



The  
**Sabbath**  
**RECORDER**

September 2009

*News for and about Seventh Day Baptists*

We came to

**PRAY**

Conference 2009



*Plus:*

Let's not lose  
these guys!

**Organized Chaos**



## 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)

## New Websites!

Our North Loup, Nebraska, church announces their brand new site:

[www.NLSDBChurch.net](http://www.NLSDBChurch.net)

(That's the #1 before .net)

It has all kinds of new features and photos. Check it out!

Also, our church in West Palm Beach, Fla., has this one:

[www.ourchurch.com/member/b/baptist7thday](http://www.ourchurch.com/member/b/baptist7thday)

If you add or change your site, let us know so we can update our list at [seventhdaybaptist.org](http://seventhdaybaptist.org)

## Directory available

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 (ph. 608-752-5055, or [media@seventhdaybaptist.org](mailto:media@seventhdaybaptist.org)) and we can invoice you. Or place your order at our web-site's E-store and let PayPal do the calculations.

We've done "Survivor" (p. 9) so why not—

## The Biggest SDB Loser!

Here's a contest to see which SDB church can lose the biggest percentage of weight in 9 months. One of the prizes will be to have your group's picture featured on the cover of the *Sabbath Recorder*. (So take a "before" photo of your group right away.) The contest **begins October 1** and will end on **June 30**.

Each participating church can build a team of 5, 10, 15 or 20 people. A church can have more than one team if there are more than 20 people who want to participate.

Each church will develop their own plan for organizing their weight loss program. PLEASE: As with any weight loss or exercise program, check with your physician first. The weigh-ins for the contest will be once a month, and reported to our coordinator Peggy Chroniger at [chroniger@frontiernet.net](mailto:chroniger@frontiernet.net).

Here's an example for figuring percentage of weight loss: A person starts at 180. They lose 6 pounds the first month.

$$6 \text{ divided by } 180 = 3.33\%$$

The next month, they lose 5 more pounds.

$$11 \text{ (total pounds lost) divided by } 180 = 6.11\%$$

The church with the highest average percentage will win!

The *SR* will also run a monthly column on exercise, healthy eating and weight loss.

READY? SET? LOSE!!

And become the

**Biggest SDB Loser**





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Ⓔ = Editor's Circle members

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# Above and Beyond

by Kevin Butler



Many a prayer got lifted up and answered for this year’s SDB General Conference. And I came away with the thought of “above and beyond.”

President Ed Cruzan pulled together a balanced and meaningful program that went above and beyond a simple one-word theme. His travels and promotion (and prayers) helped to bring in many attendees.

The Host Committee, chaired by Steve Moncrief, continued to go above and beyond the call of duty when new challenges came their way. They even constructed the lovely stage centerpiece (*pictured left*) that helped us keep our focus on the Conference theme. To registrar Sandy Layton and the entire hardworking Host Committee, congratulations and thank you for an outstanding job!

To the staff of Lancaster Bible College: Wow! We were the largest group you guys ever hosted, and you went above and beyond to make us feel welcome and a part of your family. To Renée in community relations, to Mark in food services, to the guys helping in the sound booth, and to all the students behind the scenes: a heartfelt thank you. And once again, SDBs went “above and beyond” in consuming your ice cream. That “Turkey Hill” brand was mighty good, wasn’t it?

Above and beyond. That’s the whole reason why our Conference was formed back in 1802. Churches joined together in a covenant to accomplish things above and beyond what a local church can do on its own.

We’re thankful that the Lord—the One from Above and Beyond—decided to meet with us for that special week in July. **SR**



*Family members prayed for President Ed Cruzan before Sunday night’s opening worship service.*



*President Ed (with loosened tie) felt led to make a point during the reception line after the service.*



**“PRAY”**  
**the 197th SDB General Conference**  
**at Lancaster Bible College,**  
**Lancaster, Pa.**  
**July 26–August 1, 2009**  
**President Ed Cruzan**

**Statistics**

- 733 registered guests
- 335 delegates representing 55 churches
- 71 ministers/pastors present
- 1 delegate from other SDB Conferences
- 4 official visitors
- 8 students preparing for ministry
- 86 at associated Conferences plus 26 in the nursery
- 23 at Youth Pre-Con, directed by Don Chroniger with 7 staff
- 27 at Young Adult, directed by John Pethtel with 4 staff

**Elections**

- President 2009-2010:  
Paul Andries,  
Washington, DC
- President-elect:  
Steve Rogers,  
Salem, WV
- General Council: Steve Rogers,  
Andrew Samuels
- Council on Ministry: Steven  
James, Kenneth Burdick
- Faith and Order: Andrew  
Samuels, Nathanael Lawton
- Committee on Support and  
Retirement: Clayton Pinder
- Tract and Communication  
Council: Joel Osborn, Levi  
Bond
- Memorial Fund Trustees: Erin  
Burdick-Inabnit, Jim Goodrich,  
Myron McPherson
- Christian Social Action: Jeanie  
Smith, Lydia Solomon, John  
Pethtel

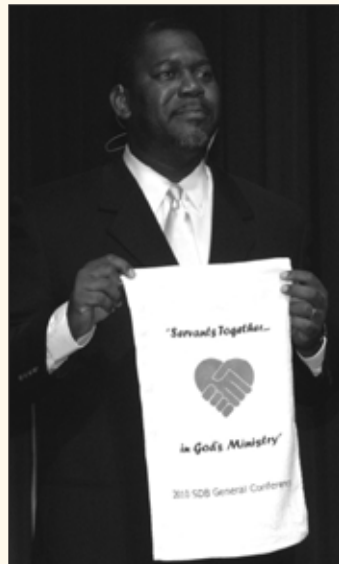
**Awards/Recognitions**

- Women’s Board Robe of Achievement: Jackie Wells Payne, Dodge Center, MN
- Sabbath School Teacher of the Year: Ruth Hazen, Central, MD
- Mary G. Clare Scripture Memorization Bowl: Toronto, ON, Canada

**Business Action**

- Approved the 2010 summary of anticipated expenses of \$1,029,587 with \$415,212 to come from current giving

**July 25–31, 2010**  
**Evangel University,**  
**Springfield, Mo.**  
*“Servants Together  
in God’s Ministry”*



*President-Elect Paul Andries*



*This music team of Nate Crandall, Amanda Tremlin and Lena Parrish led out each weekday morning. Jenna Wethington played the piano.*



*David Fox (l.) and Dakota Watt (r.) helped Pastor Ken Chroniger make an illustration during Monday morning’s Bible Study and prayer time.*



*Deacons from around the country joined to serve communion on Sabbath morning before Sabbath School and worship.*

# Where would Conference be without music?

*by Pastor Chris Mattison, North Loup, Neb.  
From the Conference Crier*

After being asked by the *Crier* staff to share memories of Conferences past, I was unsure how to proceed. I could go in so many directions it's not funny!

However, Monday evening's worship service reminded me of many strong memories that weave together through a common thread: **MUSIC**.

My soul has been fed in those times of gentle fellowship singing with friends who now enjoy the choir of heaven. (Larry Graffius and Don Sanford come to mind.) Or laughing and singing bass with Dave Taylor. I am still deeply affected these many years later by Leta DeGroff singing, "I'll Walk with God."

When I come to Conference I feel like the kid who finally gets to swim in the deep part of the pool musically. The full, rich harmony of so many voices in common praise is indescribable. I feel like I can swim through those tones and harmonies.



*Steve Rogers led the men's chorus for Thursday night vespers.*

There have been seasons of sweet joy and of serious conflict during certain Conferences. Music has been a vehicle that the Holy Spirit has used to bind us together and strengthen our commonality.

