



The  
**Sabbath**  
**RECORDER**

*Inside:*

How's work?

He ain't heavy,  
he's my brother

March 2010

*News for and about Seventh Day Baptists*

A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding a dark-colored wallet. Several US dollar bills are visible, including a \$20 bill and a \$10 bill. The background is blurred, showing a person's torso in a light-colored shirt. The entire image has a green tint.

# Money Talks

**Maxed  
out!**

**Just  
old dusty  
numbers?**

**To tithe or  
not to tithe—  
Is that the  
question?**



## 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)

The **Covenant SDB Fellowship**, a small group in Hungry Horse, Montana, is in need of a pastor. If you can be bi-vocational and have a heart for evangelistic outreach and building new relationships, we'd love to talk with you. Our goal is to open a youth center and develop a music ministry outreach.

The Flathead Valley—a recreational paradise—is ripe for revival. People here are friendly in an eclectic and independent way. The weather, the scenery, the pure water: all wonderful! Glacier National Park is only 10 minutes away.

Contact Vivian McNeme Allen at PO Box 190278, Hungry Horse MT 59919, ph. (406) 387-4772; [csdbf@cyberport.net](mailto:csdbf@cyberport.net).

## Rez Connection 2010

Come to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota for one-to-three weeks beginning on June 13. Our goal is to help the Rez Connection (an SDB ministry) reach out to Native Americans.

We'll also help with gardening and farm work, and participate in evangelism training. All ages are needed (those under 16 should be accompanied by an adult). We will be housed in the church building next to Pastor Chet Marks' farm; there are also motels nearby in Martin, S.D.

Please see the January *SR* for cost details, or contact trip leader Patty Petersen at 720-320-3418 ([ppetersen57@hotmail.com](mailto:ppetersen57@hotmail.com)), or the Missionary Society at 401-596-4326 ([sdbmissoc@verizon.net](mailto:sdbmissoc@verizon.net)).

### Live 2 Love Cruise 2010

How would you like to spend five days with the love of your life and other SDBs who are committed to having marriages that they are thrilled about?

Perry and Linda Cain invite you to join them for a "Live to Love" Cruise, October 9-14, 2010. Perry pastors the Lost Creek, WV SDB Church and is a licensed counselor who specializes in marriage and family therapy. Learn from noted Christian authors



and marriage experts including Gary Smalley and Gary Chapman.

We will depart from Fort Lauderdale, FL on a Royal Caribbean Cruise liner and visit

Key West, Cozumel and CoCoCay Island.

For more info, call the Cains at (304) 745-4481, or Premier Cruises at (800) 889-5265 and ask for coordinator McKenzie Coates. Their website is [PremierChristianCruises.com](http://PremierChristianCruises.com). We hope you can join us on this exciting journey!



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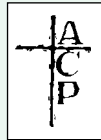


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## Maxed out!

***‘We had 8 credit cards and couldn’t buy our baby a diaper’***

by Rich Gallegos, Milton, Wis.



Years of taking vacations we couldn’t afford, “keeping up with the Joneses,” buying a new car every two years, taking loans against my 401k—all of this overspending caught up with us like a bad dream.

It all came crashing down one Sunday night when our son was just a baby. Diane was ready to go out to get diapers, and she called to me, “What credit card should I put the diapers on?”

“The ----- card is good,” I replied.

But when she swiped the credit card at the store: DENIED! She swiped another one (we had eight): DENIED!

At that time we didn’t realize the severity of our situation. *Oh, we’ll just call and have the credit card company increase our limit, or just get another card we thought.* The creditors told us that we were maxed out. There would be no more cards and no more limit increases.

We had hit bottom.

Proverbs 22:6 says, “The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.”

### Where to turn?

In November 2005, our church in Illinois was promoting a seminar. Dave Ramsey’s “Financial Peace

University” is a 12-week course designed to teach you how to get out of debt, stay out of debt, and build wealth using biblical practices.

Class members meet each week to watch a video lesson and participate in discussion accountability groups that change your attitude about money.

Hitting rock bottom financially can put a lot of strain on a marriage, so my desire to take a \$100 course did not go over very well. How would we pay for it?

Diane and I prayed together about how God would help us pull through this terrible situation that we had gotten ourselves into.

### I had to take that course!

I was determined to take this course using whatever means necessary—working overtime, selling something...

After the first week of the course I couldn’t stop talking about it to friends and family members. Did they know that making financial mistakes with a bunch of zeroes at the end was *not really smart??*

We began our “therapy” by doing a quick budget. This included writing down every penny we spent for a week. It was amazing to catch all those coffee and donut expenses, and to see that eating out for lunch and dinner added up to a lot of money we didn’t have. It didn’t take long for us to realize that there was not enough month at the end of the money.

### Topics covered

In the course, a new topic is discussed each week:

- Super Saving**  
(having \$1,000 emergency fund)
- Relating with Money**
- Cash Flow Planning**
- Dumping Debt**

- Credit Sharks in Suits**
- Buyer Beware**
- Clause and Effect**  
(purpose of insurance)
- “That’s not Good Enough”**  
(negotiating for better deals)
- Of Mice and Mutual Funds**  
(diversification and investing)
- From Fruition to Tuition**
- Working in Your Strengths**
- Real Estate and Mortgages**
- The Great Misunderstanding**  
(how you feel when you give)

Each class carried a wealth of information. Audio recordings help reinforce the learning as you listen in the car on your way to work. During those three months, the average family eliminates \$5,300 in debt while saving \$2,700!

### Time to apply the principles

After completing the 12-week “Financial Peace” course, we had a great mission ahead of us. Diane and I had eight credit cards, no savings account, over \$80,000 in debt (which didn’t include the mortgage that we could not afford), and a stressed out household.

To make our budget work we started to apply the principles that Dave Ramsey suggested. Proverbs 17:20 says, “A man of perverse heart does not prosper; he whose tongue is deceitful falls into trouble.” This really hit home to me because it made me look in the mirror and admit to myself that being truthful is the only way to do things.

We knew we were playing the “credit card game” and it would eventually catch up with us—and it did. Diane and I cut our spending habits down to nil. We cut up seven of those credit cards. We only invested the minimum on our 401k.

“

*We knew we were playing the ‘credit card game’ and it would eventually catch up with us—and it did.*

”

We changed life insurance companies and found a new policy recommended by Dave’s team. We increased our auto deductible to get better rates. We shopped around for better health insurance.

We began shopping at discount stores (Aldi for food, Goodwill or garage sales for clothing). We held our own huge rummage sale to rid ourselves of excess stuff and to build our \$1,000 emergency fund.

I worked as many side jobs as I could. Our entertainment would have to be free. Vacations came to an end until we could afford to pay them with cash.

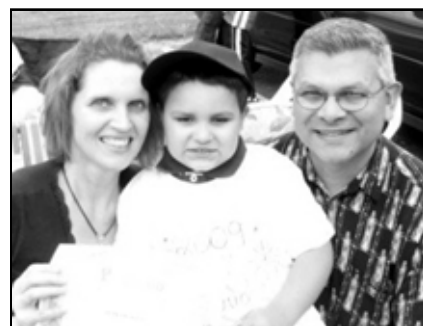
After several months of doing this, we found that we didn’t really miss anything. We discovered the principle of getting out of debt has a short-term solution. The average family can pay off their debt in three to five years.

### It’s working!

It’s been 4-1/2 years since I took the course. Diane and I are living proof that you can free yourselves of debt and actually build wealth. We have paid off \$69,000 of our debt and look forward to the day that we can say we are completely debt free!! We will then begin working on building wealth.

I support this course so much that I have begun facilitating Dave’s class at the Milton SDB Church. In the five courses held so far, we have helped many families and individuals use Dave’s tools to get out of debt. They have cut up many, many, many credit cards and we have witnessed others build wealth. I enjoy hearing the testimonies of those who have attended these classes.

Please visit Dave’s website at [www.daveramsey.com](http://www.daveramsey.com) for a course near you. **SR**



*Rich Gallegos is a master carpenter and committed family man. Rich, Diane and Jalen live in Milton and are members of the SDB Church.*

# Being Christian in a Corporate World

## 8 ways that living like Christ will bless your business

by Dottie DeHart, DeHart & Company,  
Hickory, N.C.

If you run a business, then you're no stranger to the worry and stress that come with keeping your company going. Every day brings a new challenge.

If you are a Christian, and you've made a covenant with God, then your faith shouldn't fade into the background during the hours of 9-to-5. But with the ruthless nature of today's corporate culture, and the stiff-neck competition just waiting for you to slip up, can you *really* be a strong Christian in a business environment and still be successful?

The answer is yes! And according to author Dave Anderson, it's your responsibility as a Christian to talk the talk *and* walk the walk at work if you want God to bless your business.

