

“That they may be



John
17:21

Calling all
superhumans!

Is it really
worth it?

Caught in
the middle

Brave and reck-
less—for Jesus



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 and the SDB Web site: www.seventhdaybaptist.org

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

Please contact the Center (608-752-5055, or media@seventhdaybaptist.org, or our website's E-store) to order.

2010 Conference Offering Opportunity

To team up with the efforts of the **Center on Ministry (COM)** and their support of our many—12!—seminary education students, the General Council has decided that this year's General Conference offering will be given entirely to COM for these pastors-in-training.

On Conference Sabbath, July 31, we will be supporting our future together.

Please write "Conference Offering" on the memo line of your check made out to the **SDB General Conference**. We will make sure that it gets to COM and the students who truly appreciate your support. Thank you!



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**
(*Wayne North, PD*):

Daniel Lovelace (Southeast Atlanta),
Christopher Zema (Berlin)

•**Seattle, WA**
(*Ruth Burdick, PD*):

Amanda Brown (Texarkana),
Micayla Neher (Dodge Center),
Jonathan Pradetto (Riverside)

•**West Palm Beach, FL**
(*Jennifer Dixon, PD*):
Jackson Butler (Milton),
Sarah Lawton (Pataskala),
Lena Parrish (New Auburn)

SCSC Training Staff:
Pastor Steve Osborn, Director

Pastor Andrew Camenga,
Pastor Kory Geske, Helen Goodrich, Kris North



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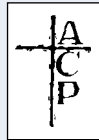


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SabbathRecorder.org

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Kevin Butler
Editor

editor@seventhdaybaptist.org

Ⓔ = **Editor's Circle members**

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Paul Andries, Rob Appel, Andrew J. Camenga, Kristin Camenga, Barb Green, Nicholas Kersten, Gordon Lawton, G. Kirk Looper, Morgan Shepard, Dakota Watt.

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Where your heart lies

by Gabriela Lissette Alonzo
SDB Christian Church, Arlington, Va.

Living a Christian life—I'd say it's pretty awesome.

You know, other people might think that we're "weird" because they find us happy, sometimes even when we're struggling. It's because we have something they don't: Jesus Christ in our hearts.

"But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who love your salvation always say, 'The LORD be exalted!'" (Psalm 40:16).

Just a few months ago, my Uncle Joel and I were going through some CDs he had brought me. There was one song in particular that has be-

come one of my favorites. It's entitled, "Yo Te Quiero." In English that means "I Care for You," or "I Love You."

My uncle told me, "Listen to this song as if God was speaking to you." The song says, "I want you to know that I care for you, that forever I will love you." Every time I listen to it, I feel the Lord speaking to me.

The song goes on, "When I knock on your door, you never want to open up. I try to talk to you, but you never want to listen. Tell me what it is I need to do, so that you, my child, may understand that I love you."

This reminded me of Jesus' words in Revelation 3:20, "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock..." That door is our heart, which Jesus knocks on repeatedly, but we don't always open up.

When he tries to talk to us, we don't always want to listen. We let our hearts fall into the temptations and weaknesses of life, and find ourselves pushing God aside.

For example, my greatest weakness is music. Going through my media player, I would skip over a bunch of Christian songs (that I like very much and should have been listening to), and instead listen to some current, secular song. I dis-

Calling all superhumans!

by Amanda Brown, Texarkana, Ark.



I love superheroes. Everything I find that has to do with superheroes, I'm all over it—comic books, movies, artwork, shows, clothes, pretty much anything.

Now, I know I'm not alone in this. If you ask most people, "Who's better, Superman or Batman?" they'll be able to tell you who is their favorite and why it's so obvious for them.

We root for these superheroes through the TV, talk to our friends about how the hero should have used a certain power at a certain time, or be disappointed when the main character decides he doesn't like being "different" anymore.

But why do we like them so much?

covered that those popular songs only kept me “up” and energetic for a small amount of time, but when I listened to and sang songs of worship to God, that wonderful feeling never stopped. It is what keeps me going.

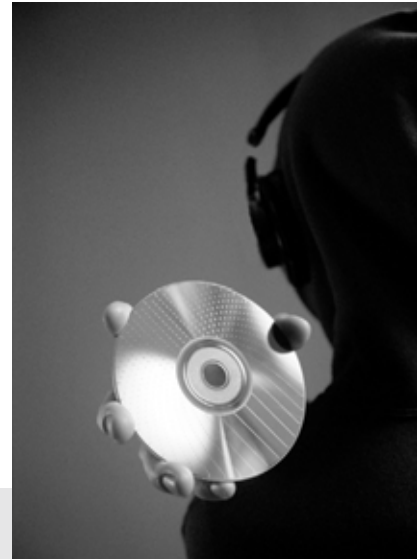
If you were to ask me about the greatest or best moments in my life, I would definitely say it’s when I’m singing along and listening to God’s music. A lot of people think that as Christians we don’t know how to have any “real” fun, compared to the world’s definition of fun.

