



The  
**Sabbath**  
**RECORDER**

*Inside:*

Road Trip  
to Evangel U

We plan...  
God laughs!

May 2010

*News for and about Seventh Day Baptists*



# Top Ten LIST:

*Why*  
I keep  
*the*

# Sabbath



## Who are Seventh Day Baptists?

If you've never read *The Sabbath Recorder* before, you might be wondering who Seventh Day Baptists are. Like other Baptists, we believe in:

- salvation by grace through faith in Christ Jesus.
- the Bible as the inspired word of God. The Bible is our authority for our faith and daily conduct.
- baptism of believers, by immersion, witnessing to our acceptance of Christ as Savior and Lord.
- freedom of thought under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- the congregational form of church government. Every church member has the right to participate in the decision-making process of the church.

### The seventh day

God commanded that the seventh day (Saturday) be kept holy. Jesus agreed by keeping it as a day of worship. We observe the seventh day of the week (Saturday) as God's Holy Day as an act of loving obedience—not as a means of salvation. Salvation is the free gift of God through Jesus our Lord. It is the joy of the Sabbath that makes SDBs a people with a difference.

For more information, write: The Seventh Day Baptist Center, 3120 Kennedy Road, PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547-1678. Phone (608) 752-5055; FAX (608) 752-7711; E-mail: [sdbgen@seventhdaybaptist.org](mailto:sdbgen@seventhdaybaptist.org) and the SDB Web site: [www.seventhdaybaptist.org](http://www.seventhdaybaptist.org)

## New Directory ready

The 2010 Directory of SDB churches and ministries is available. We've held steady to the \$7.50 price! Send for yours today (add \$1.50 postage).

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

## Sabbath Renewal Day is May 15

### "The Sabbath that Jesus Kept"

Following the Lord's example as He followed His Father's example.

For worship packets:  
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The **SCSC Committee** is happy to announce the placement of team members (13 'vets' and 4 rookies) for the 2010 Summer Christian Service Corps. Training will be at Camp Wakonda in Milton, Wis., starting June 16.

The six projects will run through the week of Conference in late July.

•**Battle Creek, MI**  
(*Samantha Fick, Project Director*):

Jonathan Lawson (Home church: Colton),  
Jessica Patterson (Salemville),  
Lauren Telford (Texarkana)

•**Colton, CA**  
(*Sandy Lawson, PD*):

Elizabeth Camenga (Milton),  
Dorothy Noel (Alfred Station),  
Jasmine Patterson (Salemville)

•**Milton, WI**  
(*Kecia Thompsongordon, PD*):

Katie Brown (Texarkana),  
Katrina Goodrich (North Loup),  
David Pottinger (Southeast Atlanta)

•**New Auburn, WI**  
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•**Seattle, WA**  
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•**West Palm Beach, FL**  
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Jackson Butler (Milton),  
Sarah Lawton (Pataskala),  
Lena Parrish (New Auburn)

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Pastor Andrew Camenga,  
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Goodrich, Kris North



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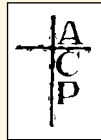


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# Top Ten Reasons Why I Keep the Sabbath

by Pastor Steve Osborn  
Boulder, Colo., SDB Church

Ever been in a conversation where someone just says, “I’ve got my reasons!”

Well, here are my reasons. They don’t represent a “theological treatise” on the truth of the Sabbath, but they are the results of my personal reflection on why I keep the seventh-day Sabbath.

It’s not a real exhaustive list—Kevin would only give me a few pages (grin)—and some of the reasons you will find more compelling than others. My prayer is that this list will help you to reflect on your own reasons for keeping the Sabbath. If our reasons are right, they will inspire us to honor God more fully in our Sabbathkeeping.

**Reason #10:** I still have a bit of “rebel” in me

How often do Sabbathkeepers hear: “Why can’t you just keep Sunday like everyone else?” While that would make things easier at times, we all know that the truth is not defined by “the majority.”

The fact that I like to go against the flow is a poor reason for keeping the Sabbath. However, Scripture does encourage us to think for ourselves, rather than just going along with what conventional wisdom teaches. (*Romans 12:2a; John 15:18-19*)

**Reason #9:** It connects me with my spiritual and family heritage

I count it a privilege to have been born and raised a Sabbathkeeper. Keeping the Sabbath is one of the ways my family has attempted to honor God for generations.

My father and grandfather were both Seventh Day Baptist pastors. The people who have most deeply impacted my Christian experience have also been Sabbathkeepers.

When I keep the Sabbath, I am joining together with my immediate family, my ancestors, and my spiritual mentors to stand for the truth of God’s principles. (*Deuteronomy 6:1-2a; 2 Timothy 3:14-15*)

**Reason #8:** I can find no convincing argument to stop

Most Christians acknowledge that the seventh day is the Sabbath described in Scripture. Then they list the reasons why it is no longer valid.

They quote misinterpreted Bible verses, point to church history, emphasize our freedom from the Law, talk about how the “first day” resurrection of Christ supercedes the “Old Testament” Sabbath, or even point to practical reasons.

For me, if God expected that His children would keep the Sabbath, I have to be convinced that His expectations have changed before I feel it is okay to stop. I do not see any indication of this change in

Scripture (Old or New Testament). And no extra-biblical reason holds the same weight with me.

So until God convinces me otherwise, I will just keep on doing what I believe to be right. (*Romans 14:5, 22-23*)

**Reason #7:** God promised rewards and blessings to Sabbathkeepers

In the Old Testament, God is pretty clear with the Israelites about the consequences of breaking the Sabbath and the blessing of keeping the Sabbath. While we cannot directly apply God’s promises to the Israelites to believers today, we can see that God was predisposed to respond favorably to His children who kept the Sabbath.

Now, I’m not a big fan of trying to manipulate a blessing out of God. But I do love to do those things that make Him happy. And if He chooses to bless me along the way... well, who am I to argue with God? (*Isaiah 58:13-14*)

**Reason #6:** God designed us to need a weekly physical, mental, and emotional rest

Everything in today’s culture is about pushing our limits—24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

God’s design for the human body is different. We were not made to just keep going and going without a break. Jesus said, “The Sabbath was

made for man, not man for the Sabbath” (*Mark 2:27, ESV*).

When was the Sabbath “made”? At the giving of the Ten Commandments? When the nation of Israel was established through Abraham? No, the Sabbath was established by God’s example at Creation (*Genesis 2:2*).

Was God tired? No—He was finished with His work and rested (or ceased), establishing for His new world a cycle of six days of work, followed by one day of rest. While we have kept the calendar—the 7-day cycle—we have done away with the concepts of “rest” and “ceasing.”

God instructed us to cooperate with the way He created us. When we fight against that, there are natural consequences. **Physically**, we get tired and run down. Our bodies start to break down. We become susceptible to sickness or disease.

**Mentally**, we also get tired and lose our focus. Our clarity of thought is reduced, which impedes our judgment. This in turn leads to poor decisions.

**Emotionally** we get tired, stressed and depressed. We ride an emotional roller coaster of high highs and low lows. We more easily give in to negative emotions and can eventually snap. (*Leviticus 23:3*)

**Reason #5:** It reminds me of who God is, what He has done and what He will do

•**Creator:** In the Exodus account of the Fourth Commandment, Israel was reminded of God’s rest at the end of the Creation as a reason for keeping the Sabbath holy (*Exodus 20:8-11*). When I follow His pattern of working six days, then resting (or ceasing) and keeping the Sabbath holy (or set apart), it is a weekly re-

minder of the power and work of my Creator. (*Genesis 2:2-3*)

•**Savior:** The Deuteronomy account points Israel additionally to their deliverance from slavery in Egypt (*Deut. 5:12-15*) as a reason for abstaining from work on the Sabbath. Since the Exodus is also an illustration of God’s delivering us from slavery to sin through the saving work of Jesus Christ, our Sabbathkeeping is a weekly reminder of His saving work on our behalf.

making time to connect with my wife. When I don’t, communication breaks down and our relationship suffers.

The same is true in our relationship with God. It must be intentionally nurtured in order to maintain and deepen our spiritual vitality. Obviously this must be a daily focus, not just one day a week.

But in this rat race of a life, it can be difficult to devote the proper amount of time and energy to main-

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*God instructed us to cooperate with the way He created us. When we fight against that, there are natural consequences.*  
 ”

•**Future permanent Sabbath Rest:** God has prepared for His people a permanent Sabbath rest in heaven. In Christ, we enter into that rest. And yet we will not experience it completely until we lay down the burden of this life and enter eternally into the presence of God. Until then, we have our weekly Sabbath as a reminder of God’s promise of eternal rest. (*Hebrews 4:9-10*)

**Reason #4:** I am spiritually renewed through focusing my attention more fully on my Savior

With four children in our home, I have to be very intentional about

taining our connection with God.

Wouldn’t it be great if we could spend an entire day focusing our attention on God and our relationship with Him? Oh, wait... We can? Moses consistently described the seventh day for the Israelites as “a Sabbath to the Lord” (*Exodus 16:23; Levit. 23:3; Deut. 5:14, etc.*). It was not a random rest, a ceasing of work for no reason. It was a day set apart to the Lord.

The Sabbath provides us the perfect weekly opportunity to focus our attention on God in a special way. We can recharge our spiritual batteries and soak up some “special God time,” which is a crucial survival skill for all believers.

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**Reason #3:** I can honor God in a special way by worshipping Him together with other believers

We don't have to be with a group to worship. We can and should worship God individually whether we are at home, at work, out for a walk in the woods or somewhere else (even at church). However, there is something special about gather-

“  
*There is something special about gathering together with other Christians and proclaiming together with one voice, ‘Our God Reigns!’*  
”

ing together with other Christians and proclaiming together with one voice, “Our God Reigns!”