Whether it's "rocking the house" with drums and a wailing guitar; a soft, gentle caress of the spirit by

Lannette Calhoun or Charlotte Chroniger at the piano; or the sweet sound of the children's program—year after year the music has enriched us. Without music, General Conference would be just another workshop, seminar, or convention.

Memories of Conferences past? Music brings them all back. **SR**



*The Reynolds sisters (Ruth, Paula and Natasha) harmonized wonderfully on Wednesday evening.*



*Justin Camenga, Ed and Cathy Cruzan, and Patti Wethington helped welcome the Sabbath with hymns.*

# Awards and Recognitions



*Jackie Wells Payne humbly accepted the Robe of Achievement after being fitted by Gail Price and Margie Jacob (right).*



*Ruth Hazen, Central Maryland (r.), was named the Sabbath School Teacher of the Year.*



*Andrew Camenga (l.) congratulated Pastor Herlitz Condison as the Toronto SDB Church once again won the Scripture Memory contest bowl.*



*Two new churches joined the Conference: Agape SDB, St. Albans, N.Y. (l.) and Faith SDB, Bronx, N.Y.*



# Let's not lose these guys!

by Dave Stall, Berlin, N.Y.  
From the Conference Crier



*Josh Rankhorn, Emily Watt and Benny Uhlich read a modern parable during Monday night vespers at Conference.*



*Yes, that is our Historian (and PreCon staffer) Nick Kersten acting like a teapot for Jessica Patterson's parable.*



*Young Adult PreConnors led the singing at Monday vespers.*

What is there to love about college-aged young adults? They are energetic, passionate, fearless, creative, and in a position to go in thousands of different directions as God leads them.

What is so frustrating about college-aged young adults? They can be impatient, disrespectful, uncommitted, and torn between thousands of different directions as God leads them.

For the past two years I have had the honor of serving on the Young Adult Pre-Con staff, and have spent a lot of time with these awesome Seventh Day Baptists. Never before have I had such blessing from (and such a burden for) a group of believers. These young adults represent some of God's finest work of creation and some of His transforming ministry that will happen over the next 20 to 50 years.

Those who attended Pre-Con last year and this year have displayed remarkable spiritual maturity, an unlikely sensitivity, and an inspiring courage to "face all things spiritual" in an honest and direct way. I am blessed by them.

The most important part of working with our young adults—at a denominational level—is keeping them here. I observed my own generation of "young adults" at Conference in the mid-to-late 1990s, and saw a group that was really fired up. As it turns out, many had a flame that was very hot and burned out very fast.

In some ways, our "adults" are to blame for not knowing how to nurture that young energy. In other ways, those young adults are to blame for not "growing up" faster and digging deeper for patience and wisdom. (By the way, "long suffering" in the young adult mind is the four lonely hours between meaningful relationships with future spouses...)

Also, it just may be that God was not moving that way at that time. For whatever reason, many of my peers "jumped ship" and went elsewhere to find ministry or church families.

The group that attended Young Adult Pre-Con this year has much to receive from Seventh Day Baptists, and much to give as well. As we studied the parables in Matthew and worshiped together, my prayer was that these young people would see past worldly things and get a glimpse of "Kingdom" things, and be inspired to commit to His work among SDBs.

I don't want to see this current generation lost. I believe God has raised them up in our midst for an important work—and they can handle it. **SR**



# The “Survivor Challenge” night

Photos by Kristin Camenga

“Survivor: Australia” contestant Mike Skupin supervised a wild set of activities on Wednesday night at Conference.

After a grueling obstacle course where teams had to hold hands...



...contestants were challenged to eat some really nasty stuff!



\* Eventual winner Jackson Butler had to stomach a veritable smorgasbord of “delicacies”—dead and alive. His parents must have been so proud...

# A Denomination Takes Form

## 1790 – 1860

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 cites various stories on religion and books, and has added articles about Seventh Day Baptists. This article is the third in a series covering SDB history. 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.

The first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century was a time of rapid change in the United States. The frontier moved westward as settlers crossed the mountains into the Ohio Valley and on into the Northwest Territories.

The construction of canals and railroads made access easier and communication less difficult. It was also a time of religious ferment. The Second Great Awakening meant revival—increased interest in Christian commitment and in Biblical doctrine.

### Moving West

Seventh Day Baptists were a part of all this. Members of SDB churches moved with the settlements, first into western New York and western Virginia (now West Virginia) and then to the northwest—into what would soon be Ohio and Wisconsin, establishing new churches where they settled.

The first Seventh Day Baptist missionaries helped maintain a connection among these scattered groups. Taking advantage of opportunities, they preached the Gospel and introduced the Sabbath to those open to conviction.

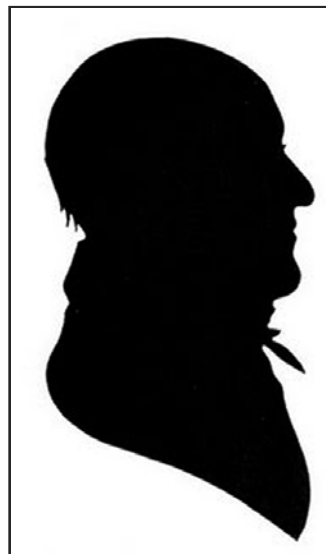
### A Denomination

As the number of Seventh Day Baptists and Seventh Day Baptist churches grew, new needs and opportunities were recognized and an organizational structure began to appear.

- In 1802, eight of the churches decided to form the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference. The churches surrendered none of their autonomy to the new

organization, but saw it as a way to maintain a connection with each other and to promote the doctrinal distinctives of the emerging denomination.

In 1833, the first “Expose of Sentiments” was published. It was described as “an exhibition of the views



*This silhouette is of the Rev. Henry Clarke, one of those instrumental in the creation of General Conference in 1802.*



*The Milton Academy was the predecessor to Milton College in Wisconsin, one of three colleges founded by Seventh Day Baptists.*

generally held by the denomination,” but had no binding effect on churches or members.

- In 1818, the first of several missionary societies was created primarily to send missionaries to the frontier. In 1844, however, it was decided to also send missionaries to “other parts of the world.” The still-existing SDB Missionary Society came into being.
- Seventh Day Baptists promoted religious education in their churches

by establishing Sabbath Schools. They also created institutions to promote learning in their communities. Before public schools were generally available, churches and groups of churches organized academies to educate both their own children and others in their communities.

Institutions of higher education grew out of some of those academies, including Alfred University in New York (1857) and Milton College in Wisconsin (1867). The colleges associated with Seventh Day Baptists

later included Salem College in West Virginia (1888).

- The earliest Seventh Day Baptists printed and circulated tracts and books. Now they would begin to publish periodicals. After several short-lived newspapers, the American Sabbath Tract Society began publishing *The Sabbath Recorder* in 1844. The *Recorder* was a weekly newspaper during most of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It continues as a monthly magazine today.

By the time of the American Civil War, Seventh Day Baptist churches were scattered from their origins in the East to the new states of the Midwest. **SR**

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

## A Seventh Day Baptist newspaper

The *Seventh Day Baptist Register* began publication in 1840, after General Conference recommended the creation of a newspaper to help connect members of the denomination. The *Register* was published from DeRuyter, N.Y., and was in circulation for four years.

It was succeeded by *The Sabbath Recorder*, which took over the *Register's* subscription list. *The Sabbath Recorder* began publication in 1844 in New York City. George B. Utter (photo) was its editor for 25 years. The weekly newspaper carried commercial advertising and its content included general news in addition to theological and denominational material.

The very first issue of June 13, 1844, had news of religious interest and also reported on the success of Samuel Morse's new telegraph, the proposed annexation of Texas, the price of commodities, and other general items of news.

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





## Robe of Achievement Recipient for 2009

This year's recipient (of the Women's Board Robe of Achievement) has a rather impressive record of service to the churches that she is affiliated with, to the communities that she lives in, and to our denomination.

