



# The Sabbath RECORDER

July-Aug. 2009

*News for and about Seventh Day Baptists*



*Lessons from  
the*

*Beauty  
Shop*

**The \$1,000  
Gold Mine**

**God is Right  
on Time**

**The “a” in  
Baptist**



## 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](mailto:sdbgen@seventhdaybaptist.org) and the SDB Web site: [www.seventhdaybaptist.org](http://www.seventhdaybaptist.org)

## Last Call for Banners

Conference is upon us! Use the Conference theme "Pray" or one of the Scripture memory verses to create your church's banner. Make it 60" high and 36" wide with a rod and cord to hang it. Oh yes—please bring a pole to carry it with!

Make certain it gets to Conference by **Sunday night** because there will be a Parade of Banners, all to the glory of God! I am excited! See you in Lancaster. *-President Ed*

## New Directory ready

Tired of rising prices?

Here's some good news: The **2009 Directory** of SDB churches and ministries is available at the 2007 price! Each Directory is still \$7.50 plus \$1.50 for postage.

If you need more than one Directory, please contact the Center (608-752-5055, or [media@seventhdaybaptist.org](mailto:media@seventhdaybaptist.org)) and we can invoice you. Or place your order at our website's E-store and let PayPal do the calculations.

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

The clock is ticking down toward Conference 2009! Registration forms are in the May issue of the *Sabbath Recorder*, or on-line at [www.seventhdaybaptist.org](http://www.seventhdaybaptist.org). We hope to see you in Pennsylvania's beautiful Dutch Country! For more information about the area, check out [www.padutchcountry.com](http://www.padutchcountry.com). (**Directions** to the college campus are on page 8.)

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## God is Right on Time!

by Linda Bentz, Milton, Wis.

“Have you ever noticed that the Lord always pulls through at the last minute with just enough to fill the need?” I spoke these words in a casual conversation with a man I’d just met at the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference in Kenosha, Wis., last August.

His response back to me was spoken with such authority it made me stop in my tracks: “NO! I believe God is always *right on time* and gives *abundantly* to His children!”

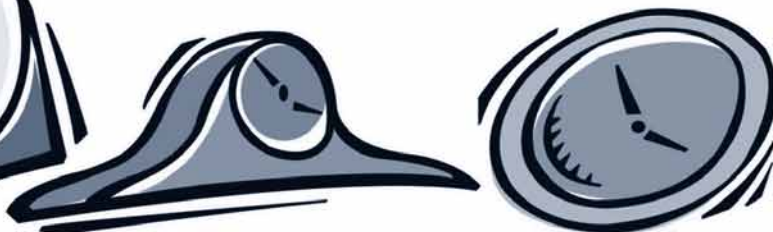
That sure gave me something to ponder and discuss with God over the remaining days of Conference.

This man did not know my predicament, but for the past year our family was pursuing full-time mission work in Africa. After interviewing several months before, we were scheduled to attend “Candidate Week” with Africa Inland Mission (AIM) in New York City the week immediately following Conference.

God had made it very clear to us that He was calling us to work in Africa, and had confirmed it many times. Candidate Week was to be the time of official commitment. We were still severely deficient of funds to make the trip, and were to leave in two days.

When AIM invited us to Candidate Week, the representative explained that the cost would be \$2,400 for our family. This included all the physiological evaluations and counseling. Our travel expenses would be additional.

We knew that on our very limited budget, that would be next to impossible. We were encouraged



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to plan on attending and told that “God has a way of working these things out.”

It was to be our first introduction to faith missions.

When the summer began, the hospital where I work started offering me some of the undesirable shifts for double-time. We were so excited that God was providing this opportunity to make some extra money!

I found myself telling anyone who would listen that I just doubled my hourly wage, and I was going to make enough money to take my family to New York!

I quickly realized the boastful state my heart was in—at the same time finding both our vehicles in need of serious, costly repair and a few other unexpected expenses. I felt the Lord saying to me, “**I** will be taking credit for this one, thank you very much.”

AIM taught us to never “ask” for money, just answer questions truthfully and allow the Holy Spirit to lead people. As friends in our church began asking questions about our mission plans, we would share the need as we felt led, and a little of our hearts as well.

We were so touched by those who got involved after God laid it upon their hearts. Money began to trickle in to the church on our behalf. Timely words of encouragement held us firm, and one family even offered the use of their van for us to drive to New York from Wisconsin!

By July, the church fund was at \$1,100. With only a few weeks left, it looked as though we just wouldn’t have enough. Three times we made the decision to call AIM and tell them we would have to wait and attend another time. Each time we immediately got word that our funds had grown just enough to encourage us to press on.

At one point, I was actually on the phone with them, with the intent to postpone the trip, but re-

ceived only words of encouragement from the other end. I got off the phone thinking, “What just happened? We’re still going?”

The Lord gave us a peace to prepare for the trip without the knowl-



“ ***The Lord gave us a peace to prepare for the trip without the knowledge of where the money was coming from. I kept hearing a voice in my head saying, ‘Keep going until I give you clear instructions to stop!’*** ”

edge of where the money was coming from. I kept hearing a voice in my head saying, *Keep going until I give you clear instructions to stop!*

The closer the time got, the louder the voice got.

So there I was at Conference. It was Thursday. We were to leave for New York on Saturday night. My husband was to pick up the van from our friends that night.

The night before, I had provided labor support for the birth of a new baby. I got a call from the husband. Although they had 30 days to pay me, he wanted to get the money to me right away. Was there an address he could send it to in Kenosha?

Knowing nothing of our need, he provided an unexpected \$400.

During Conference week, a few people told me that I should speak to a particular man who had a great interest in missions. I didn’t know him, and even if I did, I was pretty convinced that God would have to set that conversation up for me.

On Friday morning, I was walking through the chapel lobby when a friend came rushing out with an excited look on her face. She said she woke up with a strong urge on

her heart to connect with me and help us find the money needed.

While sitting in the morning Bible Study, she whispered to her husband, “I have to leave and go find Linda.” She walked out, and there I was!

As we discussed the situation, two other friends joined us. One of them had been a great source of encouragement to me that whole week. The other I was meeting for the first time and I shared our story.

Her response was, “I know someone who would want to know about this. Can I pull him out of the Bible Study?” It was the man that others had told me to speak to.

When asked how much we still needed, my answer was \$1,000. That would cover the cost to attend and the gas. It was “between me and God” that the \$1,000 meant nothing extra for restaurants or hotels along the way.

Contentment with “just enough” was a constant prayer—all the while wondering if it was true about God giving abundantly to His children.

The man took notes as I told him where God was leading us in missions. He said that he would share it with some other people and get back to us.

Within a couple of hours we had the \$1,000. The “just enough” was met and we were praising God!

As the day went on, God’s blessings and His movement on His people completely blew us away!

A couple of our friends felt moved to just walk up to someone and ask for \$100 for a missionary. They were happy to hand it over immediately.

Another dear friend quietly came up to me, embraced me in a hug, and stuck a wad of \$20 bills into my hand. Another friend said, “God told me to give you this \$20 bill.” I opened it up to find *two* twenties. Her reaction was, “It must be yours because I don’t know where the other one came from!”

We realized that we had under-budgeted for gas by \$200 and shortly after received that amount with a note saying “For gas.” When my husband arrived with the borrowed van, we found a gift bag for each child with goodies and wonderful things to keep them busy on the car ride, made up by friends back home. The

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tion, not ours.***”

van also contained Bible verses of encouragement in hidden places and money for a meal out.

As we headed out of town, a friend in Kenosha asked us to stop by. When we arrived, she presented us with lots of homemade goodies for our trip. And while we were gone, a payroll deposit to our account

was significantly more than we anticipated.

We were able to enjoy a day in New York City, stop to eat without worry, and even spend a night in a nice hotel on the way home.

AIM’s Candidate Week ended with us being appointed as full-time missionaries. We are preparing to leave for Africa in July.

God used this time to show us that if we wait for Him to show up, He can accomplish great things through us, furthering *His* reputation, not ours.

“Thank you” to our friends who listened and obeyed the Lord’s promptings, and a special blessing to the man who so boldly challenged my thinking.