But I believe we have *more* fun. Just because we’re not out partying, drinking, or doing something completely dangerous, we supposedly aren’t having fun or don’t enjoy anything—according to their standards.

I’ve got to say, “That’s really dumb!” What fun is all the partying if you’re going to face the consequences for it later on? Better to

delight yourself and suffer for Christ, than to be away from Him for all eternity just so you can enjoy the things of this sinful world.

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasure in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:19-21). **SR**



My greatest weakness is music. I would skip over a bunch of Christian songs (that I should have been listening to), and instead listen to some current, secular song.

What is it about them or their lives that we want?

For me, it’s the powers—or the “abilities”—that they get. They don’t usually get to choose what gift, but *any* power sounds great to me. If you’re like me and admire them for their powers or gifts, you’re in luck! Romans 12:6-8 tells us that if we’re part of the body of Christ, we will receive special gifts.

You may not get prophecy, healing, speaking in tongues, or discernment of spirits as your main personal gift. It’s obvious how these can be looked upon as “superpowers,” but 1 Corinthians 12 gives us a wonderful example of how we’re compared to a body. (Yes, this example is used a lot, but how true it is!)

Imagine a world where every Christian was a prophet, but none

“

Why do we like superheroes so much? What is it about them or their lives that we want?

”

could teach or preach to warn others what’s coming ahead. There would be no Sabbath schools, no preachers for church, no music—it would be like a body where all its members were eyes.

1 Corinthians 12:7 says, “But the

manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.” This verse says to me that the gift God gave me was given to help not just myself, but everyone who comes into my life.

Those of you who have found your gifts, I pray you will not hide them or be ashamed of them. If you do, you’re not only holding back on helping others in numerous ways, but you will also miss out on playing a part in the best story ever written! (And sorry to ruin the ending for you, but Genesis 3:15 tells me that if we’re on the good side, we’re gonna win.)

If you haven’t given your spiritual gifts much thought I encourage you to take this opportunity and start praying and searching for your personal gifts. It’s a lot easier to give, once you know what you have. **SR**

Oh deer!

by Timothy Lawton, Ashaway, R.I.

Late last summer or early fall, while riding home with my mother one night, the two of us encountered a strange sight.

Mom was driving down a road near a golf course, and as we came around a corner, she hit the brakes—hard! Strung across the road were three white-tailed deer all in a row. None had antlers, but they all stood frozen with that “deer-in-the-headlights” look. (Sorry.)

What seemed like hours went by. (It was only a few seconds.) I remember turning to my mother, about to ask what we were going to do since the deer were not moving and we couldn’t get around them.

Before I opened my mouth, Mom pointed to the right side of the road where the deer had come from. Slowly, timidly, coming out of the forest was a fawn. Walking past the others, its pace and confidence increased as it approached the other side of the road.

Once there, it bounded off, followed quickly by the three large deer who moved only after the fawn reached the other side.

Remembering this incident, I did some research.

White-tailed deer, also known as “Virginia deer” or *Odocoileus Virginianus* (now you’re ready for “Jeop-

ardy”), do not usually travel in packs, male or female. Females can have one to three fawns at a time in the spring, and they usually stay with the mother for one to two years. The fawns also usually lose their spots in their first summer.

All of this led me to make this conclusion. Of the four deer seen on the road that night, one of the larger ones was a female and the mother of the other three. The fawn was less than six months old while the remaining two deer were between one and two years old.

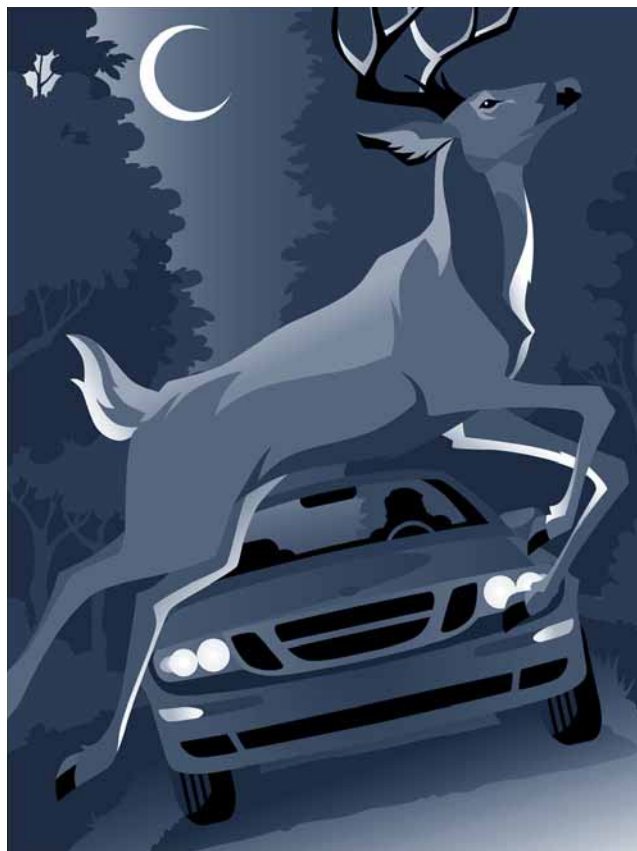
By now, you teens are wondering where I’m going with this.