Affiliated with three different SDB churches, this lady has served as a deaconess, choir member, Sabbath School teacher, camp counselor, Women's Society chairman and secretary, worked with Vacation Bible School, provided housing for SCSC and Pastors' Conferences, and served as a church officer.

She has served her communities by volunteering at the library and local hospitals, tutoring elementary children, volunteering at the local community theater, organizing an exercise program for senior citizens, providing transportation for seniors,



donating books to the local library and delivering Meals on Wheels—just to name a few.

She has served the denomination with the Missionary Society and on the Women's Board, and as secretary to many interest committees at General Conference. As a missionary to Jamaica, she worked as a teacher

and secretarial assistant to the head of the mission, served as treasurer on the Jamaican Board of Christian Education, assisted with accounting at Crandall High School, and assisted in starting an Intermediate Christian Endeavor group in the Kingston church.

She is a quiet, wise and unassuming person who does not force her way on others. She is welcomed and enjoyed by everyone. Bible study and prayer are a regular part of her life. She has spent most of her life focused on serving God.

When she has the opportunity to see God face to face, we have no doubt that He will say to her: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

It is our privilege to present this year's Robe and plaque to Jackie Wells Payne. **SR**

### Women's Board Love Gift

By the end of Conference week, \$3,302.48 had been raised for the Women's Board Love Gift. This year, the Love Gift will be divided as follows:

1. \$100 to Pastor George Lawson and the Maranatha Community Church for their internet ministry to lone Sabbathkeepers.
2. The remaining amount to be divided evenly (10% each) among:
 

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Jeff Neher, medical expenses</li> <li>-Tim &amp; Jayme Osborn, teaching in northern Africa</li> <li>-Mark &amp; Linda Bentz, to serve in Lesotho, Africa</li> <li>-Transportation costs for women's teachers in other Conferences</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Blankets, clothing for infants and children</li> <li>-Building costs (distributed by Missionary Society as needed)</li> <li>-Teachers in Sierra Leone</li> <li>-Dr. Ron Davis, medical mission team to Malawi</li> <li>-Ambulance for Malawi</li> <li>-Distribution of <i>Helping Hand</i> in Jamaica</li> </ul>
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Did you miss contributing to the Love Gift? You can add your gift until 9/30/09. Please send it to Women's Board Love Gift, Enid Nobles, Treasurer, 9 Little Pond Trail, Ormond Beach FL 32174.



## Women's Board Honored

Outgoing SDB Women's Board President Marjorie Jacob and the rest of the Board based in Florida were honored during the 2009 Women's Banquet at Conference. We are so thankful for the time and energy that the Women's Board, and especially Margie, contributed over the past nine years.

We were entertained at the banquet with solos by Owen Probasco (Shiloh, NJ), and humorous readings by Gail Price (Palatka, FL). Jasmine Patterson, from the Bell SDB Church (Salemville, PA) and Linda Bentz (Milton, WI) shared their testimonies. Marjorie and Jim Jacob acted out an Abbott and Costello-style skit with Althea Rood, the new Women's Board President.

At the banquet, \$2,817.57 was collected toward the Women's Love Gift. This will be distributed as noted on page 12.

The banquet's main speaker was Linda Graffius from Salemville. She spoke on the "Hidden Places of the Heart," using an illustration of Baked Alaska: the meringue on this dessert is set on fire when it is brought to the table, while inside the ice cream is frozen and hard.

Sharing her own testimony, she was convinced as a college student that the Bible was untrue. That caused her to become cold on the inside, while appearing to be a strong Christian.

During a Pre-Con retreat at Camp Joy in Berea, W.Va., God thawed her heart and she rededicated herself to the Lord. Linda urged us to examine our own lives to ensure that we have an inner fire and not just surface warmth.

Margie Jacob was honored for her service as Women's Board President,

both by the outgoing Board and the incoming one. She served as President from 2000-2009, the entire time the Board was based in Florida. As part of her duties, she represented the Women's Board at the SDB General Council and Coordinating Leadership Team (CLT) meetings. She also represented us at the North American Baptist Women's Union (NABWU) gatherings.

During Margie's leadership, the Board continued to raise funds for and improve the SCSC program, and worked to encourage SDB women through newsletters, Women's Day of Prayer material, and the *Sabbath Recorder*.

On behalf of the outgoing Board, Susan Bond presented Margie with

a license plate engraved with recognition of her service. Althea Rood, the incoming President, presented Margie with a soft, embroidered plaque commemorating her service.

Enid Nobles, the outgoing Women's Board Treasurer, was similarly honored, and many other Board members were given smaller embroidered squares in thanks for their service.

Althea Rood (Dodge Center, MN) was then recognized as the new Women's Board President. The new Board, based in Minnesota and Wisconsin, also has members from Idaho, Alabama, New York, and Michigan. Please pray for the new officers as they begin their service for the Lord! **SR**



*Susie Bond (l.) honored Marjorie Jacob.*



*Guest speaker  
Linda Graffius*



*The ladies once again enjoyed a bountiful banquet and great fellowship.*

# Scripture Memory

Conference Theme: “Servants”

## Youth/Adult

The Scripture Memorization Program for 2009-2010 Conference Year will focus on Conference President Paul Andries’ theme: “**Servants Together in God’s Ministry.**”

These verses were chosen to be memorized by the family. Anyone who prefers may memorize one or more of these verses from a different Bible version.

A list of persons from each church who have completed this Scripture Memorization Program should be submitted to the Board of Christian Education Office. The post-marked deadline is **July 1, 2010**. Certificates for those who memorize all verses will be distributed at the 2010 General Conference.

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*All Scripture quotations in this list are from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION® NIV® Copyright© 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society.*

### October

“No weapon forged against you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and this is their vindication from me,” declares the LORD. (Isaiah 54:17)

### November

Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him. (Mark 1:20)

### December

It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. I tell you the truth, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. (Luke 12:37)

### January

This is what the LORD says: “As when juice is still found in a cluster of grapes and men say, ‘Don’t destroy it, there is yet some good in it,’ so will I do in behalf of my servants; I will not destroy them all.” (Isaiah 65:8)

### February

Don’t you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? (Romans 6:16)

### March

For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake. (2 Corinthians 4:5)

### April

Masters, provide your slaves with what is right and fair, because you know that you also have a Master in heaven. (Colossians 4:1)

### May

Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God. Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king. (1 Peter 2:16-17)

### June

The angel said to me, “These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants the things that must soon take place.” “Behold, I am coming soon! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy in this book.” (Revelation 22:6-7)

— or —

1 Corinthians 12:12-25



# Verses: 2009-2010

## Together in God's Ministry"

### Junior

### Primary

"No weapon forged against you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you."  
(Isaiah 54:17a)

"No weapon forged against you will prevail."  
(Isaiah 54:17a)

Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him. (Mark 1:20)

They left their father... and followed him.  
(Mark 1:20b)

It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. (Luke 12:37a)

It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching. (Luke 12:37a)

This is what the LORD says: "As when juice is still found in a cluster of grapes and men say, 'Don't destroy it, there is yet some good in it,' so will I do in behalf of my servants; I will not destroy them all." (Isaiah 65:8)

So will I do in behalf of my servants.  
(Isaiah 65:8b)

You are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness.  
(Romans 6:16b)

You are slaves to the one whom you obey.  
(Romans 6:16b)

For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.  
(2 Corinthians 4:5)

For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord. (2 Corinthians 4:5a)

Masters, provide your slaves with what is right and fair, because you know that you also have a Master in heaven. (Colossians 4:1)

You also have a Master in heaven.  
(Colossians 4:1b)

