delegates.

the first Constitution, accepted the following year by 11 Conferences to form the Federation.

Why do we do it?

Officers and delegates alike pledged themselves to increase efforts in communication and more effective fundraising, challenging each Conference to tithe 10% of their income toward the WFed work.

This year's delegates revised the Constitution, strengthening the offices and Executive Committee to better accomplish the original goals:

- 1) To provide increased communication among Seventh Day Baptist groups throughout the world,
- 2) To stimulate fellowship through periodic meetings of representatives, inter-Conference/Convention representative exchanges, or planned programs of mutual aid, and
- 3) To promote evangelistic and other projects of mutual interest which will benefit from international cooperation including arrangements for the handling of funds.

And there's another reason: We like to sing together. **SR**



*Top: Outgoing President Joe Samuels (left) welcomes the new slate of WFed officers and VPs (see list below).
Bottom: A subcommittee works on their report.*

Contributions to the work of the World Federation may be sent directly to: SDB World Federation Treasurer Miriam Berg, 2743 Grand Circle, Lawrence KS 66047 USA

SDBWF Officers, 2008-2013

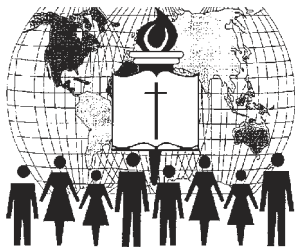
General Secretary	Jan Lek
President	Dale Thorngate
Asst. General Secretary	C. Justin Camenga
Recording Secretary	Bethany Chroniger
Treasurer	Miriam Berg

Vice Presidents

Africa	Nedd Lozani
Australia/New Zealand	Marlo Siolo
Carribean	Claudia Ferguson
Europe	Ruth Lek
South America	Jonas Sommer
Asia	Al Paypa
North America	Andrew Samuels

Who was at Kenosha?

Australia	Marlo and Fiona Siolo, Maureen Siolo
Brazil	João Telles dos Santos, Jonas & Clarice Sommer
England	Michael Cummings, Owen & Jossett Lynch
Jamaica	Claudia & Carlton Ferguson, Prudence Robinson, Errol J. Wilson
Malawi	Nedd C. & Alefa Lozani
Netherlands	Jan & Ruth Lek
New Zealand	Brian Liddell
Philippines	Al B. Paypa
USA	Joe Samuels, Calvin Babcock, Gabriel Bejjani, C. Justin Camenga, Luan & Ron Ellis, Kirk & Vivian Looper, Patty Petersen, Andy Samuels, Elnora Andries, Bethany Chroniger, Ron Davis, Anita R. Loney, Bettie & David Pearson, Vivian Petties, Lois (Loy) A. Steir, Samuel Sterling, Dale & Janet Thorngate



News from Six Continents

by Janet Thorngate

Seventh Day Baptists around the world joined in a “Prayer that Connects” during their 44th annual Week of Prayer in January. Many of them found it easier to pray for each other thanks to the information shared at last summer’s World Federation (WF) session in America and the correspondence that it spawned. The WF met at Carthage College in Kenosha, Wis.

Indeed, the first purpose of the Federation is to “increase communication among Seventh Day Baptist groups throughout the world.” The following comes from recent reports and letters.

Central Africa



Nedd and Alefa Lozani

Nedd Lozani, General Secretary of the Central Africa Conference (CAC), returned to Malawi with his wife Alefa just one week before their annual Conference sessions in early September. He reported attendance of 113 during the business meetings, and 275 for Sabbath worship.

Preparations were also underway for the Women’s Annual Conference in Lilongwe in late October and the three one-week Regional Youth Camps in late November.

As the new WF Vice President for Africa, Lozani hopes to travel to Burundi, Kenya, and Zambia in the near future to welcome those SDB Conferences into the World Federation. Ballots are out for the WF member Conferences to vote on this recommendation from last summer’s session, that they be accepted into membership.

One of the priorities of the Central Africa Conference is to relocate Malawi’s Makapwa Bible College to the city of Zomba. They want to upgrade its curriculum to meet the need for training pastors not only for Malawi churches but also for those in neighboring countries.

The CAC reports 10,000 members in 140 churches in Malawi and 30 in Mozambique, with 35 ordained pastors in Malawi, five in Mozambique.

Brazil



Jonas Sommer and João Telles

Pastoral training is also a priority of the Conference in Brazil, South America. They report 61 churches, of which 44 have no full-time pastor. Since Rev. Rodney Henry led them in an examination of the T.I.M.E. (Training

In Ministry by Extension) program at their 2007 Conference, they have worked toward implementing the training, but lack the money to employ someone to do the teaching.

Their Conference met again in January and welcomed Rev. David Taylor from the United States and Pastor Jan Lek from the Netherlands to do some training sessions during that week.

The Brazilian delegates at the Kenosha meetings—President João Telles and Pastor Jonas and Clarice Sommer—expressed their appreciation for the team of young people from the U.S. who spent two weeks in Brazil last summer. The team helped to organize a new church in Araucária, near Curitiba, Paraná, and assisted with children’s programs in a new branch church in Joinville, Santa Catarina. The young adults included Helmer Umaña Jr., Edwin and Maria Lopez, Saul Alonzo, and Bethany Chroniger.

The Brazil Conference continues its extensive publishing work, translating *The Helping Hand* and other materials into Portuguese for use not only by their own churches but also by SDBs in Mozambique, Africa, with whom they have considerable contact.

“We are about to finish the issue of a Seventh Day Baptist hymnal which does not contradict our faith and

contains some compositions translated from English, particularly of words which mention the Sabbath.... In June 2008 we finished the new biblical course called *Freed by the Truth*, comprising 12 lessons. We pray it will serve to bring many people to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

Another major goal for Brazil is to build a new headquarters, with space for T.I.M.E. training needs, on property already owned by the Conference in Curitiba.

Great Britain



Michael Cummings

Our delegates from England—Pastor Michael Cummings, new pastor of the Mill Yard Church near London; and Pastor Owen and Jossett Lynch of Birmingham—reported a good British Conference session held at Mill Yard with over 100 attending. Both Birmingham and Mill Yard have new members.

Mill Yard's attendance of 75 stretches their facility in Tottenham, so they are looking for a new location.

Jamaica

In her report to the Federation, Jamaica Conference President Claudia Ferguson (new WF Vice President for the Carribean) noted that they want to work with the Guyana Conference to plant churches in Barbados and Trinidad. Many SDBs from those countries move to other Caribbean islands for work, leaving their home churches and needing help to plant new ones where they are.

Throughout 2008, the Jamaica Conference commemorated the 85th year of Seventh Day Baptists in their country. Celebrations began in February with a Thanksgiving Service attended by Pastor Ewart Caesar of Guyana, then-WF Vice President for the Caribbean. The service was aired on radio.

Churches staged evangelistic crusades during the year, and at the annual Conference sessions in July, two groups received church status: Oracabessa and Mandeville. Anniversary celebrations concluded December 7 with an Awards Banquet.

Jamaica reports 35 churches and six groups organized in six regional circuits. There are 18 pastors (two retired)

and six missionary workers. The Conference "had the rich experience of hosting teams from the U.S. and Canada Conference including a medical team in 2006, the Miami SDB 'YES' team in 2007, and a group from Wisconsin in 2008."

Guyana

Rev. Ewart Caesar, President of the Guyana Conference, was unable to attend the Federation sessions in Kenosha, but did send an official report. He too highlighted his visit to Jamaica's 85th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service in February and the plans that grew out of that session for cooperative church planting in other Caribbean Islands.

Caesar reported in some detail on efforts to begin a work in Trinidad and Tobago. In late November and early December 2007, a delegation of nine from Guyana joined with others from Toronto, Canada, and from Jamaica in a four-day "Tent Revival" in Chaquanas. He said, "The theme was 'Come Rest in Jesus.' During the day we shared tracts and visited homes. We have planted the seed in Trinidad awaiting the harvest. A follow-up was done by Rev. Thomas and Pastor A. Caesar in March 2008.

