



The Sabbath RECORDER

March 2009

News for and about Seventh Day Baptists

Where in the world...



is my Luggage??

Plus:

Greetings from Fellow
World (Fed) Travelers

Dave and Margaret's
Brazilian Adventure



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

Robe Nominations

The SDB Women's Society is accepting nominations for the 2009 Robe of Achievement. Please see last month's *SR* for more details.

You may apply on-line at www.sdbwboard.org, or send your nomination to:

Laura Hambleton
SDB Robe Nominations
1568 Megan Bay Circle
Holly Hill, FL 32117



Deadline is
March 31,
2009

President Ed Cruzan would love for your church to prepare and bring a **BANNER** to this year's General Conference.

Use the Conference theme of "**Pray**," or one of the Scripture Memory verses.

The banners should be 60 inches high and 36 inches wide, with a rod and cord to hang it. Have fun with your creativity!

SDB General Conference Lancaster Bible College, Lancaster, Pa. July 26–August 1, 2009

Greetings from the **2009 Conference Host Committee**. We look forward to serving you during General Conference at Lancaster Bible College!

Lancaster Bible College has a beautiful campus located in the heart of the Pennsylvania Dutch Country. Plan to come early and stay after—there's plenty to see and do in the area. Check out www.padutchcountry.com.

LINENS: Please note that the college does NOT supply linens for conferences; however the Host Committee can obtain them for you. The cost will be \$25, and this includes 2 sheets, one pillow and pillowcase, and a light blanket. (**This does not include towels.**) The price without the blanket is \$15. After Conference, you can either keep the linens, or you can give them back to the Host Committee. The linens will be washed and donated to a charity.

TRANSPORTATION: If you plan to arrive by mass transit, we will provide transportation from the Harrisburg, Pa., Airport, and the Lancaster Amtrak and bus station.

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A full list will appear in the April *SR*, and at our website: www.seventhdaybaptist.org. Registration forms will be in the May *SR*.



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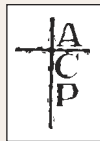


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Dave and Margaret's Brazilian Adventure

by Pastor David and Margaret Taylor, Central Maryland SDB Church

While it is hard to define just when this adventure began, the official start of our journey to Brazil took place on January 11 at Dulles International Airport in Washington, D.C.

Many prayers were answered right from the start as we breezed through security and on to our departure gate. After some unsettling turbulence during that overnight flight, and an even more unsettling aborted initial landing, we set down in Rio de Janeiro safely. The inspection at customs went quickly and we readied ourselves for the flight to Curitiba in the state of Parana.

On to Curitiba

Following two gate reassignments and one swapping of planes (due to mechanical problems) we boarded our jet. To our surprise and delight, we found that we had been assigned to First Class seats. We believe it was a special treat from the Lord! (He knew what the past 24 hours had been like, and He knew what lay ahead for us.)

Pastor Jonas and Clarice Sommer met us at the airport in Curitiba. After a delightful supper (*see box right*), we traveled the 300 km to Porto Uniao, the site of the Brazilian SDB Conference meetings.

Arriving around midnight, the Nova Hotel Iguacu was a welcomed sight and our room was a blessed respite for cramped and weary bodies. It had a lovely balcony overlooking a busy street, plus air conditioning. We soon learned that the Brazilians are night people, enjoying the cooler hours (it was their summertime)—so it grew quiet at about 4:00 a.m.

Conference begins

The Brazil Conference opened Tuesday evening with the usual formalities and introductions. Evening worship started at 8:00.

We thoroughly loved the music and the enthusiasm of the happy congregation, although it was difficult to understand the spoken message. (We don't speak Portuguese, yet.)

Most of the attendees camped at the school, where classrooms became dorms and where the party went on until midnight.

I was invited by their Conference President, Pastor João Telles dos Santos, to address "The Role of Pastors and Deacons in the Body of Christ." They allotted ten hours over three days to deal with the topic.

Hungry for information

There were about 125 pastors, deacons and church leaders in attendance at each session. Questions were followed by interactive participation. Even after adjourn-



ing, the questions kept coming from inquisitive attendees wanting to know more.

We found that the same diversity of thought and interpretation crosses



These women attended a special class during Brazil's annual Conference.

cultural borders, though our practical experiences may vary.

The discussion then moved to dealing with conflict in the church. Again, we discovered that people

Feliz Sábado!

On Sabbath morning, the congregation tripled in size. We were thrilled to see so many youth and young adults, as well as children

We found that the same diversity of thought and interpretation crosses cultural borders, though our practical experiences may vary.

are the same around the world, and everyone encounters conflict sometime. Questions became more frequent. Nods, smiles and chuckles revealed their recognition of common experiences.

and babies. What potential for growth!

There was an air of excitement as dozens of people poured out of three charter buses. A number of musicians carried instruments and

equipment. Most churches have their own praise band and a good group of young people.

All of them love to sing! It was amazing to see young and old singing without hymnbooks or slides, and they didn't miss a word. While we couldn't understand many of the lyrics, we knew most of the tunes and the English words were in our hearts.

Sabbath School offered a variety of classes. Margaret had been asked to lead a discussion for the women on "The Role of Women in the Body of Christ." Her class had over 100 in attendance.

I led the English-speaking class on "Why We Are Baptists." Although it was a much smaller group, the interaction was lively.

cont. next page

Getting stuffed (twice)

The Taylors experience a churrascaria and a Festiva

By Margaret Taylor

With the promise of a special dining experience, Jonas and Clarice escorted us outside to the Conference car—a Ford Festiva [read, tiny and economical]—where we proceeded to squeeze our four pieces of not-so-small luggage (along with theirs) into that small trunk. Then we put our not-so-small bodies into the back seat for the trek.

True to their word, and beyond our great expectations, the dining experience was delightful. It was a buffet (churrascaria) unlike we had ever seen, and we have been to a few buffets over the years.

At the Golden Bull, the salad bar was self-serve, and unique only in some of the items offered. However, the many entrees were brought to each table and served according to choice—as many and as much as the tummy could hold.

Everything was delightful to the eyes, but already



filled with the diversity of salads, we had to limit both choices and volume. It was a memorable experience to be sure, but it dimmed over the next four hours.

Unaware of the distance yet to travel, we stuffed our overstuffed selves back into our tiny transport and proceeded on our way. Traffic on the four-lane road moved quickly

as the miles seemed to fly by. Soon, however, city turned to country, and four lanes became two.

All we could see were silhouettes of trees, buildings, and passing vehicles; the moonlight, starlight, headlights, and taillights of slow moving trucks. The only thing that kept our four wheels on the ground was all the weight they carried, and getting stuck behind the many trucks on the road. As I said, the hotel was a welcomed sight as we uncurled our bodies and got to bed.

More singing and the 'celebrity' factor

Morning worship provided a wonderful experience with over 400 participants. Music was led by the praise band from the Porto Uniao church. The order of worship was planned, but everything was subject to change.

It was a lengthy service, with more special music, solos, and duets inserted. The speaker was Pastor Romeo Stork, a retired minister from Curitiba.

By mid-afternoon, the group divided again for special classes. Margaret went to the women's session, and I met with over 100 young adults to talk about "God's Call to the Ministry." The response was exciting and no one wanted the session to end. Between supper and the evening worship, they surrounded me, asking questions—just wanting to "pick my brain."

Each session opened new doors for interaction and relationships. There was always someone snapping pictures, videotaping, or wanting autographs. We felt like "celebrities" on display at times, overwhelmed by all the attention.

Big crowd, big blessing

The evening worship was the highlight of the Conference, with the largest attendance of all. Lots of music came from numerous praise bands and special music pieces. We heard many familiar tunes and often sang in English.

After two hours or more of music, I was called to the pulpit for the message. My sermon followed the Conference theme, "Rise, Shine, for Your Light Has Come," using Isaiah 60:1.

The light and the glory of God was truly upon us in that service. The altar call at the close of the message brought many forward for prayer— young and old, couples, entire fami-

We were fully assured that God had brought us to this place for His purpose. We were blessed to be a part of His plan.

lies. Some came to receive Christ, others for rededication, and some to testify that God had confirmed to them a call to service.