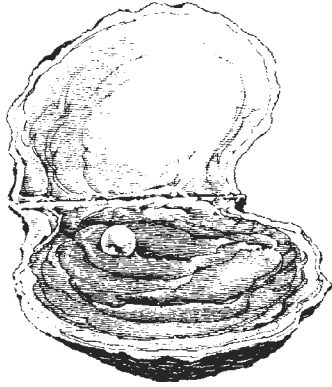
Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God.  
(1 Peter 2:16)

Live as servants of God.  
(1 Peter 2:16b)

"Behold, I am coming soon! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy in this book."  
(Revelation 22:7)

"Behold, I am coming soon!"  
(Revelation 22:7a)

1 Corinthians 12:12-25



## Alexander Campbell: Promoter of Education

*Editor's note: Don's Pearls in the April 2009 SR covered the early years of Alexander Campbell and his coming to Seventh Day Baptists.*

**“ In his personal campaign for the support of DeRuyter Institute, Campbell was a true ‘evangelist’ for higher learning among all Seventh Day Baptists. ”**

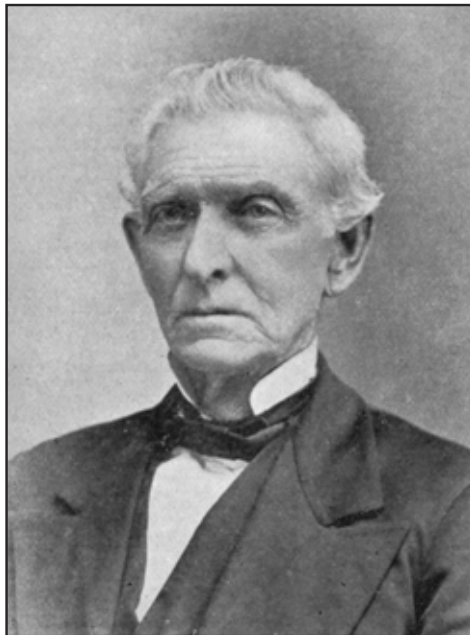
In the fall of 1825 at the age of 24, Alexander Campbell was baptized and joined the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Adams, N.Y. The Adams church licensed him to preach and he became pastor of a small church in Truxton in central New York state.

Campbell was ordained a year later. About 1833 he was appointed by the Missionary Board to visit the churches in western New York, western Pennsylvania and western Virginia as a missionary. These tours and his participation in sessions of General Conference served him well in the later work for which he is best remembered.

He wrote concerning the promise he had made to remove the reproach of lack of education among Seventh Day Baptists:

“I now believed the proper time had come... I had made acquaintance of our people, and had formed an opinion as to our numbers and resources. It frequently came to my ears that some of the young men of much promise were drifting away from us because the advantages they sought could not be obtained among us. I began to feel intensely on the subject.”

With encouragement from Deacon Henry Crandall and Dr. Ira Spencer, a public meeting was held in DeRuyter, N.Y., to consider the establishment of a school in that community. A unanimous resolution resulted in the founding of DeRuyter Academy. The first class was held in 1837 with 140 students enrolled.



*Rev. Alexander Campbell  
1801-1888*

Many of the students went on to positions of leadership in the denomination. A number of students roomed with the Campbells at a cost of \$1.25 per week. Others came only if the Alexander Campbells promised to look after their welfare while at DeRuyter.

Although he was not on the faculty he continued to be close to its operation. One of the instructors was Solomon Carpenter who later resigned to go to China as a missionary. Campbell then recommended that William C. Kenyon be the principal. However, when the trustees saw Kenyon's handwriting they turned him down.

Campbell commented, “The trustees examined the penmanship of his letter, as though this specimen of his handwriting was a criteria by which to form their judgment of his qualifications to manage our school as principal. They were not inclined to accept his offer, and I did not press the matter. This, I think, was the first time that all the trustees were against me, and they regretted it afterward.”

Kenyon went on to become principal of Alfred (N.Y.) Academy. For 29 years he guided that institution as

*cont. on page 26*



## Burundi needs a building

by Kirk Looper

When I visited Burundi, Africa, in 2005, their SDB Conference operated outside of government regulations and was very loosely organized. During that first visit, they were able to register with the government and be recognized as a working church organization.

The Burundi Conference began with seven churches and grew to 12 within a week. They continued to grow, but not without difficulty. It appears that someone was doing things to undermine the churches and discredit the General Secretary.

We received a letter that the Secretary had been replaced and was no longer part of the Conference. He was actually kidnapped by rebels and threatened by death. After being released due to illness, he was further threatened and escaped to Kampala, Uganda.

Last year he was able to return to Burundi and resume the work he had started. He requested that I visit the Conference to see how the work was progressing—and to learn the real story about his situation.

He explained that it would also give us a chance to have a follow-up seminar on SDB beliefs and polity. They had some specific questions that needed clarification.

So on my recent visit, a joyous entourage of Christian men met me at the airport. That afternoon we visited one of the churches in Bujumbura. It was a delightful day as we met with a congregation I had seen before. It had definitely grown.

We were only able to visit six of the 35 churches that are in the Conference. Each of them exhibited the same characteristics. They need a roof, and in a few, bricks for walls. The meeting houses are fairly small (25 by 40 feet), and are filled to capacity. I learned that not all those attending were church members. Some came from other denominations.

Four of the churches have schools connected with them. All are elementary level. The schools are small and ill equipped. They lack books, materials and equipment. Most do not have chalkboards or chalk. The students need pencils, paper, and food.

The number of orphans in a couple of the schools outnumbered the students from families. Schools have uniform requirements, set by the government, and most of the students cannot afford the \$10 uniform price tag. With an average of about 100 students in each school, it would cost \$1,000 to outfit them. However, I found the students very excited and they recognize the importance of education.

The General Secretary's need for transportation was evident. Even though the country is not as large as some in Africa, the distances between the churches is great and public transportation is expensive. Secretary Nduwayo Gilbert does not hold a job outside the church and the income from Conference members is very low. They had located a vehicle for \$4,500.

Another obstacle is caused by the government following the pattern of most other countries

in requiring Conferences to have a permanent office. The amount would be over \$10,000. (This would be a very small building.) Rental would cost about the same over a few years.

We would like to see them get established in the capital city of Bujumbura, on a good road with direct street access.

Our seminars were well attended, with pastors and leaders quite excited about the information they received. Typical questions included: women in the pulpit, communion, baptism, tithing, and food laws.

It was explained that many of the questions came after a visit of a General Secretary from another Conference and the information he gave them. It is important that visiting personnel should share the content of their teaching with the local General Secretary before they speak to the people. Maybe some misunderstandings could be prevented.

I hope that we can encourage and receive donations to help Burundi with their church buildings and schools. A permanent office space of some kind is mandatory, and it will be a priority call for funds to assist them in securing a location. Please pray for this project to develop. **SR**

“  
***Another obstacle is caused by the government following the pattern of most other countries in requiring Conferences to have a permanent office.***  
”





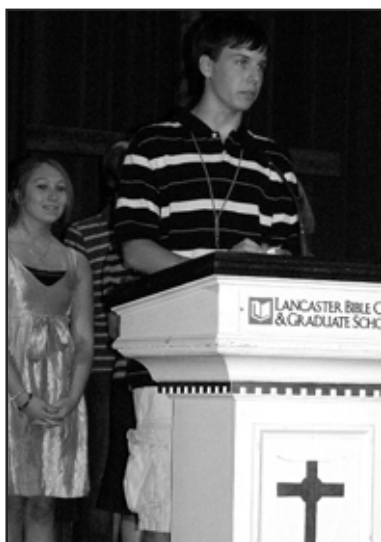
# *the* BEACON

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

September 2009

## Pre-Con was a Highlight

by Carolyn Rankhorn  
*From the Conference Crier*



*Last year's Beacon Editor  
Christopher Davis.*

This year was my first Pre-Con. I was a little nervous and not sure of what to expect.

