



The  
**Sabbath**  
**RECORDER**

*Inside:*

Society work  
to slow down

Where is the  
Reverence?

January 2010

*News for and about Seventh Day Baptists*



Where is your  
**Missionary**  
**Journey**  
taking you?



## 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)



### Visiting Orlando?

Join the  
Kissimmee SDBs!  
10:00 am Sabbath  
School  
11:00 am Worship  
12:00 noon Meal

at St. Francis Anglican Church  
2525 Fortune Road  
Kissimmee FL 34744

Interim pastor  
John Camenga 321-638-0456  
Sister Donna  
Brown Ducker 407-344-8763

## Celebrating 100 Years

Frances Ellis, a member and deaconess of the Berlin, N.Y., SDB Church will be marking her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on February 17, 2010. Frances now resides with her son and daughter-in-law in Florida and enjoys hearing from friends and family.

If you would like to remember her birthday with a card or note, please send to:

**Frances Ellis**  
**15 Cypress Loup**  
**Lake Alfred FL**  
**33850**



EST. 1964

## SUMMER CHRISTIAN SERVICE CORPS

**Students:** Are you willing to serve with next year's Summer Christian Service Corps?

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

Applications for team members and church projects have been posted on the Women's Board website at [www.sdbwomen.org](http://www.sdbwomen.org). Please read all information and send the completed application forms to: SCSC Committee, c/o Milton SDB Church, 720 E. Madison Ave., Milton WI 53563.

Student applications must be postmarked by **January 11, 2010**, and all church applications must be postmarked by **February 1, 2010**. There will

be NO exceptions.

Please note: the final week of the project will be at General Conference, July 25–31. We are also limiting our students to only two weeks of camp. Please see the website for more information. If you have any questions, please contact the SCSC Committee at the above address, or by e-mail at [scsc@miltonsdb.org](mailto:scsc@miltonsdb.org).



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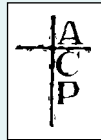


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# Rez Connection still working

## Training and applying evangelism

by Kirk Looper

### Where is your Missionary Journey...



...taking you?

The Rez Connection is a faith-based ministry located next to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in Batesland, South Dakota. The Native Americans living on this reservation are the Oglala Sioux.

Many of them will not live beyond 50 years of age. Many of them are abusing drugs and/or alcohol.

The Rez Connection's goal is to change the lives of the children and as a result, provide a better outlook for them when they become adults. We believe the same way.

The Marks family's love for the Native Americans dictated that they live in a rather remote area. But this is necessary to help bring Christ to these young lives. Pastor Chet wants to train up a new generation of leaders for ongoing ministry to the Pine Ridge Reservation.

Each year that Patty Petersen travels to the Rez Connection with a team from various SDB churches, they are excited and look forward to a weeklong adventure. Ages of the team participants can range from 14 years to older adults. They sleep on bunk beds in the church base-

ment and work at the projects developed by Pastor Chet.

Working alongside the Marks children as well as Chet and his wife, Barbara, they learn to evangelize and study to develop a closer relationship with God through Jesus Christ. The varied work they do may include weeding the large gardens, moving compost piles and hay bales, handling the goats, and butchering chickens.

They spend a week studying the evangelistic method promoted by Pastor Chet. Then they are ready to practice the program out in the real world. Pastor Marks takes them to a park in Martin, S.D., for Sabbath day worship. As he says, "If you want to catch fish you go where the fish are."

Team members have opportunities to share the Gospel in a special program based on "The Way of the Master" materials by Ray Comfort and Kirk Cameron. Pastor Chet wants to train as many as possible with this program and will even travel to other churches in the United States to do the training. The time spent at the Rez Connection excites Patty so much that she has made plans to take another team during June.

The group is reconsidering the amount of time that people spend on the project and at the Rez compound. To get the full benefit, a participant should really spend at least two weeks there, but even more time

could solidify the knowledge and understanding that comes from practice. Success is one of the best encouragements a student can receive.

A starting date of June 13 would provide plenty of time to do the training before the outreach programs on July 4. The group will then visit the parks for evangelism work.

If you are interested in serving at the Rez Connection, you can apply through the Missionary Society by sending a letter or e-mail message to us and request an application form. Give us your age, postal or e-mail address, and what time period would interest you.

Pastor Chet would like to have you for at least two weeks. That timeframe will get you through the biggest part of the training. It will also give you more practice doing the evangelism. You will need to decide how long you want to participate.

The cost of the program is \$200 for the basic needs, and \$100 per week for the study materials, local travel, and other expenses. You will need to arrange air travel to and from Rapid City, or if by bus, the closest point of contact. Pastor Chet will be available to pick up those traveling by bus, train or plane.

It would be helpful to arrange your travel times with the rest of the group so you will not be required to wait for an extended time until everyone gets there. If you wish to use the Missionary Society to obtain plane tickets, we are pleased to help. You will need to send the cost for tickets up front so the tickets can be secured. We encourage participants to make Rapid City their plane or train destination.

Since you will be expected to raise

money we have some helps available in how to write a letter requesting financial gifts from friends, relatives and churches. We have a sample letter that you can follow that has been successful for others.

The Missionary Society Executive Director will be glad to cooperate with you in the process. Just drop him a line or call. The phone number is (401) 596-4326, and the e-mail address is [sdbmissoc@verizon.net](mailto:sdbmissoc@verizon.net).

We are anxious to get you started on your mission trip to South Dakota and will be waiting for your request for an application form. We also encourage you to get started on raising the funds.

Please join us or pray for us so we can affect the future for many precious souls of the Oglala Sioux nation. *SR*



*Patty Petersen (in Colorado sweatshirt) organized the Rez Connection Missions Team for 2009. She hopes to form another team this year.*

## Conference Center Planned for Burundi

by Kirk Looper

We invite you to take a look at our web page: [sdbmissions.org](http://sdbmissions.org). There you will notice the trip report about one of the latest additions to the SDB World Federation—the country of Burundi, Africa.

Members of the Burundi Conference have been working hard to organize and develop new congregations around their nation. The Conference's General Secretary, Gilbert Nduwayo, travels all over the country speaking the Word of God and inviting others to join Seventh Day Baptists in evangelizing the people. He holds seminars to let those interested know about SDBs and the work they are trying to do there.

It is exciting to see so many interested in our denomination. It is also exciting to see so many wanting to dedicate their lives to our Lord Je-



*Pastor Gilbert Nduwayo*

sus Christ. In less than 10 years they already have 35 local churches in five provinces, including two churches

in Bujumbura, the capital city. A few new groups are waiting to be welcomed into the fellowship.

Regrettably, with success there can be problems. The work of SDBs in Burundi has not gone unobserved by those who wish they could be in the position that Pastor Nduwayo is in. They see that he has influence over a group of people and believes he gets financial support from the American churches.

Little do they know that although he does have influence over a large group, he receives no personal financial support from America. Their false assumption has resulted in many problems.

The work that Pastor Gilbert used to do in past years has been altered and slowed down, but he was still able to overcome many of the prob-

*cont. next page*



## Center for Burundi, *cont. from page 5*

### Where is your Missionary Journey...



...taking you?

lems and is moving forward with plans for organization and growth of the member churches and groups.

One problem he has been fighting over the past two years is that they have no separate Conference offices. He has always used his own apartment as the Conference office.

Recently the government passed a law stating that a religious group, like ours, must have a permanent address for their office. If they do not have a permanent office address then the group will lose their registration and will not be allowed to meet as an organized group.

Members of the SDB Conference are from the poorer levels of the economic scale. Therefore, Pastor Gilbert has no local source for funds that enable them to purchase land and build an office. He has submitted a plan encouraging us to help in the financial support for the project.

### Plans to Purchase land, build a Center

Burundi has suffered from severe civil wars

since 1995. This has left the country with large numbers of orphans, widows, and people living in tough circumstances.

Most of the people of Burundi are identified as Christians. The Seventh Day Baptists started there in 2000, but registration with the government was not received until 2003. This followed a great battle with the Seventh-day Adventists who fought against the SDBs being allowed to organize there. Now our people are free to work wherever they wish in the country.

Since most of their members are orphans or widows, the Conference does not have money to accommodate the regulation concerning a physical office. That is why they

are turning to our sister Conferences and churches for help.

The plot of land needed will be bought in Bujumbura. They plan to build an office that will allow them to hold meetings and seminars for all the churches. By having their own property they will not need to move from one place to another after they are outbid for their rental space.

Securing the land and building will settle one government concern. Their Conference will have a place their members can relate to, bringing a feeling of confidence and stability.

The cost of the project will be \$108,000 of which \$8,000 will be paid by the Burundi Conference. The rest of the cost will be supplied by those willing to donate for this project.