It was truly a house of praise, and God's love filled the whole place. Joy radiated from His people! It was visible and audible as worship con-

tinued in music and conversation.

It was well past midnight when we finally retired to our room, tired yet exhilarated. We were fully assured that God had brought us to this place for His purpose. We had been blessed and privileged to be a part of His plan.



Top: Children are a special part of every Conference.

Bottom: Fine food and fellowship during the Sabbath day lunch.



Newly-elected Conference President, Pastor Leonildo Lebkuchen.



*Above:
Enjoying
Sabbath morning
worship.*

*Right:
The school
facility where
many of the
Conference
attendees
stayed.*



Greetings and partings

On Sunday, it was an honor to represent our General Conference (USA and Canada) as the new Brazilian Conference President, Pastor Leonildo Lebkuchen of Porto Uniao, was installed. Along with Jan and Ruth Lek (the new World Federation General Secretary from The Netherlands), we brought greetings from our respective Conferences and shared our parting thoughts. It was an emotional time.

Besides attending their Conference, one of our goals was to visit as many individual SDB churches as we could. We toured six of those churches in the days following Conference. We also got to see the property in Curitiba that is owned by the Brazilian Conference. Although unusable now, they plan to tear down the existing building and erect a center for leadership training and their national offices. It has great potential.

Exciting dreams

From their report to the SDB World Federation: "At present, the Brazilian SDB Conference has 61 churches. Out of the working pastors, just three have theological training, and two are studying in seminaries of other denominations. The Brazil SDB Conference urgently needs to train the field pastors and give opportunity to those who feel called to the ministry. We should also train the young people to be sent to missionary fields. We feel induced to put T.I.M.E. [Training In Ministry

by Extension] into practice."

There is an excitement in the hearts of Seventh Day Baptists in Brazil. We experienced that excitement; it is contagious. It is our prayer that God will open the door for us to help their Conference realize its dream of training leaders.

We thank the SDB Missionary Society for making this trip possible, and every individual and church who supported this mission financially. God blessed this adventure in Brazil, and may He bless you. **SR**

Meet the new World Federation General Secretary, Jan Lek



Pastor Jan and Ruth Lek

Dear Friends,

During the recent gathering of the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation, I was elected General Secretary. I would like to thank the delegates who voted for me. I will do my very best not to disappoint their confidence in me.

My name is Jan Lek. I was born on June 2, 1950 in the Netherlands. I have been married to Ruth for 37 years, and together we raised three sons: Dave, Vincent and Rufus.

Since I have a full-time job in a shopping centre for building and construction materials, being General Secretary for the World Federation will be a substantial task for me. I also am elder and treasurer of the SDB Church in Amsterdam, so I guess my leisure time will be history.

Together with my wife, we bring help to the poorest regions of Eastern Europe—Poland, Czech Republic, Ukraine, Romania, and Moldavia. We have been dedicated and committed to do this for over 27 years. These days, some borders can be crossed while driving 55 miles per hour. But there have been times when passing a border—for example, from Eastern Germany to Poland—meant a 12- to 16-hour stay at the crossing, watching the customs officials go through all our cargo as quick as a snail.

We support our brethren with goods as well as money, and we also receive support from abroad on a regular basis. Every year my employer gives me five weeks of paid vacation. It is in this valuable time that we have to go abroad to support the ones in need.

This fits the objective of the World Federation: to stay in contact and, if possible, to obtain additional new contacts worldwide. [Editor's note: In the early 1980s, some of the Leks' earliest travel to Eastern Europe was supported by Seventh Day Baptists around the world as one of the Federation's cooperative projects. The Conference in Poland became a member of the Federation later in that decade.]

I do realize your expectations from me as General Secretary. I hope God will give me the strength to do this task to everyone's satisfaction. We will pray for the officers, including all vice presidents—that they carry out their responsibilities with devotion in honor and glory to His name.

At my job, I handle materials that are needed for building a complete house. A lot of tools are needed for that, as well as good materials and skilled personnel.

With all my heart, I hope that together we may build God's house and that we will be powerful tools in His hands.

May God bless you all,
Pastor Jan Lek, General Secretary

A Story of Missing Luggage

But never missing in God's eyes

by Nedd Lozani, Malawi, Africa



During our trip to the SDB World Federation and General Conference in the United States last July, I had quite an experience. Apparently, my baggage missed the connections while in transit, and I thought I should share the story.

While checking in at Chileka International Airport in Malawi, we asked the airline staff to make sure our bags were checked all the way through to our last point of destination: the Atlanta airport in Georgia (U.S.).

From Malawi, we flew to Johannesburg, South Africa. In Johannesburg we boarded another South African Airways plane which took us to Dulles Airport in Washington, D.C., with a stop in Sierra Leone.

Upon arrival in Washington, we were told that since this was our port of entry into the United States, all passengers with connecting flights had to declare their baggage with customs officials before proceeding to their respective destinations. When we checked at the claim desk, my bag was not there.

Reporting the issue to the authorities, we were given a ticket and were advised to make an official claim

once we arrived in Atlanta. At the Atlanta airport, we presented the ticket we got at Dulles and lodged our claim.

After completing the relevant paperwork, the airline official assured

us that we would have our luggage within two days.

To our dismay, two days passed and we heard nothing from the airline. When we tried to follow up, the representative asked us more questions than what we were asked at the airport. By this time, I had no other clothes except the ones I had worn on the planes. Pastor David Pearson kindly lent me his shirts, trousers, and socks at first. With the passing of time, I had to start buying other clothes to keep me going.

After a week, it was time to leave the Pearsons' home and drive north for the World Federation and Conference sessions. There was still no trace of my suitcase. When we left, we gave the particulars of my claim to Mrs. Debbie Hargett (the Pearsons' daughter) to follow up.

While in transit to Wisconsin, we got word from Mrs. Hargett that she had forwarded some forms from the airline for me to complete. The forms would declare what was in the bag, and the value of

the items, for a possible refund by the airline. I was not keen to fill out the required information; I was praying for my luggage to be found, as opposed to receiving a refund for the lost property. I valued my items in the bag more than the cash I would get. However, I reluctantly completed the form, and sent it back to the air carrier.

Wherever we went we told people about my ordeal, and everybody promised to pray for me. We also kept on praying for the baggage. Although time was passing by, and we were getting more anxious, we never felt in despair, so we never lost hope.

Ten days after our arrival in the U.S., we were at Dr. Ron Davis' home (in Indiana) on a Sabbath evening. I happened to phone my nephew's wife in South Bend, Ind., who told me that my suitcase had been identified—by one of my former secondary school classmates who was now in Chicago!

He had been on the same plane with us from Malawi, and he discovered that his bag was also missing at the Washington airport. So the airline sent him *my* luggage, instead of his own.

When he checked the items inside,



he was able to conclude that the bag was mine, but he did not know my whereabouts. “Somehow” this information got to my nephew. However it happened, I duly commissioned my nephew’s wife to trace it.

The following day, she confirmed to me that she had managed to get the bag! I gave her the Carthage College address in Wisconsin, and asked her to send it by overnight delivery. She did just that.

When I told Kirk Looer that the suitcase was found, he offered to refund my nephew’s wife the charges she incurred in sending it to the college. But when I asked her to tell me the cost, she refused. She said that whatever role she played, it was a pleasure for her to serve her husband’s uncle.

When I eventually got the luggage, we checked inside and found that everything was intact. The only thing lost was the handle, which had started to give me problems when we were about to board the plane back in Malawi. And my identification tag was attached to the handle!

As soon as I confirmed that it was my bag, I phoned Debbie Hargett. I told her that I had finally received my belongings intact, and instructed her to tell the airline officials in Atlanta to close the subject.

When she talked to them, they could not understand *how* I had received my bag. After my personal explanation they asked me to send receipts for the clothes I bought for myself so they could compensate me for the inconvenience I had suffered. They have since reimbursed me the full amount.