Scripture tells us that from the time of the wilderness wanderings through the time of the New Testament Church, God's people have gathered together to do just that. The Psalms are full of instructions for honoring God through our corporate worship. This worship most commonly took place on Sabbath, whether it was a holy convocation in the desert (*Levit. 23:3*), the custom of Jesus and others in Israel (*Luke 4:16*), a New Testament assembly at the synagogue (*Acts 18:4*), or a gathering of God-fearers by the river (*Acts 16:13*).

When we gather together for worship, our hearts are strengthened and our worship is inspired by the

faith and worship of those with whom we gather. As a day “set apart,” the Sabbath is an ideal time for us to come together with other believers to honor God in this way.

**Reason #2:** God says so!

When God recorded the Ten Commandments for Israel, He did it for their own good (*Deut. 10:13*). He didn't just sit down on a whim and say, “Hmm... what should I make them do today?”

These principles for living are based both on the character and nature of God and His design of the human race. While applications may be specific, the principles are timeless and applicable to all of God's people at all times.

When God wrote the Fourth Commandment—“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God” (*Exodus 20:8-10*)—He was describing His universal expectation for His people.

God reinforced that concept by pointing back to Creation where He “Blessed the seventh day and made it holy” (*Genesis 2:3a*).

Jesus, although technically a Jew, also reinforced this principle through his own keeping of the Sabbath. God showed through Israel that when His people ignore the Sabbath, their relationship with Him suffers.

Now I will not claim to be the most obedient of all God's creatures. But my desire is to respond to God's “Jump!” with an enthusiastic “How high?” And yelling on the way up at that.

Since I know that God expects me to keep the Sabbath, why would I want to do anything else?

## And the #1 Reason Why I Keep the Sabbath:



## I love Him

This is the bottom line. It goes hand in hand with the previous reason, but is an important addition to the concept of obedience.

We can obey for all kinds of reasons (some good, some bad and some ridiculous). Some might obey to avoid punishment or to maintain a good appearance or because of an insatiable desire to please others.

Some might obey out of convenience or because everybody else is doing it. Some think obedience will gain them right standing with God and purchase their ticket to heaven.

But the true and pure reason for obedience is LOVE. Jesus said to his followers, “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.”

Let me tell you... I LOVE JESUS! I love God, his Father. I love His Word, His world, I love the way He created and loves me. I love everything about Him.

Because I love Him, I want to please Him. I want to honor Him. I want to do the things I know He wants me to do.

God wants me to keep the Sabbath. That's all I need to know. **SR**

# From Sunday to Sabbath

## *A caretaker takes care of a big decision*

by Joan Holder  
Paint Rock, Alabama

My name is Joan Holder. I am 72 years young, the mother of three children, five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Raised on a small farm in northern Alabama, I am the seventh of 10 siblings (eight are still living). I seem to be a very high-spirited person, love everyone, and have a desire to help anyone in need.

### **A definite role emerges**

After marrying young I immediately began taking care of my mother-in-law who had rheumatoid arthritis. I was her caregiver for almost 20 years until her death in 1972. Not long after that, my father-in-law had a heart attack and stroke, so I began caring for him and did so until his passing.

It seems that being a caretaker is God's will for my life, because shortly after my father-in-law's death, my mother began to go blind. She moved next door so I could help with her.

In 1994 she passed away, and I took on the responsibility of taking care of my youngest brother who is now 62 years old and has Down syndrome.

### **Now it's just Glenn**

In 1986 my husband had seven bypasses and started having other heart issues. His health was fairly



good until 2003 when congestive heart failure took a toll on his life. He passed away two years later.

So now it's just my brother Glenn and me. We attend church together, and he is the greatest witness for the Lord that I have ever known.

### **That little paperback**

In the late 1980s, I picked up a little paperback book at a yard sale for 25 cents. It was called *From Sabbath to Sunday*, a title that intrigued me.

When I got home, I opened the book and read the first page. It said that somewhere between Christ and our time, the observance of the Sabbath had been changed from the seventh day to the first day of the week. I laid the book aside and said, "No way." I didn't realize at the time that Satan didn't want me to read that.

### **I kept reading**

About six weeks later I opened it up again and read another page or two. I began to think, *Can this really be true?*

I picked up that little paperback several times before I could continue reading and compare it to the Bible. I wondered just how the rest of the world and I could have been so deceived by such a change,

but it had surely happened.

The book told about who, when and why the change occurred. It has been some 20 years since I found the truth, and I am still on a spiritual high and praising God.

### **Making the transition**

The transition from Sunday to Sabbath was not easy for me. There were many roadblocks along the way. Friends and congregants from my former church condemned me, even pointing fingers and telling me they felt sorry for me.

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 ”

My husband did not accept this truth and demanded that I not go to a Sabbath church. I was submissive to him and asked God to give me a peace about doing the right thing. God gave me that peace.

I went when I could, but it wasn't until my husband's death that I embraced the Sabbath and felt that I could worship freely.

### Seventh Day *WHAT?*

There is no doubt that the Lord led me to the SDB church in Paint Rock, Alabama. I was searching the phone book for the closest Seventh-day Adventist church, when before

my eyes, I saw "Seventh Day Baptist." Could it really be? I didn't know they existed!

At the first opportunity, I visited the church at Paint Rock where I met the most loving congregation. They took me under their wings immediately. Pastor John is one of a kind, and I love him dearly. He stands at the church door every Sabbath watching for his sheep to come in.

God has blessed me far more than I deserve. I am so thankful for the ones He has put in my path to take care of.

I feel confident that as long as I am able, He will continue to have someone in need of a caretaker, waiting for me. I am glad He took care of my church needs. **SR**



*Paint Rock's Pastor John Bevis stands behind Joan Holder and her brother Glenn.*

The Daytona Beach church says, "Come on down!" There's plenty to do in a seaside town; You'll love Pastor Wray and good wife "Peaches," Plus friendly folks here and world-famous beaches! Call 386-255-4775 or e-mail [wwinborne@hotmail.com](mailto:wwinborne@hotmail.com)

\* \* \*

After more than 40 years of serving as an SDB pastor, Rev. Dale Rood is retiring. The Dodge Center, Minn., church will honor their shepherd sometime in late June. Watch for details!

\* \* \*

THANK YOU so much to those who responded so generously and quickly to the Council on Ministry mailing in April. Please continue to pray and give so our pastors can be trained.  
*Gordon Lawton,  
 for the Council*

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

The Memorial Fund trustees have voted to help pastors in Malawi 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!

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!





## 25 Steps to a healthier you

by Barb Green, Parish Nurse  
Milton, Wis.

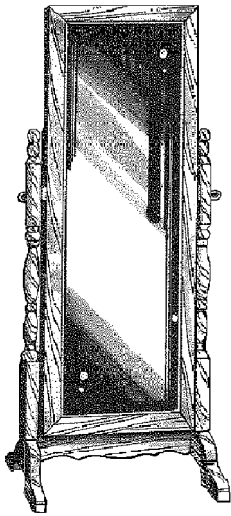
Seven months of the “Biggest SDB Loser” contest have passed. How are you feeling? Are you getting discouraged? Have you hit a plateau?

Hopefully you feel like you’re making progress. Here are some ideas to help you keep trying:

1. Eat whole or cut-up fruit rather than juice, for the benefits that dietary fiber provides. Each fruit has a different nutrient content so vary your choices. (Mango is sweet, juicy and the queen of the antioxidant beta-carotene. Berries of all kinds are high in fiber, vitamin C and guilt-free sweetness.)
2. Eat foods and beverages low in “added sugars.” This includes sugars and syrups added to foods during processing, but not naturally occurring sugars like those in milk and fruits.
3. Use frozen vegetables for quick and easy microwave cooking.
4. Select vegetables with more potassium—such as sweet or white potatoes, beans (white, soy, lima or kidney), tomato products, beet greens and spinach, winter squash, lentils and split peas.
5. Order veggie toppings for your pizza. Mushrooms are a great source of protein, B vitamins and minerals.
6. Dried fruits make great snacks. They also have more sugar, so remember that 1/4 cup is equal to 1/2 cup other fruit.
7. Try a main dish salad for lunch. Dip your fork into the dressing rather than putting the dressing on your salad.
8. Popcorn, a whole grain, can be a healthy snack (with little or no added salt or butter).
9. Exercise by pedaling a stationary bike while watching TV.
10. Try a lowfat salad dressing with raw broccoli, red and green peppers, celery sticks or cauliflower. Better yet, use no dressing. Bell peppers are high in vitamins A and C.
11. Physical activity can include short bouts (10 minutes each) of moderate-intensity activity. The accumulated total is what’s important over the course of the day. Aim for 30 minutes.
12. For dessert, make pudding with fat-free or lowfat milk.
13. Color is not an indication of a whole grain. Bread can be brown because of molasses or other ingredients. Read the label! Choose a product that names one of the following ingredients first: brown rice, bulgur, graham flour, oatmeal, whole-grain corn, whole oats, whole rye, whole wheat, wild rice.
14. Substitute whole wheat for up to half the flour in pancake, waffle, muffin or other flour-based recipes.
15. If you drink cappuccinos or lattes, ask for fat-free (skim) milk.
16. Replace a coffee break with a brisk 10-minute walk. Ask a friend to go with you.
17. Look for fish rich in omega-3 fatty acids (salmon, trout, tuna). If fish isn’t your thing, add a tablespoon of ground flaxseed to your morning cereal.
18. Frozen juice bars (100% juice) make a healthy alternative to high-fat snacks.
19. Walking, gardening, briskly pushing a baby stroller or climbing stairs are all good ways of being active.
20. Sauces or seasonings can add calories, fat and sodium to vegetables.
21. For a change, try brown rice or whole wheat pasta. You may be surprised at how well your family adapts to these changes. A cup of whole wheat pasta gives you 6 grams of fiber.
22. Park farther from your destination and walk the rest of the way.
23. Substitute water, plain coffee or tea for beverages high in added sugars.
24. If you consume too many calories one day, eat less the next.
25. Plan time for exercise into your daily routine. Make it a habit. **SR**

Experts agree there are four things critical to weight loss:  
**-Create a calorie deficit-**  
**-Monitor food intake-**  
**-Track exercise expenditure-**  
**-Weigh yourself regularly-**

With these in mind and the tips above, push on for a healthier, trimmer you.