More information will be sent out to the Missionary Keyworkers for the churches, or when you request the information from the Missionary Society office. **SR**



## Sudanese SDBs host Community Meeting in Anchorage

by Ronald Elston

Pastor Mading Bol and the Sudanese Seventh Day Baptist Church of Anchorage, Alaska, hosted a special "Fellowship Sabbath" recently. The community event was well attended with over 150 people there from several denominations.

Each group presented special music with greetings interspersed from area pastors.

Missionary Society Executive Director G. Kirk Looper and National Missions Director Ronald J. Elston brought greetings and prayers from Seventh Day Baptists and the Society.

The pastor of the Faith Community Christian Church (where the SDB group meets) welcomed everyone to the special service. Faith Church is a beautiful facility that is undergoing additional expansion. The building is located on Wisconsin Street in Anchorage.

Following special music and Scripture reading, Pastor Bol presented the Sabbath message. A wonderful time of fellowship and a meal followed.

The Sudanese church also sponsored a community meeting with area leaders, setting up a steering committee to discuss the needs of the Sudanese community.

During our time spent in Alaska, Pastor Bol and his church leaders met with the Missionary Board leadership to develop a Community Outreach Project. The goal is to present the Good News of Jesus Christ to the area as well as gain visibility for Seventh Day Baptists. Several meetings were also held to plan a missions trip to the Sudan this spring.



*Rev. Ron Elston (rt.) met with Pastor Mading Bol and his family in Anchorage, Alaska. Pastor Bol leads a group of Sudanese SDBs and they recently hosted a community gathering.*

“ **The community event was well attended with over 150 people there from several denominations.** ”

This is an exciting group that has a desire to reach out and share their faith in the far North. We solicit your prayers and support for Pastor Mading Bol and the Anchorage Church.

For more information or to support the Alaska ministry, contact the SDB Missionary Society at 401-596-4326. **SR**



*Top: Kirk Looper with the Sudanese SDB leaders. Above: The rented facility in Anchorage.*



# Bringing God’s Light to Ecuador

by Dan Stillman, Houston, Texas

## Where is your Missionary Journey...



...taking you?

In July 2009, the Houston Seventh Day Baptist Church sent a team to Quito, Ecuador for a summer project. The team members were Linda Aguilera, Jenn Lieva, Christine and Dan Stillman. Linda, Jenn and Christine are all college students, and Dan is the Houston SDB Church moderator.

We were welcomed to Quito by Pastor Nestor Pozo, his wife Jackie, and daughters Andrea and Michelle. In addition to serving as senior pastor of the Iglesia Evangelio Eterno, Nestor is a medical doctor in private practice.

Andrea is also a busy physician but finds the time to translate the



Teaching school was the main project.

*Helping Hand* into Spanish for use in Ecuador and beyond. Jackie was the mission project coordinator and took on the lion’s share of hosting duties.

Our first full day there found us on the Teleferica cable car taking us to 14,000 feet about sea level! Monday morning, the team was off



thusiastic and thankful group of children.

The school lasted two weeks and was staffed by a combination of adults and youth from the local church in addition to our team. The final day of school was punc-

“

*It was such a privilege passing the food and drinks to the very grateful niños in the name of Jesus Christ.*

”

to church for the first day of school—our main project. The children, ranging in age from 4 to 14, came from the local church and from San Antonio, an area about 15 miles from Quito and located almost on top of the equator. Attendance was between 20 and 30 students.

The girls worked in classes with the children while I put my serving skills to work in the kitchen. Activities included Bible stories, songs, games, and of course, football! (“Soccer” to you Americans.) Lunch was also provided to an en-

tuated by a guest clown, moon walk, piñata, and pizza.

Most afternoons were reserved for tours of Quito provided by the local Tourism College. The guides did an excellent job of showing us this wonderful city. We enjoyed their history, scenery, and shopping. The temperate weather was a daily highlight for this Texas boy!

During the first week, Jim Barclift, pastor of the Houston SDB Church, came “down south” to be the guest speaker during a special weekend of teaching, preaching and worship.

Pastor Jim taught Bible studies on Friday from about 2:00 p.m. until sundown, when we enjoyed a very





*Pastor Nestor Pozo and members of Iglesia Evangelio Eterno in Ecuador.*



*Houston's Pastor Jim Barclift (back row) and team members meet the locals.*

special Sabbath welcoming service in the “upper room” of the Pozo residence. Jim was aptly assisted by translator Tami Espinosa, also from the Houston church, in the marathon teaching session.

Later, Andrea Pozo seamlessly took over translation duties as meetings went well into the evening. (It made me think of the early Church in Acts 20. Happily, no one fell out the window!)

Sabbath worship the next morning was punctuated by lively worship, great preaching (Pastor Jim again assisted by Tami), and a highlight of 14 baptisms!

Immediately after lunch the van was loaded up for the weekly ministry in San Antonio. A group goes down there every Sabbath to bring the Gospel to the children as well as a nourishing lunch. It was such a privilege to be on the end of the “bucket brigade,” passing the food and drinks to very grateful niños in the name of Jesus Christ. A local vendor donated ice cream that was enjoyed by children and adults alike.

The team was blessed by being able to participate in this children’s ministry—a highlight for the girls—for two Sabbaths. Great fellowship was enjoyed on Sunday as we traveled to Cotacachi, Otovolo, and Puerto Lago, enjoying more markets and breathtaking scenery.

During the project, language was never a barrier due to Christian brotherhood and the excellent skills of Jenn and Linda, my team translators. It was such a blessing to work with the team and the local church members.

The church family is alive, well and growing in Ecuador and we were blessed beyond measure. We are already mulling over what might be next as we bring La Luce de Americas—God’s Light to the Americas. Pray that this is just a beginning! **SR**

## Still sharing in Tok by Ron Elston

Eric and Vickie Weaver continue to reach out into the community of Tok, Alaska, with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

The Weavers had a rough year with many setbacks including illness. Sister Vickie Weaver contracted the swine flu and was very ill. Brother Eric Weaver reports that she has improved but is still weak. They desire your prayers as the colder weather has set in with additional snowfall.

The Weavers continue to hold Bible studies in their home located near Tok. Several denominational churches nearby have closed, but these studies are still of interest to the community.

We appreciate their faithfulness in sharing the Gospel and representing Seventh Day Baptists in that part of Alaska. Your prayers and support are desired.

For more information or to support the Alaska ministry, contact the SDB Missionary Society at (401) 596-4326. **SR**



*Vickie and Eric Weaver with the Missionary Society's Ron Elston.*



# Supplies short, but faithfulness abounds

by Andrew Samuels, Miami, Fla.

## Where is your Missionary Journey...



...taking you?

As I prepared for a mission trip to Malawi, I was astounded to learn that there are 140 Seventh Day Baptist churches, groups and fellowships in that land-locked south-eastern African country.

I looked forward to a fulfilling time of ministry last September along with Dr. Ron Davis. We were not disappointed. With very warm smiles and open arms, we were welcomed and treated to royal hospitality.

The Malawians are friendly, polite, and courteous, and we felt right at home as the bond we have in Christ defied all inclinations to succumb to feeling like strangers.

In our journeys to about 15 different church buildings, we met and interacted with 25 pastors, teaching them in

these areas: Leadership, Stewardship, Community Health Care, the Mandate to Forge Ahead with the Gospel, and the Reality of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

It was encouraging and inspiring to see the attentiveness of the people, their willingness to hear what we had to share, and their eagerness to engage in meaningful discussions which included them posing challenging questions.

They were clearly serious about their walk with the Lord and about the Biblical convictions they have embraced. Dr. Ron and I taught sessions that were three hours

long, without breaks. The Malawians sat, and received, and endured. Please remind me to try that in America some time!

Some of the churches had no pews, so the people sat on mats on the floor. Many of the church buildings were still under construction, and some were in the process of being wired for electricity.

It was amazing to realize that of the 140 Seventh Day Baptist groups in Malawi, not one of them possesses



*Pastor Andy Samuels (rt.) teaching at the Camp Meeting with a young pastor serving as translator.*



*Medical doctor Ron Davis leading a health care seminar with General Secretary Nedd Lozani translating.*



*One Sabbath School class at Malawi's Conference.*

a public address system of any kind. Even at Conference in Makapwa—which is a huge building by any standard—except for the Sabbath when the Malawi Broadcasting Corporation staff was present to record the service for national broadcast, there was no microphone usage.

It was also amazing to realize that of the 140 SDB congregations in Malawi, not one of them possesses

a musical instrument of any kind. Yet the acapella singing of the people was nothing short of heavenly. Their harmony and melodious tones gave one the feeling of being ushered into the very presence of the Lord.