Interestingly, when I broke the news at World Federation how I had recovered my luggage, many wondered how it happened. Some told me that it was “mysterious”—yet they were the very people who told me that they were praying for me to get it back! When the same



When she talked to the airline officials, they could not understand how I had received my bag.

bag was found, they were amazed that I recovered it.

[Editor’s note: Sounds like Acts

chapter 12 where the people praying for Peter’s release from prison would not believe it was him knocking at their door.]

I declare that God directed the bag to me from wherever it was!

With God, nothing is hidden. When it was “lost” in our eyes, He was SEEING it.

When it seemed “lost,” God directed it to the right destination.

In everything, **Ask**, and it will be given unto you. **Knock**, and it will be opened to you. **Seek**, and you will find.

May this testimony strengthen your faith in God. Nothing is impossible with Him! **SR**

Nedd Lozani is leader of the Central Africa Conference of SDBs, based in Malawi.



Impressions of World Federation

by Bethany Chroniger

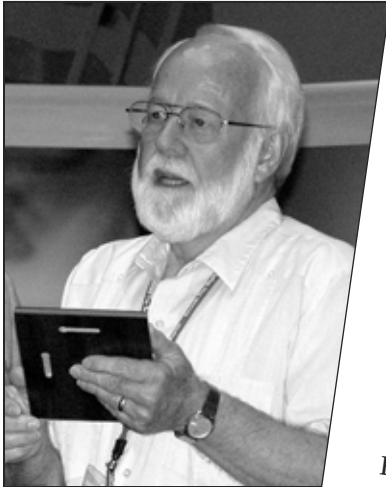
When I heard that the World Federation Sessions were going to be held in Kenosha, Wisconsin, I became very excited. I thought it would be a great opportunity to see how things worked around the world in the Seventh Day Baptist denomination.

Attending the sessions was a great experience. One thing that really impressed me was when the group sang a hymn in our individual languages. It reminded me how God speaks in every tongue.

It was also great to see how SDBs from many different cultures and backgrounds—some not even speaking the same language—could come together and worship the same God; every tongue and every nation. I was blessed to meet the delegates and hear what was happening in their Conferences. **SR**

Bethany is a junior at American University in Washington, D.C., studying International Relations and Spanish. She is a member of the SDB Church in Shiloh, N.J., and is the new recording secretary of the World Federation. Her photo is on p. 23, kneeling down, far left.

Greetings from the new World Federation President, Dale Thorngate



Rev. Dale Thorngate

Dear Friends,

I was honored at the August 2008 session of the World Federation to be elected President for the next five years. I look forward to working with the new General Secretary, Jan Lek of the Netherlands, and the regional vice presidents around the world. It will be a joy to plan the program of the next sessions scheduled to be held in Cebu City in the Philippines in 2013.

I am also pleased to have the opportunity to follow in the footsteps of our past President, Rev. Joe Samuels. He has been involved with the World Federation since its beginning at the CoWoCo meetings in Salem, West Virginia, in 1964 when he was a young delegate from the Jamaica Conference.

As we honored him in July, our reflections on those origins reminded us that this organization is nearly 45 years old. All those serving in leadership positions do so on a voluntary basis while also serving as pastors or officers in their respective national Conferences.

My own involvement with the Federation began as an observer in 1978. Rev. Alton Wheeler was completing his long term as the first General Secretary of the Federation, and Dr. K. Duane Hurley's term was beginning. Both served in that role at the same time they served as executive for the USA and Canada Conference.

The two offices were tied together for many years. Thus, my 22 years as General Secretary for the Federation—from 1981 to 2003—also began when I accepted the position of Executive Secretary for the USA and Canada Conference but continued when I returned to pastoral ministry in Salem, W.Va.

Prior to 1992, the Federation sessions had always been hosted in the United States. In 1992, the first sessions to be held outside our country were hosted in New Zealand. Things went so well for that gathering that it was hosted in Jamaica in 1997, and then in Brazil in 2003.

At the Brazil session, delegates accepted the invitation of the USA and Canada Conference to host the 2008 meetings. We experienced again the excitement and encouragement of planning for ways to support each other in our Christian work.

As we plan to meet in Asia five years from now, we are all much aware of the fear and turmoil in our world. Economic crises and negative predictions could discourage us. As recorded in Matthew's gospel, Jesus told his disciples, "Do not worry." Then came the challenge: "Seek first [God's] kingdom and his righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well."

It seems to me a necessary message for our time. May God bless us as we seek Him and minister to expand His Kingdom around the world.

Sincerely in Christ,
 Rev. Dale D. Thorngate, President



Emergency Fund and Budgets

by Morgan Shepard

Last month we outlined seven steps to get your finances under control, using ideas from Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University.®

Let's focus on the first step: **Get \$1,000 in an emergency fund** as fast as you can!

Most Americans live paycheck to paycheck. They are living for the moment. The bills are so high that they don't see how to save even \$10, much less pay their bills.

So how can you save \$1,000 immediately? If you would focus just on the necessities, you may find some funds that can be saved. Reduce some bills by eliminating the "extras": cable TV, going to the movies, that daily \$3 coffee... Take the money that you would have used for those extras and *save* it.

Consider holding a yard/garage sale to clean out things you don't use any more. Shovel driveways, mow a few yards—the key is to save \$1,000 quickly.

Once you have the \$1,000, put it away for **EMERGENCIES** only. Like when the car breaks down, or the furnace goes out, or the pipes break. Getting the latest video game system does *not* constitute an emergency.

Put the money in a savings account or money market fund. You need to be able to get to it in case of an emergency, but it should also earn some interest.

When you get that \$1,000 you'll probably experience a little peace of mind that you have the funds if needed.

If you are like me, you have a "sense" of where your money is going because you pay the same bills every month, but is it written down?

A key lesson for me was that I needed a plan for every dollar that God had given us. We need a written budget.

If you are married, you need a budget that you develop *together*. This may be a challenge if you view money differently.

Some of us are savers and some of us are spenders. Figure out together how you both look at money. This will go a long way in determining your priorities and where to spend the dollars God has given you. (It will also help making decisions easier when the unexpected comes along.)

It can be daunting to capture a year's worth of spending and get it right the first time. Start off small by doing a basic budget to list all the necessities: mortgage, utilities, car payment, gas, phone, food, etc. This is key. Once you have the basic needs listed, you can move to mapping out your monthly cash flow that includes income and expense.


Be honest, but don't expect to get it perfect the first time. Give yourself three or four months to make adjustments and refine the plan. Then stick with it.

For more tools and ideas, check out daveramsey.com.

* * * * *

Conference Budget Update — "It Takes People"

The chart below shows how we spend the dollars we receive.

While it appears that we spend more than twice as much on salaries and travel than we do on "ministries," this doesn't tell the whole story. It takes people to go out and discover what the local church wants or needs. It takes people to get those tools out to the local church. It takes people to go out and help those looking to find Seventh Day Baptists. It takes people to go out and talk about the good work SDBs are doing. 

2009 General Conference Expenses

Expense	\$	% Budget
Ministries/ Programs	\$299,700	26%
Support		
Salaries	619,118	55%
Travel	104,000	9%
Facilities	29,590	3%
Overhead	82,233	7%
Total	\$1,134,641	



Friendship soup

"Then I'll huff and I'll puff and I'll blow your house in!" said the Big Bad Wolf.

How my littlest granddaughters, Isabella and Katia, delighted in helping me tell that story over and over again during my recent visit at the old farmhouse in West Virginia. As I slept with their older sisters Sepharah and Rayah the first night there, the huffing and puffing of winter winds blew into the valley.

The whistling wind caused an eerie creaking in the old house. Later the girls told me it took a month for them to get used to that scary sound and to be able to sleep.

My mission in going was actually to help out while their mommy recuperated from bouts of gall bladder attacks. Back home at my own kitchen stove in Florida, I was being thankful that Tanya had felt able to continue her usual good cooking. She loves to create new recipes.

One chilly day she concocted a soup with corn, lentils, rice, and a variety of seasonings. I'm pretty sure I've never cooked a lentil in my life, and might not know a lentil from a legume, but my, did that make a yummy, warming meal.