At the beginning of Pre-Con everyone seemed a little uncomfortable and unsure of themselves. But as the days went by, I saw each of us opening up a bit more. Thursday and Friday nights were the best!

Pastors Wayne North, Don Chroniger, Dave Taylor and Dave Thorngate invited us into the "hot seat" (as Pastor Wayne called it). They prayed over whoever came forward. I was among them.

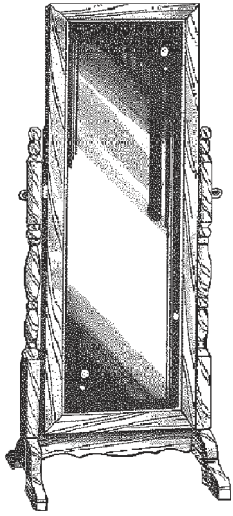
Words of God were spoken—not

only by the pastors but through the other Pre-Con kids as well. I saw eyes lighten up, chins raised, and I came away feeling blessed; not only by what was said and prayed for me, but in taking part of sharing what God wanted said to the person we prayed for.

My experience at Pre-Con was the highlight of my year. It will be a fond memory as well as something to look toward when I need encouragement. God truly worked through those who participated in Pre-Con and it has changed me for the better. I want to go next year! **SR**



*These Youth Pre-Con campers led the vespers service on Tuesday night at Conference.*



# 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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## Serendipitous Servanthood

*"When you do something for someone else, don't call attention to yourself. ... When you help someone out, don't think about how it looks. Just do it—quietly and unobtrusively" (Matthew 6:3-4, The Message).*

**Note:** Initially, I balked at writing this. I didn't want to come across as a prideful praise-seeker. (You know, "Look at what a great Christian I am!") God directs us to undertake our good deed-doing in secret. But perhaps my little act of kindness will inspire others.

Most of my life, I've needed God to hit me over the head with a two-by-four to spur me to action—giving me a lot of headaches in the process.

*Are You sure You want me to do this, Lord? I would argue. You're omniscient, so You know I'm out of my comfort zone. Can You maybe re-think this whole thing?*

I've tried to become more of a listener than a talker when it comes to God. Instead of bombarding Him with a shopping list of what I want Him to do for *me*, I've been tuning in to what He wants me to do for *Him*. That's not natural for someone who continually "runs off at the mouth."

It's easy for people to listen for the big, loud things, but it's a challenge to listen for a small, still voice—that

loving and compelling "gentle whisper" from God's lips (1 Kings 19:11-12).

Although the calendar read June, it felt like August in Wisconsin; one of those panting, dog days of summer with the temperatures melting into the 90s.

I was driving out of a grocery store parking lot when I spotted her—an elderly woman using her hands to

“***That gentle whisper came. Instead of rushing home to get supper for my husband, I made a U-turn and pulled back into the parking lot.***”

propel her wheelchair (without footrests) across the lot's entrance toward the sidewalk beyond.

After she passed in front of me, I turned my car to the right to head home. About four car lengths down the road, that gentle whisper came. Instead of rushing home to get supper for my husband, I made a U-turn and pulled back into the parking lot.

Locking my car, I hurried down the sidewalk to catch up with the stranger.

"Hi," I said as I came up behind her. "Can I help you?"

"No, I'm okay," she replied in a

polite voice. "I need the exercise."

The heavenly whisper got louder as I bent down beside the old woman, looking directly into her face. Her smile revealed one large, brown-stained tooth protruding from her upper gum, while a few smaller brown teeth jutted from her lower jaw. A turban-like scarf covered her head, and black leather gloves protected her gnarled hands from her chair's hard rubber wheels.

Her loose-fitting beige slacks seemed out of place on such a hot day, but her right pant leg caught my attention. It dangled limply in front, minus a foot and a leg.

I eventually convinced the woman that she needed a break from the stifling heat. As I pushed her, we commiserated about the sweltering weather.

I ended up wheeling her through the doors at the far end of the store. Turning to leave, she thanked me for my help, and we both wished each other a good day.

We had spent only a few minutes together, and our conversation was certainly not profound. But that physically-challenged, independent woman touched my heart, and I hope I somehow touched hers.

As I walked to my car, I thanked God for my feet and legs. (And yes, even for my teeth!) I also thanked Him for the unexpected opportunities He gives all of us to serve others in small but important ways. I call it "Serendipitous Servanthood." **SR**



# What is Caesar's? What is God's?

by Morgan Shepard

*“Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not? Should we pay or shouldn't we?” (Mark 12:14-15 NIV)*

The SDB General Conference is in the process of reviewing and updating its tax-exempt non-profit status—known as the 501(c)3 designation—with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

The Conference was originally granted a “Group Exemption” as a non-profit in 1959. With this group designation, member churches and organizations of the General Conference can be listed under the group exemption to ensure their tax-exempt status.

To qualify for tax-exempt status, an organization must meet the following requirements:

- Must be organized and operated exclusively for religious... purposes
- Net earnings may not inure to the benefit of any private individual or shareholder
- No substantial part of its activity may be attempting to influence legislation or intervene in a political campaign

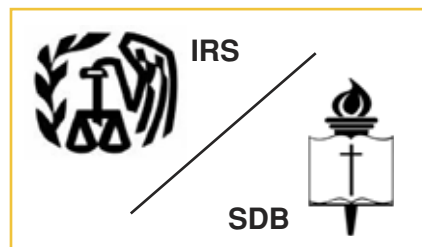
Local churches are automatically considered tax exempt under the IRS 501(c)3 code, and do not need to apply for an exemption. However, having this exemption ensures those who give would have their gifts recognized as tax deductible.

The group exemption allows for member churches to be recognized without having to go through the application process. To be included on the group exemption, each member church must provide:

1. Written notice authorizing they be added to the list;

2. Each church must have its own Employer Identification Number (EIN), sometimes called a Tax ID#, issued by the IRS. If your church does not have one, you can apply for one on-line at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

In June, letters from the SDB Center went out to the churches to obtain their written authorization and EINs. The General Conference must submit the update by September 30.



The IRS has also recently revised the record keeping and reporting requirements for tax-exempt organizations. These records include: organizing documents (charter, constitution, articles of incorporation) and bylaws; minute books; property records; payroll records (as appropriate); banking records and invoices. There is no requirement for how long the records should be kept but a good guideline is four years, especially after acquiring property.

Donors need to maintain a record of any contribution to prove tax deductions. This can include either a cancelled check (not a check register) or a letter from the tax-exempt organization showing the name of the charity, date of the gift, and the amount of the contribution. The statement must say that “no goods or services were provided by the church in return for the contribution.”

The church must provide a separate acknowledgement for each single contribution of \$250 or more, or one acknowledgement to substantiate several single contributions of \$250 or more.

The IRS has also changed the tax return Form 990. Churches are typically exempt from having to file, but it is considered a good practice to prepare a 990 every year and have it on file in case there is a question.

Next month, I'll have more information on changes that can affect you and your church.

*“Then Jesus said to them, ‘Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's’” (Mark 12:17). SR*





by Executive Director  
Rob Appel

## Organized Chaos

Last time, I stepped out on a limb and stated this about autonomy:

*“In my opinion, Seventh Day Baptists have taken what was a simple concept and practice with the local church 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.”*

This month I will elaborate on that statement.

“Autonomy” is a distinctive that separates Baptists from many other Protestant religions. Local Baptist churches function in their community without outside interference, which means that there is no centralized authority that has any jurisdiction over them.

I realize that local church members decide what they do and are self-governing in their style of decision making. But I also think that when a church decides to join a larger group, they are giving up some of that independence.

So why do I feel we have gone a bit too far with this whole autonomy thing? Are you aware that Seventh Day Baptists did not start using the word “autonomy” until the late 1920s? We were basically practicing a form of autonomy, but we were

not using this word to describe our form of independence.