Remember those three-hour sessions that the people sat through? Well, they did so on pews without

back rests. Not one of the churches has pews with back rests.

The faithfulness of the pastors is remarkable. Out of the 140 groups there are only about 41 pastors. So most of the shepherds serve multiple churches and some of them are remotely located. Yet these pastors are laboring and ministering day after day, week after week, month after month, year after year.

There are two major ways that we can help the Central Africa Conference of Seventh Day Baptist Churches in Malawi. If a bicycle could be furnished to every pastor, that would be a huge step in ameliorating their transportation needs. There has been some recent effort in this direction and that objective is close to being accomplished, I believe. Even some other Conferences have made contributions as they understand and appreciate the need.

A second means of help is to provide funds specifically to help the children of pastors to attend secondary schools. It costs about \$40 (U.S.) to send a child to secondary school for one year. That is such an attainable goal for so many of us. We would not even miss the \$40.

Here is the best news of all. Between now and the end of July 2010, the Memorial Fund trustees of the SDB General Conference of USA and Canada will sponsor a special dollar-for-dollar matching campaign for Malawi.

All donations given by an individual, a family, or a church for the purpose of funding the secondary education of pastors' children in Malawi, and for providing bicycles for the pastors, will be matched. This is an exciting way to double your giving.

I do thank the Memorial Fund trustees for their continued vision, appreciation for ministry and their generosity. **SR**

“  
**With very warm smiles and open arms, we were welcomed and treated to royal hospitality.**  
 ”



*Above: Ladies singing at the Camp Meeting at the Dunduzu Church in northern Malawi. Left: Young people singing at the same Camp Meeting. The music was heavenly!*



*Attending the annual SDB Conference in Makapwa.*



# “Bricks for Malawi” happened!

## Update on Thembe Maternity Project

by Nedd Lozani, Central Africa Conference

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Time moves quickly. Not long ago we were preparing for our camp meetings and annual general conference. They are now over, and we had Pastor Andy Samuels and Dr. Ron Davis take part. (See pages 10-11.)

From the funds we received from the “Bricks for Malawi” campaign, we have been able to build one staff house and an extension for a maternity wing. In addition, we have made

six kilns and molded over 450,000 bricks that are ready for use in building some staff houses and possibly another maternity wing. We intend to have the maternity extension ready for use very soon.

Please convey our sincere gratitude to all those who made contributions toward the project. **SR**



The new Thembe maternity ward extension.



Two of six new kilns making bricks for Malawi SDBs.



A new medical staff house built with local bricks.

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## Bentz departure postponed

*Our departure to Lesotho, Africa has officially been postponed until July 22, 2010.*

### Now what?

Someone told us when we began this journey into missions in the fall of 2007 that it may take a couple of years to raise support. Had we believed him (sorry, Pastor Nate) we might not have continued on.

But for some reason, we have complete peace! The last thing we want is to be on the mission field outside of God’s perfect timing.

We will spend these next few months staying with Linda’s sister and her family in Milton, Wis. Mark will return to substitute teaching. God has laid it on our hearts to set a few goals for the limited time left in the states, concerning our home church relationships and ministries, our family, and our passion for missions.

### Support raising

If you are already supporting this mission monthly, THANK YOU! Your faithfulness encourages others to follow. Your contributions will continue to grow the Outgoing Support Fund until we depart. Because of your faithfulness, this fund should be at 100% by July!

Our Monthly Support is currently at 40%. Please pray that it will grow to 100% by June so this work will not be postponed again! If you are interested in pledging monthly once we are in Africa, please e-mail us now or mark on your pledge card for contribution to begin “upon departure.” You may also contribute on-line at **AIMINT.org**. Be sure to designate the funds to: Bentz, Mark & Linda.

Thank you so much for your continued prayer and support. May the Lord bless you abundantly!

–Mark and Linda Bentz



# Missions: To Go or to Pay?

by George Cruzan, Shiloh, N.J.  
President of the SDB Memorial Fund trustees

The Apostle Paul was a great example of a missionary. He had a vision of reaching the Roman world with a great message: that reconciliation and a relationship with God was available to all, by accepting that Jesus died for our sins and by living in God's commands.

Today there are many opportunities to reach out to our world with this same message. Many mission organizations are operated by specific denominations; others are interdenominational or non-denominational.

Some send missionaries to Europe, Africa, Asia, or South and Central America. There are even missionaries to the United States.

Some missions serve poorly educated impoverished societies, while others bring the salvation message to more middle class groups. Each area and societal group presents a different challenge for missionaries.

What is your role in missions? How is God calling you to serve as a missionary?

We often think of Paul traveling on foot from place to place, staying with Christians or Jews in the town, and eating with them. We think of New Testament-era missions as "finance-free." Paul didn't need money for transportation, lodging, clothes, and food—or did he?

Today, in contrast, missions are expensive. How can we afford to send missionaries?


Acts 18:3 says that Paul stayed in Corinth for "some time," living with Aquila and Priscilla. "Paul went to see them, and because he was a tentmaker as they were, he stayed and worked with them."

Thus Paul was the first bi-vocational missionary. He worked a secular job to pay for his expenses so he could preach each Sabbath. We also find that Paul thanks the church at Philippi for their multiple gifts to him (Phil. 4:14-18).

So even for Paul, missionary activity required financing. Some of the money came from his own secular work and the rest from gifts from local churches.

God is calling you to financially support missionary activity. It may be to support short-term mission projects through your local church. It may be to support short-term missions through the General Conference.

It may be to support the Bentz family's two-year mission trip to Lesotho, Africa through Africa Inland Mission. It may be to develop a fund to support an SDB mission project in a new field.

The Memorial Fund has provided custodial services and matching grants for several short-term mission projects. We desire to assist in future mission activities that you feel led by the Lord to undertake. Please contact the Memorial Fund office for more details. 

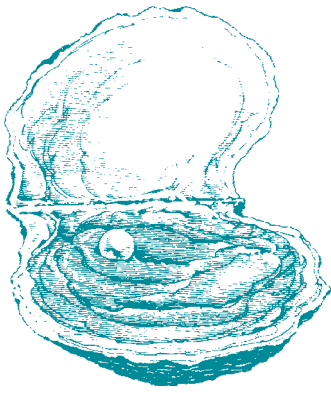
**M**ATCHING  
Funds For  
**M**ALAWI

Malawi has 140 SDB congregations, but only 41 pastors. These men are faithfully and selflessly serving the Lord.

*(See Pastor Andrew Samuels' trip report on pages 10-11.)*

The Memorial Fund trustees have voted to help these leaders and their children. Between now and the end of July 2010, donations given toward Malawi will be matched, dollar-for-dollar by the Memorial Fund. The gifts will provide funding for the secondary education of pastors' children, and will purchase bicycles for the pastors to reach their churches and people.

Individuals, families, or churches can see their giving doubled, and lives in Malawi can be changed forever.



# A Treasured Bible returns

The first display case of the Historical Society museum in Janesville contains a rare antique from as early as AD 1549. It is often referred to as the John Rogers' Bible.

This copy of God's Word in our archives is believed to be the one mentioned in Samuel Hubbard's Journal:

*"Now 1675 I have a testament of my grandfather Cocke's printed in 1549 which he hid in his bed straw lest it be burned in Queen Mary's days."*

This fits the inscription found at the end of the Gospel of John:

*"This book was my grandmother's great grandmother's and I know not how many generations before. It was given me by my grandmother, Judith Rogers AD 1762. —Caleb Potter."*

Caleb Potter was Samuel Hubbard's great-great-great-grandson. On his mother's side, he was the great-great-grandson of James Rogers who was born in England in 1615 and came to America when he was 20 years old.

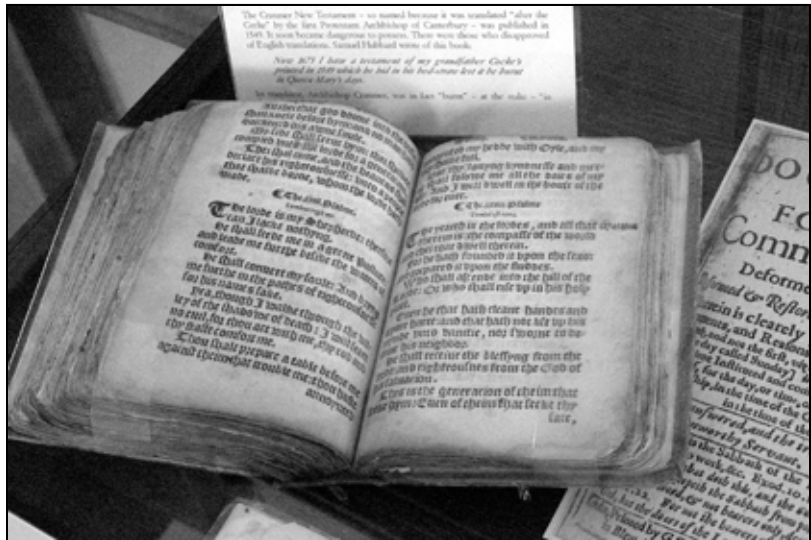
The Rogers family tradition connects the Bible with John Rogers, the martyr, born in 1500 and burned at the stake in 1555 at Smithfield, England.