## 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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### All of us are “homeless”

I felt a little awkward opening the door of the First Presbyterian Church in downtown Janesville, Wis. I knew that my pastor, George Calhoun, would be at the funeral service. *If I’m lucky, I’ll know four or five other people*, I thought. I ended up recognizing three.

An even more uncomfortable feeling hit as I entered the church’s foyer. I barely knew the deceased, and had never met his family.

The service was already underway as I settled quietly into a rear pew. Looking around, I was astounded by the number of people there. I had expected a dozen, but there were several dozen, including a grieving fiancée.

As the man’s acquaintances shared their thoughts, I had difficulty concentrating. My mind kept wandering back to earlier times.

A few years ago, some churches started a program for homeless single men. Tagged as “GIFTS” (“God Is Faithful Temporary Shelter”), it first opened its doors on Christmas Eve 2007. Manned by volunteers at various church sites throughout the winter, the service provides more than just a warm place to sleep. Guests receive home-cooked meals, drug and alcohol counseling, and help in finding employment.

Along with other members of the Milton SDB Church, I donate food

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*If we spend  
a lot of time  
judging people,  
we don’t  
have time to  
love them.*

”

and help serve it when First Presbyterian hosts the GIFTS group. That’s how I met Archie Williams.

Archie was one of the first to receive the program’s help. A native of Watertown, Wis., he was homeless and jobless in Chicago when he decided to return to his home state. The help available through GIFTS was the main reason he came to Janesville. He quickly gave up panhandling, an activity he described as “humiliating.”

Archie’s financial situation remained grim, but the shelter brightened his outlook. Archie kept striving to improve his circumstances.

Then, tragedy struck. In the early hours of January 19, 2010—resisting the life-saving efforts of local police—Archie jumped off Janesville’s Center Avenue Bridge. He was only 40.

As I listened to Archie’s friends from my back pew, several common threads wove through their words. Archie was a compassionate man, a lovable man. “Children were drawn to him like a magnet,” one woman shared. “He always had time for them.”

He was also “a man of peace” who loved the Lord.

“Archie wasn’t a ‘religious’ guy, but he loved God,” one friend shared. “I heard his soul cry out for God, and he made my relationship with Jesus better.”

A young woman stated that Archie was “a guy who fell through the cracks.” She added that Archie had goals. “He wanted to be a motivational speaker and establish a homeless shelter himself.”

One speaker especially spoke to my heart:

“If we spend a lot of time judging people, we don’t have time to love them,” he said, “All of us have good and bad in us. We aren’t islands; we need each other. We build up fences that are hard to break down. I wish Archie had been more patient [when confronted with problems]. All of us have demons, and sometimes they’re hard to get around.

“We often become selfish, looking at our own needs and desires,” he added. “We need to do even more to reach out to those who are hurting. We need to take Christ—Who is living in us—and share Him with a dying world.”

The GIFTS program helps give homeless men, young and old, a sense of value. I just wish Archie had known how many people considered *him* valuable.

As one person remarked, *all* of us are “homeless.” As Christians, we eagerly await the day when Jesus will welcome us into our Real Home with those wonderful words, “Well done, good and faithful servant.” **SR**



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

## Road trip to Evangel U

by Marian Anderson and Cheri Appel

Now, why would two women who have plenty of other things to do (working, sewing and eating chocolate) plan a road trip in the middle of winter to *Missouri*?

Well, the annual Women's Banquet is on Wednesday evening (July 28) at this year's SDB General Conference, held at Evangel University in Springfield, Mo. If you can attend Conference this summer, **please plan to come to the Women's Banquet!**

We two outspoken and out-of-control women traveled to Evangel to represent the Women's Board Banquet Committee by sampling the food and touring the campus. Keep in mind that we undertook this *great sacrifice* for all of you who will be attending the banquet.

After arriving on campus, Amy Englert—the amazing Events Coordinator at the University—escorted us immediately to a private dining room. We were just in time for lunch! What followed was a scrumptious tasting of the Italian catered menu provided by Chef George, Extraordinaire.

We sampled the delicious fare while discussing the details of the Banquet. The portabella mushroom vegetarian lasagna was so delicious that we had to be told to stop eating to leave room for other entrées! (If you would prefer this vegetarian entrée, please check the appropriate box when registering.)

The chicken breast with creamy sun-dried tomato sauce was wonderfully tender with a velvety sauce. Following that was perfectly cooked pasta, with choice of a light Alfredo or red sauce with meat. In addition,



we'll be having tossed salad, French bread, coffee, tea and water.

As if our salivary glands weren't already working overtime, we went on to discuss the desserts: Forest Fruit Pie (containing apple, cherry, blackberry and rhubarb), vanilla crème brûlée, and flourless chocolate cake.

Are you drooling yet??

The luscious evening in July will begin with some socializing and information. Want to know what the Women's Board is doing and how you can work with the Board to strengthen ministries of the entire Conference? All of the Women's Board committee chairs and officers will be available to answer questions regarding our new website, the Women's Society SR page, and our newsletter "Simply Put."

You'll be able to hear about the

Women in Ministry Tuition Fund, the Robe of Achievement, Summer Christian Service Corps, and take home mementos of our new logo! Be ready to donate toward the Love Gift for the many worthy causes supported each year, as voted by the Women's Interest Committee.

Our special guests will be the "first ladies" of the Conference, Diane Andries and Jo Rogers, wives of the president and president-elect, outstanding women in their own right. The main speakers will be the multi-talented, multi-tasking, and multi-generational mother-and-daughter team of Althea Rood and Kristin Camenga. They'll give us their perspective, plans and dreams for the Women's Board of today and the future. There will also be special music and testimonies.

So ladies, this is **an evening you don't want to miss!** Pack your pretty outfit, bring your appetite for delicious food and your questions for the new Women's Board. Check the spot on the Conference registration form to reserve your ticket. We must have your reservation by Monday, July 26 in order to include you in the count for the caterer. We don't want to make Chef George steam now do we?

Oh, and if you ever need us to *suffer* and *sacrifice* by going on a road trip to talk, laugh, taste delicious food, and be treated like royalty again, feel free to call on us! **SR**

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*Marian and Cheri have been friends for over 25 years. They both live in Milton, Wis., and are members of the SDB church there.*



## Long-term investing

### A Memorial Lesson from the Memorial Fund

During the last two months, I've challenged you to remember your own history in order to encourage you in your faith, increase your passion in worship, and help you plan for your future. This month, I will follow my own prescription and apply part of our shared HIS-tory to challenge us all.

#### A proposal and its results

The December 7, 1871 *Sabbath Recorder* included a proposal from Milton College President W.C. Whitford. He said that the General Conference should celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Newport, R.I., church by establishing a memorial for "the furtherance of education."

After some debate over Whitford's proposal, the Conference rallied around a reply by Jonathan Allen two weeks later. In the response, Allen made three recommendations. The first was that the readership of the *Recorder* "unite as one man in raising \$100,000 as a memorial fund, to be held in trust by the denomination." Second, Allen suggested that the people of the Conference stop criticizing one another, saying, "Let all criticism, faultfinding about everyone and everything be laid aside. Let our energies be sacredly devoted to building up instead of tearing down."

Finally, Allen suggested that the work begin in prayer and a reconsecration.

To borrow from the cliché, the rest is history. In the next 18 months, the people of the SDB Conference raised nearly \$100,000. To put that in perspective I went to an inflation calculator. In today's funds, that \$100,000 would total nearly \$1.77 *million*. (Could we raise a million dollars in that amount of time?)

As part of the process, the Conference formed the Memorial Fund board to oversee the money that was raised. Fund trustees continue to exercise proper stewardship over those funds, along with others given since 1872, to benefit the work of the General Conference.

#### Lessons for us

There are two lessons I'd like to point out from this part of our history.

First, this proposal was accepted and acted upon by individual SDBs outside a Conference session. Note that the events happened in December—in the middle of a Conference year! By the following summer's Conference session, they had already decided what needed to be done and did it. It didn't take a vote of the Conference delegates in session because the Conference—the *people of the member churches*—made the decision.

The lesson here is plain: the General Conference is not a building in southern Wisconsin, or a week of meetings in the summer. It is the

people of the member churches. It is *you!*

The Conference will be as strong as the weakest member of its weakest church. What is God asking of you today? Your reply is one answer to the question of what God wants the Conference to do.

The second lesson is that the Conference is more than any single individual or church. We must learn to cooperate.

Jonathan Allen's second suggestion is telling. He asks people to stop bickering and faultfinding, and to come together to use their talents for the common good.

He is asking God's people to stop pretending that they are the King, and start behaving like the servants. Servants sacrifice for their King. They obey His commands and seek His will, not their own. They cooperate with other servants to see the King's work completed.

We must be mature enough to realize that the Kingdom is bigger than us getting our way. I encourage you to seek God for His guidance in your life, in the life of your church, and on behalf of the Conference—our shared work for His Kingdom. The health of the Conference depends on it.

Jonathan Allen closed his proposal in 1871 by entreating his readers: "Let prayer ascend. Let enthusiasm kindle. Let us work and sacrifice, and the object can be accomplished. Who will respond?"