You were correct—God is right on time and does give abundantly to His children! **SR**

## Following the Call to Lesotho

*Wisconsin family to live in the middle of South Africa*

by Anna Marie Lux  
of the Janesville (Wis.) Gazette

Linda and Mark Bentz and their 9-year-old son, Charlie, huddle around a computer slide show and soak in images of a new life.

Pictures of happy schoolchildren wrapped in bright blankets, farmers herding goats, and stone huts with thatched roofs fade on and off the screen.

Linda was a little surprised when she first saw photos of the countryside draped in snow.

“Isn’t Africa supposed to be sunny and warm?” she asked.

Some people flat out think the Bentzes are crazy. Some don’t know what to say. Others can’t hear enough about the family’s plans to leave everything behind in Rock County.



*The family tree: Mark and Linda Bentz with their children (l. to r.) Ellen, Charlie, Patrick and Wesley.*



The couple and their four children, ages 5 to 15, are moving to the rural and mountainous country of Lesotho (luh-SOE-toe), surrounded by the Republic of South Africa. They leave at the end of the summer to teach and to be missionaries in a part of the world where life expectancy is only 40.

They will live in Mokhotlong, two hours away from health care. They will work with people in a country with the third highest AIDS rate in the world.

Not many people are so willing to sell a house full of things, collected during 17 years of marriage. Or to leave behind the comfort of family and friends. Or to put their faith so totally in God.

The former Milton homeowners now live with some friends, and have only 5 percent of the material things they once owned. They sleep on air mattresses, sit on lawn furniture and embrace their decision to proceed into the great unknown with amazing calmness.

"It is a relief to be at this place," 37-year-old Linda says. "Life is more comfortable walking down this path rather than fighting against it."

She refers to the couple's decision to finally embrace missionary work after years of thinking and talking about it. Over time, their conversations went from "maybe someday" to "that day has come." The Bentzes will live in a small stone house, probably with only one room. They will not have indoor plumbing. They will walk from place to place or go on horseback.

When Mark and Linda first announced to their children what they were considering, their sons and daughter agreed: "Let's do it!"

In addition to Charlie, the family includes Patrick, 15; Ellen, 13; and Wesley, 5. Patrick and Ellen both attend school in Milton.

Once in Africa, Linda plans to



*Lesotho, known as the "Mountain Kingdom," is totally surrounded by South Africa. Life expectancy is only 40, and the country has the world's third highest rate of AIDS.*

home school her children, with the exception of Patrick. He will attend a school in Kenya. Linda's biggest concern is helping her children adjust to their new lives in Africa and then readjust to Wisconsin, when they return home after more than two years.

Mark, 47, has a master's degree in teaching and works as a substitute teacher in Janesville. He prayed for a long time for a job that would make a difference in the world. Eventually, when Mark became a teacher he describes it as one of the greatest blessings in his life.

In Lesotho, Mark will serve with a team of 10 teachers who will be placed in five different secondary schools to teach classes and to lead Bible studies. Linda, a midwife apprentice and an obstetrics technician, hopes to help local women in childbirth.

The couple started on a fast-track to missionary work last April, when they faced foreclosure on their Victorian home in Milton. Independently, Linda and Mark both thought the same thing: "Maybe this is the time that God is calling us into the mis-

sion field." They agreed it was time to sell everything.

"I was overwhelmed by how much stuff we had," Linda recalls.

During their estate sale, some people came to their house a second time and brought friends because they found hope in the Bentzes' story.

"We were honest," Linda says. "We did not sit in shame. It gave us peace to talk about the foreclosure and to tell others about it. People also shared their own misfortunes."

Less than a year ago, an organization called Africa Inland Mission accepted the couple into the mission field. The nondenominational evangelical group serves 18 countries with more than 800 missions and is well-established in Africa.

The Bentzes will begin in Africa with intense language study. Then they will focus on building relationships with people and sharing Christianity.

Friends continue to ask Linda and Mark how they can leave behind the security of their old lives.

"God has given clear instructions in His Word to go and teach all nations," Linda says.

"The most secure place is in God's will." **SR**

*Mark and Linda Bentz need to raise more funds to support their missionary work in Lesotho. This includes travel costs, orientation school, salary and housing. You can contribute to their effort by making out checks to Africa Inland Mission and sending them to: Africa Inland Mission Int., PO Box 178, Pearl River NY 10965*

*For more information about Africa Inland Mission, go to [www.aimint.org/usa](http://www.aimint.org/usa)*

*You may contact the Bentzes at [mbentz@aimint.net](mailto:mbentz@aimint.net) or see their blog at [mbentz.aimsites.org](http://mbentz.aimsites.org) once they begin their ministry.*

# 2009 SDB Conference, July 26–August 1

## Directions to Lancaster Bible College

(between Harrisburg and Philadelphia in eastern Pennsylvania)

### From Reading, PA and points NORTH:

Follow Rt. 222 South  
 Take the Oregon Pike exit and turn left at the stop sign.  
 Continue on Oregon Pike to the 5<sup>th</sup> traffic light.  
 At the light, turn left onto Eden Road and continue to the college located 1 mile on the left.

Option: Rt. 222S to Rt. 30W Oregon Pike North exit, right onto Eden Road.

### From Philadelphia and points EAST:

Take the PA Turnpike West to the Lancaster/Reading Exit #286.  
 Follow Rt. 222 South. (Now follow “points NORTH” directions)

### From Baltimore, MD and points SOUTH:

Take I-83 North to Rt. 30 East in York, PA.  
 Follow Rt. 30 East to Lancaster and take the Oregon Pike exit.  
 Turn left at the light onto Oregon Pike (Rt. 272).  
 Turn right at the first traffic light onto Eden Road and continue to the college located 1 mile on the left.



### From Harrisburg, PA and points WEST:

Take Rt. 283 East to Rt. 30 East in Lancaster and take the Oregon Pike exit.  
 (Now follow “points SOUTH” directions from Oregon Pike exit.)

## Your Conference Checklist

Check off these exciting things as you enjoy them in Lancaster, Pa.

- Worship God
- Get up early and PRAY
- Pray during the morning Bible Study time (Purpose of Prayer, Practice of..., Power of..., Passion in..., Peace in Prayer)
- Sing with all your heart to the Lord
- Pray with the President
- Hear the Word of God every evening (And Pray for Me Too, Praying to Bring Glory to God, Praying Continually, Praying in God’s Will, Praying with the Heart of Jesus, and Praying in Unity of the Spirit)
- Eat a meal with someone new
- Hug a friend
- Attend a fantastic Workshop (Partners in Prayer, Just Walk Across the Room, Practical Outreach for your Church, Pray in This Way, and Pastor Finances)
- Experience the inspiring story of guest speaker Mike Skupin of Survivor: Australia ([www.MikeSkupin.com](http://www.MikeSkupin.com))
- Enjoy all the Youth Activities including a “Survivor Challenge” with Mike Skupin
- Visit the Ephrata Cloister of the German SDBs
- Become a People of Prayer as we enjoy worship Sabbath morning
- Stay up late and PRAY
- Bring glory to God





by Cheri Appel, Milton, Wis.

# Lessons from the Beauty Shop

I sat in the beauty shop chair on the morning of my daughter's wedding. A very large man in his late 50s stepped up to his station and began to prepare me for the exciting events of the day. His name was Gilbert.

While he curled and sprayed my hair into a great new "do," Gilbert and I struck up a conversation. Pictures of his children and grandchildren were displayed all around his station mirror.

He was the father of seven, but sadly, one son was killed by a drunk driver as a very young adult.

As I expressed my sympathy for such a family tragedy, Gilbert told me that the story really began many years earlier.

About 20 years ago, a young man came into the beauty shop and sat in Gilbert's chair for a haircut. Looking at the pictures of Gilbert's children gracing the mirror, he asked

him, "Do you ever think about your children dying?"

This question really upset Gilbert, as it would any devoted parent. Gilbert responded that he had those thoughts occasionally, but he pushed them away to keep them from bothering him.

Then the young man said, "What would you be willing to do to ensure that your children would live?" Gilbert replied, "I would do anything!"

To that the young man responded that Gilbert needed to take his family to a church that preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He needed to fulfill his role as spiritual leader in his family and make sure that his entire household began a relationship with this Savior, who could guarantee that they would live forever.

The young man paid for his haircut and left. Gilbert went into the back room of the shop, feeling a heavy weight on his heart from this conversation.