One account of the history of the Bible states that James Rogers—one of the descendants of the

martyr—brought the Bible to this country at his immigration in 1635. It had been concealed in a feather bed mattress during the reign of Queen Mary in England. Rogers used the Bible as a pillow in his travels and sojourn in the wilderness as a sort of talisman, to protect him from a nighttime attack of the savages.

There is some discrepancy in the exact line of ownership, but it eventually came to the possession of Judith Rogers, mentioned in the only inscription quoted above.

For a number of years it was kept by Alfred (N.Y.) University, but the school never claimed possession. When the Seventh Day Baptist archives were moved to the denominational building in Plainfield, N.J., it became a treasured property of the SDB Historical Society.



The oldest book in the SDB archives, the Rogers' Bible symbolizes the costly struggle for faith and the rich heritage of our people.

On the night of February 21, 1981 a thief forced entry into the SDB Building and took the prized Bible from its display case in the museum along with other books and artifacts.

A reward of \$500 was offered for the return of the Bible, and \$1,000 for the other items with a promise of no prosecution if returned safely.

Within 24 hours a call came and arrangements were made for the exchange. Rev. Victor Skaggs, then pastor of the Plainfield SDB Church, was able to regain possession of this priceless antique.

The thief returned at another time and took some other less significant Bibles. He was later apprehended and sentenced to jail.

There is no evidence that he read any of the Bibles taken where he might have read the passage found in Exodus 20:15— "Thou shalt not steal." **SR**



## A Passion for God's Word

by Ruth Burdick, Auburn, Wash.

An hour has gone. I look up again, and two hours have passed.

That's amazing. How can time fly by so fast?

This happens often as I sit down to study the Bible—not just to read it devotionally, but diligently research its pages. The hunger and thirst for more grabs hold and time is suspended. The excitement builds.

It has become a passion to dig deeper into the Scriptures my God has protected and provided for me. This is how He communicates with me, and I take pleasure in His gift. How did I end up here? Where did it begin? How can I encourage others to seek and know this pleasure?

For me, "God has given me the heritage of those who fear His name" (Psalm 61:5). God-fearing men and women passed down the concept of reverence and awe of God's Holy Word. They instilled within each generation the desire for truth, not just knowledge. Many have not had this privilege, but it can begin with you for your future generations.

There are a variety of ways to fuel this love of the Word. At some point it is vital that you read through the whole Bible to see the complete history of mankind and the outline of God's plan. This will help you see how it all fits together and how the New Testament completes the Old Testament. It will also develop your understanding of the Sovereign Lord of the universe.

Then you need to study the books or letters by themselves. I like to use a good Study Bible with footnotes, a concordance, and a good cross-reference system. Make sure it is a quality translation and not just a paraphrase, though paraphrase versions can be

helpful for devotional reading.

Develop your own word studies and theme studies as God guides and directs.

As you study, accountability becomes necessary. Discuss questions, thoughts and ideas with your pastor. God has given me the blessing of being under the tutelage of my pastor for 30 years. I totally trust his counsel, for he reveres the Word of God and upholds its integrity.

Seek out a spiritual mentor. Find another believer who wants to study with you for growth, strength and accountability purposes. Begin a Bible study group in your home, community or church. Share your passion for God's Word.

With current technology, there are many ways to discuss the Bible with others across the miles. Just recently I tried a new method using an internet Wiki page. A leader plans the study and each member can start or reply to discussion topics, either agreeing to discuss at a certain time, or on an ongoing basis throughout the

week. Become creative to encourage accountability.

Nurture your love of the Word by taking time—uninterrupted time. That is when you get "lost" in your reading, and time becomes meaningless. That is when God speaks directly to you. Your mind, spirit and heart respond with joy, peace, confidence and eternal hope.

As you diligently study the Scriptures, you learn to handle the Word of Truth correctly and honestly. You are able to instruct gently and maintain the integrity of the Word. So:

**READ/STUDY**  
**READ/APPLY**  
**READ/HUNGER**  
**READ/GET EXCITED**  
**READ/DIG DEEPER**  
**READ/BE BLESSED**

Let God's Word  
dwell in you richly. *SR*

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*Do you have questions or other ideas related to studying the Bible? Share on-line at [sdbwomen.org](http://sdbwomen.org)!*



*Ruth Burdick is the wife of Pastor Ken Burdick. They have three children. She works part-time as a medical assistant for a podiatrist. The family attends the Seattle Area SDB Church where they have ministered for 12 years. Reading, collecting green Cameo Depression glass, and working on the family genealogy are her hobbies.*



## The 2010 Directors of the SDB Board of Christian Education

*“Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude” (Colossians 2:6-7, NASB).*

The ministry of the Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education is directed by 14 Seventh Day Baptists. These directors strive to make this Board’s work a complementary part of the Conference’s mission to unite, encourage, and equip local SDB churches in their endeavors to fulfill the Great Commission.

Each director is willing to listen to you and to hear your ideas about how this ministry can be more effective. If you know any of them, feel free to contact them directly. If you want their contact information, or want to pass information along through this office, please call (607) 587-8527 or write [sdbbce@educatingchristians.org](mailto:sdbbce@educatingchristians.org).

### Our 2010 BCE Directors

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### **More than one way to Memorize**

The Board’s **Scripture Memorization Program** for 2009-2010 has two ways to complete the requirements.

You may do it the way you’ve always done: memorize the nine monthly verses that highlight the General Conference president’s theme (see September’s *SR*). *OR*, you may exercise your brain to a greater degree and memorize a longer Bible passage chosen to work with the overall program.

For 2009-2010, you may memorize 1 Corinthians 12: 12-25. If you choose to do this, recite the whole section, at one time, in front of someone designated by your church (pastor, Sabbath School teacher, Christian Education chair, etc.).

With either option, you will complete the requirements for the Scripture Memorization Program. Your church will submit one list of participants, a certificate will be made with your name, and your name will appear in the *Recorder*.





## FOCUS on Missions

# Society work to slow down

by Kirk Looper

Over the past year (2009) the work of the Missionary Society has continued with support given to some sister Conferences and travel done to churches and Conferences that needed help in their development. This included the countries of Burundi, India, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Uganda, and the Philippines, and churches in Alaska, Missouri, Montana, Georgia, Tennessee, Arizona, and several others.

The contacts and trips have kept us busy and on our toes. We are pleased to be of assistance and feel that the work was successful. We continue to visit established churches that are members of the Seventh Day Baptist Conference and are glad to bring aid to those groups.

Ron Elston, the National Director of Extension, is kept busy with a new seminar called "Safe Church," available to any church that requests it. The seminar speaks to the present danger of predators or threats that invade the church and cause problems. We appreciate the safety and protection that God provides in our travels both nationally and overseas.

This next year we would like to be able to do the same amount of work, or more. However, with the current economic conditions we do not see how this can be possible. One look at our budget and you'll see that we have returned to the 2008 budget level and decreased the amount of expenditures in many areas.

(A copy of the budget can be sent to you by e-mail or post if requested. Contact the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society, 19 Hillside Ave., Ashaway RI 02804, or e-mail at [sdbmissoc@verizon.net](mailto:sdbmissoc@verizon.net).)

We will not be supporting some of the country budgets that we have in the past. We hope to be able to return the support in the near future. Funds that come into the office designated for those countries will be passed on to the recipients, but will not be counted as part of our budget since those funds are simply flow-through.

Further savings should be realized as we plan to send out mailings through e-mail instead of postal services. Let us know if you want your information via e-mail.

We will continue to collect funds for projects that come to the office and will be glad to forward those funds to the appropriate area. We appreciate the sup-

port in these projects and feel that our budget allows us to send all of the gifts to the designated purpose.

Our Sabbath School Missions Offering is credited to the "New Fields" portion of the budget. This line item is used when we visit a new country to help them register with the government, organize and develop churches, or furnish instruction concerning the beliefs, polity and government of the Conference and churches.