Since the month of March is known for its biting winds, I thought it a good time to write about soup. If you live in a northern climate, you are probably looking forward to the day when soup won't be on your shopping list. But for now, enjoy these ideas from a couple of our churches:

Last March, the Shiloh (N.J.) church held a Soup/Pie Luncheon. "Members made several kinds of soup. Homemade rolls and pies were a big hit. Approximately 100 people were served and the money earned was sent to SCSC."

The Hebron (Pa.) church "made Friendship Soup and passed it out at Fishing Creek's Easter Sunrise Service."

I've got to get the recipe for that! (I did—see below.) Friendship Tea, Friendship Bread, Friendship Soup—just their names warm us, don't they?

We have a neighbor across the street—a big, burly retired security guard—who loves to cook. He throws anything he has together to create a soup.

Good for his neighbors is the fact that his wife doesn't care for soup, so he sends leftovers, or invites us in for some. Russ' soup is great, but the best part of his soup is *him*.

He doesn't even have to have soup on hand to take a notion to invite us serendipitously over—just so we can

be together. We don't always accept his invitations, and he understands that since he's a spur-of-the-moment kind of guy. Others can't always fall right in behind him, but it's wonderful to have such a neighborly neighbor.

There are a lot of nice people in our community, and having even one neighbor as friendly as Russ and his wife Barb makes it a joy to live here.

We are the light of the world. We are the salt of the earth.

It's dark and cold outside. There may even be wolves lurking.

We know what happened to the big, bad wolf in the "Three Little Pigs" story: he landed in a big pot of boiling water.

How about if we put on a big pot of soup, add a little salt, and make a friend? **SR**

Recipe for Friendship Soup

- 1/4 cup each: Dried lentils, peas, long grain rice, and small-shell macaroni
- 4 Bouillon cubes (beef or chicken)
- 2 T each: Pearl barley and dried onions
- 1 tsp Celery salt
- 1/2 tsp Italian seasoning
- 3 tsp Dried parsley
- 1/2 lb. Small beef meatballs
- 16 oz. Diced tomatoes



In large saucepan, add meat, 2 qts. water, tomatoes, bouillon cubes (but not the macaroni). Bring to boil.

Reduce heat, cover and simmer for 45 minutes. Stir occasionally.

Add macaroni and simmer 15-20 min. until tender. (This soup works well with ham; just leave out the tomatoes and use 2-1/2 qt. of water.

Delicious without meat, too.)

This soup was offered to Fay Hauber and her first husband Lee Bennett on a camping trip. A fellow camper asked others to toss something into the soup. This was the favorite of the various attempts.

Share and enjoy! —From the ladies of the Hebron (Pa.) SDB Church



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

He Being Dead Yet Speaketh

Most of the past 240 “Pearls” have focused on various movements or events in the denomination or a local church. With this Pearl, I plan to shift to a series of vignettes that highlight some individuals—both clergy and laity—who have been instrumental in the life of Seventh Day Baptists. Some of these stories were originally shared with Summer Institute students in past years. —Don Sanford

For many years a marble plaque was affixed to the front wall above the communion table at my home church in Little Genesee, New York. It read:

THOMAS B. BROWN

23 YEARS PASTOR OF THIS CHURCH

DIED MAY 14, 1879

‘He Being Dead Yet Speaketh’

Thomas B. Brown was born in Scotch Plains, N.J., in 1810, the eldest son of a Baptist pastor.

Initially trained for the medical profession, ill health forced Thomas to return to his home in Chester County, Pa., where his father pastored at the Great Valley Baptist Church. It was from this church that members of the French Creek SDB Church had held membership a century before. Brown made his profession of faith which led him into the ministry.

He served as a missionary pastor of a Baptist church in Milton, Pa. (a town which according to some tradition gave Milton, Wis., its name). His next pastorate was in Newark, N.J.

Brown accepted a call to the pastorate in Cussewago in northwestern Pennsylvania, near Meadville. Here he began to read a book from his father’s library entitled, *Remarks on the Different Sentiments Enter-*



Rev. Thomas B. Brown

tained in Christendom Relative to the Weekly Sabbath. The book was written by Robert Burnside, pastor of Pinner’s Hall SDB Church in London, England.

Of this encounter, Varnum Hull recalled: “The question of the Sabbath entered his mind and he found himself without answer. He read everything within reach on the subject, but the conviction upon his mind only deepened. But he had trained himself to accept truth whatever the cost.”

Thus in August 1839 Thomas Brown embraced the Sabbath and worked the remainder of his life in Sabbath promotion.

His talents were early recognized by the General Conference. Only two years after accepting the Sabbath, Brown was elected to the Publishing Committee of the Sabbath Tract Society.

In 1843 Conference voted to make an appeal to other Christians in reference to the Sabbath of the Bible. Thomas Brown was the principal author of the letter sent to many other Baptist groups.

Contemporary historian Leon MacBeth included much of this letter in a recent book, *Sourcebook for Baptist Heritage*. In his introduction he wrote:

“Who are the Seventh Day Baptists, and what do they believe? Why do they insist so strongly upon a seventh day worship? One of the best sources for answering this question, especially for the 19th century, is their address of 1843, directed to the Baptists of America. This address spelled out in detail the Sabbatarian convictions and conduct. One would be hard put to find a better defense of the Sabbath. The address is calmly stated, biblical in emphasis, and fraternal in tone. The author included

an appeal for first-day Baptists to adopt seventh day views and, failing that, show more understanding for their Sabbatarian brethren.”

In 1844, Brown moved to New York City where he worked with the group that established the New York Sabbath Tract Society. Their collection of Sabbath materials became part of the SDB Historical Society’s archives.

Brown was instrumental in organizing the New York City SDB Church, and was called to its pastorate. While there he was involved in the first publication of the *Sabbath Recorder* (June 1844) and served as joint editor for nine years.

He was instrumental in the 1847 publication of the *Christian Psalmody* hymnbook. He also authored about a dozen books or tracts dealing with the Sabbath.

Prior to this, Thomas B. Brown presented the motion to form the SDB Missionary Society at the 1842 session of General Conference. He was named as its first president and served until 1847, when he became the Society’s corresponding secretary. He left the New York City area in 1854 to serve the rural parish in Little Genesee.

After regaining some of his health, he became a trustee of nearby Alfred University at the time of its incorporation, and was active in establishing Alfred’s Theological Seminary.

When he died in 1879, the Missionary Board resolution in his honor stated:

“Mr. Brown was a thorough student, a terse writer, an exact theologian, a logical and convincing preacher, a devout man. In all of his stations which he occupied, he commanded the respect and confidence of those among whom he labored. It is given to but few men to leave behind them a record so free from blemish, and an influence so unmis-

takably hallowed. By words fitly spoken, by sentences carefully written and by a consistent exemplary life, though dead, he yet speaketh.”

In my seminary days, I recall reading that someone asked Rev. Brown why, as he grew older, he preached

“It is given to but few men to leave behind them a record so free from blemish, and an influence so unmistakably hallowed.”

more from manuscript notes than he used to. His answer was, “The older I get, the more important it is to say just what I want to say; no more, no less.”

What does Thomas B. Brown “yet speaketh” to us over a century later?

1. You do not have to be a descendent from old-line SDBs to make your contribution.
2. When once convinced of the biblical truth, act upon it—even though it might cost something in changed relationships or discarding traditions.
3. Get involved with the wider missions around you. If you see a need, speak out and do what you can to make changes.
4. Share your faith and your convictions with others.
5. Do not be hesitant about putting your thoughts into writing, so that later generations can say, “He being dead, yet speaketh.” **SR**

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Class Preparation includes Prayer

For some strange reason, you wake up early with a burning desire to prepare for next Sabbath's Sabbath School lesson. And you're amazed because it's Sunday!

You gather your Bible, teacher's guide, paper, pen, and cup of tea, and plop everything down on the dining room table. You've made it further in the quest for preparation than you ever have, but the other stuff you want to do begins to pester you.