"Given the turbulent economy and influx of business scandals, a lot of businesses are under scrutiny now," says Anderson, author of *How to Run Your Business by THE BOOK: A Biblical Blueprint to Bless Your Business* (Wiley, 2009).

"And it can be tempting to give in to the politically correct consensus of ways to run your business. But be wary of taking the easy way out just to ensure you make a profit! THE BOOK commands us to live our lives based on the principles and guidelines that it provides if we want God's blessings—and that includes our businesses as well."

Of course, if you are running a business and managing employees, there are some boundaries that you just can't cross. While you can't force employees to attend church or read

“  
**Can you *really*  
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be successful?**  
”

The Book, you *can* set the example for how to live and work successfully by living your life based on the guiding principles that the Bible gives us.

"Nobody is suggesting that you hold a full-scale revival in the conference room this week," Anderson explains, "but there are a few guiding principles that will help you to shine your light at work."

Here are eight ways that living like Christ in the workplace will bless your business:

### 1) Honesty is the best policy

In business, there may be times when full disclosure will hurt your bottom line (like being honest with shareholders about your less-than-stellar profits). However, Anderson maintains that remaining honest in all situations, just as The Book instructs, is a great way to witness to clients, employees and colleagues.

### 2) Talk the talk and walk the walk

"It may sound cliché, but actions truly speak louder than words," explains Anderson. "In a business

setting, where the opportunities to witness are few and far between, the strongest testimony you can make is by your everyday actions. Be a living, breathing demonstration of what living in The Word looks like.

### 3) Work as though Jesus were in the next room

As Christians, we want to glorify Christ in all we do. And our work is no exception.

Anderson says that when we are working, we should consider how our work ethic might differ if Jesus were sitting in the boss' chair. Would you regularly show up for work five minutes late? Would you slack on assignments or try to get out of doing work by passing it off? Chances are, if Jesus were a physical presence in your workplace, you would feel compelled to do your best work for Him, all the time.

### 4) Rely on the power of prayer

There is nothing quite like the power of prayer—and it can be even more powerful when it comes to your business. While you may not feel as though you can ask your employees to pray, there is nothing that says you can't pray for them or in front of them.

### 5) Keep the Sabbath day holy

If you own a business that operates over the weekend, it's important that you adhere to God's command to keep the Sabbath day holy—even

if the decision seems like one that will cost your business precious time and money.

### 6) Give back

The Book commands us to help our fellow man—even when it seems as though he doesn't truly deserve it! At times, that may mean tithing or giving financial assistance, such as a charitable donation. Other times, it may mean donating your time and resources. Have your company give back in ways that get everyone involved. You can adopt a needy family at Christmas and ask your employees to bring an item to donate. Spend a workday away from the office serving at a local soup kitchen and ask your employees to participate.

### 7) Find like-minded people and partner with them

In order to be truly effective, every leader needs to build an inner

circle that helps carry the load, because there is only so much that one person can accomplish on his or her own. Having a group of people within your workplace who share your same values, morals and vision will only motivate you to be more successful.

### 8) Mentor

“The Book is filled with outstanding examples of mentoring relationships that are worth your study,” Anderson asserts. “David mentored Solomon, Moses mentored Joshua, and Paul mentored Timothy. Spending greater amounts of time with smaller numbers of strategic people will be beneficial to you, your employees, and your organization as a whole.”

“What leaders need to remember right now is that it's about the little things,” Anderson concludes.

“There's this perceived notion that running a faith-based business is tough, but when you get down to it, that's just not true.

“When we leave this life, we are no longer accountable to the bank, or employees, or the media,” he continues. “We are accountable to Him, and we will have to answer for our actions here on earth.

“True success will not be measured by the number of dollars in our bank accounts, or the number of stores we open. It will be measured by Eternal Life—the greatest blessing of all.” **SR**

*Dave Anderson and his wife, Rhonda, are co-founders of The Matthew 25.35 Foundation which helps feed, educate and house destitute people throughout the world. For more information, please visit [www.learntolead.com](http://www.learntolead.com).*

## Giving to God

### Doing our part

*Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession. (Psalm 2:8, NIV)*

The Lord Jesus Christ is the head of the church. He is the ruler of all things.

By divine decree, he lacks nothing. Yet, it is a common assumption (when it comes time to give an offering to the church) that we are somehow helping a Savior who needs our assistance lest He should fail.

How different things would look if we were to view life from His perspective. He is Owner, Master and Lord of all things, and He calls upon His servants to faithfully do their part out of what He has given them.

Let's not flatter ourselves by imagining we



are giving “poor Jesus” a helping hand. Let us rather view our giving as proof of our faithfulness, love and productivity in Him.

Let our giving stand as proof that we have gladly entered into His great plan for our lives through the local church, each believer faithfully doing his or her part for the honor and glory of Jesus Christ.

Let us give as those who are living proof that we are part of Christ's living church, doing our part.

*From Let Us Give: Scriptural Reflections for Introducing Offerings*

by Arthur E. Ball.



## To tithe or not to tithe— Is that the question?

by Morgan Shepherd, Financial Director  
SDB Memorial Fund

*“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, ‘and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it’” (Mal. 3:10, NIV).*

Most of us would agree that the command to tithe is not in question. From the Old Testament to the New Testament, tithing is an act of worship and an expression of faith to God.

Tithing is a personal choice, one each of us should come to as we are led. Our “firstfruits” should be tithed first, as opposed to giving after all the bills are paid.

Following a harvest (of salary, time, etc.), the first thing we should do is give our tithe to God. We should tithe first to our local church, since that is the body of believers with whom we have a covenant.

A question many ask is not *whether or not* they should tithe, but *how* they can do it faithfully and consistently.

The traditional method of tithing is to drop our tithe into the collection plate on Sabbath. But what if we miss a church service? Do we make it up *next* time? What if we go south for the winter? Do we make it up when we get home?

When this happens, we may unintentionally skip our customary Sabbath donation, or forget our giving altogether. In the meantime, our firstfruits are still coming in.

Modern technology has provided other ways to present our tithes and gifts.

Many of us pay bills on-line, either through our bank or through the company we make purchases from. No stamps, no envelopes, no lost mail! If it’s a recurring bill, we often set up an automatic payment plan that processes our payments whether we remember to make them or not. (This is *my* favorite method.)

### Make a Donation

The SDB General Conference uses several technologies to promote consistent, faithful giving.

If you want to give a one-time gift, the “Make a Donation” button on the Board/Agency page at the SDB

website [[www.seventhdaybaptist.org](http://www.seventhdaybaptist.org)] is probably the way to go. It is secure, quick, and easy.

If you want to give a “regular” gift, we also offer **E-Gifting**. By signing up, you can specify the amount and designate which ministry you want to support on a regular basis. You can change this at any time. Best of all, it’s secure and fast. (*More information is available at the SDB website.*)

If you want to explore on-line giving for your church, there are several Internet resources that provide information and services. Your local bank may offer similar services, either through the Automated Clearing House (ACH) network, or through an on-line bill paying service. Check them out.

While all of these methods make it easier to tithe, that is not the intent. God challenges us to test Him to “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse...”

Becoming—and remaining—faithful givers is the goal, and these are some tools that can help us along the way. **SR**

*This article first appeared in the February 2007 Sabbath Recorder. Morgan is serving overseas in the Naval Reserves, so please keep him and his family in your prayers.*



# Just old dusty numbers?

by Morgan Shepard (from *Financial Faith*, Sept. 2006)

As I explored the catacombs of the SDB Historical Library, I discovered that a consolidated SDB General Conference budget has existed only since 1981!

The makeup of the budget has changed over the years, with current giving becoming a lesser part of the overall budget. Both budgeted and actual giving have dropped, along with income from Agency investments. Income from Memorial Fund endowments and grants has gone up over the same period.

What does this mean? That's a loaded question.

Clearly, we need to do a better job of communicating the services provided by our Boards and Agen-

cies, as well as the financial needs of the Conference. Programs such as SCSC, *The Helping Hand*, Pre-Cons, international and national mission support, and pastoral development and training exist to serve the local church.

This seems to indicate that our Boards and Agencies are relying on endowments and gifts from the past to fund current programs. It also suggests we need to be more faithful stewards in terms of supporting our Conference budget and mission.

Where do we go from here? That's another loaded question.

It really comes down to what you believe.

•Do you believe in the vision, mission and direction of the SDB General Conference?

•Do you believe in—and support the programs of—our Boards and Agencies?

•Do you believe God has a plan for you and your local SDB church?

Proverbs 29:18 reminds us that a people without vision will perish.

Through our Alliance in Ministry, the SDB Boards and Agencies are working together more than ever before. All of us are focused on empowering and supporting your local church in the fulfillment of the Great Commission.