Often these funds will be sent to countries that are having difficulty in translating and printing tracts and books. In a few cases these funds have been used to organize churches in territories related to the U.S. It is a very valuable portion of our budget that saves a lot of groups from hardships that keep them from developing.

Applications for national projects and short-term missions programs also come into the office and we advertise them through the Keyworker program of the Missionary Society. These applications are dealt with by the Executives of the Society and are supported according to the goals, accountability tools, and reporting of the work being done. Sometimes we co-sponsor a project with the Memorial Board.

The Keyworker program is where one volunteer in each church is responsible for relaying information from the Missionary Society (MS) office to the churches. These workers are an integral part of our work. We encourage every church to have a Keyworker registered with the MS office.

The worker will receive information that should be relayed to the congregation—either oral or written—and posted on a bulletin board for further perusal by the members. This keeps everyone abreast of what is going on in our sister Conferences and churches.

We appreciate all those who support us and we encourage you to help us get the work done through your direct donations. We hope to do our work in 2010 without removing too many funds from our assets. The more we remove from assets the less income we get from them. Therefore, the less work we can do.

We depend upon you to help us and pray God's blessings on all of you. **SR**

***“ We have returned to the 2008 budget level and decreased the amount of expenditures in many areas. ”***



# the BEACON

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

January 2010

## The College Tour

by Dakota Watt, *Beacon* editor



Last weekend I took a tour of West Virginia Wesleyan College in Buckhannon. That's one cool school.

The campus guide showed me a new building and two renovated ones. There was a delicious continental breakfast in the new building and a tasty free lunch in the cafeteria.

Then there were the many people who talked to us about what an excellent school West Virginia Wesleyan is. The smiling, helpful students were all anxious to tell about what an amazing place it is.

It seems that every person there fell in love with that school after visiting other ones. They spent a lot of time and money looking at institutions around the country, finally deciding on "the one." They made their decision based on what

people were telling them and what the college had to offer.

Life is like that. People spend much of their time asking themselves where they want to go, what they want to do, and why in the world someone isn't telling them what to do. In reality, there is someone trying to guide them in the right direction, but they are really not trying to listen. That "person" is He Who is up there in the heavens.

What if Christians were like the people at West Virginia Wesleyan? Let's pretend that life is like a college tour and we are the attending students and admission counselors.

What if we all spent our time telling everyone else about our amazing God and the many promises and opportunities of knowing Him and having Christ as our Savior? I think people would listen and become excited about joining our churches and living the Christian life.

Why is it that people are so willing to talk about worldly things, but so reluctant to talk about life-changing eternity-bringing things?

When I'm at my school, we talk about sports, game systems, music, and homework. Does anyone even know what I believe?

My friends do. But what about the nerdy kid in the cafeteria who sits by himself, or the smelly weird kid

on my bus? What about the popular kids, the quarterback, the diva, the gay kids? Have I talked to them?

Why can't I bring myself to be excited about sharing the amazing walk I have with God with these guys? That is my prayer.

Paul said in Romans 1:16, "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile."

Man, I like this guy. He told Timothy—who was also a young person—in 2 Timothy 1:8 that he should not be ashamed to testify about our Lord. In verse 9 he reminds us that we have been saved and called to a holy life.

Salvation and a holy life are way cooler and more important than a college. As young people in a trying generation, Christians need to speak up. Our peeps need to know where we stand and what is important.

We need to step up and not be ashamed of our life in Christ. Pray with me that we will remember Who we serve, and work as recruiters for His cause. **SR**

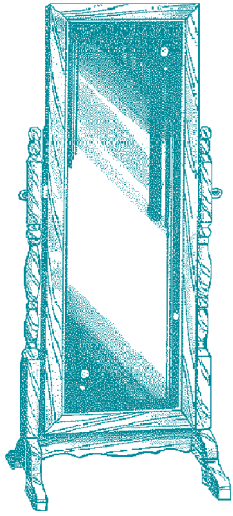
### Help Wanted!!

I keep asking...

If any youth would like to contribute to the Beacon or have a great topic idea you would like me to discuss, please e-mail me at [dakota.watt@yahoo.com](mailto:dakota.watt@yahoo.com).

I'd love the help.

Also, I'm looking for volunteers to write for the Youth Issue. Please let me know if you are willing to write an article.



# 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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## Where is the Reverence?

I grew up in an evangelical, conservative Protestant church. A large bell in the steeple called congregants to a liturgical, formal service that involved unison readings and traditional hymns sung from denominational hymnals.

A huge pipe organ—like some gigantic prehistoric metal bird—perched in the choir loft behind our heads. The music seemed to flutter down from heaven itself as silent, reverent people sat in wooden pews.

Pastoral prayers were read, not spoken spontaneously. Handshakes were the norm, not hugs. Laughter during the church service was a “no-no,” and applause was reserved for outside the sanctuary—a holy place bathed in rainbows as light streamed through the stained-glass windows.

Like most people I knew, I went to church on Sunday, a day considered special. Most stores were closed, and we dressed “special.” Men wore suits and ties, and women wore skirts or dresses accompanied by the obligatory nylons and high heels or “flats.” In time, women’s gloves—and hats for both men and women—went to that Big Closet in the Sky. I heartily applauded that loss, but not in church of course.

I attended that particular church for a quarter-century, from my birth in 1945 until my marriage in 1970. Like most youngsters, there were

times when I wanted to stay home on Sunday to read the comics and devour sweet rolls. But it was important to Mom that all three of her children got to church and Sunday School. In retrospect, I give both my parents a lot of credit for going with us instead of just dropping us off at church like orphaned kittens.

“

*If blue jeans are okay, what about shorts or revealing tank tops?*

*Inward reverence is important, but what about outward reverence?*

”

Those early church years, although not ideal, gave me a good start on my Christian walk. As I view churches today I’m filled with conflicting viewpoints and emotions. I like many of the changes in worship I’ve experienced—like greeting fellow believers with hugs, and feeling free to laugh in church occasionally. And yet...

While on a trip to Michigan last fall, husband Fred and I attended a community church housed in a ranch-style building. There was no bell calling people to worship, no steeple pointing heavenward, no stained-glass windows.

The altar area was really a stage, resplendent with guitars, drums and

microphones. Large video screens hung on both sides. Folding metal chairs took the place of pews and the pulpit consisted of a chair next to a small wooden table.

A black T-shirt peeked out from the top of the pastor’s long-sleeved white shirt, which was partially concealed by a brown sports jacket. His blue jeans had small holes in them, and spots of worn thread were scattered throughout the denim.

At least half the congregation—women as well as men—wore jeans, and there wasn’t a tie in sight. (Ties have obviously gone the way of the dodo bird.)

Once again, a myriad of questions bombarded my mind.

I concede that God wants us in church, period. But if blue jeans are okay, what about shorts or revealing tank tops? Inward reverence is important, but what about outward reverence? And what is reverence?

The “relaxed” atmosphere in many churches nowadays seems to be attracting previously disinterested individuals, especially young people. But what about those of us who grew up with—and cherish—a certain degree of formality and outward respect? I remain conflicted.

Can traditional and non-traditional worship modes coexist? I certainly hope so. In the end, people will have to decide for themselves what style of worship they’re most comfortable with.

Even with my mixed feelings, I am aware of the bottom line: As long as we worship the same one, true God, that’s what really matters. **SR**

**"Servants Together..."**



**in God's Ministry"**

**SDB General Conference**

Springfield, Missouri

July 25-31, 2010



*The President's Page*  
by Pastor Paul Andries

## God gives the increase

The Bible says that we are called into the family of God. That is a high honor and privilege.

With that calling, we have not only received eternal life, but also spiritual gifts, with the Lord God Himself giving the success. Having such favorable advantages, how can we lose?

Paul was disappointed with the behavior of the Corinthians after he had heard that there was jealousy and quarreling among them (1 Corin. 3), living like worldly people. He clearly identified whom they were following. The sad part is that there was no mention of anyone following Christ, which should have been their primary and only agenda.

No doubt he had seen enough of their self-seeking, self-adoration, self-exaltation and self-glorification.

"After all, who is Apollos? Who is Paul? We are only God's servants through whom you believed the Good News. Each of us did the work the Lord gave us. I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow. It's not important who does the planting, or who does the watering. What's im-

portant is that God makes the seed grow. The one who plants and the one who waters work together with the same purpose. And both will be rewarded for their own hard work. For we are both God's workers. And you are God's field. You are God's building" (1 Corin. 3:1-9, NLT).

Case closed!!

The Apostle's words to the Corinthians were harsh—forthrightness out of care for the church and reverence for the Lord.

Believers, we ought to always be mindful of what the Lord has called us to. Keeping in mind these words: "For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thess. 5:9).