"The organizers were Sister Winsome Gilmore (Toronto), Rev. Joe Samuels (USA), two youthful pastors, Adams and Fennel (Jamaica). Those from Guyana were Rev. E. Caesar, Pr. A. Caesar, Sis. Gem Barton, Dian Bollers, Julet Clarke, Grace Boston, Paula Daniels, Amassa Cameron, and General Secretary Bernice Trots."

The Guyana Conference has set up a special fund for international evangelism. The Conference met July 18-20, 2008. New officers are President Ewart Caesar, Vice President Earl Thomas, General Secretary Amar Dwarka, and Treasurer Gem Barton.

Netherlands and Eastern Europe

Pastor Jan and Ruth Lek were delegates from The Netherlands Conference. Their pictorial review highlighted the three home churches in Haarlem, Amsterdam, and Leuarden, and an update on their mission work in Eastern Europe.



Jan and Ruth Lek



Soon after their return to Europe, the Leks made a two-week trip to Moldavia visiting Seventh Day Baptists, other Sabbathkeepers, and new contacts along the way in Germany, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Ukraine. They traveled 5,000 kilometers (about 3,100 miles). As always they took clothing and other materials needed by the people in the churches.

Special visits on this trip included the church in Tyachev, Ukraine, “where the brethren in the church have given much in materials and financial support,” and a church in Ryshkanny, Moldavia, where they spent four days (including Sabbath) making many contacts.

On the return through Germany they visited Brother and Sister Alfred and Magdalena Mellmann in Bad Herrenalb. “With the Sizmanns (who live near the Dutch border) they are the only Seventh Day Baptists in Germany,” Jan reported. He reminded us that “Brother Mellmann in 1964 was one of the founders of the SDB World Federation” [at the CoWoCo sessions in Salem, West Virginia USA].

Brother Mellmann has many historical documents from the former German Conference which Pastor Lek will preserve in a safe place.

Australia and New Zealand



Marlo Siolo

Brian Liddell of the group in Christchurch represented the New Zealand churches including the two in Auckland.

Pastor Marlo Siolo reported on the Association of SDBs in Australia: five churches in Australia and some in Argentina which were started as a mission of Pastor Jose Alegre who has recently returned to the church in Melbourne, Victoria.

Churches meet in two locations in Sydney, New South Wales, and two locations in Brisbane, Queensland, including the Samoan Gospel Church where Pastor Siolo ministers. He reports a revival of interest among youth and young adults.

USA and Canada

The World Federation report from the USA and Canada came from then-Conference President Andrew

Samuels who also serves as WF Vice President for North America.

Highlights in his report included the following: “Our Conference, mainly through youth and young adults, has shown a tremendously increased interest in cross-cultural and foreign ministries. Short-term mission trips, including specialized ones such as a medical emphasis, have been carried out by groups representing our Conference in Mexico, Haiti, England, Guyana, Jamaica, Malawi, and Brazil. These are in addition to the many trips taken overseas by the Executive Director of the Missionary Society, sometimes at great personal risk. These visits are usually to churches in sister Conferences for the purpose of encouragement and organization matters.

“In 2007, four new churches were welcomed into membership in the Conference.”

The latest Directory reports 72 churches and 20 branch churches. Pastors (including retired): 68 ordained and accredited, 14 ordained and not yet accredited, and 31 licensed associate and assistant pastors serving churches.

Philippines

President of the Philippines Convention, Pastor Al B. Paypa, reported 22 local churches and five church planting projects in their four regional districts. They have a goal of planting 10 more churches in the next five years.

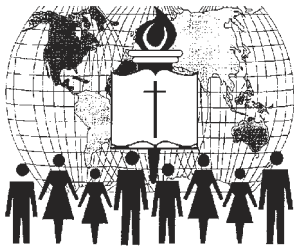
Highlights include 17 new graduates of the T.I.M.E. program in January 2008—to strengthen the ministry and leadership of the churches, to motivate and encourage young people and adults to engage in God’s ministry, and to unite the churches.

A major goal is to construct a building for a Training School and Headquarters for SDBs in the Philippines. The land proposed is 600 square meters, available for \$55.55 (US) per meter. They are seeking 600 people to donate \$55.55 each toward this dream.

Pastor Paypa invited the World Federation to meet in the Philippines for the next five-year session in 2013. The invitation was accepted so plans are underway for that big event. **SR**



Al Paypa



Many miles, many memories

by Nedd Lozani, Malawi, Africa

By the end of the week, we had made so many friends that it was difficult to remember everyone by name.

After working at Mobil Oil Malawi Limited for 33 years, I was asked to serve the Central Africa Conference of Seventh Day Baptists as General Secretary. That was in October 2004. Prior to that date, I had served on the Board of Trustees of the Central Africa Conference (CAC) as either a Board member or as Chairman.

While serving as the General Secretary in 2007, I was appointed to represent the CAC at the 2008 World Federation session, and the General Conference of USA and Canada, to be held at Carthage College in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Coincidentally, my wife, Alefa—currently chairperson of the SDB Women's Guild in Malawi—was also nominated to accompany me on the trip. Our air tickets were generously funded by the Alfred Station, N.Y., SDB Church.

A busy itinerary

Pastor Kirk Looper and Pastor and Mrs. David Pearson drew up our itinerary for the trip. They wanted to make the most of our visit, so they extended our stay in the U.S. one week before the World Federation meetings, and two weeks after the General Conference.

We spent those extra weeks visiting churches and friends like: Metro Atlanta and South East Atlanta in Georgia; Paint Rock, Alabama; Columbus, Ohio; Dr. and Mrs. Ron Davis in Indiana; Alfred Station, Little Genesee, and Alfred churches in New York; Ashaway, Rhode Island; Plainfield and Shiloh in New Jersey; Central Maryland; and Arlington, Virginia.

At all of these churches and places, we were given the opportunity to either preach or give a brief presentation of the SDB work in Malawi.

The trip to Wisconsin

After staying with the Pearsons for a week in Georgia, we started off for Carthage College in Wisconsin. Riding with Pastor David and Bettie, we covered a distance of over 1,000 miles. We drove through Tennessee, Kentucky, and Ohio, and stayed the night with the Davises in Indiana.

We arrived in Wisconsin on Sunday, July 27. We thank the Lord for taking us through the distance with-



Nedd and Alefa Lozani

out any problem on the road, not even a tire puncture.

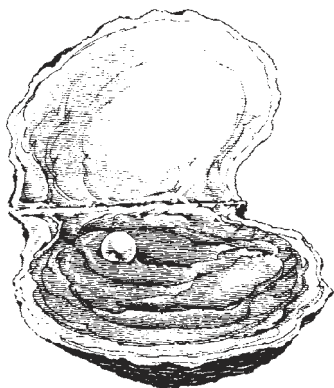
Even more, we enjoyed the natural vegetation of green forests, big rivers, big lakes, and the big farms of corn and soybeans. We admired the bridges and road network in the states we went through.

Listening, learning at WFed

At World Federation, we met representatives from different parts of the world. Delegates came from Brazil, England, Europe, Jamaica, Australia, New Zealand, Philippines, North America, and Malawi.

Each Conference made a brief review of their activities. The presen-

cont. on page 26



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

Preserving your Church's 'Pearls'

by Nick Kersten, Librarian-Historian

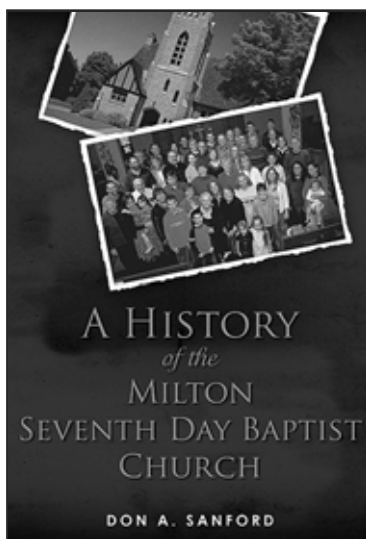
For more than 20 years, Don Sanford has used this column to recount important history he painstakingly mined from the treasure trove of resources called the Seventh Day Baptist Historical Society archives. These “pearls of great price” have told stories well known and unknown to the *Recorder* audience.