What's *your* vision and mission? **SR**

## Giving to God

### Catching up with Peter and Andrew

*At once they left their nets and followed him. (Matthew 4:20, NIV)*

"They" in this verse are Simon Peter and Andrew. The "him" they followed is the Lord Jesus Christ. They immediately and completely responded to the Savior's call!

Do you think you have sacrificed much and responded quickly to the Lord's leading in your life? How do you measure up to these two men? They left everything—and they left immediately.

There does not seem to have been any arguing, excuses, or faltering. They followed the Lord's instructions, no questions asked. Friends, family, future plans, business projections—all were left behind.

How do we measure up to this kind of faithful-



ness and stewardship? Have we really placed all of our time, our assets, energies, and desires at His feet for His disposal? Have we caught up with Simon Peter and Andrew?

Our present culture teaches us that we must live our own lives and perhaps carve out a little space for God, if it's convenient. The concept of stewardship demonstrated by Peter and Andrew is unthinkable by today's standards. But, should it be?

Do you have any nets that you're still trying to hold on to?

Let us give as those who have left their nets.

From *Let Us Give: Scriptural Reflections for Introducing Offerings*

by Arthur E. Ball.

# The Gift that Keeps on Giving

by Morgan Shepard (from *Financial Faith*, May 2007)

The largest component of the SDB Memorial Fund is the collection of Permanent Endowments. The main endowment was created in 1871 with an original goal of raising \$100,000 for “educational and denominational goals.”

There have been numerous larger and smaller additions since that time. Through solid investing and stewardship, the fund has grown greatly since its inception.

An endowment is created when money or property is given so that, upon investment, it creates income for a designated purpose. Gifts are often part of a will or result from a family wishing to honor a loved one.

In most cases, the original gift (or principal) cannot be spent. In-

stead, it is used to create income for a stated purpose. Sometimes the principal can be spent, if the person making the gift specifies so.


The advantage of being able to spend the original gift is that, over time, conditions change that may have brought about the gift. So it is prudent to give the Memorial Board the flexibility to make changes as conditions merit.

Regardless of the size of the endowment, investments generate income that is disbursed to beneficiaries as designated in the gift. Most of our current funds are distributed to beneficiaries (usually the SDB Boards and Agencies) or back into the endowment. Churches are the next biggest group of beneficiaries.

So what does all this mean to you?

As part of your estate planning, consider a gift to the SDB Memorial Fund. There are several means for making gifts and taking tax advantages while you’re still living.

When designating beneficiaries, give the Memorial Board flexibility in administering the gift over time so that income is not tied up going to a beneficiary that no longer exists (e.g., endowments to Milton College, that subsequently closed). You can also contribute to an existing endowment. Contact the SDB Center for more information.

The Memorial Fund’s goal is not to store up a treasure trove here on earth, but to use what God has given us to fulfill the Great Commission. 

## Giving to God

### Giving to the Next Generation

Even though David was a man after God’s own heart, he was not permitted to build the temple. Instead, God appointed Solomon, David’s son, the leader of the next generation, for that task.

But David did lay up many treasures and material that were used in the construction of the temple. David left behind an offering for the next generation.

How many think in terms of “next generation” giving? How many believers actively plan and lay aside offerings for generations to come? How many Christians remember the church in their will, in their investments, in their obituary?

Many funeral notices invite friends and family to send a donation to a favorite charity in the name of the deceased in lieu of sending flowers. But instead



of listing a secular charity, why not arrange to have donations sent to your local church in your name? It would be a wonderful way to give an offering to the next generation.

A man or woman after God’s own heart certainly remembers to give to God’s work in the present generation, but they also delight in making an offering to the generation that will follow them in the Gospel.

Let us give as those who have an eye for our own generation in the Gospel, and the generation that will follow.

From *Let Us Give: Scriptural Reflections for Introducing Offerings*

by Arthur E. Ball.



# Innovation: The Mother of Success?

by Jim Goodrich, North Loup, Neb.  
SDB Memorial Fund trustee

It is an age-old question: “If God owns the cattle on a thousand hills, why can’t He get the proceeds into the offering plates at church?”

I think that the answer may lie in our lack of creativity in “capturing” those resources at the time they’re available.

## Food stand at “Pop Corn Days”

I grew up in a very rural Seventh Day Baptist church. As a young student, a number of the fundraising activities for the church came about by providing opportunities to both those in the congregation and in the community.

Every late summer came our town’s three-day celebration, “Pop Corn Days.” For as long as I could remember, our church had a food stand that took weeks of preparation, using lots of time and effort and people. Besides serving the community it garnered a substantial income for the church’s general fund.

When the celebration was changed from a mid-week event to the week-end (infringing on the Sabbath) we chose to abandon that ministry.

## Using the “Lord’s Acre”

Another pair of events of considerable work were the annual Lord’s

Acre Turkey Supper and the Lord’s Acre Auction. The concept of the Lord’s Acre came from the largely agricultural population of the church and town. A portion (acre) of personal land was dedicated to go to the church, and the food or produce grown there could be sold raw or prepared to provide income.

Somewhere along the line the auction event stopped, for reasons unknown to me. The turkey supper continues, but it has changed focus to a community outreach.

A big factor in those changes may be that we have fewer and fewer members involved directly in agriculture. I also think that fewer people develop special projects to supplement their giving.



## Find ways to participate

My point is that it takes innovation to reap a financial blessing. The offering worship part of Sabbath service will always provide the bulk of our church’s income. As a church treasurer I am very thankful for those who tithe and give faithfully. And I don’t think it should be our purpose to come up with ways to “separate people from their money.”

On the other hand, I have no problem with providing everyone with opportunities to joyously participate in supporting their church financially! Those opportunities just need to reach the people where they are, and in a way that makes everyone feel good about participating in the giving process.

## What other churches do

As I have traveled around the country visiting other Seventh Day Baptists, I have marveled at the unique opportunities churches have to support themselves financially. Many of our groups have “giving” banquets of one kind or another. Church bazaars, carnivals, and garage sales are popular.

One noteworthy group actually passed out dollar bills, asking members to find a way to multiply those funds for one year and return the “blessing” to the next General Conference.

*cont. next page*

**Be creative—ask around**

I believe that God really does own all the resources in the whole world. I believe that He could call up any amount He needed to accomplish His purposes.

But I am sure that He wants us to exercise our free will and participate in giving worship. And I think He likes it when we find ways to creatively involve more people in that blessing.

**Less ritual, more worship**

Does your group have special ways to get everyone involved in the giving process? Maybe it's time you shared your ideas with the rest of us, helping us have fun in financially supporting our churches and their projects.

“  
*I am sure that God wants us to exercise our free will and participate in giving worship.*  
”

Do you personally have a method that works for you that provides a little extra to your church? Why don't you tell someone about it and give them the opportunity to have a blessing?

Are you looking for a way to make giving less of a ritual and more of a

worship experience? Ask someone around you about their plan for successful giving. If they have one, it may help you as well. If not, get someone to look with you for the motivation that will spur you both to action.

**Are we “too content”?**

Our churches and our denomination don't have to be content with just scraping by on “drippings” from the bottom of the barrel. We have the chance to do great things.

The resources are there. We just need to inspire one another to be involved in those opportunities.

I challenge every member and every church to actively seek the innovations that will inspire others to find the blessing that giving provides. **SR**

Giving to God

**Reduced to a mere Business transaction?**

*So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple area, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. To those who sold doves he said, “Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father’s house into a market!” (John 2:15-16, NIV)*

What could be more repugnant to Jesus than to see the temple turned into a lucrative business market? In the guise of furnishing supplies for the required temple offerings, some were making quite a handsome profit for themselves.

The heavenly Father's house—the intended house of prayer—had become a house of merchandise.

What happens when the love, service, and worship of God is suddenly reduced to a common business transaction? This kind of a situation isn't as



farfetched in our day as we might think.

Do we give our offerings out of love and obedience to our Lord Jesus Christ? Or have we reduced the offering to nothing more than a business transaction in our mind?

We may reason that the offering is a necessary nuisance so the church can pay its bills. But such thinking is grievous and repulsive to our Lord.

We must never allow the offering to be reduced to nothing more than a piece of business. It must always be a loving, devotional, passionate act of worship, freely and generously given.

Let us give as those who love God with a holy passion, not as those carrying out a business transaction.

From *Let Us Give: Scriptural Reflections for Introducing Offerings* by Arthur E. Ball.



## COM adds students and goals

by Gordon Lawton, Dean  
Director of Pastoral Services

The Council on Ministry held its annual meeting on January 23-24 at the SDB Center in Janesville, Wis.

Here are some of the highlights:

### Two admitted to the Seminary Education Program (Brings the total to 12)

- **Joshua Michaels** of the Berlin, N.Y., SDB Church is attending Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in South Hamilton, Mass. Josh has taken three courses already and is registering as a full-time student for the spring semester.