The kitchen cries out, the dirty clothes plead to be washed, and other "voices" chime in. Remembering that burning desire that filled you just ten minutes before, you think, "I've got to keep my mind on this. Let me take 15 minutes, and then I can think about it as I go through the rest of the day. But where should I start? Oh, that's right, I need to pray."

Almost stumped, you say a few words—"Help me, God!"—read the passage, and get up from the table thinking, *Was that really worth it? Well, on to other things.*

I have had days like that. The best of intentions petered out as I hit one stumbling block after another. While we know that prayer is important and we want to pray, the words don't come and the effort seems meaningless.

Don't let those moments allow you to give up on prayer. God has called us to pray and uses prayer to conform us to the image of His Son.

Don't let feelings of inadequate words and thoughts stop you in your tracks and keep you from opening your heart and mind for His guidance to prepare and teach.

First, remember that "Help me, God!" is a fine prayer. You can even ask, "Help me pray as I should."

Second, learn to broaden the scope of your prayers, concerns and hopes by memorizing the prayers of Paul. Consider his prayer for the

Open your heart to the leading of God's Spirit and pray.

Colossian church (Col. 1:9-12). How much of that can you pray for those in your class?

Third, pray that God will open your mind and unveil your eyes as you study His Word. Pray that He will let you experience and show your class what it means to live in His joy—a joy that becomes more complete as people are drawn to commit their lives in Christ.

Fourth, pray that God will touch the heart, soul, mind, and strength of your students. Pray that He will provide a discerning heart to know and do what is necessary for any guests to have their blinding veils of this world removed.

Fifth, pray that God will awaken in your students a desire to hear His voice and see His face; to walk His path and show His love. Pray that

God will purify the hearts that have become hard and icky. Pray that God will modify the consciences that have rationalized sin and falsehood. Pray that God will transform every student by renewing their minds and giving them a faith unfeigned, a faith that is the same wherever they go and whatever they do.

Sixth, pray that God will guide and guard your class as a whole; that He will protect the time from those powers that would interrupt and disrupt; that He will build the relationships into ones that demonstrate love and good deeds.

Seventh, pray that God will raise up leaders in your class; that He will provide gifts to them that bring His glory; that He will cause some to devote their lives to serving as "apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers."

We can allow so many things to stand in our way as we prepare to teach. Prayer does not need to be one of them. Open your heart to the leading of God's Spirit and pray for yourself, your lessons, and for those in your class.

If you are prone to getting stuck, bookmark one of Paul's prayers, or write down the suggestions from this page, or carry an index card and write on it what God gives you to pray as the thoughts come.

Prepare to teach your classes by making sure you place the whole process in God's hands by handing the process to Him in prayer. **SR**



FOCUS on Missions

Successes in Malawi

by Kirk Looper

The Central Africa Conference (CAC) is one of our oldest Seventh Day Baptist mission fields. Based in the country of Malawi, the work has been going on there since the 1940s.

The venue in Malawi has changed but the activities there are just as strong as ever. It is exciting to look at their work of the past few years and realize how many successes they have had. Besides the work in Malawi, their workers can also be credited with growth in neighboring countries.

The Conference in Mozambique began with a few churches just over the Malawi border and has extended to the capital city of Beira. The five or so churches are doing very well considering the change of leadership and the huge distance between the groups. It is exciting to read about the amount of Portuguese literature being shipped there from Brazil.

Another successful project is furnishing beds for the Thomas Health Center in Malawi. Thanks to the SDB Christian Church in Arlington, Virginia, more than five beds have been purchased and placed in use. This will take care of those with maternity needs as well as other health issues. They want to supply more beds in order to utilize all the space available at the clinic.

Always on the list is the bicycle project. People are urged to donate funds to purchase bicycles for the pas-

tors, most of whom serve several churches. Within the past three months the CAC received enough funds to buy 11 bicycles. It is a wonderful thing to have donors who are willing to sacrifice to help these pastors get to their people.

Another Missionary Society project deals with the Sister Church program. This has been introduced several times over the past century. A church in the USA/Canada will choose a church in one of our sister Conferences and correspond with them. Several requests have come in concerning this project, and we look forward to completing the paperwork so the two churches can be introduced to one another. Malawi is one of the countries where a lot of interest lies. We appreciate the willingness of our Conference members to relate to others through this project.

A medical mission is being considered for Malawi. A group led by Dr. Ron Davis plans to spend about three weeks visiting different health centers there. They will be collecting funds for medicines, equipment, and in-country transportation expenses.

They could also use some extra donations to help with procedures and applications that are not covered by the normal treatments.

If you feel a need to contribute to their aid, please send the funds to the SDB Missionary Society at 19 Hillside Ave., Ashaway RI 02801. **SR**



These new beds at the Thomas Health Center in Malawi were provided by gifts from the United States.



Donated funds purchased these much-needed bicycles, allowing pastors to get to their people more quickly.



the BEACON

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

March 2009

Facing your Intimidation

by Christopher Davis

*“Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you”
(Jeremiah 2:18).*

Over Christmas break, the Shiloh and Marlboro (New Jersey) youth groups had the immense pleasure of having Pastor Wayne North (from New Auburn, Wis.) lead our youth retreat in Lancaster, Pa. The overall theme of the retreat was finding, breaking, and casting away all of our intimidation.

What exactly is intimidation? Webster defines it as “being timid or fearful, especially to compel or deter.” It is anything that gets in our way of doing something.

We all have some fear. It may be sliding on ice in your vehicle, talking to others, or you may be intimidated by the dark. Personally, I am terrified of singing a solo in public. You can deny it, dodge it, and avoid it all you want—everyone has a fear.

What can be so bad about a simple fear? It can’t harm us, right? Wrong. A fear is like a wall between us and God.

God is there for everything that we need. He is there to protect us, and will never leave. When we are intimidated by something, we are not trusting Him with our worries. Instead, we keep it to ourselves and hide it away.

All we need to do is trust God



with our fears and He will take them away—yet we insist on keeping them. The Bible states that we may cast out demons in the name of the Lord. Yet how are we supposed to cast out powerful demons—that can and will ruin our lives—if we haven’t the courage to sing a simple tune in front of a few strangers?

Fear and intimidation can hinder God’s plan for us. Our goal is to get past it.

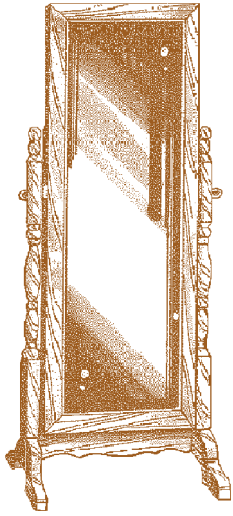
Take David for example. David trusted God to fight Goliath. Through God, he won handily when all of the king’s army was shaking in fear behind the rocks.

David was not intimidated. Had he chickened out and not fulfilled God’s plan, he might never have been king.

The prophet Daniel is another example for giving God our fears. The great den of lions was quite intimidating, yet Daniel trusted God. He was thrown into the den and God protected him, and blessed him even more in the end.

To break down the walls, we need to break the intimidation. Just hand them over to the Lord. He takes them for free.

Face your fears boldly. They will always back down eventually, for the Lord will rescue you. **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*

From Stress to Crowns

"Israel said to Joseph, I never expected to see your face again, and now God has allowed me to see your children too" (Genesis 48:11 NIV).

In the summer of 1999, I had to perform a difficult task. I needed to tell my children that I had been diagnosed with Stage 3 breast cancer.

With the disease already spread to my lymph nodes, I was facing a year of aggressive treatment that included surgery, radiation and chemotherapy. *At least I won't have to spend hours fixing my hair*, I thought.

After telling my daughter the grim news, I phoned my son in Florida.

Initially, Jay expressed his love and concern. Then he added, "Well, Mom, I've got some *good* news for you. You're going to be a grandmother."

Isn't that just like God?

A devastating thunderstorm rages and He sends a rainbow. While in a deep hole—emotionally frayed—He lowers a rope with the Mother-of-all-Flashlights tied to the end.