One mother, three kids. The older kids (the “teenagers”) helped the mom teach and protect the younger one.

I see this and am reminded that we—as members of our biological families and church families—are looked up to by the younger kids. What kind of example are you setting for the youngsters in your life?

Are you helping your elders (parents, church leaders, other adults) in their difficult task of raising Godly kids? Or are you making the task more difficult?

Learn from the deer and stand up for those waiting in the wings. **SR**



We are looked up to by the younger kids. What kind of example are you setting for the youngsters in your life?

Is it really worth it?

by Emily Watt
Central Maryland SDB Church

High school is difficult. It's full of big changes and big decisions.

In reality, of course, it is only four short years. There will be bigger and harder decisions coming up, with serious and complicated questions to be answered. The most pressing of which is, "What now?"

Up to this point, everything has been pretty much planned out for you. School is required by law, church is mandated by parents, and extracurricular activities are limited and put forth by schools. A time is approaching (very rapidly) where all of these safeties will be taken away and the decision-making will come down to one person: You. It's scary, and it's right around the corner.

I found myself at this juncture between "fenced-in youth" and the "wide-open future" two short years ago. I had just graduated from high school and had to find an answer for "What now?"

Should I go to college? What are my alternatives? Which college? What should I major in? What can I do with my degree? And most of all, "Is it all worth it?"

The experience was overwhelming, but God had—and has—my back. He gave me a clear direction. But I'm getting ahead of myself. Let's take it back a few years...

Until I was 15 years old, I had a very solid plan for my future. I was determined to be a veterinarian. I loved animals and felt a deep connection with them, so it seemed like a good idea.

The one thing I did *not* want to be was a teacher. Both of my parents



God works in amazing ways. He took away my rebellion and stubbornness in one afternoon, through one little boy that no one else could reach.

are teachers, my mother's parents were teachers, and my mother's mother's parents were teachers. That would make me a fourth generation educator. It sounded positively boring.

I wanted something new and exciting. I wanted to be something amazing and dramatic. In a family surrounded by teachers, I was going to save the lives of animals!

Deep inside of me, there was this little niggling doubt. I *said* I wanted to be a veterinarian. I read about them and researched. I dedicated hours of my life to studying animals.

In my mind I had designed my office, named my practice, and hired my mother as a receptionist. But the idea never sat right in my heart.

I see now that it was little more

than a pipe dream. I don't like blood and I really don't like seeing animals in pain. I also hate school. It's tedious and boring. Did you know that vets have to go through a *billion* years of school before they can actually open a practice? That was definitely not for me.

God obviously did not have this in His plan for me because at the end of the day, I could not tell myself that the endless schooling and blood and pain would be worth the trouble.

Around this time, my mother switched from teaching fourth grade to teaching 4-year-old autistic children. She also started working with these same children during the extended school year. I was hired to help in her classroom during the summer.

cont. next page

...really worth it? cont. from page 7

It was the most profound summer of my life. I met a little boy named Tre'Shawn who was instrumental in showing me the path God wanted me to take.

When the summer started, he was almost beyond reach. He had a very difficult time transitioning between activities and would become uncontrollable. Tre'Shawn threw himself headfirst into anything or anyone around him and could become quite violent.

His behavior had not improved over the course of the regular school year and the workers were afraid of the damage he could do to them, the other students, and himself. The very sight of worksheets would set him off.

Out of the blue, I got an idea. We had a tent set up in the room for the boys to play in. I took Tre'Shawn into the tiny tent and showed him a worksheet. To my surprise, he completed the sheet with barely any direction

and without a temper tantrum.

I have no idea where I got the idea or why it worked. Vividly, I can recall the feeling of complete rightness resting on my heart and I knew that I was going to be... yes... a teacher.

God works in amazing ways. He switched my mother's career to show me the way. He took away my rebellion and stubbornness in one afternoon, through one little boy that no one else could reach.

Tre'Shawn continued to improve throughout the summer. By the time I left, he was a completely different child and I felt blessed when I was with him. I would wake up early every day, excited and ready to go to work. The air conditioning was broken and we had record-breaking high temperatures—but I was still happy. Everything felt utterly *right*.

So high schoolers, there are some very hard decisions that are going to start breathing down your neck.

You might get lost and you might have no idea what God wants you to do. But no matter what's going on, have faith that He is going to illuminate the path that He wants you to take.

It can be confusing sometimes but there is a simple test you can take. Take a deep breath, look inside yourself and ask, "Is it all worth it?"

I'm currently enrolled at the local community

college where I take 15 credits of classes. I wake up before my parents (something I never thought I'd do) to take a class I detest. I then go to work with a special-needs child through which God breaks my heart every day. I then go back to school, come home, do homework, and go to bed. My naps and free time are few and far between.

Now, I'm looking for a four-year college to finish my degree and that has opened a whole new world of tough decisions. But as I lie in bed at night and think about all the things pressing around me, I ask myself, "Is it all worth it?" Every night, my heart lifts and answers with a resounding "Yes."