When we think of Who has called us, Who has given us our abilities, and Who has given us victory, we cannot help but see that the work is diverse, and enough for us all. We will do that for which we have been called, leaving the rest to God.

Seventh Day Baptists, we are standing at the precipice of a mighty breakthrough—spiritually and numerically. Bringing in the harvest would require laborers. These labor-

ers need to do their fair share of work, while encouraging others to join the work force. St. Matthew, the financial whiz, recorded these words from the Master:

"The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few. Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest" (Matt. 9:37-38).

Due to the urgency of the situation, we are desperately in need of workers of all ages. Some will do the technical part, while some are soul reapers and field laborers; still others are the transporters, with some as the loaders of the goods—making a cohesive whole in God's hands.

There is no need for in-fighting or trying to get credit with a mega-harvest looming. Our focus should be on mobilizing workers.

The Lord has spoken through our recent Conference Presidents. The themes from the last four years were not mere sayings, but each had significant meaning while building upon the previous one.

Our presidents were not worried about their own agendas, but earnestly sought the Lord's guidance for His people. Let's put those themes together while adding another: **Make Christ's mission our mission** while just **telling the truth** and nothing but the truth for we have **a limitless God for a hungry people**, and **pray** without ceasing, remembering that we are all **servants together in God's ministry**.

Paul sows, Apollos waters, but GOD gives the increase!

Ask yourselves, "What would the Lord have me do" to encourage someone in His ministry? Am I truly willing to see others serving in the ministry?

Let us be servants—not only to the Lord, but also to each other, and the people to whom we minister. **SR**



by Executive Director  
Rob Appel

## New Year's Resolution (Or, "Rob, now you're starting to meddle...")

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

So, how did we all do? Yeah, I thought so.

In 2009 my challenge was: Forget your Failures, Give up your Grudges, Restore your Relationships, and Free yourselves of your Offenses. In 2010 I have another area we should all be working on: Our Health.

We are being challenged this year to get healthy by losing what we don't need—extra weight. But we all need to be doing healthy things all year long.

Yes, we need to eat right and exercise; however, one of the healthiest things we can do is get a good night's sleep. The inability to get a good night's rest is becoming a serious problem here in North America.

It is believed that even one night of insufficient sleep can result in additional irritability and an inability to concentrate properly. It can lower the immune system, causing greater susceptibility to illness and depression.



What's more, lack of sleep can also affect your driving skills. Estimates show that up to 100,000 vehicle accidents a year happen due to a driver falling asleep at the wheel.

I don't know about you, but I seem tired a lot and I ask myself what I can do about it. Here are a few things that I came up with:

### 1. Exercise.

One big obstacle to falling asleep is a large amount of inactivity. Our bodies just aren't physically tired. Sometime during the day—but not within three hours of bed—exercise. Thirty minutes a day is all it takes.

### 2. Spend time with God's nature.

Take a walk, get some exercise and enjoy what God made for you.

"The heavens declare the glory of God, the skies proclaim the work of his hands" (Psalm 19:1).

### 3. Give God your troubles.

Is stress, anxiety, or worry impeding your ability to sleep? If this is the case, turn your troubles over to the Lord. He knows them already anyway, and He can deal with them a whole lot better than you. Jesus said,

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you... Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid" (John 14:27).

### 4. Plan your day ahead.

But not the night before while you're in bed—your bed should be reserved for sleeping.

These ideas help me. What helps you? If you have found something, please share it with me so I can pass it along to others.

We might be trying to become the "Biggest SDB Losers," but I know for a fact that we are the biggest SDB WINNERS... no matter what the outcome. Eat right! Exercise often! Spend quality time with God! Plan your day well! And definitely **Sleep Well!**



## Are you *sure* you want to drink that?

by Barb Green, Parish Nurse  
Milton, Wis.

Our bodies are 55-75% water. Eighty percent of what we need comes from beverages and the rest from foods such as fruits and vegetables.

Dividing your weight in half will give you an approximate number of ounces you should drink each day to replace fluid lost through normal processes. If you are quenching your thirst, feeling well and you are urinating an adequate amount (every 2-3 hours), your intake is okay.

### Smart Beverage Choices:

**Water** is the smartest option, providing a refreshing, calorie-free choice. Avoid monotony by adding a slice of lemon or lime. Making juice ice cubes will add sweetness without the calories of a full glass of juice.

Water has many benefits. It cleanses the internal system, promotes weight loss, gives energy, increases metabolism, prevents dehydration (dizziness, brain fog, headache), decreases total calorie intake by promoting fullness—take a breath, there’s more—carries fat out of the body, aids digestion, carries nutrients and oxygen to cells, helps prevent constipation and strengthens muscles. Phew!

Water is inexpensive, readily available, quenches thirst, contains no calories, fat, cholesterol or caffeine, and is low in sodium.

Low fat or fat-free **milk** provides protein, calcium and vitamin D help-

ing to maintain muscle and bone health. Make hot cereals with milk and give it an extra boost, or try a cup of sugar-free hot cocoa made with milk for an evening snack.

Adults need milk as much as kids. Research has shown that drinking milk helps with weight loss. For people who are lactose intolerant, there are alternative types of milks.

Look for **100% juice** that also provides 100% vitamin C. Only 100% juice can be called juice. “Juice cocktails/beverages” or “juice drinks” are a blend of diluted juice with other sweeteners. Caution: Fruit juice is a concentrated source of sugar and calories, so watch the quantity that you drink. Vegetable juice is a better choice.

Two of the most popular beverages in the world, **tea and coffee**, can provide a flavorful drink. Because of the caffeine they should be limited to two or three cups per day, and avoided with some medications.

Decaffeinated options help you stay better hydrated since caffeine acts as a mild diuretic. When ordering coffee drinks, check the calorie content. Many can be ordered sugar-free or with skim milk.

You may be surprised to learn that many **foods** contribute to our daily fluid intake. Foods that are 90% water include: broccoli, cantaloupe, green peppers, cauliflower, lettuce,

and strawberries. Those composed of 80% water include: apples, apricots, carrots, cherries, grapes, and oranges. The closer to the original version of whole food, the more water it contains. For example, grapes contain more water than raisins.

### Beverages to limit:

•Drinks containing **caffeine**.

•**Sugary ones** such as soft drinks; tea sweetened with sugar; sports drinks; fruit juices and fruit drinks. We are besieged with choices of many sports and energy drinks and “enhanced water.” These only add unnecessary calories, caffeine and cost. Sports drinks should be used only by marathon runners and never for kids.

Soft drinks are mostly water but contain large amounts of sugar or sugar substitute and no nutrients. A 12-ounce can contains 150 calories and 9 teaspoons of sugar! Even diet sodas have been found to promote weight gain in some people. To cut your consumption of soft drinks, have just one a day. Pour one glass of soda rather than drinking from a large bottle. Order only the regular-size drink at a restaurant.

•**Alcoholic beverages** add calories and no nutrients. Women should have no more than four drinks per week; men no more than seven.

Our beverage choices can help us lose or gain weight. Choose wisely and live a healthier lifestyle. **SR**

## “Punkin Chunkin” part 2

by Bill Probasco



*They designed, they built, they chucked pumpkins. The Shiloh-Marlboro, N.J., youth had fun!*

Well, the Great Punkin Chunkin 2009 event in southern Jersey has come and gone (and so have many a good pumpkin). Reflecting on our project, we can truly say it was fun.

Ryan Cruzan returned as our engineer extraordinaire, matchless in the art of creating destructive devices for harmless fun. He proposed a brand new design this year, which got our group excited right away.

All we needed was some plywood, 2-by-16s, nails, glue, and... 80 feet of surgical tubing! In two weeks' time we had a “mega sling-shot” constructed. Ryan had fun.

Our youth and young adults found out new things about themselves in the process. Jessi, who started out being hesitant, realized her new-found love for power tools. Zach discovered that he can actually enjoy rising before noon, if given the right incentive. Much joking was mingled with the work. The group had fun.

On our test-firing day, Frank and Clara Mulford allowed us to use their 40-plus acre farm and they invited the two churches (Shiloh and Marlboro) to come for a hot dog picnic. One of our members, Ron Bond,

was involved from the beginning with his support and his gift of comic relief. We were blessed to have 45 people come out in the drizzling 48-degree weather. The churches had fun.

This new contraption used a tremendous amount of tension. A cable retracted by a “come along” pulled the tubing and pumpkin back before launch. Upon release, the pumpkin left the cannon at what seemed like Mach 3. For these reasons, and because we wanted our youth to know we dedicate everything to the Lord, *prayer* was of paramount importance. “Thank you Lord for the ingenuity of our members in building this siege weapon.” And, “Protect us Lord as we practice, and help us to decimate the competition in a loving way.” (Just kidding.) Our prayer times were fun.