Fear and hope; anger and laughter; death and birth. Life is a mish-mash of conflicting feelings, a hodgepodge of divergent thoughts and actions. But God is always there to lead us out of the confusion.

At the time of my cancer diagnosis, I was in the throes of a deep depression. I felt sick most of the time and had difficulty eating. My weight

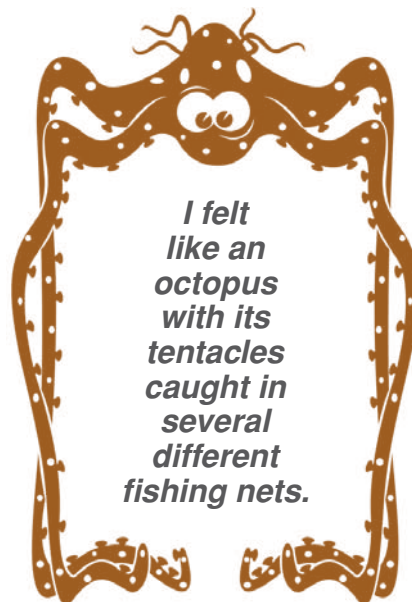
had dropped to 103 pounds. (*Never mind how much I weigh now!*)

At least seven stresses were pulling me in every direction, and I was having trouble coping. I felt like an octopus with its tentacles caught in several different fishing nets, and I couldn't free myself.

One of those stresses was my daughter's upcoming wedding. I was happy for her, and yet that meant I would be an "empty nester," living alone for the very first time. I was scared.

At one of the lowest points of my life, I stood in the middle of my kitchen, staring at the dinner table and sobbing so hard that my entire body shook.

Four people used to sit around that table, I reflected. Denny's dead, Jay's in Florida, and now Jennifer's gone.



The rest of that day is a blur, but I distinctly remember thinking that I wasn't a mother anymore. Then I muttered, "Nobody needs me." In retrospect, it was one of the best "pity parties" I ever had.

Jay's unexpected news was like a mega-dose of adrenaline. (Or like eating 20 chocolate bars in one sitting.) My spirits soared.

Before that phone conversation, it never occurred to me that "grandmotherhood" could—and would—open up a whole new set of doors for me. Talk about being needed!

When I was widowed at 38, I asked God to allow me to live long enough to see my children grow up. Much to my delight, He honored that special request.

When cancer came calling, I "hit up" God again: "Please let me live long enough to see my grandchildren." He also graciously honored *that* request. Now I'm bargaining to be around for their weddings, and to hold my *great*-grandchildren.

For the few people who don't know, I currently have six grandchildren—and three step-grandchildren—here on earth, and an identical twin granddaughter in heaven.

I feel truly blessed, but the "headpiece" I wear does get a little heavy at times: "Children's children are a crown to the aged..." (Proverbs 17:6).

Thinking of that verse, I don't feel very "royal," except when my dentist crowns another one of my teeth. But I'm definitely "aged."

I thank God every day for all those extra years He's given me since cancer entered my life. **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 a Bold Witness— In the Name of Jesus Christ

Jesus!

Do you realize that the name “Jesus” is the most powerful name of all time?

Listen to what Philippians 2:9-11 says: “Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Acts 2:21 and 4:12 demonstrate that power the name Jesus has for us (and the world): In the last days, “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.”

What is that name? *Jesus!*

When is the last time you used the name of Jesus in a conversation? Why don't we use his name in our daily living?

For most of us, I think it's personal pride and fear of the world. We justify ourselves by saying that using Jesus' name sounds too religious, too pushy, or just plain unnatural. For me, this is the biggest stumbling block; I have not made Jesus a natural part of who I am!

We need to pray that our relationship with Jesus becomes such a natural part of who we are, that when we speak, the name of Jesus flows easily in our conversation. May that be our bold witness.

One problem I see is the generic use of the terms “lord” and “god.” By definition, “lord” is a title and does not refer specifically to the name Jesus; and “god” can be used to mean any worldly god including Allah or Buddha.

Even though we may use “lord” or “god” to refer to Jesus as Lord, or God as Jehovah, to the world they are often understood and accepted in a worldly way. Since they do not carry the power of the name “Jesus,” they are non-offensive.

2 Corinthians 2:16 says that the name of Jesus Christ is the “smell of death” to those who are perishing; that is, the name of Jesus is offensive to the world. We must let go of our pride and fear to literally speak the name of Jesus so the power to save will be released!

This is what the hymn “Jesus Saves” is all about:

*“Shout salvation full and free,
 highest hills and deepest cave;
 This our song of victory—Jesus
 Saves! Jesus Saves!”*

One of the life-songs I have adopted reflects my personal desire to be a bold witness in the name of Jesus Christ.

This is what it says:

“What will people think when they hear that I'm a Jesus freak?

What will people do when they find that it's true?

I don't really care if they label me a Jesus freak;

There ain't no disguising the truth.” (“Jesus Freak” by dc talk)

As Jesus was preparing his disciples just prior to his ascension, he told them (Acts 1:8) that they would receive power when the Holy Spirit came upon them to be his witnesses to the world.

Acts 4:31 shows us that the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit and “spoke the Word of God boldly.”

What was the “Word of God” the disciples spoke? It was “Jesus”—plain and simple (see John 1:1).

Are we believers in Jesus Christ? Are we bold witnesses of Jesus Christ?

If we answer “yes,” then we need to pray that the Holy Spirit will empower us to speak the name Jesus—the Word of God—boldly, to the glory of God the Father. **SR**



by Executive Director
Rob Appel

What can Conference do for you?

Most of us have seen the UPS (United Parcel Service) commercial on TV asking, "What can Brown do for you?"

So please indulge me to ask, "What can the SDB Conference do for you?" Or better yet, what has the Conference already done for you?

Many of our pastors have been trained either in seminary or through the T.I.M.E. (Training in Ministry by Extension) program. Some who went to seminary had their tuition paid for by the **Council on Ministry**, with financial assistance from the SDB Memorial Board. With COM paying their tuition, the pastors are agreeing to serve in an SDB church for a minimum of five years. A number of pastors were trained in the T.I.M.E. program that was developed by the former Dean of Ministry, Rodney Henry. It is administered still today by our current Dean, Gordon Lawton. And still others are utilizing the Memorial Fund/COM program for training within their church through the Staff Development Program. In all three cases,



you are benefiting through the efforts of the Council on Ministry and their collaborative efforts to place spiritually trained pastors in our churches.

In addition to helping with tuition costs, the **SDB Memorial Fund** also assists churches in the physical development of their building. They do this through loans, grants, and counseling in the expansion progress. The valuable service that the Memorial Fund provides would cost our churches tens of thousands of dollars if they were to seek this help elsewhere.

Since 1964, the Summer Christian Service Corps (SCSC) has been pre-

paring our young adults for Christian leadership. Over 500 young people have been taught valuable life lessons that they in turn take back to their local church. They are not only afforded an opportunity, they are provided funds for college tuition. This effort to train our future leaders has been spearheaded

by the **SDB Women's Society** for the past 45 years. Take the time to count the number of those from your church who went through the SCSC program.

Can you tell me the significance of June 13, 1844? It was the publication date of the first *Sabbath Recorder*. For nearly 165 years the *SR* has been keeping Seventh Day Baptists informed here in North America and around the world. Today we can also look for our other tracts, brochures, Sabbath and logo promotion, electronic media, and website to be organized by the **American Sabbath Tract and Communication Council** (T&CC for short). The

cont. next page

T&CC has kept us informed, included, and in-touch with each other—no matter the distance from each other geographically.

Africa, China, Jamaica, and the Philippines. What do they all have in common? We had full-time missionaries there in the past. What do Guyana, Nicaragua, El Salvador, the Philippines, Africa, Brazil, and Nepal all have in common? We have involvement with in-country efforts to spread the Gospel and train up ministers in these countries.

Training people around the world is the work of the **SDB Missionary Society**. They also work with churches here in North America as they develop and grow ministries in local communities. The Missionary Society was the first of our collaborative efforts to do ministry together; that which the local church could not do alone.