His question stands, and the work of the Conference is still before us. Will you respond? **SR**



## “Semper Fidelis” (Always Faithful)

by Steve Rogers, Belpre, Ohio  
SDB Memorial Fund trustee

“Faithful.” Often this word is understood to mean “having confidence or trust in a person or a thing,” or “a trust not based on proof.” Another definition of faithful suggests “an obligation of loyalty or fidelity to a person or cause.”

Finally, we might find the word to be “a promise or an allegiance to a principle.” I want to focus our thoughts on these last two definitions of faithful.

One of the principal tenets of Seventh Day Baptists is that the seventh day of the week, Saturday, is the Sabbath—a day set apart by God for His worship. On this day we refrain from our usual daily activities.

We give the day to worship, study, devotion to family and participating in activities that enrich our lives as well as the lives of those around us. If we maintain our allegiance to the spirit of the day, we will be living our faithfulness and maturing in the fruit of the Spirit.

Just “remembering the Sabbath day to keep it holy” is not enough. To use an old expression, we also need to “put our money where our mouth is.” More than just *saying* that this is what we believe, we must be willing to give our church the financial support it needs to carry out our ministry.

Many SDBs practice tithing as a guide for financial faithfulness. I agree that this Biblical principle is the standard to use in our church giving. By tithing we provide the church with a steady source of income that allows the church to meet its financial obligations and carry out the programs and ministries of outreach.

In the February issue of *The Sabbath Recorder*, Donald Graffius stated, “In setting up your budget, remember to honor the Lord with a (His) tithe.” We can demonstrate our loyalty by faithfully fulfilling

our financial obligation to our church and denomination.

Not only must we give faithfully to our local church today; with careful planning, we can also provide for tomorrow. We can put aside money for our own future and the future of our children and grandchildren.

Our faithfulness now can provide financial stability for those who come after us. It also allows us to see that our dreams will live on even though we will not see them come to fruition. We trust there will be others who come after us who will catch our vision and carry on the work in our absence.


This is where the second understanding of “faithful” is best represented. The SDB Memorial Fund was established for that very reason.

The Fund’s Board is charged with the responsibility of managing financial assets and property left to the denomination. The Board has the fiduciary responsibility to the donors, both past and present, to manage the fruits of their labors in accordance with their wishes.

Some donors have set conditions for the use of their bequests. Many of those individuals had a strong desire for their dreams to live on and made provisions to financially support certain ministries.

Other gifts have come in with “no strings attached.” The decision about disbursing these funds is left up to the discretion of the Memorial Board.

The Board takes very seriously its obligation to those forebears who have entrusted their legacy to all of us. We work diligently to maintain the history of high financial integrity established by previous Board members, and work to provide the maximum amount of support with the funds entrusted to us.

Anyone wishing to become a part of this rich heritage—this generous spirit of Seventh Day Baptists—may do so by sending donations and instructions to the SDB Center in Janesville. Call 608-752-5055 for more information. 

**2010 CONFERENCE  
Registration  
Instructions  
July 25-31, 2010**

**Evangel University  
1111 N. Glenstone Ave.  
Springfield MO 65802  
(417) 865-2815**

**Registrar: Linda Lawton  
PO Box 1678, Janesville WI 53547  
(608) 752-5055 or (608) 449-3787  
registrar@seventhdaybaptist.org**

**•Deadline to pre-register**

In lieu of a late fee, we are offering an early (on-line) **registration discount**. Register on-line by **JUNE 30** and fees are ADULT Full week: \$56 vs. \$70 (\$14 savings); CHILD Full week: \$28 vs. \$35 (\$7 savings); ADULT Per day: \$8 vs. \$10; CHILD Per day: \$4 vs. \$5. **ON-LINE REGISTRATION ENDS JUNE 30** (you may pay now or at Evangel).

**•On-campus Registration:**

Come to south side of the Chapel, Sunday, July 25, from 12 noon to late evening; Mon.-Fri. from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and after the evening service. **If you are coming just for Sabbath, July 31**, please pre-register.

**•About the Form:**

**(1)** Please list **all names** as you want them to appear on the official name tags, last name first. Ages must be given for those under 18, as well as last school grade completed as of June, 2010. First-time Conference attendees, please identify yourself.

There is **no charge** for children 0-3 years. However, **ALL NAMES must be listed** to ensure that everyone is covered by insurance.

**(2) & (3) Full Week or Per Day Registration:** Everyone attending Conference (ages 4 and up), either full- or part-time, is required to pay the registration fee. It covers the use of the college facilities, the materials that are produced and circulated, and insurance on each individual at Conference activities.

**Housing:** On-campus housing will consist of four multi-level air-conditioned dormitories. There are **no elevators** in the dorms. Each room has two beds with a sink and shares a bathroom (tub/shower combo) with an adjoining room. Children 12 and under can sleep on the floor

at no extra charge. (Maximum of 2 children on the floor in each room.) PLEASE: If more than one type of room is chosen, attach list of which persons go in which type of room (including those on floor) for both full week and per day. Small appliances (toaster oven, small microwave, small refrigerator; but no open burner or heater coil appliances) are allowed in the dorm rooms.

**Linens:** The college will supply linens at an extra cost (choose room with or without linens). Linens will consist of one set of towels, washcloths, and bedding (sheets, blanket and pillow with case). Towels replaced every other day. You may register for a room without linens and bring your own. NOTE: Scott Hall has extra long mattresses; all other dorms have regular twin size beds.

**Special Requests:** Please indicate if you need a first floor room; willing to be placed in a "higher tolerance" dorm; need handicapped access; if you have a preference for who occupies the adjoining room, etc. **SINGLE Rooms** are available for a higher cost.

**HANDICAP Access:** There are a very limited number of rooms with handicapped access (shower only, no tub). Please contact the Registrar. **All unmarried young people under the age of 18**, if not attending with a parent, must have a sponsor over 25 years of age in attendance at Conference. This sponsor must be listed on the Registration form; **Young people will be assigned to a room on the same floor of the same dorm as their sponsor.**

**Meals:** Meal tickets for the entire week include supper Sunday, July 25, through breakfast Sunday, July 31. "Lunch and Supper" meal tickets include supper on Sunday, July 25, and lunch and supper through Sabbath, July 31. Children ages 3 and under

are free. Individual meals may be purchased in the meal line.

**(4) & (5) Banquet Tickets:**

Please register! (Prices discounted with meal tickets.) Ladies may indicate if you wish a vegetarian meal. Youth buffet has vegan choices.

**(6) Off-campus Housing:** If choosing off-campus housing, please indicate location and phone number.

**(7) RVs:** There are 8 RV spaces on campus with ELECTRICAL HOOK-UP only, and NO BATHROOM FACILITIES available. Cost is \$70 for 7 nights, first-come, first-served, and ON-LINE registration only.

**(8) Transportation:** Attendees traveling by air will be picked up at the Springfield-Branson Internat'l Airport only. Attendees traveling by bus will be picked up at the Greyhound Station. If you require transportation to or from the airport or bus, please notify us of arrival and departure times by pre-registering. Requests for transportation must be made by **July 1**.

**•Nursery Services:**

A nursery will be provided in the Barnett Fine Arts Center throughout Conference week. Hours of operation will be posted there. Parents using the nursery are asked to help for half a day some time during the week.

**ALL ATTENDEES** should read and sign the Expected Conduct Statement. Those registering online will mark a box indicating that they have done so and agree to abide by it. **Young people under age 18 must make a copy of the completed Health Form** (page 18) **for their sponsors.**

**•Room Keys:**

There will be a \$25 fee for each lost room key!

# 2010 SDB Conference Registration—Evangel University, Springfield MO

1. NAME: LAST	FIRST	INIT.	G	SEX	AGE 1st	(Information for your name tag) SDB CHURCH (or Organization representing)	CITY/STATE if different from below
More names? Please use another sheet						Child's School Grade completed	
Address						Mark if your first Conference	Phone: (    )

Special Requests \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Sponsor (All youth under 18) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Fees:** Adults (Age 11 and over); Children (Ages 4-10); **[Children, 3 and under, FREE—please list all names above]**

2. **Full Week Plan**      # persons      rate      amount      3. **Per Day Plan**      # persons      #days      rate      amount

**•Registration:** Adults/Youth \_\_\_\_\_ X \$70.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Children (age 4-10) \_\_\_\_\_ X \$35.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Children (3 and under) \_\_\_\_\_ FREE = \_\_\_\_\_

*For rooms, see instructions if more than one type of room is chosen.*

**•Shared Room:** Per Person w/linens \_\_\_\_\_ X \$140.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Per Person w/o linens \_\_\_\_\_ X \$126.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Children on floor (12 and under) \_\_\_\_\_ FREE = \_\_\_\_\_  
*[Max of 2 per room w/2 adults]*

**•Single Room:** Per Person w/linens \_\_\_\_\_ X \$224.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Per Person w/o linens \_\_\_\_\_ X \$203.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
**•Meals: (AID) Adults** \_\_\_\_\_ X \$133.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Children (age 4-10) \_\_\_\_\_ X \$100.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
**•Meals: (Lunch & Supper only) Adults** \_\_\_\_\_ X \$98.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Children (age 4-10) \_\_\_\_\_ X \$72.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL      2)** \_\_\_\_\_

4. **Women's Banquet** \_\_\_\_\_ X \$8.00 w/meal ticket  
 \_\_\_\_\_ X \$15.00 w/out meal ticket  
*Number of these to be Vegetarian*      4) \_\_\_\_\_

**•Registration:** Adults \_\_\_\_\_ X \$10.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Children (age 4-10) \_\_\_\_\_ X \$5.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Children (3 and under) \_\_\_\_\_ FREE = \_\_\_\_\_

**•Shared Room:** Per Person w/linens \_\_\_\_\_ X \$20.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Per Person w/o linens \_\_\_\_\_ X \$18.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Children on floor (12/under) \_\_\_\_\_ FREE = \_\_\_\_\_

**•Single Room:** Per Person w/linens \_\_\_\_\_ X \$32.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Per Person w/o linens \_\_\_\_\_ X \$29.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
**•Meals: (AID) Adults** \_\_\_\_\_ X \$20.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Children (age 4-10) \_\_\_\_\_ X \$15.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

**•Meals: (L & Supper only)** [Circle days: M T W Th F Sa ] \_\_\_\_\_ X \$15.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Children (age 4-10) \_\_\_\_\_ X \$11.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL      3)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Register ON-LINE by June 30th for a DISCOUNT!**

**TOTALS**

<p><b>Regis., Housing, Meals =</b> _____</p> <p><b>Less amount prepaid =</b> _____</p> <p><b>Balance Due =</b> _____</p> <p>Checks to: <b>"SDB Host Committee"</b></p> <p><i>Remember your on-line discount bef. June 30!</i></p>
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5. Youth Banquet \_\_\_\_\_ x \$5.00 w/meal ticket \_\_\_\_\_ x \$12.00 w/out meal tick. **5)** \_\_\_\_\_
6. If housing off-campus, Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_
7. RV Hookups on campus (There are 8 sites, electrical only, \$70 for 7 nights)  
RV sites are "First-come, first-served" by ON-LINE registration only.