This month, rather than continue in this tradition, I would like to commend to you the preservation of your local church's history, as well as a recent volume published by the Milton, Wis., church as they preserved theirs. Don's customary *Pearls* will return to the *SR* next month.

Your local church was born through the efforts of many people as they worked with our Lord to do His will. No matter how old your church is—a couple years, a couple decades, or a couple centuries—your current members are the recipients of a heritage built on the backs of “a great cloud of witnesses.”

In some cases, your spiritual forebears in your local church are relatives; in other cases they are people who share no bond with you other than your mutual love for Jesus Christ.

No matter the connection, the people you worship with, go to Bible studies with, evangelize with, and share your life with are participants in something much greater than what is seen with the naked eye when you gather on Sabbath morning.



Your current members are the recipients of a heritage built on the backs of “a great cloud of witnesses.”

How well do you know the history of your congregation? Do you know when it was founded? Do you know where its founders came from?

If your congregation owns a building, do you know when it was built, or by whom? Who were the deacons in your church 30 years ago? Who was the first pastor?

Without careful effort by the local church, the answers to all of these questions have an expiration date. What kind of legacy are you leaving for future members? Will those people appreciate the efforts made

by so many for so long and the preserving work of God to maintain the congregation?

If the answer to that question isn't one you like, there's good news. Your church's history can be preserved so that the most important pieces of the life of your church can be an inspiration for years to come!

One of the simplest ways to collect the happenings of the church is in the church minutes. While the job of church clerk is rarely glamorous, the archives here in Janesville teach us that it is the clerk who often has the last word on the history of the congregation.

Another important way to preserve those memories is through the writing of your church's history.

Because of the stigma attached to the phrases “church history” and “writing a book,” I suspect that many of you shuddered just now. Others may have pictured undertaking the project alone and immediately wrote it off.

But wait! It doesn't have to be what you're thinking!

The opportunity to write your church's history can be a time of growing and remembering for your entire congregation, and a process that can be done by a group of people rather than one individual. The writing could even be considered a treasure hunt as you search for your own church's “pearls.”

Recently, the Milton church commissioned Don Sanford to write a history of the congregation. As you know, Pastor Don has written several books on Seventh Day Baptists and

cont. on page 23



Fresh from the Word

The Lord has so many glorious things to say—66 books full, for starters. And just now I am thinking of His words in Lamentations 3:21-23: “The Lord’s mercies are... new every morning.”

Are you finding this so? This verse supports the comment in a recent *Our Daily Bread* devotional: “God’s gift of Himself to us is a present we will always be unwrapping.”

This new morning He let me unwrap “mercy.” You may have heard the definition of that word in conjunction with *grace*, the latter being “receiving something you don’t deserve”; the former, “not receiving something you do deserve” (as in punishment).

I don’t know about you, but I have received the gift of mercy too many times to count, and I don’t seem to grow tired or bored with this gift. It seems to always come as a surprise and at just the right time.

One of those times comes to mind right now:

Soon after moving into our home, I decided that neither the lovely light

carpet throughout the house nor the cream-colored laminate kitchen floor should experience any outdoor-shoe traffic. My husband sometimes broke the rule, claiming his shoes were clean.

One evening, very tired, we both came through the kitchen several times—even onto the carpet—bringing in groceries, still wearing our shoes. Afterwards, when I saw tracks on the carpet, I fumed, instantly knowing that my husband was the culprit.

Fumes turned into solid frustration accompanied by tears and accusations. Rich kindly unrolled some paper towels and wiped up the floor, follow-



ing that with a good mopping.

When I finally removed my own sneakers, I was stunned to see that the bottoms were smeared with black from the oils on our driveway. I know I’d wiped my feet well, but certain climate conditions mixed with blacktop leave a residue that I wasn’t aware of.

New tears stung my eyes as I meekly showed Rich the evidence. He knew all along that I was the one to blame, but he had returned my insults with kindness, “heaping coals”—(or would that be blacktop?)—on my head. For certain, I was the grateful recipient of his mercy. Wow!

I discovered mercy anew this morning in my *Helping Hand* reading of Psalm 148:14 (KJV): “He exalteth the horn [power] of his people, the praise of all his saints; even of the children of Israel.”

Having learned that saints are believers in Christ, I wondered how that word could be used in an Old Testament passage about Israelites. I then discovered the Hebrew defini-

tion of saint: religiously kind, godly man, holy one, merciful.

So, my dear fellow saints, I confess to you and God—as a happy recipient of mercy—I want to be as lavish in giving this gift as I am in receiving it.

Praise the Lord, He always has a fresh supply from which to draw. **SR**

Highlights from the Berlin, N.Y., SDB Church ladies

Their ministry includes community YF refreshments, overseas mission support, college care-packages, baby quilt squares; cookie tins, cards and meals; showers for kitchen needs and newlyweds. And in this month dedicated to sweethearts, here’s an idea: When there are weddings in your midst, how about giving church commemorative plates?

Among the many services the Berlin ladies provide is one shared by many of our churches—donating a daily devotional for anyone to use; in their case, *Our Daily Bread*.

Where I live, this devotional is used in our weekly “Share and Care” group that meets in our community clubhouse. Two ladies bring copies from their churches, donating them to the rest of us. We all read daily, and then on Thursday mornings, we reread the Scriptures aloud and share what was meaningful to us that week. What a far-reaching gift just this one ministry is!