God loves us and wants us to be happy, and true happiness can only occur when we are doing what needs to be done. He created us with a plan in mind, so He is not going to give you a career that you detest.

The Bible says in Acts 2:28, "You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence." When we are on the right path, we are in God's presence and we can feel the gladness that He has given us.

Find a job where He can "break your heart for a cause" on a daily basis, and where you can honestly say that the destination was worth the journey. I feel that gladness every time I'm around special-needs children. My heart breaks for them and I know that God has given me a heart to help them. That's what keeps me going through the endless classes and obstacles that I will face.

I know that when I am sitting in my very own classroom helping the children I love, that all the struggles I faced will have been worth it. **SR**

- **Just graduate** and looking for a college?
- **Just starting** a new family and looking for a place to settle down?
- **Just looking** for new opportunities?

Just LOOK at [LINCOLN, Nebraska!](#)

Lincoln is close to four major universities and five Christian colleges.

Nice communities, parks, and a variety of activities for children and families.

And ministry opportunities? We've got 'em at Living Word SDB Fellowship.

For information, contact Pastor Steve:

www.LivingWordSDB.org



Why do people reject Christ?

by Rachel King, Asheville, N.C.

Why do so many people reject Christ as their Savior? I'll tell you why: They don't want to be told what to do and want to live their life their own way.

People who reject Jesus are those who have too much pride. They don't want any help at all, and think that they can do everything themselves.

People who reject Christ are in darkness and they are on this earth blinded by the things of the devil. Satan does everything in his power to get souls and steal them from the Lord. That's why we're so tempted with the things of the world.

As in Matthew 4:1—"Then was

“
*They don't
 want to be
 told what to do
 and want to
 live their life
 their own way.*
 ”

Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil." See, even the devil tried to tempt Jesus, but it didn't work out. Jesus knew better than to let the devil get in his way.

John 3:16-17 reads...

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."

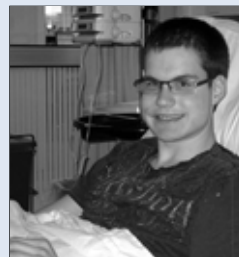
God had Mary carry His Son, and Jesus died on the cross at Calvary for our sins of the past, present and future.

Please take the time today to receive him as your Savior and have a personal relationship with Jesus. Then be living in his Word! **SR**

"BRAVE AND RECKLESS"—FOR JESUS

Weston McNeilus of Dodge Center, Minn., endured much during his short 20 years of life. (You can read a tribute to Weston on page 19, and see his obituary in the May SR.)

In spite of his physical battles and pain, he loved to share about God's love and message of hope with others. The following is one of Weston's writings where he reflected upon his impending early death:



"Our lives can be very dangerous things that will be filled with many of the world's promises and trials. God will sooner or later give us all a long and rough road that will make things seem hopeless and scary—but we have to remember that we are here to spread His Word in its fullness.

"Only by being brave and reckless for Jesus' sake will make us well. And no matter what we did, God offers redemption and love. We are just sometimes slower to feel His love. He is a great Father and a Mighty Savior. The sad truth in my case is that my cancer is back and there are more spots there. This is why I need guidance even more so now.

"Life is rough, but God used me wonderfully and I don't regret what He chose! I hope God lets you live longer and more exciting lives. Never back down from the opportunities that He offers. We all need God, and He wants all of us—so God bless, and live life for Him to the end!"

—Weston Scott McNeilus
 February 16, 2010 (six days before his death)

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 or take a virtual tour at 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.

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 previous SRs.) **SR**

MATCHING
Funds For
MALAWI

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!

Saturday or Sunday: "Which day is the Christian Sabbath?"

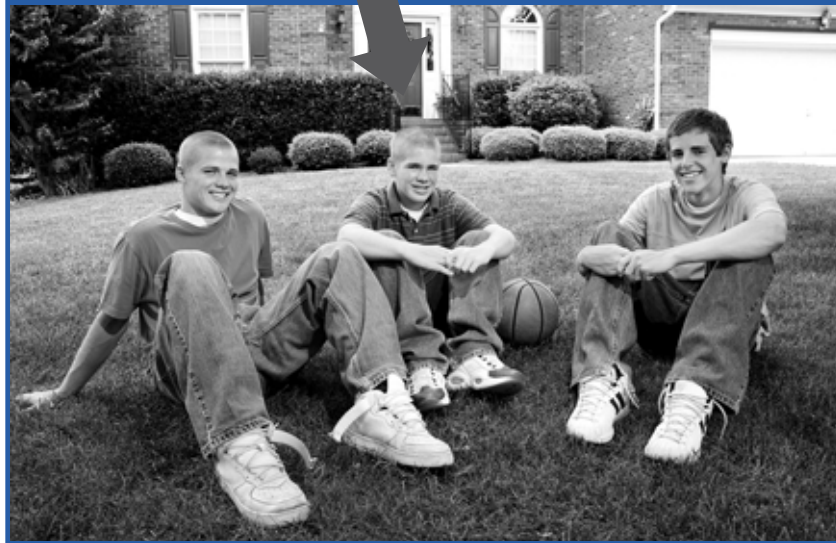
On May 11-14, Rev. Rodney Henry of the Next Step (SDB) Christian Church in Thornton, Colo., appeared on the radio program "Iron Sharpens Iron" hosted by Chris Arnzen. Rod was part of a stimulating debate about the Sabbath with Dr. Sam Waldron of the Midwest Center for Theological Studies.