- **Johnmark Camenga** of the Salem, W.Va., SDB Church will complete his bachelor's degree in May and plans to start seminary this fall. He is applying to Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Ky., and plans to be a full-time student.

This will give us five full-time students this fall. **David Fox** is currently at Reformed Theological Seminary in Atlanta, Ga., and **Charles Meathrell** is on campus at Columbia International University in Columbia, S.C., ramping up to be full-time in the fall. **David Stall** has been full-time at Alliance Theological Seminary in Nyack, N.Y., and may complete his studies in May 2011. From May 2007 until the fall of 2008 we had no full-time seminary students.

### Two admitted to Training In Ministry by Extension (T.I.M.E.) Program

- **Saul Alonzo**, Central SDB Church, Mitchellville, Md.
- **Haywood Floyd**, White Cloud, Mich., SDB Church

These men will be taking ministry courses by distance from Columbia (S.C.) International University and Taylor University in Indiana. These two additions bring the number of T.I.M.E. students to four.

### One College Summer Intern

Students who are in their junior or senior year of college are eligible for this program. The internship, set in a local SDB church, gives a summer of ministry experience and an opportunity to explore and test a sense of call to ministry. The church provides the setting, and the pastor provides the supervision for this exploration.

These summer internships are jointly funded by the local church and the SDB Memorial Fund.

**Philip Lawton** will be spending 15 weeks with the White Cloud, Mich., SDB Church under the tutelage of Pastor Bernie Wethington.

### Values, Purpose and Goals

The Council on Ministry has worked on listing our values which will inform our purpose and goals. Between Conference 2009 and our annual meeting, the Council created a values statement and revised our purpose statement.


At the annual meeting, goals were set for 2010 and 2011. This has been a growing experience under the direction of Ron Ochs (from the first Ad Hoc committee created at Conference 2008).

### The goals include:

- Increasing awareness of the financial need of COM as the number of Seminary Education and T.I.M.E. students increases. Projected assistance to seminary students has doubled since last August. Tuition rates vary, but each full-time seminary student is aided \$15,000 to \$20,000 per year, and part-timers are aided \$4,000 to \$9,000 per year depending on the number of courses.

COM reserves are being depleted quickly. Without increased giving our reserve of about \$130,000 will be gone in just over one year.

- Revising the 2011 Summer Institute on Sabbath Theology to reduce the class time at the SDB Center from two weeks to one, while not reducing the content to be learned. If successful, the SDB History course will be considered, followed by SDB Polity.
- Continuing to support the three Ministry Staff Development projects (Lincoln, Neb.; Berlin, N.Y.; and White Cloud, Mich.) with the financial aid of the SDB Memorial Fund.
- Exploring the possibility of holding regional Pastors' Retreats in even-numbered years, alternating with the biennial Pastors' Conferences.

God is at work among us. Praise Him. 



## History necessary for spiritual vitality

In today's world, stopping to reflect on history has fallen out of favor. Many have come to believe that history has nothing of value to teach us about our increasingly complex and technological world.

While many acknowledge George Santayana's famous statement that "those who cannot learn from history are doomed to repeat it," comparatively few take the time to learn history's lessons. Many in our culture advise us to "live in the moment" and to forget the past. But to heed this advice is dangerous.

It is particularly dangerous for God's people. The Bible itself is a chronicle of God's amazing and gracious activity since the beginning of time. Furthermore, stories of God's people since biblical times are a rich resource as we attempt to discern what God calls us to do today. In other words, history is the summary of God's activity in the world through the lives of individuals, groups and nations.

My predecessor at the Historical Society, the Rev. Don Sanford, knew this well. For more than two decades, this space was filled with stories from the past meant to shed light on our shared present as Seventh Day Baptists. I commend again his works to you!

This month, I'd also like to commend history to you for two reasons that are vital to your spiritual health.

### History supports worship

The first reason is that history is the backbone of worship. Worship is the activity of people who know God and want to give Him praise. Those who worship want to ascribe glory to God for what He has done, what He is doing, and what He has promised to do.

“*History is the summary of God's activity in the world through the lives of individuals, groups and nations.*”

The evidence that supports worship is at least partially historical: the riches of our spiritual pilgrimages in Christ. We know who God is because of how He has revealed Himself to us. If you disconnect yourself from your personal history, you will forget the greatness and power of the God you serve, and your worship will be confused and disoriented.

One sure antidote for stale hearts in worship is to consider what God has done. The Bible supports this. If you search the Psalms for the many commands to remember what God has done in the past, you would have a rich season of Bible study and worship. (And the rest of the Bible is filled with similar riches!)

### Help for today and tomorrow

The second reason that history is integral to your spiritual health is because it increases your confidence to live for Christ today, and it will empower you to live faithfully for tomorrow.

Since we know—from experience—how God has saved us, provided for us and saved us from danger, we have confidence to live for today. When we forget our history (either individually or as a group) we lose the ability to persevere in a godly direction because we forget where we've come from and Who has brought us here. While people obsessed with their past are always in peril in the present, people who forget their past may not have any idea where they are now.

As you follow Christ, I encourage you to consider your own story in Him—your own **HISTory**. It will give you new confidence to live your life. History is at the heart of our consecrated efforts to plan for the future in faith.

The Seventh Day Baptist Historical Society is eager to help you and your church remember what God has done.

Please give us a call or send an e-mail ([sdbhist@seventhdaybaptist.org](mailto:sdbhist@seventhdaybaptist.org)) if we can assist you. In the meantime, I encourage you to remember your own story and share it with your kingdom family! **SR**



Women's Society page by Kristin Camenga  
www.sdbwomen.org

## How's work?

by Valerie Probasco, Shiloh, N.J.

Many people have greeted me over the past several months with the question, "How's work?"

When our youngest started kindergarten in September, I went back to work full-time after being home for eight years.

*"How's work?"* Well, my schedule is much the same now as it has been over the past 15 years. Get up. Greet the Lord. Begin a long list of "to do's." Meet the needs of the needy, both large and small. Pray my way through the day. Go to bed tired but thankful. Repeat.

The details may have changed, but the general schedule has remained the same. It's been a wonderful, seamless transition.

*"How's work?"* The rewards are fantastic. I am a subcontractor for an Early Intervention agency that provides speech/language therapy. I'm helping families with children under 3 years old by addressing their language goals. I get hugs all day. I sit on the floor and play.

I might get drooled on, but what are a few germs among friends? I am blessed to be part of their development. Also, I'm reminded daily how blessed I was to observe my own kids growing through that age.

*"How's work?"* I believe the Lord has used everything I've done in my life up to this point to prepare me for this position. I believe working in the public schools for seven years prior to staying home helped me become familiar with transition procedures for my current clients. I believe taking private therapy clients while home raising my kids was an excellent learning experience.

“

*I believe the Lord has used everything I've done in my life up to this point to prepare me for this position.*

”

I believe the full-time work as a stay-at-home mom gave me the mental, physical and spiritual maturity to minister to my new therapy moms in their current situations as mothers of toddlers. I believe God has worked and continues to work in me.

*"How's work?"* It has ended our personal recession. Eight years on one income was a long lesson in self-control. I'm forever thankful that I had that time with my kids, but it was tough allowing the Lord to stretch me, especially when the dollars were stretched as well.

I am grateful for the myriad of ways the Lord showed Himself. He was faithful. When we were down to one diaper, someone at church gave us two bags full. When we had bills to pay, rebate checks would show up in the mail. When the grocery budget was maxed out, we'd be invited somewhere for a meal.

Gifts of clothes, food, furniture, appliances, money and gift cards "came from heaven" via our awesome family and church friends. In a very real way I know that all I have is a gift from God.

When people now ask, "How's work?" I could give them a lengthy personal account, as listed here. Usually I just say, "I love it—absolutely love it."

Sometimes I wonder if Jesus is saying, "How's work?" to me. Do I think about putting him in charge of my schedule? Do I think about the rewards of serving him? Do I let him use my life's experiences to touch people for the Gospel?

Do I yield it all to accomplish his goal to further the Kingdom in the name of Jesus? Do I love opportunities to serve him, and testify to his absolute love for me?

"How's MY work, Valerie?" Pray-erfully, I strive to find that balance between "tent-making," raising a family, enjoying my wonderful husband and serving a mighty God.

So the next time I see you, don't hesitate to ask, "How's work?" **SR**



*Val Probasco is a 12-year member of the Shiloh, N.J., SDB Church. With her husband Bill and their two kids, Holly (8) and Liam (6), she's active in children's and youth outreach and serves as the Missions Keyworker. Personal joys include music, animals, food and traveling.*



## Reaching young minds and hearts

Our churches have good teachers—teachers who devote prayer and passion to bringing God’s life-giving Word into the lives of those in their classes, teachers who aren’t afraid to challenge people to be transformed, to change.