Seventh Day Baptist World Federation

Delegates to the 2008 Sessions

Carthage College, Kenosha, Wisconsin USA
July 27 – August 2

USA and Canada



*Justin
Camenga,
Dale
Thorngate,
Luan Ellis,
Patty Petersen*

Jamaica



*Carlton
Ferguson,
Errol Wilson,
Claudia
Ferguson,
Prudence
Robinson*

Federation President



Joe Samuels

Brazil



Jonas and Clarice Sommer, João Telles dos Santos

Central Africa; Malawi



Alefa and Nedd Lozani

England



Michael Cummings, Jossett and Owen Lynch

**Europe;
The Netherlands**



Jan and Ruth Lek

**Asia;
Philippines**



Al Paypa

New Zealand

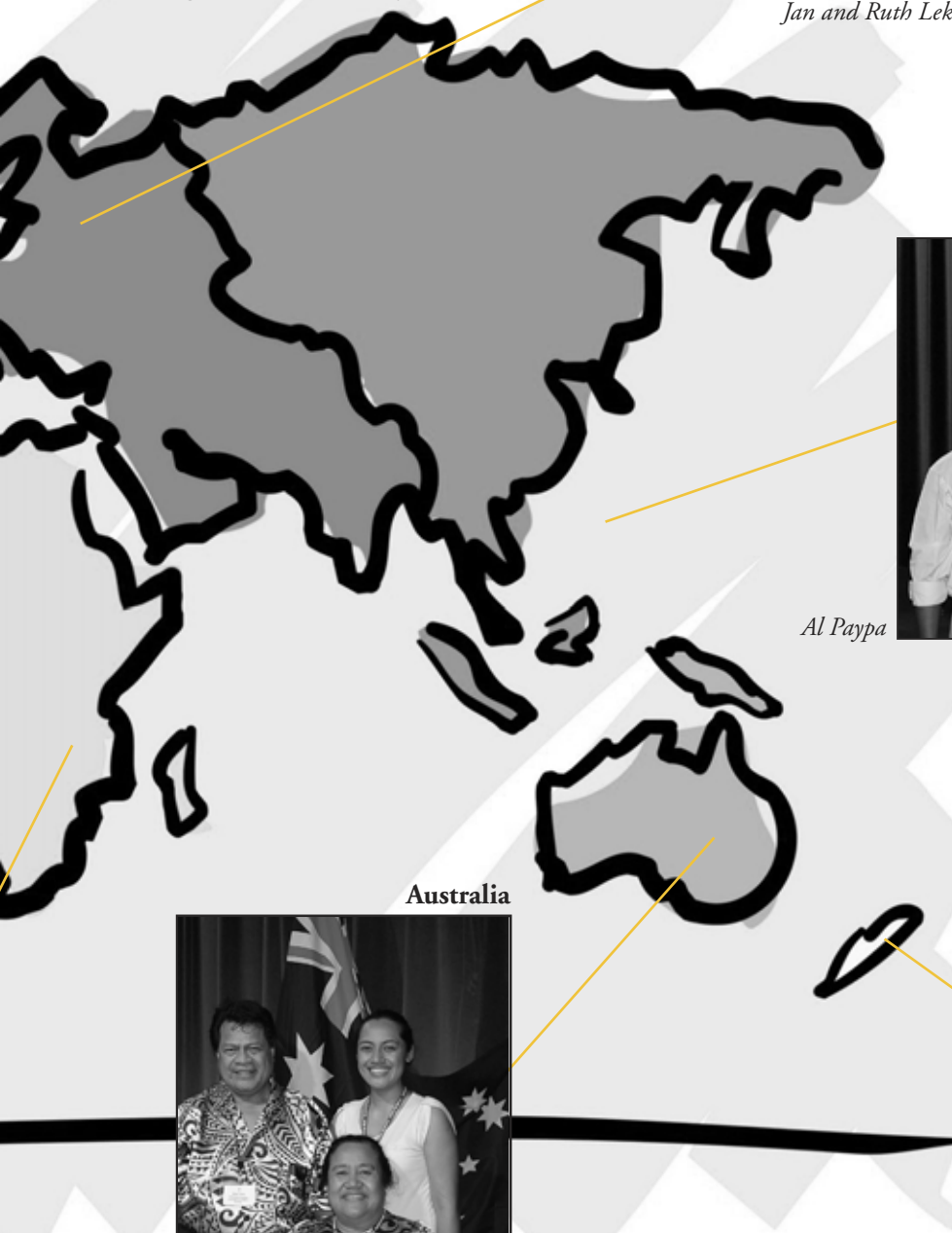


Brian Liddell

Australia



*Marlo and
Fiona Siolo,
Maureen Siolo*





A "Portable Faith" mind map

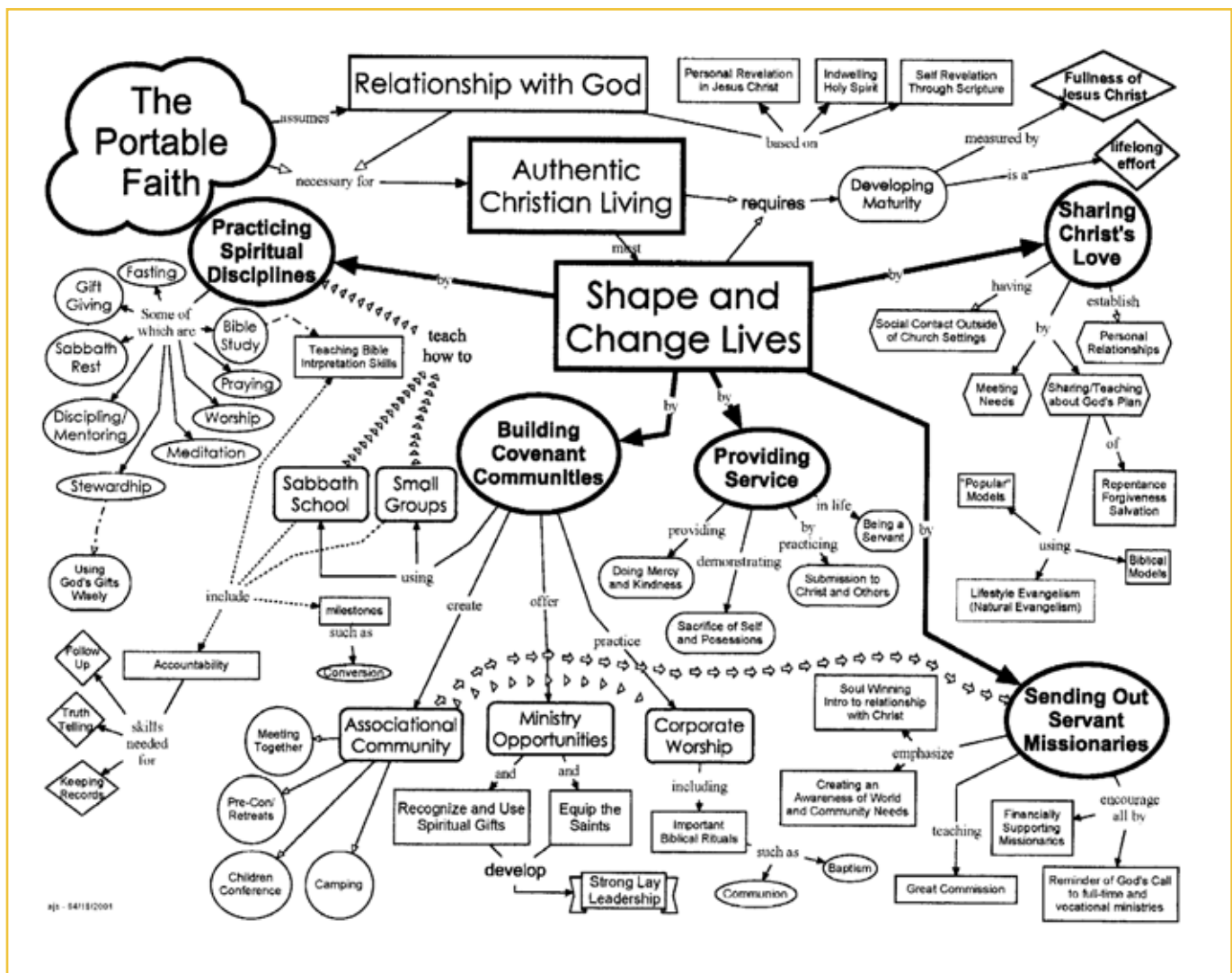
From time to time, I find it helpful to sketch out my thoughts. Sometimes, the drawings are helpful, at least for me. At other times, they illustrate only my confusion.

Several years ago, I tried to sketch my thinking about the faith to which God has called us. The "mind map" displayed below is the result of that work.

I recently ran across the map while preparing to

consider and reconsider how the Board of Christian Education can help in supporting the ministry of Seventh Day Baptist churches. I found the map interesting because I know I would draw it differently today.

When you think about the faith God has given to you, where does it shape, change, and guide your life? As God works to conform you into the image of His Son, in what ways can that be seen now? *SR*





Schools struggle in Sierra Leone

by Kirk Looper

For over five years we have been working with the SDB Conference in Sierra Leone in northwestern Africa. They have carried a heavy load since most of their church members are from the lower economic level.

Looking at the work that the leaders are doing, we get a better understanding of why they are burdened.

At the beginning, they were eager to start working for the Lord—they rushed into constructing schools, hospitals, orphanages, and their equivalent of retirement homes. This quickly increased the need for funds.

This also brought their work to the attention of the government. Some donations passed through the Missionary Society, but it was not enough to support all the established institutions and several had to close.

During the next year the gifts to the Sierra Leone Conference increased, but fell short of what was needed to further develop the schools (more classrooms and grade levels) and the clinics. They had not planned for all the required equipment and support personnel.

By the end of that year they were so short on funds that they requested help from the Missionary Society.

The donors in the United States responded with love, and sent in enough to fill the gap.

In 2007 they were informed that they had to upgrade their buildings so the children would have a protected and reasonably comfortable place to do their studies and work. This, of course, demanded more funds for operation.

Since there was a penalty related to this governmental request, they chose to use funds budgeted for other needs. This resulted in a shortfall for teacher salaries. They have worked under this burden since.