The programs were aired locally on WNYG-1440 on Long Island, but also streamed via the internet at www.sharpens.org. Archives of the programs can be found there. Thank you, Rod, for an outstanding job of representing SDBs!

CAUGHT in the) Middle! (

by Ellen Olson
Berlin, N.Y.

**Helping
middle
schoolers
find their
place**



**at
church
and at
Conference**

If you know someone in middle school, you know that it's a difficult time. They're really beyond elementary school, and yet not quite old enough to participate in things the older teens do.

The middle school students I work with—especially the 6th graders—go to school in a combined middle/high school building, are in the middle school youth group at church, but are considered elementary schoolers for Vacation Bible School and Youth Retreats.

At our camps, they face other challenges. In Lewis Camp (Eastern Association) 6th-8th graders have historically attended camp together and are called "Intermediate" campers. In Allegheny Association, 5th-8th graders attend the same camp and are called "Junior" campers.

In my church, 6th graders can take

up the offering, but are not old enough to help with VBS.

Do you "wonder why we wonder" about middle schoolers? Already confused about who and what they are, they face these additional questions about where they "fit in" at church.

What is the solution to this? We need to be aware of the gaps that middle schoolers are falling into and help close those gaps to make them feel wanted and special.

Whenever the older teens are having a retreat or special activity, go out of your way to do something just for middle schoolers.

The last time our church had a youth retreat, the 6th graders were not invited. A special activity was planned just for them—they went to a corn maze and then back to

the church for pizza. We capitalized on the theme for the youth retreat ("Garbage In, Garbage Out") and billed the 6th grade trip as "all of the fun and none of the garbage."

When retreats have been limited to the high school age group, a one-night retreat or even a mini retreat (4-6 hours of board games and pizza) has been planned for the younger set.

At General Conference last year I served as sponsor for two incoming 7th graders. They and their cousin were very disappointed to find out that to participate in youth activities you had to have *completed* 7th.

So what was the solution to the problem? We employed fast thinking and used the same approach done at our church. Looking at the youth activity schedule, we found that there were at least two events opened to

cont. next page

Continued from page 11...

the entire Conference. The 6th graders attended those events (“Survivor Challenge” and the Pastors vs. Youth basketball game) and sat together as a group.

We picked two other nights and made plans that could be spread by word of mouth so kids could participate with the assistance of their sponsor or parent. A group of kids entering 6th grade and those who had completed 6th met at the local Friendly’s restaurant at a pre-arranged time. Kids and parents worked out their own rides and paid for their own ice cream.

The second activity simply involved taking over one of the dorm lounges for a few hours. Kids were asked to bring snacks and board

games. Parents dropped the kids off and came back at the end of the activity to pick them up. Several parents stayed to help chaperone.

Both activities involved little planning, energy, or money, but made the kids feel special and more like pre-teenagers rather than little kids.

My own middle schooler will be old enough to participate in the official Conference youth activities this year. However, 5th and 6th grade Conference activities don’t have to stop.

If you have a middle schooler who is mature enough to want to hang out with other kids their age and stay up later than the younger kids (our activities ended by 10:00 p.m.) then get involved! Find out who the other kids are who have completed 5th and 6th grade. Talk to their parents. Work together to plan an activity or two during the week.

They don’t have to be fancy or expensive in order for the kids to have fun and feel special. The Sabbath evening game night was a huge success and involved buying some simple snacks.

The group of kids that fall into this category is small, so the number of kids participating will be small

which makes planning easier. We had 8-10 at each of the Conference events we planned.

Attendance for the 6th grade activities at my church has also been small. With middle schoolers, it’s not the event or the number of kids that is important; it is the opportunity to get together with friends and to be seen as valuable and worthwhile. The fact that the 5th and 6th grade youth activities at Conference were parent-planned (and thus “underground” unsponsored events) somehow increased the appeal to this age group.

I challenge you to find ways to utilize the middle schoolers in your church. Be aware of situations where they might feel left out and plan alternate activities. Don’t let them fall between the cracks.

If you are the parent of a student going into or coming out of 6th grade, get involved. The 5th and 6th grade youth activities at the 2009 General Conference were good things that happened as a result of an observed need.

The concept doesn’t need to die—all it takes to make it happen is one parent who sees the need and works to meet it. **SR**

— ❖ ❖ ❖ —

*To thank him for over
40 years in the
pastoral ministry and to
encourage him in his new focus
of active retirement ministry,
we invite you to an*

Open House

In honor of

Pastor Dale Rood

June 26, 2010

6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

at the SDB Church

203 Main Street

Dodge Center, Minn.