Our most recently named Sabbath School Teacher of the Year, **Ruth Ellis Hazen**, is one of those teachers. She has joyfully taught in one way or another for most of her adult life, and her church sees that teaching makes a difference in her students’ lives.

One person in the Central SDB Church (Mitchellville, Md.) described what he has seen:


“We... are aware that God has placed within the body of our church this special person. Ruth has not only been trained as a teacher in the public realm, but God has given her a special gift to reach young minds and hearts. A number of her students moved on, accepted Christ, were baptized and became members of the church.

“Ruth was always prepared; no matter if she had one student or 10, the hours of preparation were the same. Sometimes she found herself with a mixed-age group having to adapt the older lesson to fit the younger, almost like a one-room school. Her ability to adapt lessons to bring them to the levels to be teachable has been a great asset to our growing church.”

Another person, thinking back on his time as a student in Ruth’s class, wrote a letter of nomination that recognized her God-given ability to teach even those who weren’t interested in learning: “During my years of being in her class, she made learning fun... even though I was young and not really trying to learn, every time I left her class I felt that I had learned a lot without even realizing it.”

Ruth Hazen is a very good Sabbath School teacher. We are able

to recognize—with the Crystal Apple Award—the wonderful gifting God has provided her church because they noticed what she was doing and nominated her to receive the award.

Are there good teachers in your church? If so, tell them. Let them know that you see God’s gifting in their work. And consider nominating one of them to become the 2010 Sabbath School Teacher of the Year at <http://educatingchristians.org/Information/CrystalAppleAward>. 

### A Slice of the Crystal Apple

In one of those “great idea” moments, Susan Bond wondered whether some of the Sabbath School Teachers of the Year had nuggets of wisdom that could encourage all of us to be better teachers and learners. Then, she took the step beyond wondering and started asking questions of the Crystal Apple recipients.

This feature, “A Slice of the Crystal Apple,” will appear from time-to-time on this page, bringing you “slices” of their encouragement. Here is the first one:

#### 1991 Teacher of the Year Ruth Bennett

*“If you think teaching is simple, don’t do it. It’s worth a lot of effort.”*

*“You’re teaching little ones something to carry through their entire lives. Just like every field of endeavor, teaching has gratifying moments and some not so gratifying. It’s all worthwhile because you’re doing it for the Lord.”*







## FOCUS on Missions

# Visit to Eastern India

by Kirk Looper

Late last year, I was blessed to visit the Seventh Day Baptist Conference of India, located on their eastern coast. We are encouraged by this Conference and the growth that results from a continued effort by Rev. Kishor Kumar.

The Conference office is located in Nellore, where the SDBs have an orphanage with 30 children—15 boys and 15 girls. The orphanage is virtually self-contained and houses the staff as well as the children. Ages of the children range from 5 to 14.

The orphans play an important part in the work that is done at the complex. They are expected to work according to their ability. This includes maintaining the gardens, harvesting the crops and keeping the area tidy.

The children receive their education there; those needing special training are sent to the public school. Expenses for that special education are picked up by the orphanage. Funds sent to the Missionary Society for this orphanage are used for purposes such as this. Medical expenses are also provided.

The orphanage has five buildings set on several acres. One of the buildings serves as a barn to keep some cows used for milk. One house contains the office, classroom and chapel. Another house is used for food preparation and service. The other buildings are housing for the staff. Some of the staff live off-campus.

Citrus and palm crops are on the grounds and they harvest them for use in the kitchen, and they raise most of their vegetables. Thank-

fully, they have their own water source from a well that was dug about a decade ago. All of these things contribute to the success of the orphanage.

During my December visit we traveled to Guntur to see the churches. This is a new area to SDBs and I was pleasantly surprised to discover some large congregations. Most of the groups contained over 50 members. Several were over 100.

Each church was happy to see us and the worship was fantastic. We usually attended two churches on each of the four days.

Visits had to be cut short due to a public transportation strike. However, the time spent was very beneficial as we were able to talk to the congregations about their relationship with the India Conference, along with the churches' responsibilities to the Conference. We also discussed concepts dealing with the polity and beliefs of Seventh Day Baptists.

Several years ago a storm lashed the eastern coastal area of India. During the storm, many of the churches were damaged or destroyed. Each time this happens the churches must either be rebuilt or repaired. Rebuilding the church requires \$5,000; at least \$3,000 for damages to be repaired.

If the buildings were made with cement between the rocks or blocks, the damage would not be as great. We pray that we can raise the funds to help with this reconstruction. **SR**



*The Rev. B. Kishor Kumar serves as Executive Secretary of the SDB Conference of India. The Conference runs an orphanage in Nellore.*



# the BEACON

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

March 2010

## A Beacon double-feature

by Dakota Watt, Beacon editor

*This month's Beacon is a little different. Thanks to Rachel for her thoughts on Christmas, and I added a short article of my own.—Dakota*

### Christmas Blessings

by Rachel King

Have you ever heard someone say, “I wish Christmas was over with right now”?

Well, a lot of people do because they don't know the real meaning of the celebration.

Yes, we give our loved ones presents and everything, but the real meaning of Christmas is that it's Jesus' birthday, the birth of God's Son. It's when Mary conceived a baby boy and soon found out that he would die for everyone's sins on the cross at Calvary.

The real meaning of Christmas is found in the Bible. From Luke 2:7-8: “And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.” Luke 2:11 reads, “For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.”

Do you see where we get Christmas from? Christmas is to honor the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ. We should be honoring and celebrating this very thing around the world like it's supposed to be celebrated and not just skip the whole part of what it really means.

If you don't know the Lord as your personal Savior, I hope you find him and become one of his children today! Salvation is the key to living. Please take time to know Jesus Christ our Lord! May God bless you. **SR**

### High Impact

by Dakota Watt

I like wrestling. It's high impact and [I know this isn't right, but] I kinda like it when a guy gets thrown through a table. When someone crashes through it, it makes kind of a *kshkshksh* sound. And when someone gets hit with a kendo stick, it sounds like *fwappp!!*

I like to watch wrestling on TV, play it on my video games, and I *love* going to see it in person. Physical contact sports are amazing to me.

That's why I like David in the Bible. He was high impact, too. He fought bears and lions. He killed a giant and he was a famous warrior. He was an ancient “Sting.”

However, he was also a man after God's own heart. He had such faith in God.

When David was going out to fight Goliath, he didn't even hesitate. He didn't want to wear armor or carry a

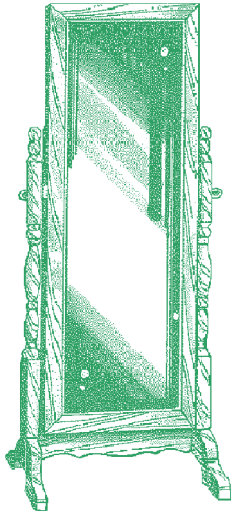
sword. He knew the battle belonged to the Lord! He just flung a rock at the dude's face and that was that. High impact!

Later, when David noticed that the Philistines were fighting in Keilah and stealing the grain from the people, David asked God what to do. The Lord told him to go and fight the Philistines. His men were afraid, but David didn't hesitate. They went, they fought, they won, and they took the Philistines' cows and sheep and chickens. That was high impact, too.

Today, we can be high impact—in a different way.

We go against sin and evil every day. Every time we turn to God and do what He wants us to do instead of following our own way or the way of the devil, we put Satan in a “sleeper hold” and let Jesus pound him into submission.

Christians, remember this: high impact—higher reward! **SR**



# Reflections

by Leanne Lippincott-Wuerthele

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

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## A Christmas confession

I have a confession to make. This past Christmas, I not only let myself down; I let God down.

As far back as I can remember, I've always loved the Christmas season. It's the time we celebrate our Savior's birth, and I cherish every tradition connected with that: displaying crèches, decorating Christmas trees, baking Christmas cookies, stringing lights inside and outside, giving gifts, getting together with family and friends.

This past Christmas, I finally managed to get my large, homemade "Happy Birthday Jesus" sign lit again and proudly propped it up against the front of our house. As usual, I hung dozens of gold, silver and glass angels on the tree, and filled our home with scented candles and Christmas music. When friends dropped in, steaming cups of was-sail or hot cocoa warmed their spirits as well as their bodies.

Being the Season of Miracles, I even managed to get our cards out a few weeks *before* December 24<sup>th</sup>. (I figure at least three recipients fainted.)

All in all, I was feeling pretty good about myself. I was more organized than in past years, even making and freezing a large batch of chili for later use.

However, heading into Christmas week, things quickly went downhill. I found myself having to prepare for

more family gatherings than anticipated, causing extra grocery trips and time in the kitchen.