Wondering what he should do, Gilbert turned and looked out into the lobby. Just then the pastor of a local church—who often frequented the shop—walked in. Gilbert greeted the pastor and asked some questions,

including what time the church service began.

Following this conversation, Gilbert called his wife and asked her what she thought of going to church next Sunday. For years she had been pressuring Gilbert to take the family to church. He finally convinced his wife that he was really serious, and the following Sunday they went to church as a family.

Gilbert went on to tell me that he had brought his family because *they* needed a relationship with Jesus. Gilbert, himself, sat in the back of the sanctuary hoping to not be seen in the large crowd.

The pastor began preaching and Gilbert couldn't believe it. The message was aimed directly at HIM!! He went forward with his family for the altar call, and accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior that very day.

Twenty years later, when the police came to the door to tell him that his son had been killed in a car accident, Gilbert and his family were prepared. After the initial shock and devastating grief, Gilbert gathered his family to himself. He opened his Bible and read to them declaring that his son still lived, having just passed from earth to heaven to be with Jesus.

Although they still miss their son and brother, the family is confident in the fact that he lives eternally, and they will each join him in heaven at their appointed time.

So I ask you, "What would you do to ensure that your children continue to live?" Would you like to be assured that even if they pass from this earth you will see them again, and join them happily worshipping at the throne of the Savior?

I urge you to speak to your pastor or Christian friend, and gain that assurance—just like Gilbert. **SR**

# Seventh Day Baptists Come to America

by Jim Skaggs, Madison, Wis.

*Editor's note: Jim Skaggs, a retired high school history teacher in Madison, Wis., hosts an impressive weblog at [www.one-eternal-day.com](http://www.one-eternal-day.com). He covers various stories on religion, books and media, and has added items about or by Seventh Day Baptists. This article is the second in a series covering SDB history. (Part 1 was shared in the October 2008 SR.) The following is Jim's introduction to the series—*

For some time I've been engaged in a project of summarizing Seventh Day Baptist history from the origins of the denomination in England (in the 17<sup>th</sup> century) up to the present day.

It has not been my purpose to provide a detailed chronicle, but rather to place denominational history in the context of the broader history of the United States and the American experience. I've done no original research.

My most valuable sources have been Don Sanford's books, *Conscience Taken Captive: A Short History of Seventh Day Baptists*, and *A Choosing People: The History of Seventh Day Baptists*. I have adapted and added freely, and Rev. Sanford would bear no responsibility for any of my errors.

I welcome corrections, clarifications and suggestions.

## Rhode Island to Independence *America, 1670-1790*

British colonial settlement in what later became the United States began in the early 1600s, first in Virginia and Massachusetts and then up and down the eastern seaboard. Most of these British colonies had government-supported religious establishments.

Often, even groups that had been persecuted in England were intolerant of dissent once they were in control. One of the few colonies which practiced religious tolerance on principle was Rhode Island. Another was Pennsylvania.

### —The First American Church

The first Seventh Day Baptists in North America, Stephen and Anne Mumford, came to Newport, Rhode

Island, in 1664. They worshiped with a Baptist church.

In 1671 several members of that church became convinced of the Sabbath. They separated from it and

joined with the Mumfords to form the first Seventh Day Baptist church in America. From that SDB church in Newport came others in New England.

*This early building of our first SDB Church in America (Newport, R.I.) is now enclosed within the Newport Historical Society structure.*





*Rhode Island Governor Sam Ward, a Seventh Day Baptist, was a delegate to the Continental Congress. He died shortly before the signing of the Declaration of Independence.*

Pennsylvania was a center of activity in the 1690s. In the early 1700s, groups in New Jersey identified themselves with Seventh Day Baptists. All of these churches were soon in contact and cooperation with one another.

#### **–German Seventh Day Baptists**

Also in Pennsylvania, some German Pietists became convinced of the seventh-day Sabbath and adopted it. From that developed a separate German Seventh Day Baptist group at Ephrata (*see below*).

#### **–The Revolution**

Seventh Day Baptists were heavily involved in the American War for Independence. A few conscientiously objected to war. A few were Tories. But most supported independence and many expressed their support by serving in the Continental Army or the militia.

Samuel Ward of Rhode Island was the most prominent Seventh Day Baptist on the Patriot side. He was a member of the Westernly church, a former governor of the state, a close friend and correspondent of General Nathaniel Greene,

and a Rhode Island delegate to the Continental Congress.

There, Ward strongly supported military preparedness. But for his death from smallpox, he would have been a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

The war had an especially strong impact on some of the churches. After the battle at Brandywine Creek, the wounded from both armies were brought to Ephrata for care. The Shrewsbury church in New Jersey was near the Monmouth battlefield. Newport was occupied, and Piscataway (N.J.) was pillaged by the British.

After the war, and as a result of the peace, territory opened for settlement in western New York and over the Appalachians. Seventh Day Baptists would soon be among those migrating west. **SR**

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*Adapted from Don Sanford's A Choosing People: The History of Seventh Day Baptists, Broadman Press, 1992.*



## Ephrata and the German SDBs

Conrad Beissel and his followers established the Ephrata Cloisters in eastern Pennsylvania in 1733. This semi-monastic Sabbath-keeping group became well-known for the quality of printed material they produced.

Although the Ephrata community was pacifist and avoided involvement in the American Revolution, they published the first printed copies of the *Declaration of Independence* in 1776.

They were not unaffected by the fighting. After the Battle of Brandywine Creek, wounded soldiers were brought to them and were cared for.

*(Information taken from the historical museum display at the SDB Center, curated by Jim Skaggs.)*





*by Aubrey Pradetto, Riverside, Calif.*

One thousand dollars.  
One “grand.”

Even today, \$1,000 can still buy a lot of things: a fast Italian bicycle, a widescreen HDTV, a laptop computer, a nice set of golf clubs, or a romantic vacation package for two in California’s Napa Valley (it’s been an expensive month).

But can \$1,000 buy a worldwide ministry?

Every January, Pastor Gabe Bejjani asks the Riverside, Calif., SDB congregation to re-evaluate our ministries and brainstorm new ideas. After many grueling hours of online research, local interviews, and discussions over delicious baked goods and hand-roasted coffee, we started to scrutinize our church’s website.

In light of Pastor Gabe’s charge, we began looking at our website as more than just another “billboard” on the World Wide Web. We wanted something that would catch new eyes, that would be a great first impression, and that would be easy to maintain and update.

We found **Cloversites.com**, a software producer and webhost com-

pany specializing in sites for church ministries. We launched a brand new website for one thousand dollars, and we spend only \$20 per month for support and hosting.

The Riverside church not only got a great-looking website that is very easy to maintain and update, but we also have support for any trouble that may come up—saving time and money in the long run.

We already owned our domain name ([riversidesdb.org](http://riversidesdb.org)) so all we needed to do was switch from our old hosting company to the new

hosting company. A Clover technician was on the phone with me answering all my questions the entire time.

The new website is our new “face” to the rest of the world and our worldwide ministry. We can convey who we are and what we believe. We can display pictures of our congregation enjoying worship and fellowship. We can share our sermons with anyone, anywhere, any time.

Our website is a \$1,000 gold mine of ministry that can reach people that we physically cannot. Check us out at [www.riversidesdb.org](http://www.riversidesdb.org). **SR**





## What's in a Name?

by Leota Stevens

Many scriptures relate the story of a baby's birth and the recording of the name. The character of the child is often shaped by the meaning of that given name. That has been true for me.

My name was not handed down through long family lineage, nor was it a cutesy little "name of the day." I was named after my father's first *girlfriend* (who incidentally was not my mother).

The series of events in my father's life that brought me that honor rival a Dickens manuscript. Daddy lived a hard-knock life.

When he was only 5, his mother died in a house fire that left him badly burned. His father, unable to care for him, sent him to live with his grandmother. She expressed little compassion for this poor injured child, who was wrapped in linseed oil-soaked bandages for six months. She never told him that his mother had perished, allowing him to believe he would someday go home to her.

When he was well enough, Daddy was sent to live with a local Amish family as their hired boy. He worked from sunup to sundown six days each week, taking his meals in a separate room and sleeping in a little shed off the back porch. In return for his help, he received food, two sets of buttonless black outfits, and the grand sum of one dollar per month.