At the big event, over 300 young people and families gathered for fall fun activities. Hay rides, pumpkin seed spitting, skillet throwing, and scarecrow making were some of the festivities. A devotion time with praise and worship was held so everyone there heard the Gospel.

Then, the long-awaited punkin chunkin began. Our first shot blew the crowd away (not literally), and beat our last year’s winning distance by over 75 feet. The announcer was heard to say, “Now *that* is how it’s done!” Our team was thrilled.


One of our competitor’s machines broke its wooden firing arm in half, ending their participation. Our guys said, “Hey, we have our old one from last year. Can they use that?” The team was excited to have the opportunity and got it working just in time to continue the event. Sportsmanship and fellowship! The teams from six area churches had fun.

Although Fred the Scarecrow eluded us this year, one of the other teams nicked his hand for a “hit” in the 50-foot accuracy competition. He seemed relieved that our cannon overshot his head. Even Fred had fun.

Overall, this punkin chunkin has been... well... fun! Our team won the distance competition by a mile—well, actually by over 120 feet with a record shot of 363 feet. While biblically speaking we are not specifically called to hurl pumpkins heavenward to have fun, there were clear biblical principles at work:

We enjoyed each other’s fellowship. We discovered new abilities that we each possess. We supported each other through our time and our efforts. We covered everything in prayer.

Looking back, we can truly say, “It’s be real. It’s been fun... It’s been real fun.”

You can share in our experience at YouTube.com by searching for “Shiloh Marlboro SDB Pumpkin Chuckin 2009.” 

## Births

**Yost.**—Twin boys, Lincoln Gunnar and Oakley Michael were born to Jason and Mary Yost of Janesville, WI, on November 19, 2009.

**Murphy.**—A son, Thomas Joseph Murphy III (“TJ”), was born to Tom and Nicole (Cruzan) Murphy of Milton, WI, on November 29, 2009.

**Nelson.**—A daughter, Dorothy DeeAnn Nelson, was born to Nathan and Tina (Pierce) Nelson of Madison, WI, on December 2, 2009.

## New members

**Alfred Station, NY**  
*Ken Chroniger, pastor*  
 Joined after testimony  
 Mildred Newman

**Dodge Center, MN**  
*Dale E. Rood, pastor*  
 Joined by letter  
 Tim Richards  
 Joann Richards  
 Joined after testimony  
 Patricia Voyce

**Texarkana, AR**  
*Mynor Soper, pastor*  
 Joined after baptism  
 Casey Wagner  
 Joined after testimony  
 Brenda Wagner

## SCSC goes YouTube!

The Summer Christian Service Corps promotional video has been posted on YouTube. Type in [www.youtube.com/watch?v=nqh0vDKcIX8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nqh0vDKcIX8) to see the first of five sections. You'll see SCSC participants telling what the program means to them, two pastors reflecting on how SCSC impacted their congregations, and a challenge to join. Access all the sections under “More from Webmaster” or by searching “SDB SCSC.” Please see inside the front cover for application info!



## Denominational Dateline

### January 2010

3-9 **SDB Week of Prayer**  
 5 State VFW Chaplain/Honor Guard meeting, Corning, Ark.—*Ron Elston*  
 8-9 Hardinsburg, Ind., Church—*Elston*  
 9 Houston, Texas, SDB Church—*Rob Appel*  
 9 Iglesia Bautista del Septimo Dia, Houston—*Appel*  
 11 NABF meeting, Dallas, Texas—*Appel*  
 14-17 Church Security/Intruder Awareness Training, San Angelo, Texas—*Elston*  
 15-18 Young Adult SDB Cruise, Calif.—*Appel*  
 23-24 COM Annual Meeting, SDB Center—*Gordon Lawton*  
 23-24 Memorial Fund quarterly meeting, Houston, Texas—*Appel, Jan Ehlers*  
 24 SDB Missionary Society, Ashaway, R.I. Executive and Board Meeting—*Kirk Looper*  
 24 SDB Women's Board, Tomah, Wis.—*Althea Rood*

29 TCC Core Committee, Janesville—*Kevin Butler*

### February

18-19 CLT meetings, Daytona Beach, Fla., SDB Church—*all executives*  
 20-22 General Council meetings, Daytona Beach  
 27 Steve Graffius ordination, Nebraska—*Lawton, Nick Kersten*

### March

6 CPR, Lost Creek, W.Va.—*Butler, Appel*  
 8-10 Baptist World Alliance, Falls Church, Va.—*Appel*  
 11 Baptist Joint Comm., Washington, D.C.—*Appel*  
 13 Washington, D.C., SDB Church—*Appel*  
 13 SDB Christian Church, Arlington, Va.—*Appel*  
 21 SDB Missionary Society Annual Meeting, Ashaway, R.I.—*Looper*  
 26-28 Leadership Conference, Jamaica—*Appel, Andrew Samuels*



## Obituaries

**Findlater.**—Lillian Findlater, 103, of St. James, Jamaica, passed away on October 11, 2009 in Horsham, Pa.

“Tillan,” as she was affectionately known, was born Lillian Brissett on August 16, 1906 in the Jamaican District of Flower Hill. She married Selvin Findlater Sr., and together they had 11 children: Kathleen, George, Neil, Earl, Austin, Norman, Tyrell, Lucy, Cello, Selvin Jr., and Wycliffe.

Tillan had 32 grandchildren, 53 great-grandchildren, and 8 great-great-grandchildren.

A Homegoing Service was held on October 21, 2009 at the Philadelphia Seventh Day Baptist Church where Tillan had been a member for many years. Rev. Kenroy Cruickshank officiated.

To the members of the Philadelphia SDB community, young and old, Lillian Findlater went by the name “Mother,” a testament to her character as well as to her longevity. Mother Findlater—a woman of strong faith and devotion to the Lord Jesus, dearly loved by generations—will be sorely missed.

**Davis.**—Edsel M. Davis, 81, of Lineville, Ala., passed away November 7, 2009 at his daughter’s home in Vienna, W.Va.

Edsel was born in Salem, W.Va., son of Lawrence T. “Tim” and Edna Grace Zinn Davis.

He retired from working at Dominion Hope after 30 years of service. He was a member of the Salem Seventh Day Baptist Church, the Salem Masonic Lodge #84, and was a U.S. Navy Veteran. Edsel especially enjoyed playing golf, woodworking, fishing and hunting.

He is survived by his wife, Helen Hayes Davis; a daughter, Brenda Cottrill of Vienna, and two sons, Edsel M. Davis Jr. of Morehead City, N.C., and Mike Davis of Marietta,

Ohio; five sisters, Glenna Van Pelt, Lula Roukema, Carolyn Hutson, Donna Ash and Elaine Marks; one brother, Carlton Davis; six grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, two stepgreat-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

Edsel was preceded in death by one brother, Robert H. Davis, and two sisters, DeVera Sutton and Junema Kinney.

Funeral services were held on November 10, 2009 at the Harbert Funeral Home, Salem, with Fr. Larry J. Cottrill presiding. Interment was in the K. of P. Cemetery.

**Howard.**—K. Spencer Howard, 76, of Milton, Wis., passed away on November 9, 2009 at Hospice-Care Inc., Fitchburg, Wis.

Spence was born on December 17, 1932, in Janesville, Wis., son of Rush and Mildred (Severance) Howard. He served his country from 1950 to 1953 during the Korean War. Spence married Adeline “Lee” Miars on July 26, 1958. She passed away in 1977.

He was professor of accounting at Blackhawk Technical College in Rock County for 23 years. He enjoyed running, skiing, traveling all over the world, and was a pilot. He was a member of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) in Oshkosh, Wis., and the Seventh Day Baptist Church in Milton.

Spence is survived by a son, Jeremy Howard of Edgerton, Wis., and an aunt, Elda Handtke of Edgerton.

A memorial service was held on November 19, 2009 at the Milton SDB Church with Pastor Nathan Crandall officiating. Burial was in the Milton Cemetery.

**Bee.**—Gladys L. Bee, 100, departed this life on December 7, 2009 at her home in Pennsboro, W.Va., after spending most of her life in Doddridge County, W.Va.

Gladys was born on June 25, 1909 on Lick Run near New Milton in Doddridge County. She was a daughter of James Samuel and Margaret Lucretia (Husk) Ross.

She was a homemaker and shared many memorable hours with her grandchildren in the family home in the New Milton area. She enjoyed caring for her husband of 49 years, piecing and quilting, and especially reading her Bible after she and her husband gave their lives to Jesus in the early 1970s.