8. Transportation assistance is needed from Springfield (airport or bus station) and the campus.

Arrive: Air # \_\_\_\_\_ Bus # \_\_\_\_\_ (a.m.) \_\_\_\_\_ (p.m.) \_\_\_\_\_ (Carrier) \_\_\_\_\_

Depart: Air # \_\_\_\_\_ Bus # \_\_\_\_\_ (a.m.) \_\_\_\_\_ (p.m.) \_\_\_\_\_

date \_\_\_\_\_ time \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_ time \_\_\_\_\_ (p.m.) \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\* Send form to: Linda Lawton, PO Box 1678, Janesville WI 53547 Ph. (608) 752-5055 registrar@seventhdaybaptist.org \*\***

**Expected Conduct at General Conference**

- We desire to maintain our witness for Christ. Part of this witness is our ability to live as a community that recognizes the responsibility to think of and respond to the needs of others. One such responsibility is a demonstration of respect for those who need a good night's sleep. We also want to spare our people from social pressures that might encourage inappropriate activity.
- Local rules of the school and facility are binding on all who attend Conference unless changed by the Host Committee or the General Council.
  - All socializing between males and females (except husband and wife) shall be limited to public areas, or personal rooms (except during quiet hours) in which the doors are completely open.
  - Quiet hours are from 12 midnight to 6 a.m. each night of Conference. During quiet hours no excessive noise will be permitted. No talking will be allowed in hallways, and no music (such as instrumental, vocal, or from a stereo) will be permitted except where used with personal headphones. Quiet talking will be permitted in lounges, or in personal rooms with the doors closed (same gender only and spouses).
  - A Disciplinary Council shall be established before Conference convenes.
  - The Disciplinary Council shall meet at the call of the chairman to deal with infractions of these conduct guidelines. Discussion shall be confidential and shall include input from the person(s) involved.
    - A first offense of the rules will result in a formal written notice of warning. In the case of a youth being in violation, copies of the warning shall be delivered to both the youth and sponsor.
    - A second offense of the rules will require that a violator (and sponsor, if appropriate) meet with the Disciplinary Council to work out an agreement of what type of service or restitution would be an appropriate consequence for the violation. In the case of youth offenders, the sponsor will also monitor the service of the youth.
    - A third offense is punishable by a fine of \$50. In the case of a youth offender who is unable to pay, the youth's sponsor will be responsible for the fine.
    - If the offense warrants, the violator will be sent home at their own expense (or the sponsor's expense in the case of a youth).
  - All unmarried young people under 18 years of age will need to have their own parents, or a sponsor over 25 years of age, attend the Conference. All young people will be assigned to rooms on the same floor of the same dorm as their sponsors. Parents or sponsors assume full responsibility for the conduct and discipline of the young people whose sponsorship they accept. Such responsibility does not extend to direct supervision when youth are engaged in a scheduled Conference activity.

I/we, the undersigned, have read and do understand the "Expected Conduct at General Conference."  
Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

As the parent of \_\_\_\_\_, I further agree that my child is legally responsible to the undersigned sponsor, and that said sponsor may also make any necessary decisions regarding medical services.  
Parent \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Youth \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## YOUTH PRE-CON CAMP REGISTRATION

### Youth, ages 15 (or completed grade 9) – 18

Windermere Baptist Conference Center  
www.windermereusa.org/directions.asp  
4:00 p.m., July 21 – 1:00 p.m., July 25, 2010

*Please Bring*—Bible, notebook, flashlight, sleeping bag, personal items, one-piece bathing suit, towel, jacket.  
**You may not use electronic devices (cell phones, radios, games, etc.) during Pre-Con.**

**Cost: \$130.00 on or before June 30, 2010  
\$150.00 after June 30, 2010**

(Register by deadline. Please pay at Camp.)  
Send Pre-Con registration and Medical Form  
[download from website or write] to:

**SDB Pre-Con, P.O. Box 115  
Alfred Station, NY 14803  
Fax: (866) 571-5879**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/  
Guardian Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender:  Male /  Female Age (at Pre-Con end): \_\_\_\_\_ • Please pay at Camp.

– **Make any transportation request directly to the Host Committee. Please abide by their rules.**

**\*\*\*MEDICAL/HEALTH FORM must be downloaded from website (below) or write to address above.\*\*\***

**For HEALTH FORM or more information see: <http://EducatingChristians.org/PreCon>**

*My medical form (REQUIRED) has been completed and my emergency treatment authorization has been signed by my parent or guardian. I will make certain that I am in good health before leaving for Pre-Con. I will not unnecessarily risk the welfare of others or myself. I agree to abide by the rules established by the camp and director.*

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## YOUNG ADULT PRE-CON RETREAT REGISTRATION

### Young Adults, ages 18-29

Evangel University, Springfield, MO  
www.evangel.edu/Map/Directions.asp  
4:00 p.m., July 21 – 1:00 p.m., July 25, 2010

**\* \* must be at least 18 to attend \* \***

*Please Bring*—Bible, notebook, personal items, bathing suit, and jacket. **Linens ARE provided.**

**Cost: \$185.00 on or before June 30, 2010  
\$200.00 after June 30, 2010**

(Register by deadline. Please pay at Retreat.)  
Send Pre-Con registration  
[but NOT Conference registration forms] to:

**SDB Pre-Con, P.O. Box 115,  
Alfred Station, NY 14803  
Fax: (866) 571-5879**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender:  Male  Female Age (at Pre-Con end): \_\_\_\_\_ • Please pay at Retreat.

I have a medical condition requiring special care. I will bring the appropriate medications and will inform the staff of possible special needs.

– **Make any transportation request directly to the Host Committee. Please abide by their rules.**

**For more information see: <http://EducatingChristians.org/PreCon>**

*I will make certain that I am in good health before leaving for Pre-Con. I will not unnecessarily risk the welfare of others or myself. I agree to abide by the rules established by the college and director. I give permission to the SDB General Conference USA and Canada, Ltd., and its agencies for photographs and audio/video recordings of me to be used for news, publicity, and promotional purposes.*

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# the BEACON

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

May 2010

## I have issues

by Dakota Watt, *Beacon* editor

Well, here I am toward the end of my senior year. Graduation is just around the corner and it's time for me to get serious about my life.

People are always asking me, "Dakota, what do you plan to do when you get out of school?" I've been accused of having a "deer-in-the-headlights" look when asked that. "Are you going to school? What job do you want?"

I have no idea!!!

When my sister graduated from high school, she knew exactly what she wanted to do. Her gift is clear. She's always loved children and they love her.

When we work together at my mom's center in the summer, Emily works her magic as the "autism whisperer" and everyone comments on what an amazing teacher she will be. People just comment to me about getting my hair cut. Sometimes I wish my call was as clear.

I have considered many things. Should I go into the military? The Marines look good; I took their test and met their qualifications, but I'm not sure.

I just did a senior project on being a physical therapist. That's a good job. You get to help people who have been hurt or have physical ailments such as arthritis. But then I found out that you have to go to school for five or six years. I'm not such a fan of school, so probably not.

I would really like to be a professional wrestler. (Seriously.) There's a school in Pennsylvania that teaches people how to be wrestlers. (Seriously.) I work out a lot and have come up with a signature hold that even Batista couldn't get out of. But it's a lot of money and they don't

give scholarships. I'm not sure. I really want to. Then I could get to wear stretchy pants to work.

My pastor, David Taylor, has been preaching a series on responding to God's call. In the Bible, Samuel was only a small child when his mother gave him to God to live in the temple, never have his hair cut (sounds like a plan), and be dedicated to God while working for Eli the priest.

One night, God called to Samuel while he was in bed. Samuel thought it was Eli, so he went to him and asked what he wanted. Eli said he didn't call Samuel. After two more times, these two temple workers finally figured out that it was the voice of God calling him. Eli told Samuel to say, "Speak, Lord. I am your servant and I am listening."

As the youth and the energy of the church (even though we don't seem like it half the time), we have to be open to hear God's call. We need to rely on Him for what He wants us to do now and in the future.

We should always be in prayer and reading our Bibles so when God calls to us, it won't take us three times to figure out that it's His voice.

God has a plan and a call on all of our lives. I pray that we will be in His Word and listening to His voice, so that whether He calls us to serve Him directly as a pastor, or as a servant of man as a health professional or teacher, or a professional wrestler, we will answer His call.