Even after striking out on his own, my father found life to be painfully difficult. His first wife deserted him, leaving him to raise three children alone during the Great Depression.

His sister's husband abandoned her and their nine children at the same time, so Daddy moved in with his sister and worked to support the entire family through those days of

economic turmoil. My father remained a solitary man for many years until he met and married my mom.

I came along as quite a surprise the year Daddy turned 50. He asked my mother if they could name me after the one person who had befriended him and expressed genuine concern for his wellbeing during the seven years he toiled on that farm.

The farmer's daughter, Leota, was a kindhearted young woman who would occasionally tuck cookies or extra sandwiches into his lunch pail. And when opportunity presented itself, she would teach him how to speak German.

This small amount of human compassion was enough to help him through the isolation and abandonment of those difficult years. My mother wholeheartedly agreed to the name.

I researched the name Leota and found it in two language groups. In Sioux Indian it means "little, blazing, prairie flower." In Celtic it means "lioness, leader of her tribe."

I often joked about the oddity of my name while growing up. After all, how does a six-foot tall girl live up to being a *little* prairie flower? It wasn't until Hurricanes Katrina and Rita hit the southern Gulf Coast that I began to realize the true value of my name.

After the storms decimated those southern states, I believe the Lord gave me the idea to start a project called "Restoring Roses to Southern Gardens." Being a lover of the written word and an avid gardener, I enlisted people from all walks of life to help me purchase roses and write encouraging letters to our fellow Americans who were in such need.

Being a *lioness* and *leader* cer-

tainly helped me to muster the forces needed for this work. However, it was on my first trip to New Orleans that I was given deeper insight into my name.

The newscasts and documentaries had not fully prepared my heart for the impact of seeing the devastation; mile after mile of blighted homes and broken dreams! I stood there amidst the rubble—holding my young roses and loving letters—and wept. My gifts seemed so small and insignificant in the face of such monumental disaster.

But I remained obedient. Distributing 3,200 roses and more than 20,000 handwritten letters created a groundswell of joy in the hearts and lives of people who thought they had been forgotten.

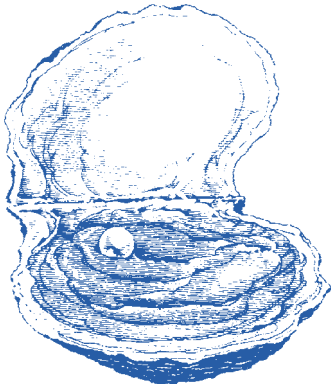
The meaning of my name echoed through my brain: "Prairie flower." How did that relate to me? The prairie flower blooms where no one tends it but God. Its small flowers bring great beauty to an often harsh and barren landscape.

Leota is not only my name, it is my life's calling from God! Without requiring the spotlight or needing to be lavished with special attention, I am called to bring beauty through my life to the world around me.

The odd name that I once disliked as a child, I now cherish. But I must say that I'm so glad my Daddy didn't name me... Snerdly! **SR**



Leota  
Stevens



## SDB Pastors in Military Chaplaincy

Along with other Christians, Seventh Day Baptists have taken strong stands against the use of military force to advance one's own interests. Yet SDBs have also been called upon to engage in military action to protect the rights of people throughout the world.

In an atmosphere of aggression, it is easy to lose one's religious convictions. Therefore, the role of the chaplain is essential to maintain a religious faith in the arena of inhumanity and destructive action.

From the 1700s to the present, Seventh Day Baptists have been represented in the chaplaincy. The following list may not be complete, but from our Historical Society records there were at least nine ministers who served from the Revolutionary War to the current Middle East conflict.

### Revolutionary War

**Ebenazar David** was a pastor in the Philadelphia, Pa., area. He had graduated from Brown University (originally Rhode Island College) and joined the Newport, R.I., church in 1770. The Newport church granted him a license to preach.

About a month after the first shots were fired at Lexington and Concord, David enlisted in the army as a chaplain. He served the troops in Boston, and later in such places as Ticonderoga, Peekskill and Valley Forge. Returning to Providence, R.I., to study medicine, he was soon back with the

troops. He contracted typhus while in the hospital and died in 1778.

Some of David's letters detailed the military action, but they also reflected his sense of God's covenant with the new nation. In January of 1776 he wrote, "What God is about to bring to pass in the Kingdom of His Providence is known to Him alone. It behooves us to view His hand, discharge our Duty, & Leave the event with Him."

**Jacob Davis** was the first pastor of the Salem, W.Va., SDB Church. He had been a chaplain in the army while pastoring at the Shrewsbury, N.J., church, doing his best to return home on frequent furloughs to tend to his flock. Davis had also graduated from Brown University and was ordained in 1775.

### Civil War

**Darwin E. Maxson** was one of two who represented Seventh Day Baptists in America's Civil War. He enlisted in the Union Army in 1861 at the age of 39.

Another Brown graduate, Pastor Maxson was ordained to the ministry in 1853 and became a professor at Alfred (N.Y.) University. His strong stand in the Abolition movement led him to membership in the New York State Legislature in 1860, and the following year he entered the military as chaplain in the 23<sup>rd</sup> New York Regiment Volunteers.

Not only did Professor Maxson volunteer his service as chaplain, but all 11 able men in the senior class of 1861 enlisted (with the exception of one who was near-sighted). Darwin Maxson kept a diary of his activity and reported almost weekly to

the *Sabbath Recorder*. Their first encounter was the first Battle of Bull Run.

After a few months, a fever forced him to resign and he returned to Alfred. He accepted the pastoral call from the Milton, Wis., SDB Church in 1863. Even in Wisconsin, Maxson championed the cause of abolition as an Assemblyman in the State Legislature.

Also serving in the Civil War chaplaincy was **Lester Courtland Rogers**, Professor of History and Political Science at Alfred University. He had received his education at DeRuyter (N.Y.) Institute and Alfred before graduating from Williams College (Williamstown, Mass.) in 1856, the same class with future U.S. President James A. Garfield.

Rogers enlisted in the Union Army as chaplain of the 29<sup>th</sup> New Jersey Volunteers and served 1862-63. He then returned to Alfred where he had a distinguished career in both teaching and preaching.

### World War I

Although the *Sabbath Recorder* of December 27, 1918 lists the names of 416 in the armed forces during WWI (representing some 60 SDB churches with 19 casualties), there were no chaplains listed in any of the branches during that conflict.

### World War II

Four members of the Seventh Day Baptist clergy served in the chaplaincy during WWII: Luther Crichlow, Leon Maltby, Wayne Rood, and Hurley Warren.

**Luther Crichlow** was baptized in the Seventh-day Adventist church,



but later joined the People's SDB Church in Washington, D.C. He took his seminary training at Alfred School of Theology and served at the Jamaica mission for a time. During the War, he was Army Chaplain in the 317<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, serving in Caledonia, New Hebrides, Guadalcanal, Luzon, and Ascam City, Korea.

**Leon Maltby** served in the 14<sup>th</sup> Armored Group in Fort Knox. In a letter to the *Sabbath Recorder* in 1944, Chaplain Maltby wrote of some of the ways in which those at home could be of assistance. The time and effort spent on sending items such as candy or gifts (which were already available on base) could better be used in other ways. His closing paragraph struck a special note as he wrote:

"There are times when a chaplain could use small gifts of money to some advantage, but most needs are adequately met in other ways. Some of the larger denominations provide communion cups for their chaplains to use. The government does not furnish them except in regular chapels. The Southern Baptists have a nice set for about 50 dollars which is furnished free to their chaplains."

This observation gave meaning to the communion set that Maltby fashioned out of unspent 50-caliber machine gun shells. One of those trays is part of the Historical Society archives and has occasionally been used in communion services.

**Wayne Rood** served for three years as chaplain of the 27<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in the Pacific (1943-1946). His troops fought in the thick of island battles, and were involved in the occupation of Japan.

During his tenure in that area, Chaplain Rood had the opportunity to visit some of our SDB churches in New Zealand.

**Hurley Warren's** chaplaincy

was preceded by his service in the infantry in World War I where he received ribbons for the European-African Mediterranean Theater. Granted a leave of absence from the pastorate of the Plainfield, N.J., SDB Church in 1944, he joined the chaplain corps and took his orientation at Harvard University.