They just cannot seem to get ahead, even though funds were collected and sent to them in 2007 and 2008. The amount actually needed would be close to \$10,000 for the five schools. The government believes that a teacher's wage should be at least \$150 per month.

Also, even though the schools voluntarily accept orphans, they are expected to provide them with breakfast and lunch. This requirement translates into a considerable cost, and places them under further financial burden. Much of this cost is covered by donations from the

executives of their Conference.

Most of the orphans are located in the big cities, but every village has some. The schools hit the hardest are those in large towns such as Freetown, the capital. Churches often allow the orphans to spend the night in the church building for protection. This also gives them time to do their studies or get extra help.

Church growth is accomplished through the work that is done outside the school. They do gain members through the participating school children, but usually it depends upon the church members going out and evangelizing.

SDB General Secretary Willie Williams and President Francis Mattia visit the neighboring communities or the places where they receive contacts. The church planting procedure then records new members from those communities.

Presently they have nine churches in the Conference and they number about 1,000 members. They are located in various towns around the country, some at very long distances. Most churches are in smaller communities and are sanctioned by the local chief. **SR**



Teachers and students at a school in Sierra Leone. Many are orphans.



SDB President Francis Mattia (left) speaks to Muslims through a translator. The translator is a converted Muslim.



the BEACON

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

Feb. 2009

Sufferings and slip-ups

by Christopher Davis

“Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us” (Romans 5:3-5).

I couldn't wait for “Mock Trial” tryouts.

This was a serious tryout—you had to stay after school and give an opening statement, and both direct and cross-examine multiple “witnesses” just to get a position on the club.

Two of my favorite teachers were the advisors, and I was in good standing with both of them. I felt I had a good chance to be cast as an attorney.

I had my opening statement all written and nearly memorized, and had all of my examination materials prepared with a question for every circumstance. Most of the other students trying out had not even started. I had a clear shot to be cast and I knew it.

Then I forgot to show up.

I had reminders written in every binder I owned, posted a note in my locker, and even had conversations about it with my teachers earlier that day—but I still forgot. I packed up that day as usual, cleared out my locker, and hopped onto my bus



without giving it a thought.

The next school day was a bit awkward. Twice I had to face a teacher and say, “Umm... sorry. I forgot.” That was very embarrassing. I was still on the team as a witness, but that's nothing like the attorney position I wanted. I felt that I let both myself and my teachers down.

We all make decisions and do things without thought on a daily basis, often without stopping to think how they could affect us. Getting on the bus and going home was nothing unusual; I followed my daily routine. It just wasn't what was supposed to happen that day.

Although I was disappointed about the tryouts, it really was not a huge deal. I still have next year to try again. However, many things in life have no second chances, and they have much bigger consequences.

Yet there is hope. Paul, in Romans, tells us to learn from our sufferings and slip-ups. We may not *like* them while they are happening, but they can build perseverance, character, and hope.

Good will rise out of the bad, no matter how small and insignificant—or big and overpowering—the situation may seem. I don't completely know all of the good that will come out of this situation, but the Lord can work in mysterious ways.

We all make decisions, small and big, every day without really stopping to think about how they will affect us. We all end up getting into situations that seem over our heads and out of control.

Though we may not like it at present, we can know that something good will come out of it, because hope will never disappoint. **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*

Can't stop writing

As long as I can remember, I've loved to write.

Growing up in the 1950s, I received a "typewriter" one Christmas. The tin contraption had a round wheel that you turned to the letter you wanted to type. Obviously, it took a long time to type anything.

One summer, I produced a neighborhood newsletter. Even with a firm deadline and my "nose for news," it met an early demise—probably because everyone already knew everything about everybody.

When my high school English teachers assigned essays, I could hardly wait to start churning them out. My classmates thought I was crazy. But once, when a substitute teacher wrongly accused me of plagiarism, all of them defended me: "Leanne always writes like that," they stated.

As a high school freshman, I won a regional writing contest on "What My American Heritage Means to Me." I also won a jingle-writing contest. I received prizes from both, but my greatest prize was having people read—and enjoy—my writing.

Majoring in English at Milton College in the early '60s, I had absolutely no idea what I would do for a living after graduation. I simply loved to write. Thanks to a lot of help from God, I landed a job at a good-sized daily newspaper. With no journalism training, I became a journalist.

I covered all sorts of topics for the paper: crimes, courthouse news, etc. I was also farm editor (I never farmed) and assistant society editor. However, I enjoyed human-interest stories the most. I could be much more creative in writing those, versus straight news reporting.

In my spare time, I wrote children's poems. Again, I loved the



creativity, putting my highly active imagination to good use.

After I married and started having kids of my own, it was often difficult to find the time to write.

Our family moved to Iowa in 1976. I began writing a weekly humor column for the local newspaper in tiny Swea City. Some 32 years later, I'm still writing "Sunny Side Up."

In 1996 I won an all-expense-paid trip to Rye, N.Y., to attend a weeklong writer's workshop sponsored by *Guideposts*, founded by Dr. Norman Vincent Peale. I had the privilege of meeting Mrs.

Peale and was eventually published in that inspirational magazine.

This year, I'm writing another column for the *Milton Courier*, called "Neighbor to Neighbor." It runs monthly, telling the life stories of long-time area residents.

But my real love continues to be inspirational writing. My ultimate goal is to get published in *Daily Guideposts*, an annual devotional book with a circulation of 800,000.

I've always believed that my love and talent for writing is a God-given gift. I want my words to move people—make them laugh, cry, think, and dream. And I want to glorify the Lord in the process.

I'm also thin-skinned and easily discouraged by criticism. *I'm not good enough to get printed in Daily Guideposts*, I'll think. Then I remind myself that I am to exercise my gift and God will take care of the rest.

One of my favorite quotes is from Ellen Austin: "If creating-with-words is my special gift from God, then why must I pinch the pen so hard to wring out a few drops of heavenly ink? Does God's plan call for me to risk opening locked rooms? To follow where I'm unwilling to go? To agonize over the raw material?"

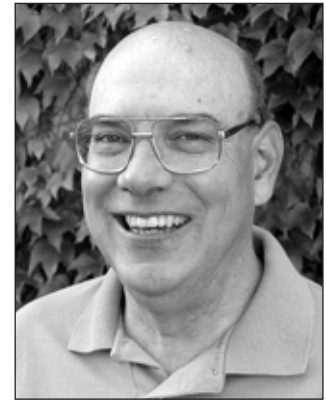
"I only know that I can no more not write than I can not breathe; that the pain of pinching the pen is forgotten in the glorious shudder of fulfillment. I must respond to the flowing force within me, the Spirit of God providing my identity."

Thank You, God, for making me a writer. **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

Pray to be filled with the Holy Spirit

Do you believe in the spiritual world? Do you believe that God operates in the spiritual world? Do you believe that we communicate with God (pray) in the Spirit?

I believe the answer to these questions is “yes.” Here’s why:

- 1) God’s Kingdom is not of this world (John 18:36),
- 2) God is Spirit (John 4:24), and
- 3) We worship God in spirit and in truth with spiritual words (1 Cor. 2:13).

I don’t pretend to understand the Holy Spirit completely, but there are at least two distinctions that need to be made here.

The first is the initial receipt of the Holy Spirit by believers. I believe that at our new birth, we each receive the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:9). That Spirit dwells in our hearts by faith (2 Cor. 1:22; Gal. 3:14) and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit is evidence of our salvation (Heb. 2:4).

I believe that with the Holy Spirit we get **Fruit of the Spirit** (all of it—Gal. 5:22), and **Spiritual Gifts** which we receive in accordance with the measure of our faith (1 Cor. 12; Rom. 12:3).

The second distinction concerning the Holy Spirit is this: As believers, the power of the Holy Spirit is re-

leased in and through us in accordance with the measure of our faith. Our faith and the power of the Holy Spirit are connected.

In the first distinction, unbelievers pray to receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord—to be born again. With that comes the gift of the Holy Spirit.