"Speak, Lord. I am your servant and I am listening." **SR**





# Pastor Profile

## Pastor Profile

**Name:**

Steven A. Graffius

**Birthdate and place:**

September 5, 1978 Freemont, Mich.

**Current position:**

Pastor, Lincoln, Neb.

**Family:**

Wife, Emily

Micah (3), Annabella (9 weeks)

**Education:**

Salem (N.J.) High School

Colorado Christian University—Bachelor of Music,  
Sound Recording Technology

Denver Seminary—M.Div. Biblical Studies, Old  
Testament

**Former positions:**

Starbucks Coffee: Barista, shift supervisor and  
black apron coffee master (2003-2009 in  
Denver and Lincoln)

Plum Creek Medical Center, Castle Rock, Colo.:  
referrals coordinator

SCSC: Marlboro, N.J. (twice); Battle Creek, Mich.;  
Riverside, Calif.

Associate Pastor Internship: Riverside (2003)  
and North Loup, Neb. (2004)

**My first job was:**

Grounds and maintenance at a bank in Lost Creek,  
W.Va.

**Personal hero(es):**

Dr. William Lane Craig; Dr. Haddon Robinson;  
my Dad; Rod Henry

**Favorite childhood memory:**

Summers in Florida with the Camengas.

**Favorite Bible passage:**

1 Peter 3:15-16

**Favorite author(s):**

C.S. Lewis, Ravi Zacharias, G.K. Chesterton,  
Os Guinness

**If given an all-expense paid vacation,  
I would:**

Go back to Australia for a month.

**A great answer to prayer was:**

My family and my church.

**A project I'm excited about:**

"CPR" (Commitment, Purpose and Revival) and  
implementing God's vision for us.

**My vision for SDBs:**

To get more individual churches with clear,  
concrete visions for their ministry.

Yes, the "Pastor Profile" is back! We're resurrecting this page that first appeared over 20 years ago. If you'd like to be featured here, please send your profile (with photo) to Gordon Lawton at [com@sdbministry.org](mailto:com@sdbministry.org)

**"Servants Together..."**



**in God's Ministry"**

**SDB General Conference**

Springfield, Missouri

July 25-31, 2010



*The President's Page*  
by Pastor Paul Andries

## A time to learn and share

Have you made arrangements to be at Evangel University in Springfield, Missouri? Believe it or not, Conference will be here in a matter of weeks.

If you were waiting to know the choices of seminars and workshops before making that final decision, well, wait no longer.

Conference doesn't happen without a large number of individuals volunteering their time, ability, resources, and love. I am grateful that a group of very qualified people have partnered under the theme "Servants Together in God's Ministry" to help make this year's Conference a memorable one.

Our workshops and seminars should be a good time of learning. When you leave Conference on the night after Sabbath or Sunday morning, I pray that you will have received much information—enough to enrich your life and also to provoke you to take home what you have received, helping those who weren't able to attend.

As we consider being "Servants Together in God's Ministry," I believe it's important to have teachings on health, nutrition and exercise; iden-

tify and encourage those who are gifted for ministry; be witnesses for the Lord where you work; and gain skills to better your marriage.

Below is a list of the workshops and leaders, along with a brief description.

### **"Healthy Choices for Abundant Living"**

—Barbara Green

Are you aware that being created in God's image means that you can live the abundant life promised by Jesus in John 10:10? God intends for each of us to be healthy and whole in body, mind and spirit. In this seminar, we will talk about making healthy choices including information on nutrition, weight control, exercise and sleep.

### **"Finding Waldo"**

—Gordon P. Lawton

Just like in the children's books about "Where's Waldo?" the church is looking for servant-leaders that are there but not always visible. We will talk about the Church, God's call on individuals, and how a church can identify, encourage and train new leaders.

### **"Finding the Sandbox [Career] God Designed You to Play In"**

—Jane Mackintosh

The essence of this seminar is to understand that true revival brings about a transformation of cities, states and countries. God has called us to "make disciples," not just notch up salvation numbers. God is calling us to recognize that He has designed us for careers that will make an impact on generations, not just to hide out until He returns.

### **"Discovering the Marriage of Your Dreams"**

—Perry Cain

Most married couples have had more training to obtain their driver's license than in learning how to have a successful marriage. This workshop will bring you up to speed on what it takes to have a marriage you can be thrilled about. Topics include "Breaking Your Fear Dance," "Establishing Emotional Safety and Intimacy," "How to Have a 'Good Fight'," and "Becoming Soul Mates: the Ultimate Journey."

### **"What Makes a Christian Marriage Work? (and How Does the World Interfere?)"**

—Rod Noel

Rod will discuss his experience as a Christian therapist and identify the important factors in any marriage. Healthy developmental cycles of a marriage will be presented along with the barriers that interfere. Participants will be encouraged to discuss their experiences in healthy and happy marriages.

It is my prayer that you will attend at least one of these seminars. Please be thinking ahead of time which one you would like to go to. Encourage your family, friends and church members to make their choice before getting to Conference, avoiding the indecision that happens the day of the seminar.

Be abundantly blessed! **SR**



by Executive Director  
Rob Appel

## We plan... God laughs!

We had been planning this trip to Jamaica since December. Easy enough: just plan the departure, set our air schedule, decide who is picking us up, and then lead some seminars. Piece of cake!

Yeah, maybe “upside-down” cake!

Pastor George Calhoun, senior pastor of the Milton, Wis., SDB Church and I got up early on Thursday morning, March 25, to catch the 4:30 bus from Janesville to Chicago’s O’Hare field. I picked George up at his home in plenty of time, drove to the bus station and parked the car. All was going well until we were informed that there was no longer a 4:30 a.m. bus!

**Adjustment #1**— Go to Rockford and catch the 5:00 a.m. bus that gets to O’Hare at 6:40. Only problem, our flight is at 7:50.

**Adjustment #2**— As we neared Rockford, I said to Pastor George, “I feel more comfortable driving all the way down to Chicago. I’m concerned with getting through security, and if we miss our flight to Miami, we’ll miss our connection to Kingston.” So, on we drove to O’Hare.

It was a good call. It took us almost an hour to get through security, with the line twisting throughout the maze. When we finally got through I looked at my watch, looked at George and stated, “We would’ve

never made it if we took the bus.”

The plane was on time departing. We landed in Miami and waited one hour for the next departure to Jamaica. Everything was looking good. That is, until we boarded the plane. Handed the immigration forms to fill out, I thought, *Easy enough*—until we got to the part asking where we were staying in Jamaica, a small point that Pastor Andy Samuels hadn’t shared in the letter to us and we didn’t think to ask.

**Adjustment #3**— Pastor George pulled out his phone and “Googled” the Kingston SDB Church. *Ah, an address! Perfect. Great idea, George!* That is, until we stood in front of the immigration officers who did not agree with our ingenuity.

They wanted the address of where we were actually staying. So, off we went to the “Help Desk” (that was anything but helpful).

“Paging Pastor Andrew Samuels... Please pick up a white courtesy phone.” Only problem, Pastor Andy was outside where he couldn’t hear the page.

**Adjustment #4**— Earlier, Pastor Andy had told us where we would be staying. However, how do you remember a name given over a phone call? You do when the name is Naval Harley. Since I’m from Wisconsin—the home of Harley Davidson motor-

cycles—it was a unique name I could remember! *Let’s hope there aren’t a lot of Naval Harleys in the phone book. Great—only one!* We put Pastor Harley’s address on our forms and were feeling pretty good.

Pastor Harley lives in Portmore, Jamaica, just west of Kingston by about three miles. We had his address so what could go wrong, right? The immigration officers wanted to know *where* in Portmore this address was. Here we were, two guys on our first trip to Jamaica—how were we to know where this was in Portmore??

So, off we go back to the so-called “Help Desk” again. We asked the agent where in Portmore the address was, and of course, they don’t know. We suggest looking it up on a map. They don’t have one. We suggest looking it up on the internet. They aren’t connected. We suggest... *Wait, Rob; don’t go there...*

Finally a voice from the back says that he thinks the address is in the Caribbean Estates housing area. Off we go once again to Immigration, and finally—FINALLY—we are let through. Pastor George ended up being the last person from our flight to be cleared by customs.

We met up with Pastor Andy outside the terminal, and as Paul Harvey would say, “The rest of the story” is on page 23.

We plan... God laughs! **SR**



## FOCUS on Missions

# Liberia: Work is progressing

by Kirk Looper

It takes a lot of work to organize and develop an SDB Conference overseas. It takes even more time, energy and finances to maintain it and continue in its development.

The work that is needed depends upon the country's location and who holds the political and religious influence. The work entails the ability to speak straight-forward, and at the same time, not to offend. Someone with these talents and skills is difficult to find and place in a responsible capacity, such as the General Secretary of an SDB Conference.

However, there are times when one such person can come to the forefront and accept this challenge. In Liberia, this man is Rev. Dr. Josiah K. Pah Sr.

Dr. Pah came to the Seventh Day Baptist denomination when he was on the parliament of Liberia. He was able to do much of the church work through his office influence. Because he was in this position, he easily organized the SDB Conference in Liberia and got it registered.

Shortly after that, the civil war ended and another group came into power. This resulted in Dr. Pah losing his office and left him without an income adequate to support the Conference work. This situation continues today even though he has regained some of his former status with the government.

Within two years of the new government forming, they decided that all churches needed to re-register their organization, at a cost of about \$2,000. You might not remember this, but our Conference came to the rescue and we were able to collect the needed funds.

Soon after that event, the government decided that the property given to Dr. Pah for his use needed to be bought to prove his ownership. It appeared that the government had only "lent" it to him. So again the United States came to his aid and sent the \$3,000 to purchase the land on which the church was built. We thought that this would be the end of it, but we were mistaken.