Today we have taken what was a simple concept and practice and made it a style of non-cooperation when we choose to not comply with the wishes of the larger organization. Over and over again, the word “autonomy” has been flung in the face of many a person trying to explain why one organization will not agree with the rest—even though it was decided on by proper action.

The Seventh Day Baptist Conference is made up of various entities: our local congregations, the 10 Associations of churches, and the SDB Agencies. The associational relationship of the Board of Christian Education and Missionary Society to the Conference puts them under the larger SDB General Conference umbrella.

According to Baptist polity, the local church is autonomous. SDB Agencies are not autonomous. However, many don’t see it that way. Many of our Agency ministries started and operated independently of the Conference. Because of their incorporation, they still feel independent today because there is a board that each of the executives answers to. Each is an “autonomous” entity.

None of these entities has any authority over another. Actions taken by the annual Conference has no authority over Agencies, Associations, or the local churches. **Sound ridiculous?**

Well, similarly, a church has no authority over an Association or the Conference. And Agencies and Associations, acting autonomously, have the right to determine who will be accepted and can decide which other Baptist organizations they will relate to and which they will not. Sounds a bit like organized chaos.

Generally speaking about Baptists, when we were comprised of small congregations of baptized believers, autonomy was a relatively simple matter. As Baptist associations, societies, state/national conventions and institutions of various kinds evolved as part of Baptist life, then autonomy issues became convoluted. You basically need a road map to simply understand what is going on. Even then, you are most likely to get lost in the confusion.

When autonomy is interpreted to mean that groups, individuals, or churches are free to do as they please, the results are negative. We need to always keep the lordship of Christ as the number one priority.

Local autonomy is important. It allows churches to function in their community without outside interference. BUT, it is not what I would consider an “essential doctrine.”

Baptist church autonomy has been preserved through the centuries at great sacrifice. This generation ought to strive diligently to pass this biblical principle on to the generations to follow. But let’s at least attempt to clean it up before we pass it on. **SR**

## God's blessing in Paint Rock

The Paint Rock, Ala., SDB Church has seen many blessings during the past year.

Worship attendance has risen to an average of 50. We have been blessed by the regular attendance of nine new people who are members of the Paint Rock community. The church hopes to serve Paint Rock even more in the future.

After adding a new member, and including those in our branch church in Nashville, our membership stands at 67.

Last October we hosted a youth retreat which included youth from the Atlanta churches. David Fox and Rachel Hargett from the Metro Atlanta SDB Church, and Melody, Joshua and Carolyn Rankhorn from our church did a fantastic job organizing and directing a wholesome weekend. The retreat swelled our attendance to 62 that Sabbath.

In November, member Steven Dunn spearheaded a community-wide Thanksgiving celebration. Seventy-seven thankful people attended the worship service and luncheon.

On the first Sabbath of 2009, we enjoyed a joint service with the Mt. Pisgah Seventh-day Adventist Church. The special music they brought was spiritually uplifting.

During the first quarter of the year we were blessed by a presentation from Jeff and Sandy Roe, missionaries to Indonesia. Jeff's parents, Larry and Wanda Roe, are members at Paint Rock. Because of the nature of their mission work and their ties to our church, we send financial assistance to them regularly.


More recently, Carl Peacock was ordained as a deacon, and Shay Rankhorn was installed as assistant pastor. In his 24<sup>th</sup> year of service to the Paint Rock church, Pastor John Bevis continues to shepherd the

flock. We give thanks and glory to God our Father for the strength Pastor John has received to continue his service. We continue to pray that his strength is sustained as he battles Parkinson's disease.

Gus Tucker and Steven Dunn successfully completed their course work during this year's Summer Institute (on SDB History) held at the Center in Janesville, Wis. Two of our young adults—Melody and Joshua Rank-

horn—served again in the Summer Christian Service Corps, and Paint Rock hosted an SCSC team here. Thanks be to God for Ellen Griffin's willingness to serve as the project director.

And in June, the Paint Rock church hosted the Appalachian Association meetings. Attendance was 94. Pastor Wayne North of the New Auburn, Wis., SDB Church spoke on Sabbath day and Shay Rankhorn served as moderator.

Please pay us a visit whenever you're in northern Alabama! 

“  
**We give thanks  
and glory to God for  
the strength Pastor  
John has received to  
continue his service.**”

*Shay Rankhorn (l.) is welcomed as the new assistant pastor by Pastor John Bevis.*



*Carl Peacock (kneeling, center) has hands laid on him by other ordained brethren as he is ordained as a deacon at the Paint Rock church.*

## Two Decades in Shiloh

On July 4<sup>th</sup>, the SDB Church of Shiloh, New Jersey, honored Pastor Don Chroniger for his 20 years of shepherding the flock there. Church member Owen Probasco wrote the following tribute for the occasion:

### Chronigers' Chronicles

Twenty years ago and holding  
They came out of the West  
With 3 & 1/2 young hatchlings  
(now they face an empty nest).

With the flipping of the pages  
Time just seems to roll and roll;  
But for the master of the ages (Don)  
The years sure took their toll.

From a parsonage on the South side  
There was made a proper search  
And they made the move and fit  
the groove  
To a "mansion" near the church.

Yes, the years have been a blessing  
With some bumps along the way;  
And the kids matured and loved  
the Lord  
While the preacher's hair turned  
gray.

He led the church through growing  
pains  
Through troubling times and rest;  
He was always there with word or  
prayer—  
With a somber eye, or jest.

Twenty years he's been our pastor,  
Twenty years he's played his part.  
Twenty years he's led our worship,  
And we thank him from our heart.

Yes, 20 years have come and gone  
So what else can we say?  
We honor you and your family, too  
On this very special day! **SR**

## Church rededicated in Philadelphia

by Janet E. Brooks

The Philadelphia, Pa., SDB Church held a special service on May 30. Friends and brethren traveled from far and near to help dedicate our newly renovated church building to the service of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The building was originally home to the members of the Hope SDB Church, a small group that was incorporated January 7, 1985. The Hope Church was founded by the following members: Kenroy Cruickshank, Mauleen Cruickshank, Fred Ayars, Virginia Ayars, David Ayars, Barbara Ayars, Winsome Findlater, Kathleen Findlater, Lucy Griffiths, Cello

Barrett and Rolleesa Thurman-Phillips.

Pastor Andrew Samuels of the Miami, Fla., SDB Church preached a powerful sermon on the importance of utilizing God's blessing of a new building to its fullest potential.

Two plaques of dedication were presented to the founding members. Accepting the plaques on their behalf were Deaconess Virginia Ayars and Rolleesa Thurman-Phillips.

If you are in the area, we invite you to come and worship with us. We are located at 6841 Ardleigh Street in Philadelphia. **SR**



*Founding members recognized (l. to r.): Virginia and Fred Ayars, Cello Barrett, Mauleen and Kenroy Cruickshank, and Rolleesa Phillips.*



*Pastor Don and Charlotte Chroniger and some young guy on the cake.*



*Founded nearly 25 years ago, the Philadelphia SDB Church has undergone major renovations.*



## New members

**Metro Atlanta, GA**  
*John J. Pethtel, pastor*  
 Joined after baptism  
 David Lovelace  
 Erika Torres

**Salem, WV**  
 Joined after testimony  
 Suzanna (Anna) Davis

**Stonefort, IL**  
 Joined after baptism  
 Blake Jordan Buchanon  
 Bryleigh Kate Buchanon


Send your news to  
[editor@seventhdaybaptist.org](mailto:editor@seventhdaybaptist.org)  
 or post it to “Sabbath  
 Recorder” on Facebook. The  
 info marked  came from  
 Facebook.