In the second distinction, believers pray to increase faith and the power of the Holy Spirit. Here is what Luke 11:13 says, “If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him.”

As *believers*, the Father gives us the Holy Spirit when we ask.

Our objectives in prayer should be constant communion with the Father, discerning His will and acting accordingly. The more our faith increases, the more we are filled with the Holy Spirit. The more we are filled with the Holy Spirit, the more our spirit testifies with the Father’s Spirit (Rom. 8:16).

1 Corinthians 2:6-16 sets forth one of the most inclusive, persuasive and exciting reasons to pray to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Read this passage carefully and you will discover that God has revealed to us His secret wisdom by His Spirit. The spirit—the

Holy Spirit of God that dwells within us—searches the deep thoughts of God, and with that spirit we can understand what God has given us!

When we become believers, we each receive the Holy Spirit who enables us to commune with the Father. As believers, we need to pray continually to be filled with the full measure of the Holy Spirit.

To do this, we need to willfully “get out of the way.” We need to let go of our pride—that part of us that says *my* will be done, not *Thy* will be done. Little by little, as we remove ourselves, we make room to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 6:33 is a good example of how God wants us to pray—not for specific things, but for a fuller measure of the Holy Spirit. We must pray for God’s Kingdom and His righteousness, and all the things we need will be given to us as well. We must ask for more and more of the Holy Spirit; and God, being good and perfect, will give it to us.

My hope is that all of us will prioritize our prayer life to first and foremost seek His Kingdom and His righteousness, and to ask the Father in heaven to fill us daily with the full measure of His Holy Spirit—all for His glory. **SR**



by Executive Director
Rob Appel

Money talk

When you ask people for their opinions, they most likely give them. Ask them about their charitable giving and you will get a more guarded response.

Many of us are downright secretive about what we do with our money. That cautiousness itself suggests that there may be uncomfortable truths if we follow the path of charitable money.

The Bible even tells us this. Jesus evaluated people's lives less by what they said than by how they responded to him, and, in particular, by how they handled money.

Jesus said, "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord' and do not do what I say?" "One thing you lack. Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Listen to the money talk about what kind of people we are. Particularly, how do we give money away? Charitable giving is as close as we can get to true behavior.

You are not obligated to give (and lots of people don't). With charitable giving, you aren't buying anything you need, like food or transportation or housing. But consider the other luxuries we take for granted like vacations, cell phones, new cars, a summer home, gigantic

screen televisions, or premium cable channels.

The Baby Boomer generation does not give as well as the generation before us. The next generation is giving even less. This is not a good trend.

You get nothing out of giving except the satisfaction of your soul.



And so, giving shows something about a person's soul. It shows where your heart really is.

We get bombarded every day in the mail, by internet and by phone with what seem to be worthy causes. But why did so many so-called "worthy causes" start coming out of nowhere? The answer is, they followed the money.

That's right. They knew that most of the world's finances and givers were located in North America. So they developed what they deemed a worthy cause, received their 501(c)3

designation, and proceeded to tug at our hearts. The problem? A lot of them are *not* worthy causes and they are more likely a place to make a living.

Who is hurt by these pseudo charitable causes? The Church!

Some financial experts say that church giving is fine. But I will go on record and say I dispute these findings. Every pastor I've talked to recently reports a noticeable decrease in giving in their church over the past year. Whether the decline is a result of the economy or not, down is down.

Many of our small-church pastors who were once supported through their congregations are seeking supplemental employment outside the church to make ends meet. Other churches are looking nervously to their last offering of the month, just hoping to get all the bills paid.

I'm sure that some churches are thriving—or at least making their budget work. It is time to tell the stories of those that aren't, and see if we can all help in the process.

How's your church faring? How's your money talking to you? Please let me know. I would like the Conference to help wherever we can.

We can listen and pray for solutions. We can be there for each other just like in the old days when neighbors got together for a barn raising.

Our churches might be autonomous, but we are family! Let me hear from you, my brothers and sisters. **SR**



Financial Peace

by Morgan Shepard

“My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments: For length of day, and long life, and peace shall they add to thee” (Proverbs 3:1-2, KJV).

Imagine the following:

- ...you have sufficient funds in the bank to cover all your normal expenses for the next six months
- ...you pay every bill at the end of the month
- ...you invest 15% of your income into a retirement plan
- ...you’ve saved for all your children’s college costs
- ...you *own* your home outright
- ...you pay *cash* for everything
- ...you give generously to all the charities and organizations you believe in.

Bottom line—you DON’T WORRY ABOUT MONEY!

You may think this is all a dream but it can be a reality. It is financial peace.

The Milton, Wis., Church recently sponsored a 12-week seminar on financial planning using Dave Ramsey’s “Financial Peace University.”® Kate and I signed up for the course because just like a lot of other people, we were finding that money was ruling us rather than us ruling it.

Financial Peace outlines “Seven Baby Steps” to getting out of any debt situation:

1. \$1,000 in an emergency fund
2. Pay off all debt (except the house) using the “debt snowball” strategy
3. Save enough for 3-6 months of expenses
4. Invest 15% of your household income in a retirement account
5. College funding
6. Pay off your mortgage early
7. Build wealth and *give* (not to be confused with tithing!)

During 2009 I will cover the steps above, along with some tools and ideas that can help you achieve financial stability and peace. All of the teachings apply to both personal and business finances as well.


In addition I will provide updates on the General Conference’s financial picture throughout the year.

I want to thank everyone for their generous gifts during 2008. In total, you gave over \$434,000 in designated and undesignated gifts. This allowed us to meet 94% of the budgeted goal! Thank You!!

In 2009 we will again depend on your gifts to continue the ministries that support, encourage and equip Seventh Day Baptists to be witnesses in today’s world. The chart below shows where we get the funds to provide those ministries. Income from Current Giving provides almost half of those funds, so our success is dependent on your generosity.

2009 % of Income to Budget	
Current Giving	47%
Endowment	15%
Sales/Services	7%
Agency Investment	8%
Grants	5%
Savings	18%

Your gift—no matter the size—makes a difference. If you want to send a regular gift as part of your monthly budget, consider E-Gifting. You can learn more about E-Gifting at our website: www.seventhdaybaptist.org.

“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 14:27, NIV). 

Preserving your 'Pearls' *cont. from page 12*

is a gifted writer and researcher. If your church has such people, give them the opportunity to use their skills for the congregation and put them to work!

If your congregation doesn't have an easily identifiable author, don't panic! There's a good chance that within your congregation the gifts exist to produce a volume of church history—it just takes cooperation.

Even in Milton, with an author-in-residence, the church assigned a committee to assist in the publication process. If no one has the time to produce all the writing alone, your church can commission a series of articles on subjects or time periods from a variety of church members. This is a great way to increase participation in the project and expand the scope of history that is preserved.

The content of the writing is up to you, though you should keep an

What you select to include will say something about your passion and values, so give the matter some thought.

eye toward preserving the parts of your church's history that you most want future generations to remember. What you select to include will say something about your passion and values, so give the matter some thought.

The order of the writing might depend on the kind of pieces you include, but the easiest way is to organize the work chronologically. In these cases, it can be helpful to do some treasure hunting in the church library and church records.

In older churches, there are often anniversary celebrations which can

give valuable insights into your church's history. You may even find that the work of writing the church's story has already been started by a fellow congregant many years ago! As you find your congregation's "treasures," think about how they could be incorporated into the writing process.

When it comes time to present your work, recent advances in publishing give you a variety of options.

For smaller projects, a trip to a photocopier will do the trick. If you choose to include photographs in your finished project (a valuable resource if you can find good ones), use a computer to insert these photos directly into the text. Most of this work has been made much simpler with good word processing software.

If you choose to have the writing professionally produced, there are several on-line (and on-demand) publishing companies that will take your text and photos and compile them into a professional looking book in a much more cost-efficient way than traditional methods.