(Dessert and Beverage served)

Cards may be mailed to:

Pastor Dale Rood

PO Box 122

Dodge Center MN 55927

Judson students serve Christ

Every year during spring break, Judson University (Elgin, Ill.) sends teams of students on mission trips to various countries across the globe. The purpose of the trips is to allow students the experience of serving the less fortunate and to spread the Gospel.

One recent mission trip was to Huánuco, Peru. Their focus was to raise awareness about the issues of abuse and child neglect.

The team worked with a group called “Paz Y Esperanza” and helped to construct a shelter for abused women. They also acted out skits in the marketplace.

As a result of their mission experience, team members said they have a broader worldview of the injustices in people’s lives. They now have a stronger desire to bring justice to all people and introduce them to Christ’s love.



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

Service with a purpose

by Kristin with Linda Lawton and Althea Rood

Later this month, 17 young adults, six project directors (PDs), and five training staff will converge on Camp Wakonda in Milton, Wis. They will meet for training for the 2010 Summer Christian Service Corps and then head to projects from Seattle, Wash., to West Palm Beach, Fla. They'll finish their last week of service during General Conference at Evangel University.

This opportunity to develop young leaders and serve our churches is organized by the SCSC Committee of the SDB Women's Board, but is only made possible by the financial generosity and prayers of people throughout the Conference.

As our SCSC projects are carried out this summer, your prayers are needed for preparation and safety, for good working relationships, for the outcome of each project, and for the growth of all those involved.

Preparations

Students are currently making last-minute decisions about what to pack and preparing to be away for two months. PDs are working with their congregations to make arrangements for housing, meals, and transportation for the students. They're also reviewing the schedule of service opportunities and gathering needed materials and personnel.

Staff members are preparing to teach eight 16-hour days of training on evangelism, Christian education, and how to lead a Bible study. And all are preparing to let God work through them and change them.

Safety

Students, PDs and staff will be crisscrossing the country and work-



ing in environments that may be new to them. Travel will happen not just across the country, but around each project as students navigate communities they have never visited.

Different service opportunities (such as camps or improvement projects) can put students at physical risk. New environments can exacerbate standard health problems, so God's hand of protection is needed.

Relationships

Students will be interacting with churches and communities that may be vastly different from their personal experience. They will need flexibility to work closely with people they have never met before. Not only will they be assigned to different local churches, but also serving closely with teammates and PDs they may not know well. They will interact with these people all day, every day for more than a month, increasing the potential for conflict.

Pray that PDs and staff have wisdom to help teams work with each other and the hosting churches productively and that this can be a learning experience for all involved—where teammates and PDs can complement each other's gifting and grow from being with others different than themselves.

Service

Students will be serving in many different ways, engaging side-by-side with local congregations and regional camping programs. As they lead backyard Bible Clubs or do door-to-door evangelism, there are many opportunities for God to reveal Himself.

Pray that the hosting churches and communities will be changed! Pray that God would use the giftings of the teams and PDs in unique ways to make an eternal difference.

Leadership Development

SCSC is first and foremost a leadership development program to give our young adults the opportunity to deepen their spiritual walk, and discover and grow in their spiritual gifting. New circumstances and novel opportunities allow all involved—not just the students—to grow in their relationship with God.

While the program is focused on young adults, many of the PDs and staff have also grown radically during their SCSC experience. Pray that God challenges everyone, placing them in circumstances that maximize their growth and draw them closer to Himself! And pray that as all go back to their home churches that they would find opportunities to use and continue to grow in their spiritual gifts. **SR**

Your support is needed for SCSC this summer! Please join us in prayer for everyone in SCSC and for those who will choose to serve in the future. See the list of this year's projects and participants inside the front cover, so you can pray for them by name.



Exploring the call while you're young

by Gordon Lawton, Dean
Director of Pastoral Services

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*If you are feeling
God's tug on
your heart, get
involved in your
local church.*

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In the deep recesses of the ancient past, there was a time when I attended Youth Pre-Con. I believe that my run began in 1966 at Pacific Pines Camp and went through 1968 somewhere in Nebraska.

The next two summers I worked to help pay for college, and then I went to Young Adult Pre-Con 1971-73.

My experiences at Pre-Con were good times of building friendships that have lasted until now. Back then, we always drove to Pre-Con and Conference. A family traveling by car was less expensive than flying.

In 1966, Dad bought a U.S. Forest Service “Golden Eagle Pass” that admitted us to all National Parks and Forests, so we camped from Michigan to California. After Conference, we went up to Crater Lake. It was a memorable summer.

When I became a dad with a family, I also followed that plan, sometimes with a borrowed pop-up camper. (It beat sleeping on the ground, especially in the rain.) Our three children had time in the family vehicle to bond. They might say to “endure.”

During my teen years, there was a willingness to be a part of the church but I rejected any suggestion that I might be a pastor. I was a PK (preacher's kid) and had experienced life in the parsonage. After graduating from college I was encouraged to attend Urbana '73. (The Urbana student missions conferences are spon-

sored by InterVarsity Christian Fellowship.)