And now, for 100 blessings: “English, Spanish and Portuguese are the languages that this long time

publication is now printed in.”

“What is *The Helping Hand*?” You are so right! This quarterly is designed to be used by Seventh Day Baptists every day and especially for adult Sabbath School classes.

And for 200 blessings: “The CALLED acronym stands for this.”

“What is Church Administered Lay Leadership Education?” Yes! Churches use the CALLED materials to train leaders in their Christian walk and make leaders more effective.

And for 400 blessings: “Workshops focus on these two church functions.”

“What are teacher training and the diaconate?” In the past few years, churches from coast-to-coast have participated in this training.

For 800 blessings: “SDB Youth and Young Adults look forward to this every year.”

“What is Pre-Con?” This pre-Conference event for high schoolers and young adults helps shape our next generation as Christ would shape them.

And finally for 2,000 blessings: “This is the Board that provides all these ministries.”

“Who is the **SDB Board of Christian Education**?” Yes, the BCE provides these ministry publications, education and training for all ages.

Many of our churches need to store their valuable documents and mementos, and they don’t have a safe place or room enough to do it. That is when they rely on the **SDB Historical Society** to take care of their priceless keepsakes. The Society also takes our strong legacy and makes it current for today’s Seventh Day Baptists.

Your SDB Church...

LOCAL.

Seven SDB Boards and Agencies...

GLOBAL.

One SDB Conference to wrap it all up...

PRICELESS!

That’s what your Conference can do for you! **SR**

Historical Society Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Seventh Day Baptist Historical Society will be held at the SDB Center in Janesville, Wis., on Sunday, May 17, 2009, at 2:00 p.m. in connection with the annual Board of Directors meeting.

The Society serves the denomination in the collection, preservation, and communication of SDB history. As a membership corporation, its work is financed by member dues, endowments, contributions, and the sale of its books.

Any member of a Seventh Day Baptist church may become a Contributing Member for a \$15 annual fee, or a Life Member for \$150, payable to the Historical Society at the SDB Center, PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547.

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.

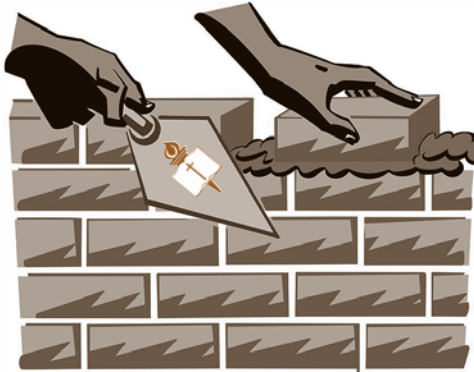
Brick by Brick, Scoop by Scoop

by Jean Jorgensen

Seventh Day Baptist young people in churches from around the United States, Canada and Australia are raising funds to provide Bricks for Malawi. They are sponsoring fundraising events, and sacrificing some of their own spending to donate funds.


The Malawi SDBs are making bricks to rebuild the maternity ward and three staff houses at the Thembe Medical Clinic. General Secretary Nedd Lozani estimates it will take 400,000 bricks to build these facilities.

They started the project with 100,000 bricks and need 300,000 more. Each brick figures to cost \$.0375(U.S.) or 4 cents. One dollar will buy 25 bricks.



On Sabbath evening, March 21, all of the participating youth will unite for an Ice Cream Social. They will dig in at 4:00 pm PST, 5pm MST, 6pm CST, and 7pm EST. Youth in Australia will join in at 9:00 am, Sunday, Queensland time.

Some groups are inviting their church family or community to the social and will charge for a scoop of ice cream—to raise more funds for the project. Former Malawi missionary Betty Pearson wrote, “Regarding the time, when it’s 7:00 p.m. Eastern it would be 1:00 or 2:00 a.m. in Malawi. I wouldn’t recommend they have a meeting over there at that time. They’re not as much for late night times as youth here. (Nor for ice cream. Mangoes or bananas or cucumbers is more their scoop!)”

Please send your donations to the SDB Missionary Society, 19 Hillside Ave., Ashaway RI 02804. Write “Bricks for Malawi” on the check memo line. And HAVE FUN!! 

SDB Women of Faith



These church members attended the Women of Faith Conference at the Wachovia Center in Philadelphia, Pa., on September 12-13, 2008. They represented three SDB churches: Shiloh, N.J.; Central Maryland; and Arlington, Va. This was the fourth consecutive year that SDBs were among the 17,000 participants in Philadelphia. We heartily recommend this conference—held annually at various locations—for worship, top-notch speakers, fellowship, and lots of laughs. For more information, go to www.women-of-faith.com.
—Donna S. Bond

SDB Pastors' Conference

“Working
in
God’s
Vineyard”



April 21-25
Shiloh, NJ

Register at the COM website:
www.sdbministry.org
(Pastors: Travel on the 20th;
we begin on Tuesday 8:30 am)

New members

Alfred Station, NY
Kenneth Chroniger, pastor
Joined after baptism
Keith Barnes
Elianna Chroniger
Joseph Gayhart
Joined after testimony
Juanita Barnes

Asheville, NC
Don Fox, pastor
Joined after testimony
Bobby King
Stephanie King
Sandra Brookshire
Dianne Henalut

Milton, WI
George Calhoun, pastor
Joined after testimony
Todd Brookhiser
Stevie Gincer
Jared Osborn
Joined after baptism
Donna McCorriston
Staci Speer

Marriages

Murphy - Cruzan.— Thomas Murphy and Nicole Cruzan were united in marriage on December 22, 2007, at the Milton, WI, SDB Church, with Rev. George Calhoun officiating.

Rebiger - Burns.— Kurt Rebiger and Sara Burns were united in marriage on December 6, 2008, at the Albion, WI, SDB Church, with Rev. Michael Burns (father of the bride) officiating.

Births

Call.—A daughter, Lindsey Naomi Call, was born to Lance and Perla Call of Milton, WI, on April 21, 2008.

Bloedel.—A son, Judah William Bloedel, was born to Jeff and Abbi (Marteny) Bloedel of Colorado Springs, CO, on April 22, 2008.

Lanzer.—A daughter, Abigail Victoria Lanzer, was born to Terry and Heather (Spaur) Lanzer of Archdale, NC, on April 30, 2008.

Roy.—A son, Ethan Owen Roy, was fb born to Nathan and Angi (Neher) Roy of Riverside, CA, on August 18, 2008.

Kersten.—A daughter, Natalie Grace Kersten, was born to Randy and Marcy (Payne) Kersten of Janesville, WI, on October 31, 2008.

Rudd.—A daughter, Abigail Layla fb Rudd, was born to Karl and Samantha (McElwee) Rudd of Wollongong, Australia, on November 29, 2008.

Van Horn.—A daughter, Emma Elizabeth Van Horn, was born to Christopher and Veronica (Borman) Van Horn of Renick, WV, on January 10, 2009.

What's missing in this box?

What do you want to know about giving to the General Conference, Societies and Agencies?



Contact Morgan Shepard
mdshepard@seventhdaybaptist.org
or call (608) 752-5055

The SR
has gone
facebook

Check out "Sabbath Recorder" on the Facebook social network.

Sign up to be an SR/fb correspondent and send in your family news via computer.

The info marked fb above came from Facebook!