And more presents kept showing up—presents that had to be wrapped and tagged. I decided all those gifts had to be decorated with perfect bows that matched the wrapping paper. (My husband would have plopped them into paper bags and bound them with baling twine.)



When Christmas cards arrived, I stashed them in a hanging cloth cardholder, too busy to read them.

Each day grew more and more harried. Although I'm officially retired, I still had some freelance writing deadlines to meet. And since we were planning to drive to Michigan a few days after Christmas, even more preparation demands pounded on our wreath-adorned doors.

The end result of all this busyness was that my foot never darkened a church door during the holidays.

Fred and I normally attend the Christmas Eve service at the Milton

(Wis.) SDB Church, and then a Midnight Mass in Janesville. With company coming, I never even made it to Sabbath services that week.

The words of Edward Hays in *A Pilgrim's Almanac* cut through my heart like a dull sword:

"Take time to be aware that in the very midst of our busy preparations for the celebration of Christ's birth in ancient Bethlehem, Christ is reborn in the Bethlehems of our homes and daily lives. Take time, slow down, be still, be awake to the Divine Mystery that looks so common and so ordinary yet is wondrously present."

He added, "The supreme trick of Old Scratch is to have us so busy decorating, preparing food, practicing music and cleaning in preparation for the feast of Christmas that we actually miss the coming of Christ."

I felt guilty, angry and sad. I knew that I had disappointed God. Caught up in a whirlwind of celebrations, I had left out the most important part of Christmas—Christ.

My spiritual life seemed as stale as an unwrapped slice of Christmas bread languishing on the kitchen counter. But then I recalled God's comforting words: "I love you." "I forgive you." "I will never leave you." God's grace is sufficient, even when I goof up big time.

I'm determined to learn from last year's mistakes and not repeat them this coming Christmas. God never gives up on me, even when I feel like giving up on myself. For that, I'm internally and eternally grateful. **SR**

**"Servants Together..."**



**in God's Ministry"**

**SDB General Conference**

Springfield, Missouri

July 25-31, 2010



*The President's Page*  
by Pastor Paul Andries

## Responding to the Invitation

There's nothing like having a larger delegation of SDBs in one location—reminiscing with old friends while making new ones, fellowshiping, worshiping, reflecting, reconnecting, and rejoicing.

This July will make 11 years since my boys first attended Conference in Holland, Mich. (only missing one since). They have made a vow to not ever miss this annual gathering.

Your invitation went out in the February SR. What is your response?

The Seventh Day Baptist General Conference of USA and Canada belongs to the Lord. He has placed each of us in this Conference to further His work in this world. Needless to say, we are "Servants Together in HIS Ministry."

Each has been invited to our annual Conference for this is the place where individuals can express their desires to our executives. Your attendance and involvement is vitally needed.

The Master has prepared a huge supper, sending His servants into "the highway and hedges" announc-

ing that the feast is ready and the Master requests your presence. Heed the call and attend, unlike the servants in Luke 15 (vv. 15-24).

Then came the excuses: "But Springfield is out in the middle of nowhere." "But we have never been there before." "But my son just started college." "But we are in a recession." "But the car just broke." "But I only have two weeks vacation, and I don't want to use them for that." "But I have no one to watch my pets." "But nothing new happens at Conference." "But we spend too much time in those business sessions."

**BUT BRETHREN**, our Conference works well when we make ourselves available. It works well because we have a vested interest in its success and we remember that we are all Servants in God's Ministry.

I invite you to look deep within—your heart and soul—and ask yourself, how does the Lord want to use me to help Seventh Day Baptists become a better witness for Him? I am utterly convinced that the Lord will give you the answer if you diligently seek Him.

I would like to make four pleas:

1. Pray for the Conference, our executives, and the work that is to be accomplished. Pray that harmony, efficiency and effectiveness would prevail.

2. Pray that our young people would see the seriousness of being involved in ministry, and that our leaders would seek to identify and train those young ones whom God has called and commissioned.

3. Pray about your being at Conference and be actively engaged while there.

4. Pray that the Conference would be willing to discontinue ineffective ministries, and invest in and implement those that will reap dividends.

It's not about what I can do, but what GOD has called me to do.

It's not where I want to go, but where GOD wants me to go.

It's not about who likes me, but how GOD will show me favor.

It's not about our ability, but our availability to God.

Humanly speaking, the future might not look promising, but spiritually speaking, the future is always a success. God and you are always a majority!

The parable ends by saying, "and the Lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled" (v. 23).

We are expecting the Lord will show up in a big way at Conference. It would be good to have the place "filled" with people whom He desires to "fill" with His Spirit.

I look forward to seeing you at Evangel University in Springfield, Missouri. And please bring your Conference towels we handed out last year. We will cheer each other on with them, as well as give a wave of praise to the Lord!

We are Servants Together in God's Ministry. **SR**



by Executive Director  
Rob Appel

## He ain't heavy, he's my brother

In December 1941, the *Louis Allis Messenger* magazine published a drawing of one boy carrying another through the snow with the caption, "He ain't heavy, he's my brother." Father Edward Flanagan saw this and asked for permission to use the phrase in connection with the organization he started in 1917.

Today, "Boys Town," founded by Father Flanagan has a more than 90-year history of saving children and healing families. Father Flanagan borrowed \$90 from a friend and opened the first Boys' Home. It was a run-down Victorian mansion near downtown Omaha, Neb.

Five boys benefited from Flanagan's vision, and those first residents barely had time to get settled before a steady stream of additional boys began to arrive. The front door was never locked, and any boy who came was allowed to enter—regardless of race, color or creed.

With this new venture, Father Flanagan began his pioneering effort to rehabilitate children instead of imprisoning them. Knowing that the boys needed more to become successful adults, he began to focus on their education. Tending to the boys' needs was no small task, but the priest's enthusiasm quickly attracted helpers.

What began as a small place for homeless boys has grown into a nationwide organization. Father Edward Flanagan saw a need and



filled it. His legacy lives on today.

Finances were not going to hold Father Flanagan back. Are finances holding your personal ministry back?

Jesus said, "Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For the measure you use, it will be measured to you" (Luke 6:38). So what does your gauge look like? Is it full? Empty? Half-way?

We often claim we really don't have any control over our finances. Let me try to help with some basic questions we should ask when it comes to our stewardship of what God has first given to us.

1. Five minutes after I die, what will I wish I would have given away while I still had the chance?

2. Is the fact that the Lord entrusted me with so many resources

an indication that I have been given the gift of giving, and I need to learn to exercise it more frequently and skillfully?

3. What am I holding onto that's robbing me of my present joy? Am I hanging onto excess money as a backup plan, just in case God fails me?

4. Why do I want to hold on to my wealth? Has money become my idol? Are material assets competing with the lordship over my life? Am I trying to prove something? Or do I feel it is just "normal" and I'm simply going along with the flow of my culture? "Wait! God, do You want me to go with that flow or maybe do something radically different?"

5. Am I giving God's money to the right causes? They might be good causes, but are they as important to me as evangelism, church planting and helping the poor?

Has God blessed you with the financial assets and opportunities for such a time as this? There is an incredible amount of joy and satisfaction that comes as we free up our lives, particularly in the area of finances.

We need to simplify our lives. We need to cut down on our debts. But as Christians, there is a deeper more fundamental issue going on. We need to trust God!

When so many are in need, are we bearing the burden? **SR**



## A spiritual battle?

### Church holds ‘Bible Verse Potluck’

by Barb Green, Parish Nurse  
Milton, Wis.

A member of the Milton church’s “Biggest Loser” team suggested that losing weight is not only a physical or psychological struggle but also has a spiritual component. This makes sense since God calls us to be whole in body, mind and spirit. When we struggle with one aspect, another is often a challenge as well.

In December we met for a “Bible Verse Potluck” that turned out to be a source of encouragement for us all. I’d like to share some of the verses our team members chose, along with my prayer that you too will be encouraged. (Comments after the verse were made by those who chose the Scripture.)

**Psalm 107:8-9** — “Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men, for he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.” What are you really hungry for? Most of the time it is not physical hunger, but spiritual. God fills the hungry with “good things.” Look to Him for nourishment.

**Judges 3:21-22** — “Ehud reached with his left hand, drew the sword from his right thigh and plunged it into the king’s belly. Even the handle sank in after the blade, which came

out his back. Ehud did not pull the sword out, and the fat closed in over it.” Just the mental picture should motivate you to lose weight!

**Proverbs 19:18** — “Where there is no revelation [vision] the people cast off restraint.” Losing sight of all that God has for you—His vision of bringing your appetites under His authority and of being at a healthy weight—makes it easy to cast off all restraint and eat the wrong things. Ask God to refresh His vision of you and let that be your guide in food choices.