Warren served the 77<sup>th</sup> Field Hospital for a little over a year. He also served the 445<sup>th</sup> W Battalion and



*Rev. Wayne Rood*

“***His troops fought in the thick of Pacific Island battles, and were involved in the occupation of Japan.***”

then with the Military Police. Stationing in England and France followed.

While serving at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, he wrote a morning devo-

tion for the *Sabbath Recorder* in which he commented:

“Religious services in the army are no more compulsory than in civilian life. And about as well-attended, certain glowing reports notwithstanding! I am told that the nearer we get to the combat areas, larger will be the attendance of both officers and enlisted men upon religious services. There is certainly room for improvement in both categories!

“However, if and since religious interest improves as closer to combat we come, my immediate observation is: ‘It is too bad that it takes a war, danger, destruction and death to bring it about.’”

Chaplain Warren then wrote, “As I meditate the more, I realize that this is not for us. We are a field hospital, and hospital means hospital and field means field. And the gratifying feature about this picture is that we have no regrets. We are content with our lot. We feel certain that God’s hand is guiding and His Holy Spirit prompts every yielded life.

“When I think of Rood and Crichtlow out under rugged conditions and Maltby covering the desert sands, I am content. When I think of our own men on fifty fronts, I am more than content to be going toward some of them. And when I think of our consecrated ministers and faithful folks at home who are carrying on for Christ with ever-increasing effectiveness, I am satisfied. All of which is cause for great rejoicing in the Lord.”

### **The Middle East Conflict**

Seventh Day Baptists are more recently represented in the chaplaincy by **Jerry Johnson** who served in Afghanistan, and has now graduated from the Chaplain Captain Career Course at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. An extended account was included in the September 2008 *Sabbath Recorder*. **SR**



## Asking God: “Where?”



“*It is more crucial for us to be at the right place doing what is available than to be doing something we enjoy at the wrong location.*”

I can't count the number of times that people asked me, “What are you going to be when you grow up?”

We use this question to help people begin to think through their place in society and their place within the tasks of the Christian community.

We often think of God working through us to do good things. Youth and young adults strive to be faithful to God's call in their lives by asking, “What does God want me to do?” or “What does God want me to be?” These are great questions. They are worth asking.

Another legitimate question is rarely asked. It is simply, “Where do you want to be?”

Hebrews 11 tells us that Abraham obeyed God by going out to a place that God promised—without knowing where he was headed.

There are times that God will answer the “Where do you want to be?” question with a very solid, “You'll see. I'll let you know when you are there.”

Other answers to the question

are possible. God can say, “I want you to go to this specific place.” We can see that in Paul's Macedonian vision (Acts 16:1-13) and in Philip's chariot call (Acts 8:26-40).

God can also say, “STAY where you are!” As the world seemed to be crumbling about the few people left in Jerusalem after Nebuchadnezzar had razed the city, they had Jeremiah ask God what they should do. God told the people to stay in Judah.

This advice from God was not accepted (Jeremiah 42), but we see that God can say “Stay.”

Sometimes the location is for life—Abraham is one example of this.

Sometimes the location is for a particular task—the call of Ananias to lay hands on Paul is an example of this. Regardless of the location or the timeframe, we need to ask the question, “Where?”

As you were growing, how many times were you asked, “Where are you going to be when you grow up?”

I don't think many of us experienced that question. It almost seems

a silly thing to ask. Yet, God frequently works by putting the right person at the right place. If we can ask about *what* God wants someone to do years from now, we can ask about *where* God will want someone to be years from now.

Think about asking some child, “Where will you be when you grow up?” Consider asking an adult, “What location does God want you at?” The challenge with this question is accepting the fact that there may be times when it is more crucial for us to be at the right place doing what is available than to be doing something we enjoy at the wrong location.

If asking “Where?” is a legitimate question, then preparing followers of God for the various answers that He may give is part of our role as brothers and sisters in Christ.

The picture of continual faith-building in Deuteronomy 6:4-9 is helpful. Faith is something we carry with us in all moments of life. It is portable. We must intentionally work to shape faith that brings the Word of God with it.

This faith will strengthen the local covenant community by our active participation in the gatherings and by provoking love and good deeds (Hebrews 10:23-25). That way, when God says, “Stay and work with this local church,” we will be ready to help at home. When God says, “GO!” we will also be prepared to create communities of faith in our new locations. These communities will reflect our knowledge and practice of God's revealed will and love. **SR**



# Uganda: A Work of Wonders

by Kirk Looper

It was very exciting to visit the churches in Uganda, Africa, again. The changes that have occurred stimulate and encourage us to have more discussions in other countries about the evangelism methods they are using.

The work in Uganda continues to center around their medical and educational facilities. The government continues to try to get the SDBs to locate their Conference office in a specific place instead of moving it to different locations. Government officials would also like our people to settle on a permanent place to hold their medical clinics.

These, along with church-related challenges, are their main interests and areas in which they feel the most stress.

Being there only a few days did not allow me to visit all seven of their churches and three schools, but I was able to visit a few. It was interesting to note the changes that have been made in two of the churches. These changes came about due to the relocation of one and the increased attendance in the other.

The first church visited is located in Kasubi, a suburb of Kampala; the second group is in a village 120 miles north of Kampala; and the third church visited is about 30 miles southeast of Kampala. The large distances between congregations indicate the need for a vehicle for the General Secretary. Since he does not have a vehicle of his own we had to rent one for the church visits.

Most of the groups do not have public transportation that runs close to the church building. Being the rainy season, it is difficult to walk the long distances to the transportation. It is also quite expensive, so renting a vehicle became imperative.

Gas prices (in shillings) translated to about \$4.50 per gallon. In each of the church meetings, a request was voiced for a vehicle for the Secretary.

Compared to my last visit, the street children were not as prevalent, but continued to be present. Most of the orphans have been housed by parachurch or private organizations.

SDBs in Uganda support about 250 children (in the churches I visited). Their ability to support the orphans is limited by the available funds. They could use more help in feeding, clothing and housing the children. In

the churches that have schools, the orphans also get an education. Funds for books and supplies depend heavily upon donations from our churches and others.

Conditions brought about by HIV/AIDs continue to be a problem. The number of cases does not appear to diminish, although the death rate is going down.

The former pastor of the New Life SDB Church in

Kasubi is in the hospital and does not appear to have much time left before going to her heavenly home. Several members of our Conference donated to help with her medicines and maintenance, and I was asked to relay much thanks and appreciation for these donations. Praise God for the influence she has had on the work in that community.

Representatives from each of the churches expressed their needs. The New Life church meets under simple tarps. This does not allow them to bring the children inside during the night for protection. They have relied on a woman in the church to donate one of her rentals to house the orphans. Their request is for us to consider funds to build a permanent church structure.

The Maranatha SDB Church in Busaana requests funds for bricks to complete their building and metal sheeting for the roof. They also hold school in their church building. They would like help with books, supplies and clothing for their orphans.

Uganda is one of many countries that demands that the national office of a Non-Government Organization (NGO) be housed in a permanent building, separate from other purposes. This means that the SDB Conference in Uganda would need to purchase land and build an office with its furnishings and equipment.

The government also demands that the NGO provide a community service project such as a school or clinic. Since our people are operating schools and providing medical help, it would appear natural to establish this work on a more permanent basis. But the cost of land, equipment and supplies is prohibitive because their members come from lower income families.

My visit was good and the exchange of ideas was important. I look forward to hearing more about the work being done in Uganda. **SR**

“  
***Uganda demands that the national office of an NGO be housed in a permanent building.***  
”





# *the* BEACON

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

July-Aug. 2009

## The Need to Update

by Christopher Davis

*“How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. I seek you with all of my heart; do not let me stray from your commands.” (Psalm 119:10-11)*

My computer always seems to need updating. Even today, I had to update it, going someplace with a high-speed connection. (Yes, some people still have to live with dial-up.)

Upon coming home and restarting my computer, I joylessly discovered that there was yet another update just made available. How convenient and “nice” of my machine to tell me.

(Technology is great, but sometimes it is so frustrating!)

Just like my computer, we need to update ourselves. As we go to events such as Conference, we may tend to get a spiritual “boost.” We come home feeling all “fuzzy” and religious, telling ourselves we will kick out our old habits and start anew.

As time wears on, we unintentionally get lazy and re-lower our standards. We go about our lives thinking that we’re strengthening our relationship with God. Then, we look back over the last few months and realize just how much we have slipped.