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

March 2009

- 2-5 SDB Missionary Board Planning Session, Ashaway, R.I.—Kirk Looper, Ron Elston
- 2-4 Baptist World Alliance Executive Committee, Washington, D.C.—Rob Appel
- 5 Baptist Joint Committee Executive Committee, Washington, D.C.—Appel
- 7 Cumberland, Md., SDB Church—Appel
- 14 Diaconate Workshop, Metro Atlanta, Ga.—Andrew Camenga
- 14 CPR, 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 quarterly, Shiloh, N.J.—Morgan Shepard, Appel, Gordon Lawton
- 19 Board of Christian Education, Alfred Station, N.Y.—Camenga, Looper

- 20 Lancaster (Pa.) Bible College—Shepard, Appel
- 21-25 SDB Pastors' Conference, Shiloh—Lawton, Appel, Nick Kersten, Camenga
- 25 Springfield, Mass., SDB Church—Butler
- 25-26 Missionary Society Quarterly meeting, Ashaway—Looper, Elston

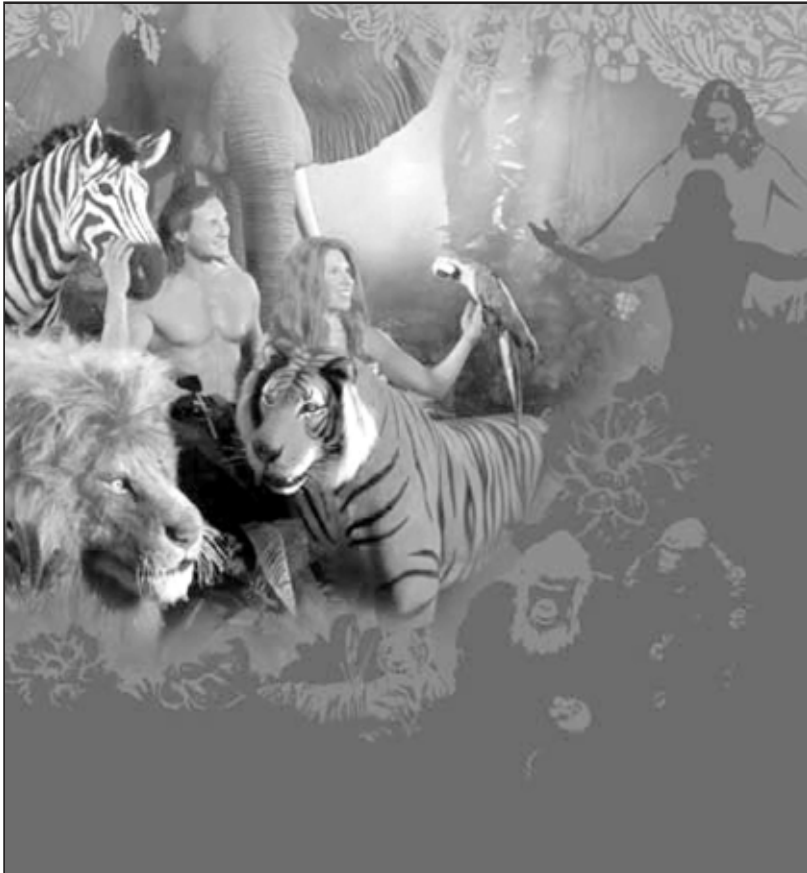
May

- 1-3 Allegheny Association, Alfred Station, N.Y.—Appel, Ed Cruzan
- 4-7 Fundraising Seminar, Indiana—Shepard
- 15-17 Eastern Association, Washington, D.C.—Appel, Cruzan
- 16 Sabbath Renewal Day
- 17 SDB Historical Society Annual Meeting, SDB Center, Janesville—Kersten

June

- 5-7 SW Association, Houston, Texas—Appel
- 8-19 Summer Institute, Janesville—Lawton
- 17-25 SCSC Training, Milton, Wis.
- 27-29 Appalachian Assoc., Paint Rock, Ala.—Appel

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, 572 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

The greatest of toes

The fourth toe on my left foot (stay with me, now) has a tendency to curl to the right and gets stepped on by my middle toe. Putting a cotton ball between the two toes keeps them straight and separated.

This very “private struggle” became quite public when the Lord gave me this story to share during a children’s message at church:

The five toes on my left foot were having a discussion about who was the “greatest” among them. The middle toe was kinda crawling on top of the fourth toe, so he said, “Well, I’m certainly greater than *him!*”

The fourth toe just mumbled...

Then the pinky toe spoke up in his squeaky voice and said, “You know, I read somewhere that if a person loses their little toe, then they can’t hold their balance or walk very well. I guess that makes *me* the greatest!”

The Big Toe (with the big mouth) nearly spit out his toe jam and said pompously, “Look at *ME!* I am the BIGGEST, I am the FIRST! I am the one that mother pulls first and says, ‘This little piggy went to market...’ See, I’m in the *market!* Beat *that*, pinky! You say *you* are the greatest—this coming from one who goes ‘Wee Wee Wee’ all the way home?? Hah!”

The second toe glared at the big toe and said, “You fat load! Look at me; I’m tall, I’m slender; I *am* ‘THE Toe!’ Not a *toad!*”

Well, this started a big argument until they heard, “Hey!! Break it up!”

It was Mr. Foot. And for some reason, he sounded like a California surfer.

“You dudes would be *nothing* without me!! No foot—no toes! You guys are just these little wiggly things hanging off the—let’s see, what was that again? Oh, yeah—the *FOOT!* That pretty much makes *ME* the greatest, dudes!”

So the foot and all the toes started arguing, until they heard an even *louder* voice:

“Do I have to come down there?”

It was Mr. Leg. Their argument continued.

Seeing that it wasn’t going to help yelling at the toes and the foot, Mr. Leg tried a different way to get their attention.

“Hey guys, I was talking to a pretty important leg the other day...”

“Oh, *really*,” said the Big Toe. “Who was it? President *TOE*-bama??”

Always loving a good toe joke, the toes thought that was pretty funny and gave each other high... toenails.

“No,” the leg said, “but it was somebody in a *wheelchair*.”

At that, the foot and all the toes quieted right down, because they knew that if someone was in a wheelchair, something serious might be wrong with the leg, or foot, or toes.

Mr. Leg had their attention. “This other leg was in a wheelchair because the person had a disease. It first started to affect the toes, and the doctors tried to stop it, but it grew worse and got into the foot. The doctors had to make a hard decision. In order to stop the disease from getting into the leg or the rest of the body, they had to remove the foot.”

“Toes, too?” a couple of them asked.

“Toes, too. They’re part of the foot, remember? The person was improving and the leg was going to be okay, but life wasn’t the same.”

“So,” the leg continued, “Maybe instead of arguing and fighting about who’s the greatest, you guys could all work together and cooperate and stay healthy to keep the rest of the body healthy. What do you say?”

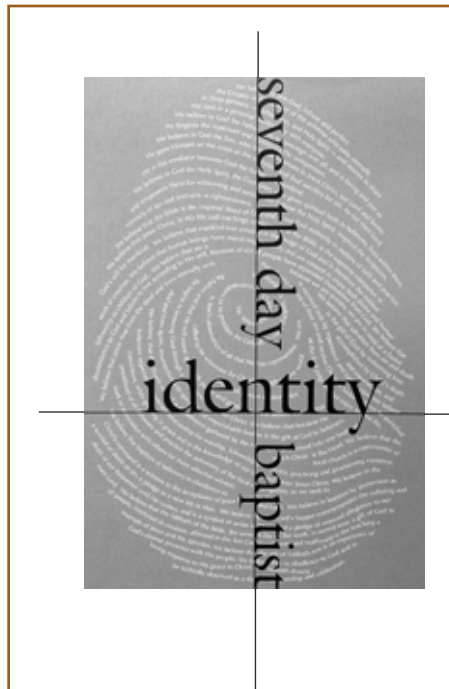
Big toe said, “I guess we *are* all in this together.”

And the little toe said, “Pinky promise?”

Sometimes we might feel like an unimportant little toe, and other times we might think that we’re way more important than we really are. Let’s remember that we are all part of the same church body. So, stick together and serve each other, the church, and the Lord!

Pinky promise?





*We may have lost
our 'Distinctives'...
...but we've found
our 'Identity'!*

Seventh Day Baptist Identity

A very popular item at Conference, this colorful 32-page booklet is the perfect introductory study of what SDBs believe. Filled with Scripture references, each section follows our denominational Statement of Belief (included in the back of the booklet). The cover's distinctive fingerprint is actually formed with words from our Statement—a clever design by artist Pat Cruzan.

The new "Identity" updates and replaces our old "Distinctives" booklets.

Each copy is only 50 cents (plus 75 cents postage; e.g., \$1.25 for one). Please call us for larger orders so we can calculate the shipping costs. Or, go to our on-line store and the checkout system will calculate the shipping for you.

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