## Births

**Lopez.**—A son, Abel Timothy Lopez, was born to Edwin and Maria Lopez of Manassas, VA, on March 28, 2009.

**Dalton.**—A daughter, Haven Lily Dalton, was born to John and Heather (Thorpe) Dalton of Westerly, RI, on June 8, 2009. (She is the 26<sup>th</sup> great-grandchild of Pastor Edgar and Xenia Lee Wheeler.)

**Quinteros.**—A son, Kelvin Ariel Quinteros, was born to Gilberto and Eunice Quinteros of Silver Spring, MD, on June 11, 2009.

**Bruce.**—A son, Robert J. Bruce  III, was born to B.J. and Abigail (Vaught) Bruce of Portland, OR, on Daddy’s birthday, August 12, 2009.

## General Conference Offering

**on Sabbath  
 August 1, 2009  
 Lancaster, PA**

**\$17,119**

*Thank you so much  
 for your  
 Generous Support!*

## Denominational Dateline

### September 2009

5-6 Sabbath Recorder Committee, Paint Rock, Ala.—Kevin Butler  
 6-10 Guyana, Africa, SDB Churches—Kirk Loper  
 12 Hebron, Pa., SDB Church—Gordon Lawton  
 15-18 Rez Connection, South Dakota—Looper  
 19 North Central Association, Milton, Wis.—Rob Appel, Butler  
 19 Lincoln, Neb., SDB Church—Looper

### October

2-4 Northwest Days (NW Association), Portland, Ore.—Nick Kersten  
 3 SDB Women’s Board, SDB Center, Janesville, Wis.—Althea Rood  
 5-6 Baptist Joint Committee, Washington, D.C.—Appel  
 9-11 Mid-Continent Association, Boulder, Colo.—Appel

10 Boulder, Colo., SDB Church—Looper  
 15-16 Coordinating Leadership Team, SDB Center—all SDB execs  
 24-25 Memorial Fund quarterly meeting, Alfred Station, N.Y.—Morgan Shepard, Appel  
 24-25 Missionary Society Board of Directors, Ashaway, R.I.—Looper  
 29-1 Tract Council Annual Meeting, SDB Center—Butler  
 30-31 Daytona Beach, Fla., 125<sup>th</sup> Celebration—Lawton, Kersten

### November

7 Agape SDB Church, Queens, N.Y.—Lawton  
 7 CPR, Lost Creek, W.Va. — Butler, Appel  
 13-15 South Atlantic Association, West Palm Beach, Fla.—Appel



## Obituaries

**Deehan.**—Marianne M. Deehan, 76, of Newaygo, Mich., passed away unexpectedly on April 1, 2009, at her home.

Marianne was born on March 11, 1933, in Lansing, Mich., to Howard and Alice (Carlteon) Lownsbey. She married Harold C. Deehan Jr. on March 8, 1952, in Lansing. Harold preceded her in death in 2007.

She had worked in the Lansing School District for several years until her retirement. Marianne had been an active member of ZONTA in Newaygo County, and was also a member of the Air Force Sergeant's Association, the White Cloud Garden Club, and AARP.

Marianne enjoyed embroidery and sewing, traveling throughout the U.S. and Canada treasuring the time spent with family. She was an active and beloved member of the White Cloud SDB Church.

Marianne is survived by three sons, Howard of St. John, Ind., Craig of Lansing, and Henry of Holt, Mich.; one daughter, Sheryl Deehan of Brohman, Mich.; two brothers, Tom and Bob, and a sister, Virginia Bouman; four grandchildren, one great-grandson, and several nieces and nephews.

Services were on April 5, 2009, at the Crandell Funeral Home, White Cloud, with Pastor Bernie Wethington officiating.

**Stuart.**—Jessie Brownell Stuart, 80, of Stephentown, N.Y., died on May 26, 2009, at her home after a long illness.

Born in Groveside, N.Y., on January 7, 1929, Jessie was the daughter of Elmer and Sadie (LeBarron) Brownell. She graduated from the Walter A. Wood Memorial High School in 1947 and was a member of the National Honor Society.

She worked various jobs until she married Elmer M. Stuart on January

25, 1958, at the Seventh Day Baptist Church in Berlin, N.Y. Jessie became a homemaker and helped Elmer with their businesses. She was a founding member of the United Sabbath Keepers of Stephentown.

Surviving besides her husband of 51 years are one daughter, Carole A. Stuart of Lanesboro, Mass., and one son Alan L. Stuart of Stephentown; two brothers, Paul Brownell of Cambridge, N.Y., and Wesley Brownell of West Hoosick, N.Y.; one sister, Irene Greene of Center Berlin, N.Y.; three grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by a brother, Gordon, and a sister, Pauline Swart.

Graveside services were held on May 30, 2009, in the Cemetery of the Evergreens, New Lebanon, N.Y., with Rev. Dale Hall officiating.

**Lippincott.**—Walden Donovan "Froz" Lippincott, 91, died on June 2, 2009, at Edgerton (Wis.) Hospital.

He was born August 16, 1917, in Garwin, Iowa, the son of Winfred Raymond and Louisa Belle (Van Horn) Lippincott. He moved to Milton, Wis., in 1927 and graduated from Milton High School in 1935. On September 23, 1939, he married Bernice Manthai in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Froz ran a bulk gas plant and three different gas stations in Milton. He then worked as a carpenter, eventually becoming director of the physical plant at Milton College for 11 years. He then headed up the maintenance department at the Janesville (Wis.) Gazette for 10 years, retiring in 1982.

He is survived by one son, Bruce Lippincott of Milton; two daughters, Joyce Ritter of Janesville and Jean Chase of Lake Geneva, Wis.; eight grandchildren, 10 great-grandchild-

dren, and many nieces, nephews, relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his wife of 62 years, Bernice; a daughter, Janet Roenneburg; his brother, Lawrence Lippincott; and a sister, Iva Belle Loofboro.

Funeral services were held on June 5, 2009, at the Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church with Rev. George Calhoun officiating. Burial was in the Milton Cemetery.

**Williams.**—Dr. David John Williams, 82, died on June 23, 2009, in Bossier City, La. He was born December 19, 1926, in Verona, N.Y., to John and Millicent Williams.

Dr. Williams was a veteran of both the U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Navy, serving in Vietnam while in the Navy and was a retired Navy Chaplain. He served as interim pastor at several Baptist churches in the Bossier City area.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Jeanne; a son and three daughters; a sister, Mayola Warner of Oneida, N.Y.; nine grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews. His 4-year-old son, David, preceded him in death.

Interment was in the Northwest Louisiana Veterans Cemetery in Keithville.

### Death Notices

**Bobby Lee Slaton**, 61, of Fouke, Ark., died on July 21, 2009.

**Hugh Calvin Davis**, 82, of Jane Lew, W.Va., died on July 21, 2009.

**Edwin Jean Lowther**, 107, of Salem, W.Va., died on July 29, 2009.

## Pearls, cont. from p. 16

President as it became a college and then a university. In spite of his handwriting, he was author of the book *Elements of English Grammar* which ran through five editions in three years.

In his personal campaign for the support of DeRuyter Institute (with a goal of \$10,000), he was a true “evangelist” for higher learning among all Seventh Day Baptists. Several other institutions benefited from the work of Alexander Campbell as an apostle of education for clergy and laity alike.

Over 10 of the influential ministers of that era were products of DeRuyter. Several leading educators in other schools received part

of their training at DeRuyter. Among them were Wm. C. Whitford (President of Milton College for more than 40 years) and Thomas R. Williams (Principal of Albion Academy for 20 years, and professor at the Alfred School of Theology).

Two prominent businessmen who attended DeRuyter were Charles Potter and George Babcock. Both were inventors and industrialists who made major contributions to the SDB Memorial Fund in support of education and ministry.