In relationships with God, everyone will have their highs and lows—



**“ If we know that we are at a spiritual low, we need to do something to change it! ”**

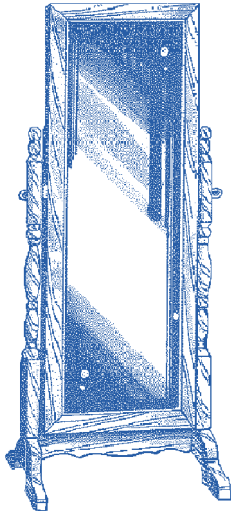
no one is perfect. That said, if we know that we are at a spiritual low, we need to do something to change it!

We need to do everything in our (and of course, God’s) power to reach a spiritual high, and then keep going higher. We cannot wait for the next Conference, or camp, or next Association or retreat. While these are

great events that can rally our spiritual lives, they are not our spiritual crutches.

Your relationship with God starts with you, not your pastor or friends. Only you have the power to come closer to God and stay there.

We need to keep ourselves updated, and that is something that cannot wait. **SR**



# Reflections

by Leanne Lippincott-Wuerthele

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

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## Incoming! Cover the Furniture!

Grandchildren are one of God's greatest blessings.

Various translations of Proverbs 17:6 read: "Children's children are a crown to the aged." "Grandchildren are the crown of old age." "Old people are distinguished by grandchildren."

I've been fortunate to have four of our grandkids nearby. Watching them grow—both physically and spiritually—has been a privilege. I've witnessed first steps, first foods, first words. Granted, sometimes it's like listening to Hebrew or Greek, but I pretend to understand.

Much to my delight, my daughter and her husband are doing a great job raising the girls "in the Lord."

On Resurrection Sabbath, they outfitted all four in matching dresses. They looked so angelic in their pastel, polka-dotted dresses with matching headbands, I half-expected that little feathers from their invisible wings would flutter down the church aisle.

Being a grandparent gives you permission to be a kid again. I couldn't wait for the three older girls to arrive so we could color eggs.

When their car pulled up, I still had a glass of milk in my hand as I headed outside to greet them. When I reached the front of the garage, 2-year-old Jocelyn rushed towards me. As she threw her arms around my neck, the glass flew out of my hand,



baptizing our driveway and garage door with milk. (In retrospect, it was a very non-SDB move, resulting in "sprinkling" vs. "dunking." Is our driveway now Lutheran?)

Being the astute grandmother that I am, I had already removed the cushions from the dining room chairs and covered the table with old newspapers. *The mess will be kept to a minimum*, I thought, *and cleanup will be a snap*. (Grandmothers can be *sooo* smart.)

We dropped the colored tablets into warm vinegar water. About 15 minutes into the coloring, I declared that the dye wasn't dark enough, and dumped a bunch of food coloring into each cup. (Grandmothers can be *sooo* stupid.)

Now, adults understand that con-

tainers are made to contain things. But I think all kids come with the innate knowledge that contents of containers are meant to be spilled. Six-year-old Julia knocked over the cup of enhanced yellow dye, immediately staining our large, under-the-table throw rug. (After many stain-removing efforts, it still looks like a 500-pound St. Bernard "relieved itself" down there.)

Amazingly, the three kids dropped only five eggs, which we had to eat right away—Egg Coloring Commandment #5.

Jordan, who is 7-1/2, stuffed an entire hard-boiled egg into her mouth, looking like a chipmunk with mumps. In contrast, "Jossy" bit off a small part. But then she dumped enough salt on it to turn it into Lot's wife! (See Genesis 19:26.) Julia simply ate the "white stuff" and handed me all the "icky" yolks.

As the day deteriorated, Pastor Rod Henry's wise words kept bombarding my brain: "The hardest thing to do is to pretend you're sad when the grandkids leave."

Later that afternoon, as I hugged my angels goodbye, I thought about the three lessons they had taught me: 1) Never add "real" dye to egg dye; 2) Always drape the *entire house* with old newspapers and plastic sheeting before coloring eggs; and 3) No matter what happens, grandchildren will always be a precious gift from God. **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 with the Next Generation

My time is growing short. Not only is my time growing short as your Conference President, but more importantly, my time is growing short on this earth.

In my remaining time, I pray earnestly for the preparation and encouragement of the next generation of believers.

Each of us must become spiritually mature, “attaining to the full measure of the fullness of Christ” (Ephesians 4:13). Unfortunately, our chronological age does not guarantee our spiritual maturity. We must be continually transformed by the renewing of our minds. As each of us does this, we are being transformed, step by step, into the likeness of Christ (*see Romans 12:2 and 2 Corin. 3:18*).

What should be the attitude of a mature Christian when it comes to the next generation? In 1 Corinthians 15:3, Paul writes that he received something of *first importance* and passed it on. What did Paul receive and pass on? **The Gospel message:** that Christ lived, died, and rose again according to the Scriptures!

That’s it, plain and simple. So what does each of us consider to be of first importance? What are we passing on to the next generation? Are we passing on the Gospel message of John 3:16 or are we passing

on the message condemned in Matthew 15:1-20?

In his letter to the Philippians, Paul says, “Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. All of us who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. Only let us live up to what we have already attained” (3:13-16).

The story of Moses and Joshua clearly illustrates the relationship we should have with the next generation. Moses was chosen by God to lead the Israelites out of the bondage of Egypt to the freedom of the Promised Land. Even though Moses was as close to God as anyone can get, he “messed up” along the way. It was so bad that God refused to allow him or any of the Israelites in his generation to enter the Promised Land, except for those who were faithful—Caleb and Joshua.

Like Moses, I have messed up many times along my spiritual journey. I have become hardened and have many excuses: my personality, my ancestry, my fear, my preferences, my traditions. As with Moses, I often forget Who is in control.

How about you? Have you messed

up and become hardened? Have you forgotten Who is in control?

So how did God handle the situation with Moses and the Israelites? God provided a young assistant for Moses. His name was Joshua, one of the faithful. This is what God told Moses, “Your assistant, Joshua son of Nun, will enter [the Promised Land]. *Encourage* him because he will lead Israel to inherit it” (Deut. 1:38).

Do you have an assistant from the next generation that you are training and encouraging to lead the people of God? I pray that God will reveal to you a way to communicate with members of the next generation so that you can build the necessary relationships to train and encourage them.

So what is left for us in the time we have? To continue to mature, attaining to the full measure of the fullness of Christ, to pass along that which is of first importance: the Gospel. And to encourage the next generation to lead God’s people.

We must not only pray for the next generation, we must pray *with* the next generation, all for the glory of God.

“Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). I love you all.

Thanks, and pray. **SR**





by Executive Director  
Rob Appel

## The “a” in Baptist

The autonomy of the local Baptist church is a distinctive that separates us from many other Protestant religions. It allows the local church to function in its community without outside interference.

Autonomy means that there is no centralized authority that has jurisdiction over the local church. Each church decides individually what doctrines it adheres to, what it teaches and preaches, what educational materials it will use, etc.

The word “autonomy” describes a position of self-governing. By practicing autonomy, the local church has the right to personal independence, self-reliance, self-sufficiency and self-direction.

However, when a church joins a larger group—such as the SDB General Conference—there is a form of conformity. The church says that it concurs with all the other churches of the Conference that have joined before them and all have agreed to collaborate. In making this statement, the church has decided in part to comply with the decisions of the whole and not act entirely as an independent.

Even when this basic concept of Baptist autonomy is understood, the application of the concept—within the complexity of organized Baptist life—is not always clear.

Threats to autonomy come from both outside and inside the local congregation. A challenge from the

outside comes when an organization attempts to dictate what to believe or how the church conducts its ministry. Governments and Conventions can sometimes exert such pressure. Baptists have resisted, holding fast to the belief in religious freedom and the separation of church and state.

A threat to autonomy from within surfaces when church members do not exercise biblical principles and give in to pressures from the outside.

So, if difficulties exist with autonomy, why would we want to preserve it? A primary reason is that autonomy is based on biblical truth.\* If for no other reason, Baptists ought to hold with conviction to the autonomy of churches.

Autonomy also assists Baptists to live in accordance with other basic concepts such as congregational governance and the priesthood of all believers.

In addition, autonomy allows each individual congregation to determine how best to reach out and minister to the community where it exists. This can enhance flexibility and creativity.