It was there that I finally said to God, “Okay, if You want me to be a pastor, I will.” So I went to seminary to improve my skills, not certain that I would be a full-time pastor.

I can't remember anyone saying to me, “Why don't you explore whether or not you have a call to pastoral ministry?” Yet many of the ways that we explore the call were open to me.


There is a memory of the first time I spoke in church, giving a report on a retreat that I had attended. I worked really hard on my notes (3x5 cards) and took about the longest three minutes ever. I did help with Sabbath School while in college. That class was also the YF.

I liked camp so I was on a camp committee.

I don't remember asking questions about the pastorate of my pastors, but my pastor while I was in college, Glen Warner, was and is a good friend. Those more direct than I might ask their pastor about the “unseen” things that pastors do like preparing the bulletin, visitation, personal library development (books

are the “toys” for many pastors), and staying fresh.

When a person applies to our Seminary Education Program, one requirement is to have a recommendation from the local church. A church can know what to write on the recommendation by observing the life and service of the applicant. By the way, SCSC (Summer Christian Service Corps) teaches service and leadership development, and eight out of the current 12 seminary students are SCSC veterans.

If you are feeling God's tug on your heart, get involved in your local church. If you see others who you think should be exploring pastoral ministry options and want to know how to help or engage them, come to the seminar “Where's Waldo?” at Conference this year. 

The response to the Center on Ministry mailing in April has been very good. The need to support our seminary students is still great. Please pray and give as you can. A little bit every month adds up. Thank you so much.



A long time coming: Newport Meetinghouse restored

The first Seventh Day Baptist congregation in North America was founded at Newport, Rhode Island, in December 1671. Five members of Newport's First Baptist (Sunday) Church left that congregation and covenanted with Stephen Mumford and his wife.

The fledgling SDB group survived tough times and became a thriving church, with members quickly spreading to the "westerly" part of Rhode Island and into Connecticut. The Newport congregation grew and became quite influential, with members participating in local and colonial governments, and serving as directors in public institutions like the College of Rhode Island, now known as Brown University. (*See the July/August 2007 SR for more about Brown University.*)

In 1730, the Newport congregation built a new meetinghouse. The building's exterior was plain and resembled a residential dwelling more than a house of worship. The meetinghouse's interior, however, was lavishly decorated, with beautifully carved wood paneling and an elaborately ornamented high pulpit.

Though the congregation was healthy and influential during the colonial period and the early 1800s, by 1864 the members had ceased to meet. The meetinghouse was eventually sold to the Newport Historical Society (NHS) in 1884.

After a time, difficulties with the exterior led them to encase the meetinghouse in brick. Later, the NHS added on to the building, and the Newport SDB Meetinghouse became the back of their current offices.

In 2004, the Newport Historical Society began a project on the interior of the meetinghouse, to replace damaged portions and restore it to its former glory. As part of this effort, Seventh Day Baptists and our denomination's Historical Society helped to raise more than \$15,000 toward the repair of the plaster ceilings.

After a number of delays with the project, the restoration was finished in the spring of 2009. On July 3, 2009 the Newport Historical Society held a ribbon-cutting event to celebrate the completion.

SDBs were represented by Historical Society life

members Kirk and Vivian Looper, as well as Justin Camenga (pastor of the First Hopkinton, R.I., Church) and his wife Sue. NHS Executive Director Ruth Taylor read a letter from our Society recognizing the significance of the occasion, and put it on display.

Overall, it was a great day for SDB history, and we thank the Loopers and Camengas for taking the time to represent us!

If your travels take you to Newport, plan to see this important SDB historical site. Information about visiting the Newport Meetinghouse can be found at the NHS website:

www.newporthistory.org. **SR**



Illustration of original exterior.



Example of the historical restoration, from bare wood at right to completion at left.



Participants at the ribbon-cutting event.



Teacher Training Workshop

I have the best of intentions when it comes to Christian Education. (That probably doesn't come as a surprise considering my role as Executive Director of the Board of Christian Education.)

But my guess is that whether you are a student or a teacher, you have the best of intentions as well.

Opportunities reinforce our intentions

We know that Bible Study, Sabbath School, and many other activities normally called "Christian Education" are important opportunities in our lives.

- We see children who need to know about the mighty and miniscule acts of God—and the manifold ways He has manifested Himself.
- We see adults who struggle (as God commanded them to do) to comprehend the great mystery of God and the mundane reality of doing dishes as an act of love.
- We remember the Great Commission to "make disciples... teaching them to obey..."

All these things capture our attention and reinforce our intention to make sure that our church is learning, doing and teaching well.

Training for teachers

If you'd like some help in turning those intentions to action, we have something for you. There is a teacher training workshop that

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It revisits why we are doing Christian Education and what we are striving to see happen.

”

will challenge you to think about your learning, doing and teaching, and help you identify ways you can become a better teacher.

Our workshop is focused on the teacher and explores the call to Christian Education and some of the practical things we can do to make sure we are becoming better teachers. It revisits why we are doing Christian Education and what we are striving to see happen. It walks you through preparing to teach, teaching, and evaluating your teaching.