Back in 1998 another attack on the government proved to be debilitating to the SDB churches in Liberia. Rebels attacked the government and moved toward Monrovia, the capital.

In the wake of that movement our churches were ravaged. Metal roofs were removed, and benches, books, pulpits—everything not bolted down—were taken from

the churches and used as firewood or sold to support the rebels. Along with the loss of property many of the church leaders were murdered and their families abused.

When this rebellion settled down, it took a long time to get everything back to a place where the churches could function. All that is left are the memories of that horrible time. We praise God that Dr. Pah survived.

Within the past few months, Dr. Pah was selected to serve on a board that will look over the national Constitution and revise it to fit the way they are working (or should be working) in today's world. He accepted and has been working on that board, along with doing the work of the church.

Recently we have helped the churches with funds to cover roofs, medical emergencies, and even some musical

instruments. At one of their General Conference meetings several pastors got seriously ill and one died. Funds were sent to help transport the body and for the burial.

We praise God for the self-sacrificing people in our Conference. It is with a real sense of pleasure to serve with those who help in times of need.

Now we have come to a time when we are needed again. During my last visit to Liberia, Dr. Pah requested that I raise funds to build an office block for their Conference. It would cost over \$40,000 for the land and building, including labor.

I was stunned. I explained that there was very little chance that we could raise that much money, even though it was for a good cause.

The President of Liberia recently visited Dr. Pah and promised to construct the building if SDBs would pay one year's rent in advance. Dr. Pah quickly got in touch with me and explained that he needed \$2,000 for the rent of the property, and through that payment the Conference would gain a building. I believe that this is a good trade when you consider the overall cost.

I know that some of you are interested in seeing our sister Conferences and churches get ahead. I would ask you to pray about this project and send in your donations to be credited to the "Liberian Conference Building."

Send to: Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society, 19 Hillside Ave, Ashaway RI 02804. **SR**

**“  
The work depends  
on the country’s  
location and who holds  
the political and reli-  
gious influence.  
”**

# Out of Many, One People

## The Jamaican Leadership Retreat—Part 1

by Rob Appel



Participants were attentive and studious.

“  
**The service concluded with an altar call. All of the people came forward. Yes, ALL!**  
”

Pastors Andrew Samuels and George Calhoun, and I traveled to Jamaica to facilitate a retreat for leaders in the Jamaica SDB Conference. Pastor Andy developed the theme of “Leadership Styles and Techniques.”

Having a genuine love for the people of his homeland, my good friend Andy had dreamed of such an event for many years. He stated, “Having been given so much by way of experiences the Lord has taken me through, and seeing the great potential for spiritual leadership within our churches in Jamaica, I wanted to give back to that Conference and share some essential leadership principles which I know would benefit our brethren there.”

It was well worth the wait! The Holy Spirit showed up even before we got started.

The first time George got alone to pray he felt the Spirit stirring and ready to do great things among the attendees. As we traveled up to Maiden Hall (the location for the March 26-28 retreat), the three of us discussed issues, desires, and hopes of how this gathering would impact the leaders.

We prayed for the retreat, we prayed for the people, we prayed that God would use us for His glory.

We were not to be disappointed!

We had an opportunity to introduce many concepts that were new to these leaders. Pastor Andy led the first session on Friday entitled, “Why the Church Needs Effective Leadership.” He shared, “The Church is the hope of the world, and its renewal and effectiveness rests in the hands of its leaders.”

Pastor George preached Sabbath morning, and the service concluded with an altar call. All of the people came forward. Yes, *ALL!* There was prayer, there were laments of sorrow, and there was genuine healing.

Now, not only did the *teachers* know that the Holy Spirit showed up, all the *attendees* did, too! In a word: WOW!

The retreat just blossomed from there. George led sessions on a Christian Leader’s Character, Goal, Influence, and Decision-Making. Pastor Andy led two more classes on “Leading from the Middle of the Pack” and “Leading Effectively Despite Difficult Personalities.” And I led two sessions on “Earning Respect as a Leader” and “Why (and How) Leaders Must Embrace Efficiency and Good Stewardship.”

Many of the Jamaican Conference pastors and church leaders served as facilitators of the sessions. The sing-

ing was fantastic. The focus and attention was keen. And the food was outstanding! (I know because I came back heavier than I went.)

The teaching seemed timely, applicable, and the response was outstanding. The Holy Spirit encouraged people to make some changes in their leadership approach.

They expressed true gratefulness for our presentations, thanking us over and over again.

Next month: “The Next Step” **SR**



Pastor Andrew Samuels



Pastor George Calhoun

## Catered comedy in Berlin

by Phillip Zema

Charles Marshall, a renowned Christian comedian, performed at the Berlin, N.Y., Seventh Day Baptist Church on February 12.



The community event was attended by 63 area couples. It featured valet parking, coat service, a delicious catered buffet, an enthusiastic wait staff, an assortment of desserts, and jokes about love and marriage.

While Marshall's insights generated laughs, he further engaged the crowd by poking fun at audience members. His routine focused on the joy of relationships and marriage, and it was evident that the crowd thoroughly enjoyed the show.

The dinner and comedy program was held in the church's community room. The dark lighting, black tablecloths and small tables created a comedy-show atmosphere.

After having their cars parked, the guests were seated and promptly served beverages from members of the church's youth group. Then they took turns going to the buffet which included roast beef and turkey carving stations, rosemary potatoes, green beans, caramelized carrots, and salad. Once the dishes were cleared, Charles Marshall was set to take the stage.

Marshall—a published author who has performed for Wells Fargo, the U.S. Postal Service and many other groups—did not fail to entertain the audience in Berlin. After several amusing life stories, he

“went after” the crowd. His jabs were entirely benign, but they drew laughter nonetheless.

For example, he invited two singles in attendance to join him on stage. He then attempted to make them “a date” for the event. Marshall also walked throughout the crowd, poking fun of young and old couples alike. His jabs were well received and his “victims” were good sports.

While the event was free to the public (dinner and parking included) nearly \$500 was given in tips. That money was donated to the Berlin Community Food Closet.

The comedy show marked the second year that the Berlin SDB Church hosted a pre-Valentine's Day community event. We hope to continue the fun next year. **SR**

## Ad Hoc work continues

On three separate, quiet week-ends, the five members of the ad hoc committee for denominational restructuring have met at the SDB Center in Janesville—in October, December and March.

The committee is moving forward, with many thanks to all who participated in the survey at the end of 2009. We collected input from churches, Board and Agency officers, and General Council members. The candid feedback has been useful.

The committee's goal is to create a denominational structure that can efficiently and transparently serve the churches in their local ministry, as well as accomplish those things beyond the local church's capacity.

At no point has the committee contemplated a proposal that would

in any way affect the independence of local SDB congregations.

The ad hoc committee has defined the following Guiding Principles for its evaluation and recommendations:

- We believe the purpose of the denominational boards, agencies and executives is to provide value and assistance to local churches.
- Meeting the needs of the local church should drive the actions of the denomination—not the other way around.
- Involvement of local church members should be encouraged and increased.
- We should be good stewards of God-given resources.
- Effective, responsible leadership serving churches and pastors should be promoted.

- A new structure should emphasize accountability / transparency.
- Changes will be invited and encouraged, but not forced.

Members of the committee (appointed by General Council in August): Susie Fox (Pataskala, Ohio), Don Graffius (Salemville, Pa.), Neil Murphy (New York City, N.Y.), Ron Ochs (Milton, Wis.), and Jim Skaggs (Madison, Wis.).

We solicit your input and prayers as we continue working together to evaluate the current structure and report back at General Conference sessions in Springfield, Mo., in July.

You may contact the committee at [adhocsdb@gmail.com](mailto:adhocsdb@gmail.com) or SDB Ad Hoc Committee, 1722 Taylor Station Road, Blacklick OH 43004. **SR**



## Obituaries

**McNeilus.**—Weston Scott McNeilus, 20, of Dodge Center, Minn., passed away peacefully in his sleep at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester, Minn., on February 22, 2010 after a seven-month battle with sarcomatoid carcinoma.

Weston was born to Brandon and Tracy (Stoeckel) McNeilus on July 24, 1989 in Rochester. He graduated from Triton High School in Dodge Center in 2008, where he was active in the band. He was enrolled at the Minnesota State Academy for the Blind at the time of his death.

Weston was involved in the Dodge Center Seventh Day Baptist youth group, authored many faith-inspired writings, and was an active witness for God. He loved to collect rocks, write songs, and participate in faith discussion groups. His last act of generosity was to donate his lungs for scientific research in hopes of advancing the knowledge and cure of his rare form of cancer.

Besides his parents, Weston is survived by his brother Grant of Dodge Center; three sisters, Robyn Wright of Rochester, and Kortney and Kendra of Dodge Center; his maternal grandparents, Silvester and Shirley Stoeckel, and paternal grandparents, Garwin and Marilee McNeilus.

A memorial service was held on February 25 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Kasson with Pastor Frank Fournier from Eden Valley Lifestyle Center in Colorado officiating. Burial was in Wasioja Cemetery with Pastor Dale Rood leading a brief graveside service.

**Hurley.**—George H. Hurley, 82, died on March 2, 2010 at his home in Appleton, Wis.

George was born October 2, 1927 in Janesville, Wis., to the late Victor and Sybil (Reid) Hurley. After high school he attended Salem College in West Virginia.

On January 26, 1952 George was united in marriage to Delores Jacobs. They resided in Milton, Wis., before moving to Appleton in 1965 where George worked at Jacobs Retail Meat and Grocery until his retirement in 1992. After 54 years of marriage, Delores preceded him in death in 2007.

George enjoyed playing cribbage, traveling, camping and having breakfast with his friends and family at the Golden Basket. He was a former member at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, then the Word of Life Seventh Day Baptist Church, both in Appleton.