Local church autonomy reinforces the fact that in a Baptist church, each member is responsible for the church. This sense of responsibility can lead members to have a strong identity and do their part in strengthening the health of the church and carrying out its ministries.

Generally speaking, when Baptist

churches were primarily comprised of small congregations, autonomy was a relatively simple matter. As Associations, Societies, and state and national conventions were formed in Baptist circles, autonomy issues became convoluted and were not quite so simple.

In my opinion, Seventh Day Baptists have taken what was a simple local church concept and practice, and made it a style of non-cooperation when we choose to not comply with the wishes of the larger organization. We might have taken it a step too far, and in the process, caused chaos and confusion.

When autonomy is interpreted to mean that individuals or churches are free to do as they please, the results are negative. I'll have more to say on this in the September *Sabbath Recorder*. **SR**

- \*1. Election of officers and appointment of ministers—see Acts.
2. Local church discipline—see Matthew 18.
3. Local churches taking care of each other: When the church in Jerusalem needed financial help, Paul went to individual churches, presented the need, and asked for assistance. Each individual church gave as it could. The same happened when Paul needed financial help in his missionary journeys—he asked the local churches, and each gave as they could.



# New Beginnings in London



*Praising God in northwest London. Worshipers gathered for the first time on March 7. Sister Ingrid Cruickshank is at the left.*

The Faith Seventh Day Baptist Group of Northwest London officially began worshipping on March 7, 2009. The congregation meets at the Preston and Mall Youth and Community Centre of Preston Hill, London, England.

The group formed to give the founding members—predominantly residents of the Northwest London region—better access to a local church. In addition, this provided an excellent opportunity to expand the vision and purpose of the SDB faith within the United Kingdom. The core membership has come from the mother church—MillYard SDB Church meeting in Tottenham, England.

An interest in having an SDB group to serve northwest London was in the pipelines since late 2008. Pooling together all the ideas, and receiving spiritual guidance and encouragement from Pastor Michael Cummings (MillYard SDB Church), Pastor Andrew Samuels (Miami, Fla., SDB Church), and Pastor Jan Lek (SDB World Federation General

Secretary), plans to start the group were finally underway.

After much consideration the group decided that March 7 would be the official start date.

Members of the Faith SDB Group set off to Preston Hill on Sabbath afternoon to begin a day of praise, worship, fellowship, and study of God’s Word. With Bibles in hand, guitars tuned and ready, and voice boxes warmed up, we sang praises unto the Lord.

Worship began with a meet-and-greet session, which included congregational praise. Sister Trudy-ann Sinclair was worship leader for the day and led out, accompanied by Sis. Janet Ferguson (MillYard).

We were blessed to have Pastor Michael Cummings and family, and Deacon Oliver Chambers in attendance that day. Pastor Cummings delivered the message, “What Kind of Church?” We are also grateful to God for the support received by the MillYard brethren, both in prayers and attendance. Sis. Ingrid Cruickshank blessed the worshipers by performing a solo, “Lily of the Valley.”

A total of 34 were in attendance, including 17 members of both Faith

SDB and MillYard, and 17 visitors. After the service everyone was encouraged to join in a fellowship meal. The day ended with a congregational chorus and prayer by Pastor Cummings.

God is to be honored and praised for the tremendous start this group has had, especially for the encouraging love and support bestowed on us by Seventh Day Baptists worldwide. Thanks be to the Lord for allowing us to have such a wonderful day!

We know the Lord our God has a great plan for our lives. We praise Him for giving us this opportunity, as members of the new Faith SDB Group work together towards the Great Commission. **SR**



*Pastor Michael Cummings of the MillYard SDB Church shared the message at the inaugural service.*



*Two of the musicians who helped accompany the praise and worship time.*



## New members

**Fort Lauderdale, FL**  
*Andrew Samuels, pastor*  
Joined after testimony  
Kemar Davis  
Debbie Williams

**Fort Worth, TX**  
*Richard Burks, pastor*  
Joined after testimony  
Craig Kusmierski

**Little Rock, AR**  
*Jeffrey Monroe, pastor*  
Joined after testimony  
Benjamin Monroe  
Sarah Monroe  
Joseph Monroe

**Lost Creek, WV**  
*Perry Cain, pastor*  
Joined by letter  
Chet Bond  
Tanya Bond  
Joined after baptism  
Sepharah Bond  
Rayah Bond  
Joined after testimony  
Marie Nester

## Births

**Schauer.**—A son, Dayton Carl Schauer, was born to Caleb and Rebekah (Mattison) Schauer of Lincoln, NE, on April 5, 2009.

### Death Notices

**Mattie A. Henderson,** 95, of Riverside, Calif., died on May 29, 2009.

**Walden “Froz” Lippincott,** 91, of Milton, Wis., died on June 2, 2009.

# Pre-Con Campers!

## 2009 Youth Pre-Con Camp

## 2009 Young Adult Pre-Con Camp

*Dates:*  
July 22, 4:00 p.m. —  
July 26, 1:00 p.m.

*Campers:*  
Ages 15–18 (or compl. 9<sup>th</sup>)

*Location:*  
Jersey Oaks Camp  
Shiloh, New Jersey

*Director:*  
Pastor Don Chroniger

*Cost:*  
\$145.00 after June 30

*Medical Form required.*  
*See the May SR.*

*Dates:*  
July 22, 4:00 p.m. —  
July 26, 1:00 p.m.

*Campers:*  
Ages 18–29

*Location:*  
Lancaster Bible College  
Lancaster, Pennsylvania

*Director:*  
Pastor John Pethtel

*Cost:*  
\$200.00  
after June 30

Mail your registration form  
from the May SR, or go to  
[educatingchristians.org](http://educatingchristians.org)

## Annual Corporation Meeting Notice

Seventh Day Baptist  
Board of Christian Education, Inc.

The annual meeting of the members of the SDB Board of Christian Education, Inc., will be held on the campus of **Lancaster Bible College**, Lancaster, Pa., at 8:45 p.m. on Monday, July 27, 2009. The specific location for the meeting will be prominently announced on campus.

The purpose of this meeting shall be to hear and act upon the 2008 Annual Report of the Board of Directors, and to consider and act upon such matters that may properly come before said meeting.

Members of the member churches of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference USA & Canada, Ltd., are members of the corporation. Accredited delegates attending the 2009 General Conference sessions in Lancaster, PA, are entitled to vote at this annual meeting.

# 2009 SDB General Conference

## Lancaster, Pa., Bible College

### July 26 – August 1, 2009

The Host Committee has been burning the midnight oil, making preparations. Some of our members have tirelessly subjected themselves to visiting establishments such as “Shady Maple” to ensure that the delectability of each buffet is worthy of our Conference goers. We’re even putting our children to work inspecting every ride at Dutch Wonderland so all the SDB youth have a great time there.

Lancaster Bible College has a beautiful campus located in the heart of 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](http://www.padutchcountry.com).

Please see inside the front cover for a list of this year’s Conference Host Committee members. **REGISTRATION forms** are in the May *Sabbath Recorder*, or on-line at [www.seventhdaybaptist.org](http://www.seventhdaybaptist.org).

Here’s more of your Conference lowdown:

#### Transportation



The Committee will provide transportation from the **Harrisburg** (Pa.) Airport, and the Lancaster Amtrak and bus stations. Please contact Ward Bond at [wdbond@rocketmail.com](mailto:wdbond@rocketmail.com) (ph. 856-451-5681), or Steve Moncrief at [smoncrief@prodigy.net](mailto:smoncrief@prodigy.net) (ph. 856-455-4419) for assistance.

#### Linens on campus

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 may either keep

the linens, or you can give them back to the Host Committee. Linens will be washed and donated to a charity.

#### Nursery

Volunteers are needed! If you can offer some of your time during the week to this valuable resource, please contact Dottie Cruzan at [dottiecruzan@gmail.com](mailto:dottiecruzan@gmail.com). Share your intention to share your attention today!



#### Children’s Conference

Charlotte Chroniger is looking for 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade children to play a musical instrument in a Children’s Conference Instrumental Group. Band members will be given one or two pieces to practice between now and Conference. At least one year of lessons is required. This is a great way to encourage our young SDBs to meet new friends and use their musical gifts to magnify the Lord. If interested, please contact Charlotte at 856-455-0488.