The contributions of Alexander Campbell have done much to remove the stigma of illiteracy and ignorance from Seventh Day Baptists. His resolve has been accomplished.

Several lessons come from this portion of Campbell’s life and ministry:

1. Many Seventh Day Baptist ministers have faced tempting offers from other churches, with promises of larger congregations, better salaries, and wider fields of operation, but the Sabbath has been too

“**The contributions of Alexander Campbell have done much to remove the stigma of illiteracy and ignorance from Seventh Day Baptists. His resolve has been accomplished.**”

integral a part of our belief to compromise principle for economic or popular gain.

2. Alexander Campbell did not undertake his mission until he had served an apprenticeship in getting to know the people and assessing their potential.

3. Sometimes the very process of raising money is an evangelistic tool if the use of the money is clearly stated in terms of its mission for Christ. Spiritual revival resulted from Campbell’s journeys, and in the soliciting of funds he sold the people on the need for an educated ministry.

4. In his support of William C. Kenyon, it can be seen that even such handicaps as poor handwriting should not keep one from service.

5. Campbell felt a definite call for a particular mission, and he pursued it. Are you alert to a special mission God has called you to? **SR**

### Poetic Tribute to Campbell

At the death of Alexander Campbell, Rev. A.G. Palmer wrote a poetic tribute to his life. This fourth stanza characterized Campbell’s steadfast belief:

He was a royal man, faithful and true  
To God, and loyal to his fellowman,  
His life ruled by a high religious plan  
Finding each day some work of faith to do.  
He had convictions, strong and deep and clear,  
Knew what they were, and what, too, they were not;  
Nor could he be removed from them a jot  
By love or hatred, confidence or fear.  
The Word of God with him was law supreme;  
His rule of faith and practice nothing less  
By its authority and sacredness  
Binding his conscience and profound esteem;  
If stringent in his creed, his love and zeal  
For Christians were as catholic as leal.\*

\*(or, as universal as true)

From *Autobiography of Alexander Campbell*, ed. Rev. C.H. Burdick, Watertown, NY: Post Printing House, 1883, p. 286.

# KEVIN'S

## ORNER

### Feeling lost?

Did you ever get lost as a child? You know, a time when you got separated from your parents at a store or in a big crowd?

Wasn't that frightening? I'll bet you didn't get too far away from your folks for quite awhile after that!

I got a glimpse of that at Conference this year. A lot of people attended, and when someone got separated from the rest of their group, I saw that look of terror. Thankfully, it wasn't long before the parties got reunited and all was well.

Those incidents took me back to my childhood.

One time, my Mom got lost. Okay, okay—I was the one who went over a few aisles too many in a small department store.

I was 5 or 6 at the time, and I could not find her. Once I started crying the store manager found me! He took me to his little glassed-in booth of an office and gave me a tall paper bag of fresh popcorn. As I chomped away, most of the tears had dried up by the time a very relieved mother showed up to claim her wayward boy.

For a moment I thought, *What a sweet deal! Let's see... I get a few steps away from Mom, turn on the tears, and BAM!! Free popcorn!!*

No, actually I was pretty shaken and didn't want that to happen again.

Getting lost is a scary time. When we get lost, it's like we have been severed from a vital life-support system.

There's a definite "security" in knowing where you are, and knowing that someone who cares deeply for you knows where you are. When that sense of security is threatened, your world can be shattered.

What happens when a believer—one who has enjoyed an intimate closeness with the Lord—suddenly feels out of touch with God, or thinks that God has "forgotten" him?

Can this ever happen? Not as far as God is concerned, but the mind of man can play tricks. Satan can sneak up

on us at times of discouragement and can convince us (at least temporarily) that God is no longer near us, or that He no longer hears our prayers.

This is what the Biblical character Job was going through. Job had had a wonderful and close relationship with God. But then everything he held dear was snatched away.

Job thought that God must be "somewhere" at the other end of the universe. He felt lost.

"If only I knew where to find him; if only I could go to his dwelling!" he said in Job 23:3.

Job decided that God must be "hiding" and not making Himself accessible to His creatures.

We would never come to that same conclusion, would we? Even in these "New Testament" times, we can! In the midst of our troubles and heartaches and frustrations, don't you feel sometimes that God is not watching, or is not as concerned as we wish?

If I had stopped to think (as most 5- or 6-year-olds do, right?), I would have realized that Mom would never have left that store without me. I'm pretty sure that she wouldn't expect me to walk the 20 miles home!

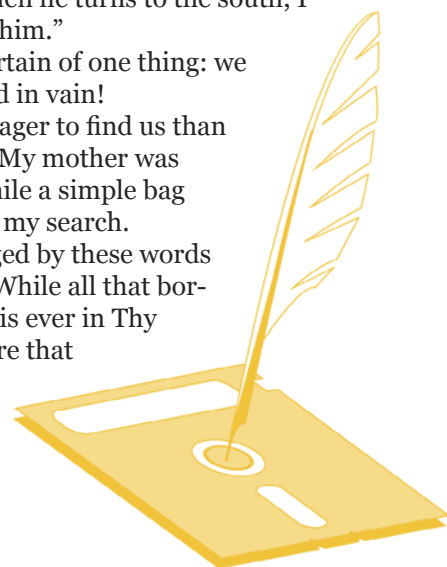
Mom was in that store. She was still close. But I couldn't see her or touch her. And I panicked.

I felt like Job (talking about God in 23:8-9)—"But if I go to the east, he is not there; if I go to the west, I do not find him. When he is at work in the north, I do not see him; when he turns to the south, I catch no glimpse of him."

We need to be certain of one thing: we never search for God in vain!

God is far more eager to find us than we are to find Him. My mother was eager to find me, while a simple bag of popcorn diverted my search.

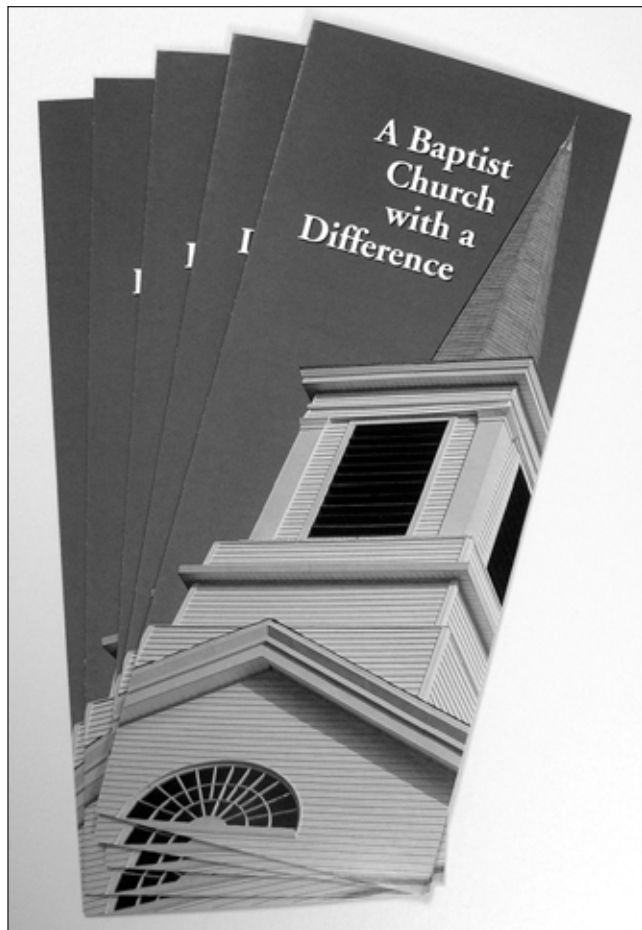
Let's be encouraged by these words from Isaac Watts: "While all that borrows life from Thee is ever in Thy care; And everywhere that man can be, Thou, God, art present there."



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