The Milton church's history book was completed this past autumn and

has proved to be inspirational as the church considers its work in the local community. They are using the book in their membership class, and Don's excellent writing has made this a

When it comes time to present your work, recent advances in publishing give you a variety of options.

valuable piece of the church's life and in the history of Seventh Day Baptists.

Proceeds from the book are helping to fund ministries in the church, including a new building project. The book is available from the Milton Church (www.miltonsdb.org) or from most of the on-line booksellers.

Your church should consider preserving your own pearls to build up the congregation and give you a vision for the future. **SR**

Reach out with the Rez

You are invited to come to Batesland, South Dakota, to help the Rez Connection ministry reach out to Native Americans on the Pine Ridge Reservation. The project will run the week of April 12-18.

Other work includes finishing the church basement, chores around the farm, and participating in evangelism training. Even if you can't do physical labor, we can find work for you! We need all ages.

Housing will be in the church building next to Pastor Chet Marks' farm. If you prefer, there are motels nearby in Martin, S.D. (Youth under 16 should be accompanied by an adult.)

Interested? Contact trip leader Patty Petersen at 303-460-7520 or ppetersen57@hotmail.com, or the SDB Missionary Society at sdbmissoc@verizon.net.

New members

Ashaway, RI (*C. Justin Camenga*)
 Joined by letter
 Martin Dean Powers

Chatawa, MS (*Ralph L. Hays*)
 Joined after testimony
 Stacey Caldwell, Clayton Caldwell
 Ariel Caldwell, Bobby Ray Lewis
 Crysta Lewis, Jaye Shaw Warren
 Clayton Warren

Fort Lauderdale, FL
 (*Andrew Samuels*)
 Joined after testimony
 Marcus Williams, Cheryl Wright

Miami, FL (*Andrew Samuels*)
 Joined after testimony
 Cynthia Diogene, Millicent Smith

Middletown, CT
 (*David Thorngate*)
 Joined after baptism
 Carlton S. Dobson, David Wilson
 Linda Wilson

Associate members
 David Thorngate, Christina Thorngate
 Josiah Thorngate, Gail Arcari
 Richard Cushing

Obituary

Sanford.—Douglas Mark Sanford, 56, of Stoughton, Wis., died on December 7, 2008, after a long battle with cancer.

He was born on May 16, 1952, in North Hornell, N.Y., to Rev. Don and Ilou (Miars) Sanford. He graduated from Milton (Wis.) High School in 1970 and attended Madison Area Technical College.

Douglas enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1972 and served until 1978. He

married Renee Marie Stoney on February 14, 1982, in Milton. He worked at Sorenson's Standard in Janesville, Wis., and owned his own gas station in Madison, before joining the Wisconsin Technical College System where he worked as a programmer and data base analyst from 1989 until just days before his death.

Doug was an active member of the Madison and Milton SDB Churches.

He is survived by his wife, Renee, of Stoughton; two daughters, Christina Ann Pierce Nelson of Madison and Kathleen Teresa Sanford of Stoughton; one son, Caleb Mark Sanford of Stoughton; three sisters, Donna Bond of Bridgeton, N.J., Doreen Davis of Renton, Wash., and Deirdre Camenga of Milton; one brother, Dean Sanford of Bakersfield, Calif.; his father, Rev. Don Sanford of Milton; and a granddaughter, Ruth Renee Nelson. He was preceded in death by his mother, Ilou.

A memorial service was held on December 12, 2008, at the Seventh Day Baptist Church in Milton, with Rev. Herb Saunders officiating.

Births

Williams.—A daughter, Nyela Nicola Williams, was born to Marcus and Debbie Williams of Lauderhill, FL, on August 3, 2008.

Shrewsbury.—A daughter, Lisa Kay Shrewsbury was born to Matthew and Fernanda Shrewsbury of Miami, FL, on December 15, 2008.

Marriages

Daye - Ford.— Joseph Daye and Gina Ford were united in marriage on January 1, 2009, in Port St. Lucie, FL, with Pastor Andrew Samuels officiating.

Smith - Swisher.— Kevin William Smith and Brianna Chloe Cash-dollar Swisher were united in marriage on January 3, 2009, at the First United Methodist Church, Clarksburg, WV. Rev. D. Scott Smith and Pastor Mark Wilmoth officiated.

2008 SDB General Conference Operating Budget

Board / Agency	Monthly Operating Budget	Monthly Giving Towards Budget	Received Dec '08	Over / (Short)
Conference Services*	\$ 22,635.13	\$ 16,513.25	\$ 22,739.66	\$ 6,226.41
Council On Ministry	13,017.33	5,410.25	6,158.93	748.68
Missionary Soc.	25,083.33	4,879.83	12,272.11	7,392.28
Tract Council	12,142.17	4,750.00	3,455.76	(1,294.24)
Christian Edu.	9,676.67	4,470.33	4,571.32	100.99
Women's Soc.	3,116.67	2,475.00	228.33	(2,246.67)
Total	\$ 85,671.30	\$ 38,498.67	\$ 49,426.11	\$ 10,927.44

* 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	\$ (27,311.86)	94% Of Budget
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** Includes \$10,755.91 in designated giving to BCE reported in Dec '08

Morgan Shepard, Treasurer

SDB General Conference July 26 – August 1, 2009

The **Host Committee** for Conference 2009 is looking for a few ladies groups to provide refreshments for the evening snack time.

You can either bring the food to the campus or donate funds to have the Host Committee supply the food.



If you would like to help some evening, please contact the Committee at smoncrief@prodigy.net, or call 856-455-4419.

The **Nursery Committee** for Conference 2009 needs volunteers to help in the nursery.

If you can spend some of your time with the children—whether an hour or two or all day—it would be greatly appreciated.



To sign up now, please contact the Host Committee at smoncrief@prodigy.net, or call 856-455-4419.

Lancaster Bible College, Lancaster, Pennsylvania

Denominational Dateline

February 2009

- 7 John Pethtel Ordination service, Metro Atlanta SDB Church, Ga.—Gordon Lawton, Rob Appel, Nick Kersten
- 19-20 Coordinating Leadership Team meetings, Daytona Beach, Fla., SDB Church
- 21-23 General Council meetings, Daytona Beach

March

- 2-5 SDB Missionary Board Planning Session, Ashaway, R.I.—Kirk Looper, Ron Elston
- 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—Andrew Camenga
- 14 CPR Kick-off, Lost Creek, W.Va.—Kevin Butler, Appel
- 15 SDB Missionary Society Annual Meeting, Ashaway—Looper

- 20-22 Safe Church Seminar, Texarkana, Ark.—Elston
- 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.—Morgan Shepard, Appel
- 20 Lancaster (Pa.) Bible College—Shepard, Appel
- 21-25 SDB Pastors' Conference, Shiloh—Lawton, Appel, Kersten
- 25-26 Missionary Society Quarterly meeting, Ashaway—Looper, Elston

May

- 1-3 Allegheny Association, Alfred Station, N.Y.—Appel, Ed Cruzan
- 15-17 Eastern Association, Washington, D.C.—Appel, Cruzan
- 16 Sabbath Renewal Day
- 17 SDB Historical Society Annual Meeting, SDB Center, Janesville—Kersten

Miles, memories *cont. from page 11*

tations were eye openers, helping us to know what our brothers and sisters have done and are doing. From these we could learn and possibly adopt some ideas into our goals and objectives.

The way the business meetings were conducted was educational to us. Some delegates were assigned to specific committees, and others were allowed to participate in any committee of their choosing—with the exception of the Nominations Committee which was restricted to three delegates only.

Discussions and devotions

Each committee presented its resolutions to the whole Federation, and the delegates either endorsed or rejected the resolutions after considerable discussions. Overall, most of the resolutions were passed by the main body. The three-member committee nominated the current officers and they were endorsed by all the delegates.

Morning devotions were conducted by various members, and the young adults (from Pre-Con) helped the music with praise songs. Evenings were dedicated to worship services conducted by selected delegates on the theme of “Be Ready, Christ Is Coming Again.”