**Proverbs 30:8-9** — “Give me only as much food as I need. If I have more, I might say that I do not need you.”

**Psalm 46:10** — “Be still and know that I am God.” When the puzzle pieces of your life don’t fit; when you can’t seem to get your act together; when nothing works and you can’t find the answers, this verse may sing to you.


**Romans 8:1** — “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” God loves you just the way you are. He will never leave you nor forsake you. His love does not depend on whether you succeed in your self-discipline today.

**Philippians 1:6** — “For I am confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” There is no quick fix, no shortcut. You may be tempted to the sin of gluttony for the rest of your life. But the ultimate victory will be the Lord’s. Your role is to resist the temptation and rely on Him to complete the work.

**Romans 13:12,14** — “The night is far spent [time to lose the excess]; the day is at hand. Cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. Put on the Lord Jesus making no provision for the flesh to fulfill its lusts.” Turn away from those things that set you up to fail. Don’t bring snacks home from the store. If you are tempted to eat at night when you are alone, make other plans. Don’t resist temptation—RUN!!

**Psalm 21:1-2** — “O Lord, the king rejoices in your strength. How great is his joy in the victories you give! You have granted him the desire of his heart and have not withheld the request of his lips.”

We had a lot of fun sharing this “banquet” of spiritual food from God’s Word. I challenge your group to do the same.

Our strength and encouragement comes from the Lord. He is on our side! With Him we can prevail against chocolate, ice cream, fast food AND lack of motivation. 

# SDB General Conference

## Evangel University, Springfield, Missouri

July 25-31, 2010

by Jean Jorgensen

Greetings from the 2010 Conference Host Committee. Join us as we celebrate this year's theme: **"Servants Together in God's Ministry."**

Want to see what awaits you at Evangel University? Check out [www.evangel.edu](http://www.evangel.edu) and take a photo tour of the campus. Don't miss the beautiful Chapel, the Crusader Dining Hall, and the dorms—two-bed rooms with adjoining bathroom. Looking at the map of the buildings and parking, this is a very accessible campus. Plus, we will have the university to ourselves that week.



Me" state. Plan to come early or stay after to add to your memory-making experience. Wonderful adventures abound with caverns, wildlife safari, rainforest adventures, theaters, music, baseball, railroads, and the list goes on! Branson—yes, *that* Branson—is only 44 miles away.

Send for your free "Springfield Passport 2010" with money-saving coupons and loads of tourist information. Order your Passport by calling their Convention & Visitors Bureau at 800-678-8767, or order it online at [SpringfieldMo.org](http://SpringfieldMo.org). You can also sign up for e-mails

Find out why Missouri is called the "Show-

alerting you to Springfield's current events.

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

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

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. A **\$40 gift** will send one child to school for a year!

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

You have three choices in sending your gift. **SDB Missionary Society**, 19 Hillside Ave., Ashaway RI 02804; **Metro Atlanta SDB Church**, PO Box 1104, Dallas GA 30132; and **Miami SDB Church**, 10185 NW 7th Ave., Miami FL 33150. Make your check out directly to the Society or church, and please be sure to designate your gift as "Malawi Matching" in the memo. Thank you!

#### Host Committee Contacts:

**Chairman:** Stephan F. Saunders  
(913) 886-2338  
hc2010chair@yahoo.com

**Registrar:** Linda Lawton  
(608) 752-5055  
registrar@seventhdaybaptist.org

**Transportation:** Marian Anderson  
(608) 868-3853  
mariananderson@charter.net

**Facilities:** Michelle Crandall  
(608) 554-4097  
chelcrandall@yahoo.com

A more complete list will be posted later. Registration forms for Conference will be in the **May SR**.

Haiti  
+  
Earthquake =  
**Many, Many  
NEEDS**

When you give to the  
**SDB United Relief  
Fund** your donation  
will be added to the  
Baptist World Aid  
effort in Haiti.

**SDB United  
Relief Fund**  
PO Box 1678  
Janesville WI 53547

Memo: [Haiti](#)  
*Thank you!*

## New members

**Battle Creek, MI**  
*Kory Geske, pastor*  
Joined after baptism  
Samantha Fick  
Caron George  
Kristina Snowden  
Sabrina Zimmerman  
Joined after testimony  
Kay Hopkins  
Joined by letter  
Loranna Bird  
Gina Smith

*cont. next column*

## Marriage

**Smith – Discher.** Barclay Smith and Marilyn Discher were united in marriage on March 28, 2009 at the home of Rich and Susan Bond in Palmetto, FL. Dr. Paul Davis and Pastor Michael Spearl officiated.

**Fort Worth, TX**  
*Bill Burks, pastor*  
Joined after testimony  
Stephen Glenn

## Births

**Rebiger.**—A daughter, Amelia Faith Rebiger, was born to Kurt and Sara (Burns) Rebiger of Edgerton, WI, on January 7, 2010.

**Bland.**—A daughter, Araceli Anne Bland, was born to Gary Shannon and Courtney Anne (Taylor) Bland of Salem, WV, on January 15, 2010.

**For news to share:**

editor@

seventhdaybaptist.org

**For news to view:**

SDB Exec Blog at  
seventhdaybaptist.org

**And on Facebook:**

“Sabbath Recorder”

## Denominational Dateline

### March 2010

- 6 CPR, Lost Creek, W.Va.—*Kevin Butler, Rob Appel*  
8-10 Bapt. World Alliance, Falls Church, Va.—*Appel*  
11 Baptist Joint Committee, 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.—*Kirk Looper*  
26-28 Leadership Conference, Jamaica—*Appel, Andrew Samuels*

### April

- 16-18 Semi-Annual (Ordination Council for Wayne North), New Auburn, Wis.—*Gordon Lawton*  
17-18 SDB Memorial Fund, SDB Center, Janesville, Wis.—*Jan Ehlers, Appel*  
18-21 RHMA Seminar, Morton, Ill.—*Ron Elston*

- 23-25 Missionary Society Board of Managers, Ashaway, R.I.—*Elston, Looper*  
30-2 Allegheny Assoc., Toronto, Canada—*Appel*

### May

- 14-16 Eastern Association, Arlington, Va.—*Appel*  
15 Sabbath Renewal Day  
15 Old Stonefort, Ill.—*Elston*  
15-16 SDB Historical Society Directors and Annual Meeting, SDB Center—*Nick Kersten*

### June

- 1-2 Academic/Historical Panel, Mystic Seaport, Conn.—*Kersten*  
4-6 SW Assoc., Fort Worth—*Appel, Elston*  
5 New York City SDB Church—*Lawton*  
14-25 SDB Polity Summer Institute, SDB Center—*Lawton, Kersten*  
25-27 Appalachian Assoc., Pataskala, Ohio—*Appel*



## Obituaries

**Scott.**—Marguerite Irene (Babcock) Scott, 92, of North Loup, Neb., died on December 15, 2009 at the Valley View Living Center in Ord, Neb.

Born on August 17, 1917 to Clarence and Martha (Jacky) Babcock in Nortonville, Kansas, she was the fourth of 10 children in the family. Marguerite grew up in the North Loup area and graduated from North Loup High School in 1935. On December 26, 1936 she married Gilbert “Jim” Scott in Smith Center, Kansas. To this union two daughters were born, Karen Irene and Janice May. Jim passed away in 1993.

Marguerite was baptized and joined the North Loup Seventh Day Baptist Church in 1927. She belonged to the Dr. Grace Missionary Society and the Fort Nightly Club.

Her family was very important to her. Her hobbies included cooking and baking, especially angel food cakes from scratch, Her quilting, sewing and mending kept lots of folks “in stitches.” She also enjoyed gardening, flowers and canning.

Survivors include her daughters, Karen Sharp of Burwell and Janice Davis of Scotia; eight grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren; brothers Gilbert Babcock of Ord and Donald Babcock of Hickman; a sister, Bonnie Severance of North Loup; and a host of nieces, nephews and friends. Besides her husband, she was preceded in death by four brothers, Chester, Merwin, Carroll and Iradell, and two sisters, Lillian Barber and Ida Babcock.

Funeral services were held on December 18, 2009 at the North Loup SDB Church with Rev. Christian Mattison officiating. Burial was in the Hillside Cemetery in North Loup.

**Skaggs.**—Mary Elizabeth (Bond) Skaggs, 98, died peacefully on December 19, 2009 at Milton (Wis.) Senior Living.

She was born August 3, 1911 to Charles Austin and Maud Virginia (Hefner) Bond on Canoe Run near Roanoke, W.Va. After moving to Salem, W.Va., Mary was baptized by Pastor George B. Shaw and joined the Salem Seventh Day Baptist Church when she was 12. She majored in physical education at Salem College and graduated in 1934. She taught physical education at Bridgeport (W.Va.) High School until the spring of 1942.