The Host Committee can’t wait to see what the Lord has prepared for us when we all get together in Lancaster in July. Please **“PRAY”** for the Conference and for us.

We might prepare the beds for the week, but He has prepared a place for all of us! We might arrange the meals, but He invites us to the wedding feast as His bride. We might invite you to enjoy the local entertainment, but He invites you to live in paradise.

We PRAY that the Lord will work in us and through us. And please PRAY that He is glorified in all things! **SR**

# Working hard over spring break

by Sarah Lima, Milton, Wis.  
Photos sent by Bob Harris

*Patty Petersen of Boulder, Colo., led a one-week mission trip to the Rez Connection ministry in South Dakota. Seven SDBs spent their April spring break working on the Chet Marks farm and reaching out to Native Americans.—Editor*

The Pine Ridge Reservation—spread over 11,000 square miles in South Dakota—has characteristics of an inner city or a third world country. An average of 17 people live in each family home, and a



*Serving the Lord in South Dakota (l. to r.): Nick Lee, Clete Severance, James Lima, Danita Lee, Patty Petersen, Sarah Lima, and Bob Harris.*



*Danita Lee taught the Bible class.*

third of those homes lack basic water, sewage systems or electricity.

The infant mortality rate is three times the national average and the school dropout rate is 70%. Graffiti covers many homes, stores, and even a church. With alcoholism and child abuse commonplace, life expectancy is around 45 years.

My son James and I, and five other SDBs spent our spring break on the reservation with Pastor Chet Marks, his wife Barbara, and



*Working on fences and firewood.*

their eight beautiful children.

Their small church and farm suffered damage from three blizzards this spring. We repaired fences, cleared downed trees, chopped wood for their stove, and cleaned the yard and garden. (*Patty reports that Chet told her the farm work this team did in three days would have taken him three weeks to do.*)

Pastor Chet trained us in evangelism. He took us to meet, serve and share with some of the Oglala Lakota Sioux who live on the “Rez.”

I spent time at the reservation school with middle school students. My own students in Wisconsin have written to them and we received letters in return. James and I were again reminded how precious all people are to Christ and how much we all need Him. **SR**

## SDB presents paper at History Conference

G. Douglas Clarke presented a paper at the Baptist History and Heritage Society annual conference in Huntsville, Ala., in early June. He is the second member of the First SDB Church of Alfred, N.Y., to do so in the past four years. Pastor Patricia Bancroft presented her paper in 2005, “Chosen by God: Women Pastors on the Frontiers of the Seventh Day Baptist Denomination.”

Doug read his paper, “A Familial Story: Contributions of the First Seventh Day Baptist Church of Alfred, New York, to Social Justice.” One of the events he described is from 1885, when a woman by the name of Lucy Barber voted in a local election. Two years later, 10 women voted, and all were indicted for voting illegally.

One of the stories that came out of that incident included, “As the proceedings began, the judge ruled that before they could proceed with the trial, they must first prove that they were women. This so horrified the good men of Alfred that the charges were immediately dropped.” Doug wanted to find out more.

More coverage of this paper and the Society’s conference will appear in the September *SR*. **SR**



# KEVIN'S

## ORNER

### Making this work

After several weeks of telephone tag, I finally got to meet Matt and Jenae at a local restaurant. They wanted me to perform their wedding.

When I saw them, my first thought was, *What a good-looking couple. It looks like they were made for each other!*

Since their wedding date was months away, we had plenty of time to meet for counseling. And the more we talked, I'm afraid that my thoughts turned to, *How in the world did these two get together??*

Now, I understand that sometimes "opposites" can attract. I heard their stories of two very different backgrounds and paths coming together:

- A family of spirited debating and strong opinions vs. a family of quiet discussion.

- A family of sports and competition vs. a family of calm conversation.

- One guy—oops, I mean, attitude—of spontaneity and "Whatever" vs. one who must plan for every detail and "I need to know exactly what to wear!"

I did what I could to suggest how the other might feel when certain things happened, and gave them some ideas and behaviors to imitate.

Then this young couple taught me some things.

"We spent a weekend reading this book," Jenae explained. "When we have a disagreement, we sit down together, we hold hands, we look at each other, and we talk it out."

Huh? Even the guy (person!) with the "Whatever" attitude does this?

"Yes!"

They found some common ground and were determined to "make this work."

Our God above was determined to make another relationship work: the relationship between Him and mankind.

But there was a problem. We were opposites! He was perfect and sinless; we were imperfect and full of sin. And because of that sin, there would be no good relationship with our heavenly Father.

So God sent His perfect, sinless Son into this world to pay the price and make the sacrifice that would restore our relationship with Him. (Jesus not only *read* the book; he *WAS* the book.)

Jesus paid the penalty for our sins, taking them upon himself so we could have an ongoing, eternal relationship with God the Father. He was willing to make this work.



As I shared this comparison with Matt and Jenae, I reminded them not to depend solely on books, or current trends, or even solely on each other. They need to trust the "Groom" who was sent by the Father to claim his Bride, the Church.

The Church is to be the Bride, beautifully adorned and prepared for her Husband.

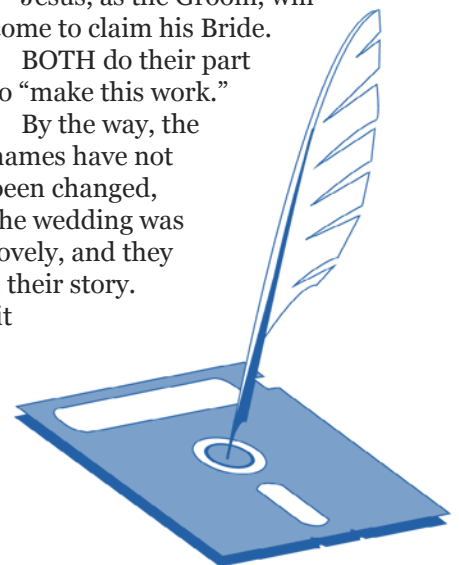
Jesus, as the Groom, will come to claim his Bride.

BOTH do their part to "make this work."

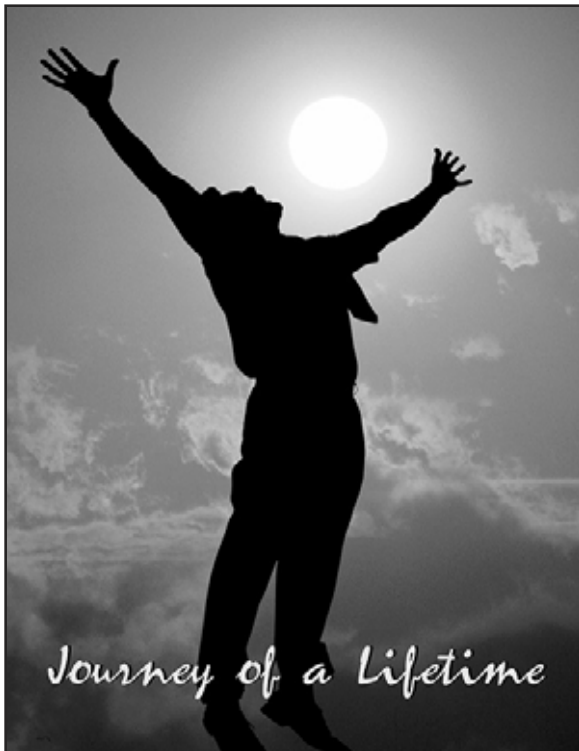
By the way, the names have not been changed, the wedding was lovely, and they

allowed me to share their story.

May we all submit to Jesus, accept his loving sacrifice, and follow his example to make this work.



## Share the Journey



*If you enjoy religious allegories, you'll enjoy reading our full-color special issue "Journey of a Lifetime." And after you read it, how about sharing the story with neighbors and friends?*

To receive copies of this special outreach issue, contact us at the **Seventh Day Baptist Center, PO Box 1678, Janesville WI 53547**. Our phone number is 608-752-5055, and our e-mail is [media@seventhdaybaptist.org](mailto:media@seventhdaybaptist.org).

Individual copies are free. We will need to add shipping charges for larger quantities. Please contact us for those costs.

We pray that the Lord will bless this story of our beliefs, and many others will join us on our "Journey of a Lifetime."