I was privileged to preach on Thursday evening on the subject of “Why Jesus Has to Come.” Surely, Jesus has to come for us to be awarded by receiving eternal life. Otherwise, why remain a Christian if Jesus will never come to take His own into His Father’s Kingdom?

A blessed time

Overall, it was a blessed time of revival, with the young people spicing it up with their worship songs from time to time. The ladies also shared a special moment when they had their banquet together. Alefa and I also had our turn when delegates wanted

to hear and know more of what is happening in Africa.

At the end of it all, we made new friends—and renewed acquaintances with old friends—from around the world. Given the chance to sing some songs in our local language, “How Great Thou Art” was the one we sang the most during our visit.

More blessings at Conference

The yearly General Conference of USA and Canada was more of a repeat of the World Federation sessions. Though visitors, Federation members were well accommodated in the programs, and did not feel out of place. Our national flags kept

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on flying in the auditorium throughout the week.

Often given the chance to participate, we were asked to share our experiences and work back home. A lot of the Conference delegates showed interest to help and to even develop “Sister Church” relationships with overseas churches or Conferences.

By the end of the week, we had made so many friends that it was difficult to remember everyone by name. We are glad that through e-mail we are able to sustain the relationships built so far. However, we regret to note that since we returned, there are some who have not responded to us. In case you need to communicate with us, our address is nlozani@malawi.net.

Some good ideas

Holding World Federation and General Conference sessions on the same campus, and on consecutive weeks, was a very commendable decision. We benefited from activities of both sessions and shared experiences from around the world.

The choice of the campus for the Conference sessions cannot pass without mentioning. The nice breeze from Lake Michigan complemented the comfort of the rooms and the good meals we had throughout the two weeks. The cooks were just fantastic, and cheerful to us.

Seeing more of the USA

After Conference, we continued with our visits to many Seventh Day Baptist churches. We were well received, well fed, well accommodated, and well looked after. We really felt at home.

Making many new friends, we also saw some of the people who were at World Fed and Conference. This gave us the opportunity to renew our relationships. By the end of it all, we were assured by a number of friends who promised to keep in touch with us. Some promised to visit us in the near future, while some promised to pray for our work in Malawi.

Finally, we wish to express our profound gratitude to Pastor Kirk and Vivian Looper, Pastor D.C. and Bettie Pearson, Mrs. Luan Ellis, and Pastor and Mrs. Ken Chroniger of the Alfred Station church. These and many others were personally involved with our trip, and made it possible for us to fulfill the program.

All in all, our visit was most memorable. Our Conference in Africa was excited to hear that we had a safe and blessed trip. To God be honor, power, and glory forever and ever, for all that He did for us on this adventure. **SR**

KEVIN'S

ORNER

Proud part of a worldwide family

I am thankful to be a Seventh Day Baptist.

Being part of this unique family of God has opened up so many multi-cultural experiences for our family.

Janet and I often wonder what life would have been like had we never moved away from home in upstate New York, or if we had never attended a larger SDB or international church gathering.

Sure, with the evolving technology, we could have had a “taste” of these experiences through videos or the internet. But there’s nothing like face-to-face (or heart-to-heart) experiences.

As you can read in this issue, our SDB World Federation met again last summer. Gathering at Carthage College in Kenosha, Wisconsin, delegates and observers shared the same dorm, meeting rooms, cafeteria and Spirit in a week of rich fellowship. Friendships were made or renewed as these believers worshiped and conducted business.

Delegates shared updates and goals from their home country or Conference. A powerful sense of unity and optimism prevailed.

And why shouldn’t it? While we may have distinct accents or languages, different skin tones or holiday traditions, varying tastes in food and worship styles, we truly are all one in Christ Jesus.



Many of the World Fed visitors wore their special shirts on Wednesday at General Conference.

Personally, our wider exposure to other cultures began in seminary and has never stopped. We have been honored to represent Seventh Day Baptists in different settings (even different countries) and relish those opportunities.

But please don’t think that traveling abroad is the only way to expand your cultural horizon. There are many opportunities close to home.

Please consider coming to General Conference this year. Even within America, our different cultures give us a chance to learn from and teach each other. (Conference will be at Lancaster Bible College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, July 26–August 1.)

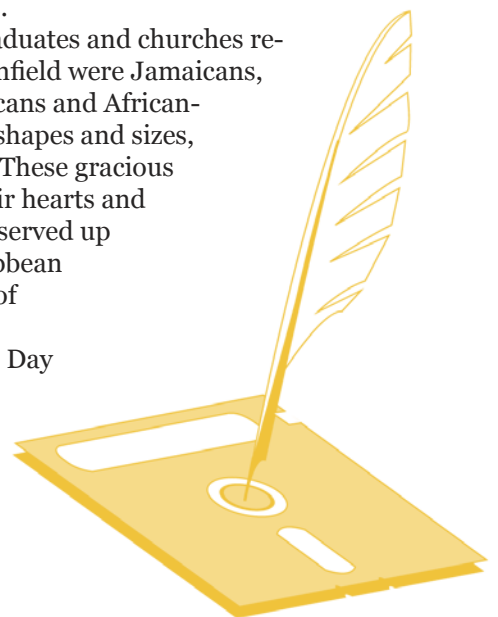
Too expensive to make the trip to Conference? How about going to your local Association’s annual meeting? Even within some of our Associations, certain churches join in separate regional gatherings.

Is it a challenge just to get to your own local church? Ask your leaders to invite believers from different cultures to share in a worship service or special event.

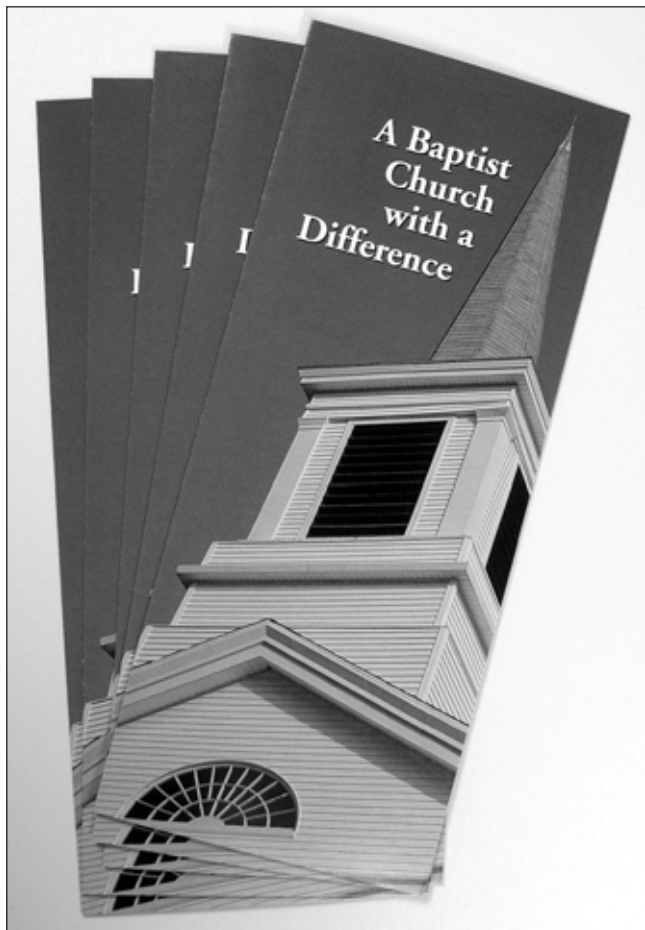
Breaking bread and spending time with others is the best way to get to know them. I just had this blessed opportunity in Plainfield, New Jersey, when I spoke at the graduation ceremony for their successful In-Service Training course for area churches.

Among the graduates and churches represented at Plainfield were Jamaicans, Jamaican-Americans and African-Americans of all shapes and sizes, smiles and hugs. These gracious hosts opened their hearts and lives to me—and served up the greatest Caribbean dishes “this side of the Mississippi.”

While Seventh Day Baptists have so much in common, let’s celebrate and learn from our diversity.



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