Gladys is survived by three sons, Larry O. Bee of Clarksburg, W.Va., and Warren P. Bee and Lowell P. Bee of Big Isaac, W.Va.; 12 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death in 1983 by her husband, Glenn E. Bee; a daughter, Alice Lucretia Stout; and brothers Paul and Earl Ross.

Funeral services were held on December 11, 2009, at the McCullough-Rogers Funeral Home in Pennsboro, with Rev. Darrell Mayle officiating. Interment will be in the Middle Island Seventh Day Baptist Cemetery in Doddridge County.

### Death Notices

**Stephan Kube**, 84, a long-time leader of the Australian SDB Association, died on October 17, 2009.

**O.G. “Glen” Kennedy**, 92, of South Bend, IN, died on November 24, 2009.

**Pauline A. “Bunny” (Rozanski) Bertoni**, 83, of Westerly, RI, died on December 7, 2009.

**Joann (Dussling) Richards**, 69, of Casson, MN, died on December 9, 2009.



## Women's Society Robe of Achievement

### 2010 Nominations

The SDB Women's Society is accepting nominations for the Robe of Achievement for 2010. Please consider a woman in your church who meets the following criteria for nomination:

- *Was/is active as a volunteer in some phase of denominational effort*
- *Has shown evidence of special service with her family and/or community*
- *Must be a committed Christian*
- *Must be an active member of a local Seventh Day Baptist church*

A complete résumé must be submitted containing a life history, including her achievements and activities. Without a résumé in hand, the committee cannot make a competent choice among many nominees. If an individual has

been nominated before, and you still want that person considered, please resubmit the name as well as the updated résumé.

Send nominations to:  
**Karen Payne, Chair.**  
**SDB Robe Nominations**  
**13528 595<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Claremont, MN 55924**

or apply on-line at: [www.sdbwomen.org](http://www.sdbwomen.org)

**Deadline:**  
**March 31, 2010**

For further information, contact or call Karen at [karen.payne1127@gmail.com](mailto:karen.payne1127@gmail.com) or (507) 528-2577

### Missionary Society Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the members of the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society will be held at the First SDB Church of Hopkinton Parish House, 8 Church St., Ashaway, R.I., on Sunday, March 21, 2010, at 2:00 p.m. for the following purposes:

- To elect voting members, a Board of Managers and officers to hold office until the next annual meeting and until their successors are elected.
- To hear and act upon the reports of the Board of Managers and officers for the fiscal year January 1, 2009, to December 31, 2009.
- To ratify the appointment of independent public accountants for the current fiscal year.
- To consider and act upon such other matters as may properly come before said meeting or any adjournment thereof.

The Board of Managers has fixed the close of business on February 28, 2010, as the time at which members entitled to notice thereof and to vote at the meeting and any adjournment thereof shall be determined.

—Beverly Kilts, Secretary

### Are you following the **SDBlog**?

The "SDB Exec" web log (known internally as 'SDBlog') features posts and news from our agency executives. Check it out at: **[seventhdaybaptist.org](http://seventhdaybaptist.org)**

While you're there, shop at our [E-Store](#) or sign up for [E-Gifting](#)!

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# KEVIN'S

## ORNER

### To connect and relate

At our annual meeting in November, the Tract and Communication Council worked on revising its purpose statement. The old one basically listed the current duties and ongoing work of our committees. Our new statement focuses on forging connections and relationships among SDBs and the world:

*The Seventh Day Baptist General Conference unites, encourages and equips local Seventh Day Baptist churches in their endeavors to fulfill the Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20).*

*As the communication agency of the SDB General Conference, the American Sabbath Tract and Communication Council seeks to forge connections:*

- WITH Seventh Day Baptist Churches and their members,
- FOR the Seventh Day Baptist Boards and Agencies, and
- TO the general public.

*By building and maintaining positive relationships with our churches and agencies, and by providing quality media resources to strengthen their ministries, we will help bring others to a relationship with Jesus Christ and with Seventh Day Baptists.*

Connection and relationships. These need to be behind all that we do.

Why do we publish our magazine and tracts? To connect and relate. Why do we create logo and Sabbath promotion material? To connect and relate. Why do we provide other services and advice to the churches and Boards? To connect and relate. You get the picture.

Even our newer ventures need to fit this model. Why do we have a website? Why did we start writing blogs on our web page? Why do we post the *Sabbath Recorder* on the web and have an SR Facebook account?

We want to connect and relate to our church members in order that they (you) may connect and relate to the public at-large and bring people to Christ.

We're heading toward 400 blog entries, and the SR is pushing 600 Facebook friends from around the world. Is it doing any good?

Soon after I started making Facebook connections, I recognized a certain SDB family name from the past, but this 20-something had moved away from her home

church. Via Facebook, she asked if I could recommend any SDB church in her new area. Fortunately I could give her a couple of options and she has reconnected with SDBs nearby.

Connect and relate.

At Thanksgiving time, I almost blogged about a heartwarming (and true) story of someone connecting with a long-lost relative.

Bill Shiell pastors the First Baptist Church of Knoxville, Tenn., and is on the Associated Baptist Press (ABP) board of directors. His story appeared in a local Knoxville paper and later in an ABP release.

In the late 1950s, Pastor Bill's father and his wife Hilda had a son, David. After a few years, they divorced and Bill's dad lost contact with little David. Hilda remarried and, as Bill tells it, "the rest became a well-kept family secret."

The dad remarried in 1970 and Bill was born in '72. Some years later, Bill discovered a photo of another boy who looked a lot like him and his dad. Various other clues made Bill curious, but all of his sleuthing turned up nothing.

Until recently. After posting his own family tree on sites like Google and ancestor.com and Facebook, Bill finally got an e-mail from a David Andrews, a pathologist in Miami. He wrote, "I am most certainly your half brother, David, son of Hilda, our father's first wife."

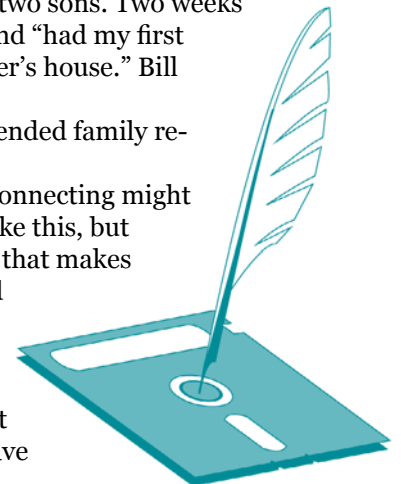
On a whim, David had Googled the name "David Shiell," landed on Bill's Facebook family tree, and for the first time discovered he had a half brother.

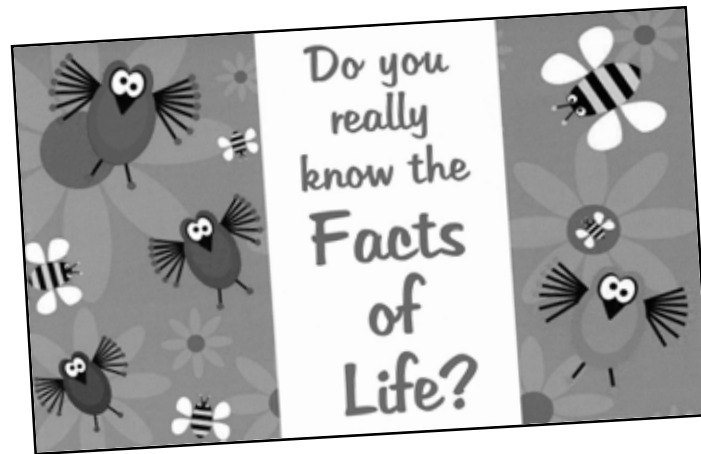
Their life stories were remarkably similar, except 15 years apart. They were both only children; both had doctorates; both had two sons. Two weeks later, Bill flew to Miami and "had my first sleepover at my big brother's house." Bill is 37 and David is 52.

They planned a big extended family reunion for Thanksgiving.

All of our attempts at connecting might not have happy endings like this, but some of them could—and that makes the work worthwhile. And if enough Seventh Day Baptists reach out and help others connect with their Creator, what a great family reunion we'll all have in heaven!

Let's connect and relate together.





## The Offer of Salvation

Vibrant artwork lays out seven Facts to real—and eternal—life. Powerful Bible references point readers to their need for Christ and his sacrifice, ending with an invitation to become part of the closest SDB congregation.

Each 20-page booklet is only 20 cents (plus postage). Please call for larger orders so we can calculate the shipping costs. Or, go to the on-line store at our website and the checkout system will calculate the shipping for you.

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