He will be sadly missed by his daughter, Deborah Brooks of Kaukauna, Wis., and his son, Charles Hurley of Appleton; six grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. George was preceded in death by a grandson, Richard Hurley, and his sister, Jane Straub.

A funeral service was held on March 5, 2010 at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, with the Revs. Kurt Hoffman and Dale Smalley officiating. Entombment was at Riverside Cemetery, Appleton.

**Robertson.**—Gerald W. Robertson, 75, of Higdon, Ala., died on March 16, 2010 at his home after a long illness.

Gerald was born January 31, 1935 the son of John Gordon and Della (Fowler) Robertson. He was preceded in death by his parents, his sister Jerune Posey, and his first wife, Annie Ruth (Sanders) Robertson to whom he was married for 41 years. To this union eight children were born.

On June 27, 1998 he married Charlotte Sutton in Paint Rock, Ala. She survives, along with his brother Larry Robertson. The children are daughters Vicki Watts, Nancy Hurst, and Kristi Little, and sons Dale, Barry, Robert, David and Jamie;

two stepchildren, Karen Hairston and Chris Michaels; 23 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Gerald was a member of the Paint Rock SDB Church. Pastor John D. Bevis officiated the funeral held on March 19, 2010 at the Moore Funeral Home in Higdon. Burial was at Milan Hill Cemetery in Estill Fork, Ala.

## Births

**Rivera.**—A daughter, Camila Sarai Rivera was born to Rigoberto and Odily Rivera of Manassas, VA, on January 8, 2010.

**Janisch.**—A daughter, Hanna Louise Janisch was born to Brian and Jackie Janisch of Stoughton, WI, on March 6, 2010.

## New members

### **Miami, FL**

*Andrew Samuels, pastor*  
Joined after baptism  
Charmaine Scott-Abney  
Donahlia Scott  
Diana Lugg  
Andre Brydson  
Joined after testimony  
Devaughni Scott

## Death Notices

**Edgar C. Kirsch Jr.**, 85, of Tecumseh, Mich., died on Feb. 2, 2010.

**Karl E. Kenyon**, 60, of Charlestown, R.I., died on March 28, 2010.

# Transportation to Conference

## Evangel University, Springfield, MO July 25–31



by Marian Anderson

So, how are YOU getting to Conference this year?

After taking the grand tour of Evangel University, to our delight we found that the campus is quite compact, beautiful and well kept. Although the school has a 50-plus year history, the buildings are new. There is convenient parking, easy accessibility and short walks to and from dorms, cafeteria and the buildings where we'll meet.

Our worship services and business sessions will be quickly accessible from the front of the Performing Arts Building. It's just that easy!! It is absolutely *amazing* how close everything is! It's only a short walk across the sidewalk to lunch at the cafeteria or your dorm.

ALL DORMS are air-conditioned! Each dorm room is

part of a two-room suite. Each room has its own sink and a full bathroom connects the two rooms.

The campus is definitely high-tech with certain areas having WiFi. Check out the campus map and layout at [www.seventhdaybaptist.org](http://www.seventhdaybaptist.org) or take a virtual tour at [www.evangel.edu](http://www.evangel.edu).

Golf carts will be in operation for the entire week to transport those who need it between buildings and from the parking lots. You can call Marian at 608-436-9160 to arrange your transportation needs. (This includes arrival and departure by air.) E-mail your itinerary to [mariananderson@charter.net](mailto:mariananderson@charter.net).

The Host Committee will provide transportation to the campus if you fly into Springfield. That airport is a 10-minute drive away. You are responsible for your own transportation from the St. Louis or Kansas City airports (both about 3-1/2 hours away).

Hotels are close and there are many choices. Drury Inn and DoubleTree are within a mile from campus.

Springfield has many restaurants and plenty of shopping nearby. Besides several hospitals nearby, there is an Urgent Care facility across the street from the campus.

"Route 66 KOA Campground" is in Springfield. There are a limited number of RV spots (electrical only) in the college parking lot.

Questions? Contact the **Host Committee**. (List is on the back cover. More info in the March and April SRs.) **SR**

### Denominational Dateline

#### May 2010

- 1 CPR seminar, Shiloh, N.J.—*Kevin Butler*
- 1 Women's Board Executive Committee, Tomah, Wis.—*Althea Rood*
- 1-2 Allegheny Association, Toronto, Canada—*Kirk Looper, Andrew Camenga*
- 14-16 Eastern Association, Arlington, Va.—*Looper*
- 15 **Sabbath Renewal Day**
- 15 Old Stonefort, Ill.—*Ron Elston*
- 15 Faith SDB Church, Doniphan, Mo.—*Rob Appel*
- 15-16 Historical Society Board of Directors and Annual Meeting, SDB Center—*Nick Kersten*
- 18 CANOPY (Pastors' gathering), Berlin, N.Y.—*Camenga*
- 22 Dodge Center, Minn. (Billy Edwards ordination)—*Gordon Lawton, Butler*
- 22 Diaconate Workshop, Toronto, Canada—*Camenga*

#### June

- 1-2 Panel, Mystic Seaport, Conn.—*Kersten*
- 4-6 CNY Association, Verona, N.Y.—*Paul Andries*
- 4-6 SW Association, Fort Worth, Texas—*Elston*
- 4-6 Spiritual retreat—*Appel*
- 5 Berlin, N.Y., SDB Church—*Butler*
- 5-6 NY City SDB Church—*Lawton, Looper, Butler*
- 13 General Council with Ad Hoc 2, SDB Center
- 13-15 Contacts in Idaho and Montana—*Elston*
- 14-24 SCSC Training, Milton, Wis.—*Camenga*
- 14-25 Summer Institute—*Lawton, Kersten*
- 16-18 Contacts in Spokane, Wash. area—*Elston*
- 25-27 Appalachian Assoc., Pataskala, Ohio—*Appel*

#### July

- 11 Missionary Soc. Managers, Ashaway—*Looper*
- 20-23 CLT/General Council, Evangel University, Springfield, Mo.
- 25-31 **SDB General Conference**, Evangel University

# KEVIN'S

## ORNER

### I am not that person

I admit that I was having “one of those days.”

The spring weather had been chilly and damp, deadline was approaching, and I had gone to bed too late the night before.

My drive to work was at the usual time, taking the usual, quickest route. As I neared the usual last stoplight by the usual post office, a song came on the “folk music” channel on my satellite radio. I didn’t catch the title but it was about being stuck in a routine, seeing the same people doing the same things every day.

It could have served as the theme song for the movie “Groundhog Day.” That 1993 film had the lead character—an arrogant weatherman—reliving the same day (Groundhog Day) over and over again, until he could learn to become a better person.

Getting to the office I pushed the usual power buttons on my computer and coffeemaker, and started checking my usual e-mail addresses while listening to the radio (the usual station and announcer).

I perked up a bit when one of my favorite programs came on: the “Writer’s Almanac.” The five-minute show highlights the birthdates or events of people in the literary world—past and present—then ends with a poem. It’s hosted by the creative and droll Garrison Keillor.

I couldn’t believe the poem selection. Of all days...

It was by Philip Schultz from his collection *The God of Loneliness*, published this year by Houghton Mifflin:

This morning I’m tired of the same newspapers  
and arguments.  
I’m tired of sticking the same legs into  
the same pants,  
the same hands poking out of the same sleeves,  
going west  
and then east, heating up the same tea, watching  
the same sun  
rise over the same horizon, the same trees shedding  
the same leaves.  
Tired of climbing the same stairs to look out  
the same window  
at the same street, tired of shaking  
the same hands, opening and

closing the same doors, dreaming the same dreams,  
saying hello  
good morning happy birthday I’m so sorry  
please forgive me.

On this dreary and wet workday, I was the person in that poem. (Except that I generally drive west then north, and west again, then north. And instead of tea, I choose from a variety of flavored coffees.)

Thankfully, I progressed to another morning ritual and linked to Ron Hutchcraft’s “A Word with You” (which, in hindsight, I should have done first). His “word” is always from “The Word.”

Ron once again captured the essence of a common life scenario, then challenged me to put it—and my life—in God’s perspective. This served to snap me out of the funk and get on with my day.

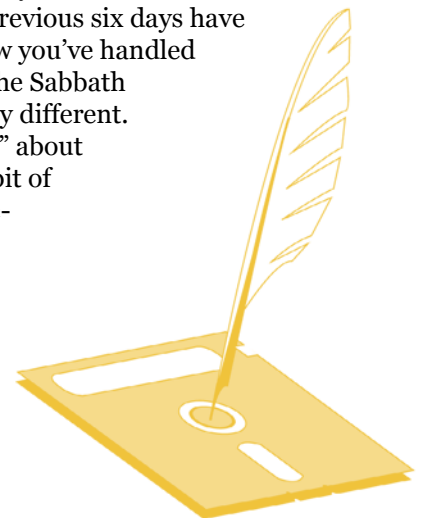
I determined that I would not be the person in that song; I would not be the person in that movie; I would not be the person in that poem.

And the next day, I drove a different way to work—a good change of scenery. I was also refreshed by working on Steve Osborn’s great feature, “Top Ten Reasons Why I Keep the Sabbath” (*page 4*).

God’s gift of the Sabbath serves to snap us out of the “usuals,” and reminds us that different is good. Ceasing from the norm and resting from the tedious can revive a weary soul.

No matter how the previous six days have gone in your life (or how you’ve handled or approached them), the Sabbath should be different. Way different. The only thing “routine” about Sabbath is the good habit of meeting together, something the Scriptures encourage us to do in Hebrews 10:25.

Watch  
your habits.  
And make  
the Sabbath  
one of your best.





*Servants Together  
In God's Ministry*

**(aka: General Conference Host Committee)**

Evangel University, Springfield MO

July 25-31, 2010

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