Mary’s brother, Charles, had married Margaret Skaggs, and Mary became acquainted with Margaret’s brother, Leland Skaggs. Due to the uncertainties of World War II, Leland and Mary were married on April 6, 1942 with Leland’s father, Rev. James L. Skaggs, officiating.

Most of their time during the war was spent in Asbury Park, N.J., where Leland served in the Army, teaching classes in radio for the Signal Corps. After the war, Leland was persuaded to teach math at his alma mater, Milton College, where Mary was later employed to teach women’s phys ed. She also served as Dean of Women. Their family life was centered around the activities of the college and the Milton SDB Church. Mary organized and hosted numerous social events and was never happier than when she was doing so. With her sister-in-law, she took a class in cake decorating and thereafter provided cakes for wedding receptions, anniversaries and other celebrations.

Mary retired from teaching in 1973. She and Leland lived near the college campus until 2002 when they moved to Milton Senior Living. Leland died there on Christmas morning, 2003.

She is survived by her sons, James Austin Skaggs of Madison, Wis., and Samuel Bond Skaggs of Milwaukee, Wis., and numerous nephews and nieces. She was predeceased by all

her Bond siblings: Beatrice Mora, Walter Clarence, John Stanley, Luther Harold, Richard William, Charles Hefner and Robert Levi.

A funeral service was held on December 23, 2009 at the Milton SDB Church with Rev. George Calhoun officiating. Burial was in the Milton Cemetery.

**Owens.**—Honor S. (Whitford)

Owens, 89, of Westerly, R.I., died peacefully on December 30, 2009 at South County Hospital.

Born in Providence, R.I., on January 18, 1920, she was the daughter of George W. and Edna (Dawley) Whitford. She was a 1938 graduate of South Kingstown (R.I.) High School.

Honor was the beloved wife of the late Robert E. Owens. She was a member of the Pawcatuck Seventh Day Baptist Church in Westerly. She enjoyed doing puzzles, reading, writing and telling stories with friends.

Survivors include three daughters, Julia A. Buchanan of Hopkinton, Heather Owens of Perryville, and Shirley E. Boyd of Green Hill, and a son, Thomas E. Owens of Charlestown (all in Rhode Island); seven grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her daughter, Pamela J. Owens, and her sister and brother.

Funeral services and burial in Perryville Cemetery were private.

**FitzRandolph.**—Virginia Mae FitzRandolph, 86, a lifelong resident of Milton, Wis., died peacefully surrounded by her family at Mercy Hospital in Janesville on January 6, 2010.

Virginia (“Spin”) was born on November 24, 1923 in Janesville, the daughter of Robert and Gladys (Klug) Albrecht. She married Ivan FitzRandolph on May 21, 1944 in the Milton Junction Seventh Day Baptist Church.

*continued next page*

## Obituaries, *cont. from p. 25*

Spin graduated from Milton Union High School and attended Milton College. Over the years she had worked at Parker Pen, Burdick Corporation, Barber Coleman, and Milton High School. Early on, she babysat full-time for a nephew, then after she "retired," four of her grandchildren. She was also a primary caregiver for five "adopted" grandbabies. As a member of the Milton SDB Church, Spin served in many roles from the Women's Circle to serving as a trustee and an ordained deaconess.

She is survived by Ivan, her husband of 65 years; a son, Jeff Fitz-Randolph of Verona, Wis., and three daughters, Susan Cruzan, Robin Bliese and Jill Fitz-Randolph-Groelle, all of Milton; eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by two sisters and an infant son, Bobbie.

Funeral services were held on January 11, 2010 at the Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church with the Rev. Dr. George Calhoun officiating. Burial was in the Milton Junction Cemetery.

Dear *SR* readers,

Thank you for keeping us informed of your family news. You may e-mail updates to:

*editor@seventhdaybaptist.org*

If you mail in obituaries from a newspaper, please make sure that the death and service dates are listed, along with the location of the burial.

—*Editor*

## Historical Society Annual Meeting



The  
**Seventh Day Baptist  
Historical Society**  
announces that it will hold its 2010 Annual Meeting at the SDB Center, 3120 Kennedy Road, Janesville, WI on May 16 at 2:00 p.m.  
All interested SDBs are invited to attend.



## 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

# KEVIN'S

## ORNER

### A vow that will not fail

Do you realize that all kinds of vows surround us in this part of the world?

Our whole society depends on vows to keep us stable. So we should expect that vows be made and received with integrity. Here are some examples:

—Doctors **vow** to treat us with the best medical know-how. Their “Hippocratic Oath” declares that they will work ethically and “do no harm.”

—Police officers **vow** to put forth an honest effort to “Protect and Serve.”

—Fire departments **vow** to remain on alert around the clock to protect our property from fires.

—In a marriage, a man and woman make **vows** designed to enrich their lives together and to offer security and strength to each other.

—**Vows**, both written and unwritten, are created in the business world to give stability to the economy and to create trust between buyers and sellers.

—Those who serve in the military **vow** to be under the authority of their commanding officers to protect our country from invasion or from anarchy within.

At our son’s graduation from Air Force basic training, over 600 voices united to recite the Airman’s Creed. When they began—“I am an American Airman. I am a warrior. I have answered my nation’s call”—the steady drone sounded like a large group of people joining in the Pledge of Allegiance.

But as it neared the end—“I will never leave another airman behind, I will never falter...”—there was no mistaking the last phrase as they belted out, “and *I WILL NOT FAIL!!!*” It gave me goosebumps.

So what if, suddenly, all vows were made null and void?

The result would be chaos—in every area of life!

Vows establish who we are (our identity) and give evidence of our integrity. By vows, we make commitments about what we will do and what we will not do, and they are recorded and accepted by others.

But sadly, some people make “vows” without any intention of fulfilling their end of the commitment. We need to be very cautious about receiving the

vows of others, and also in making vows.

There always seems to be a risk involved when we accept the vow of another person.

Our walk of faith is one of discovering the vows of God, and putting our confidence in His faithfulness. Here are some examples:

—God has **vowed** to love us with an eternal love (Romans 8:35-39).

—God has **vowed** to forgive and cleanse us from our sins (Isaiah 1:18 and 1 John 1:7-9).

—God has **vowed** to save all who come to Jesus Christ (Matthew 11:28-30).

—God has **vowed** to work for good in all those who love Him (Romans 8:28).

—God has **vowed** rich blessings to those who trust Him enough to be tithers (Malachi 3:10).

Our God is no pauper; nor is He a beggar or a thief. In the final analysis, God is not dependent on us for anything.

So why would He give us this command in Malachi? “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this, says the Lord Almighty, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.”

Is it possible that God is wanting us to discover a higher joy of living—a joy that comes as a result of giving?

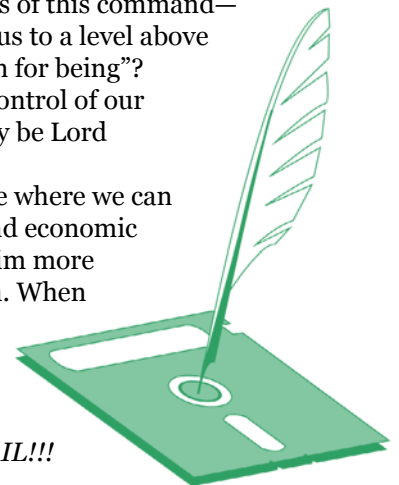
Is it possible—by means of this command—that God is seeking to lift us to a level above the “material” as a “reason for being”?

Let’s vow to give God control of our finances, and let Him truly be Lord of all areas of our lives.

As we come to the place where we can trust God on a physical and economic level, then we can trust Him more fully in the spiritual realm. When we cooperate with God, He will pour out His blessings on us.

That’s a vow from God.

And *HE WILL NOT FAIL!!!*





Important Memo:

**165 Years and counting!!**

**To: Friends of  
The Sabbath Recorder**  
**From: Editor Kevin Butler**

**DID YOU KNOW THAT THE SABBATH RECORDER IS FUNDED BY YOUR GIFTS? YOUR DONATION TO THE SABBATH RECORDER IS PART OF THE TOTAL SDB DENOMINATIONAL BUDGET.**

**I HOPE THAT YOU HAVE BEEN ENJOYING THE MAGAZINE DURING THIS PAST YEAR AND WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE A TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION TO THIS PART OF OUR SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST CONNECTION AND OUTREACH. MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND THANK YOU.**

**GRACE AND PEACE,**

*Kevin*



**YES!** *I want to celebrate 165 years of The Sabbath Recorder!*

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Or, go to [www.seventhdaybaptist.org](http://www.seventhdaybaptist.org) and make your donation through Pay Pal. Thanks!*