The workshop provides ideas and examples for reaching out to people who learn in unexpected ways. It encourages you to love, to provoke, to attempt to cause change; in other words, you will be encouraged to teach.

How long and where?

The workshop needs six hours of class time. This time is frequently split between a Sabbath afternoon session and a Sunday morning session, although other arrangements of time are possible.

It is designed to be delivered in a local church and will work well for gathered churches, whether gathered because of proximity or as part of an Association program. We will lead a workshop in a church with only two or three teachers when the church thinks the training will help their ministry.

Let's set a time

To schedule a teacher training workshop, contact the Board of Christian Education office (607-587-8527 or sdbbce@EducatingChristians.org) and we will strive to find a date that works both for your church and workshop leader. The local church is expected to provide a room and meals for the instructor, and transportation between the church and airport if necessary.

All other transportation and supply expenses are covered by the Board of Christian Education as a result of gifts given in the name of Muriel Osborn. We call this training workshop the "Muriel Osborn Seminar for Teachers" because it helps you get the **MOST** out of teaching. **SR**



FOCUS on Missions

Uganda: Working with a vision

by Kirk Looper

How does a church or group of churches demonstrate God's love and a caring attitude?

It is great when SDB churches in the USA and Canada group themselves in a way that they can work toward a vision, illustrating what God means to us and the importance of Jesus Christ in our lives.

Another country doing just that is Uganda in east central Africa. The SDB Conference there is only five years old and yet they have been able to show the people in their country that God means something to them, and that they are ready to demonstrate what the love of God is. They have been able to do this through dedication and sacrifice.

For instance, they have come to the rescue of hundreds of countrymen through cooperating with other local churches when a community was devastated by a mudslide. This occurred a few months ago and they are still on site, working to help the survivors by providing food, clothing, blankets, fresh water, and spiritual counseling.

They have sacrificed time and money to provide these services. I am proud to say that a few people in our Conference in North America donated some of the funds used to purchase goods.

For the Ugandans, giving their time is a sacrifice because many of them have jobs that they must work around. They spend literally days on the field in the cleanup and repair of homes that are recoverable. Back home in their local churches, prayer vigils are held seeking the leading of the Holy Spirit for those affected by the slide, and for success in locating the bodies of loved ones that had been lost.

Another work that brings more influence in communities shows up in the form of schools that the church members provide for the neighborhood. With each church they open a school that welcomes anyone in the community. In some instances they draw students from neighboring villages.

The cost of the school is very little so most of the students are able to pay the fees for their education. However, there are street children (orphans without homes) who are welcomed into the schools. In most cases the orphans are provided with clothing to closely match those of the other children.

The schools are usually held in buildings that are empty and available to anyone who wants them. Most of these are structures that were damaged in the civil war that occurred a few years back. Worship services are also held in these buildings as well. All of them need repair, and funds for these repairs.

A couple of the churches provide a special program for the street children. Once or twice a month, the children are brought into the churches where they are bathed and a volunteer doctor will assess

and provide medical attention. The medication consists of ointments for scratches and minor cuts, and possibly some deep cleaning and suturing. Suturing is necessary for children who may have been attacked by animals or were beaten.

The street children are allowed to spend the night sleeping on the church floor. Very often the church opens its doors to the children on any night. They generally sleep on mats placed on the bare ground. Funds are needed for medicines and mats.

People living in these communities recognize the church by the spirit of the members and are influenced by their work. As the work done by the volunteers increases, the number of people attending the church increases. The workers are seen by many and considered favorably for their demonstration of love.

It is easy to see why their influence expands because of their servant attitude. Let us pray that they will be able to continue their ministries and move ahead in their desire to glorify God. **SR**

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People recognize the church by the spirit of the members and are influenced by their work.

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the BEACON

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

June 2010

Goodbye, high school!

by Dakota Watt, *Beacon* editor

Finally, after 2,320 days in school, I will get a diploma that says I am out. I have successfully completed the requirements for a high school diploma in the state of Maryland. I am finished, done, “good-bye.”

I no longer have to be affiliated with Dr. Henry A. Wise Jr., High School. No more khakis, no more polos, no more school security guards, no more freshmen, no more sitting in front of the computer doing homework, no more getting up early in the morning... You get it—I’m a high school graduate!!!

High school has not been an easy journey for me or a pleasant one for the most part. I’m not... what you would call... a scholar. I like to read, but only what I want to read. I like to write stories, but not papers. Math stinks, social issues class was horrible, but history was fun—up until the time to write the paper. Chemistry was almost a deal breaker, but I made it.

I didn’t get through high school without help. I needed help from my teachers, guidance counselors, and my parents.

A few teachers stood out as being very helpful to me, such as Ms. Bell, my pro-start teacher who always had extra time to let me stay late and get work done. Then there was Mr. Ware, who was available after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays to torture—I mean, tutor—me in algebra.

I am also appreciative of Ms. Dudley, my career issues teacher, who helped me understand what will be required for my future career. These people went the extra distance to help me finish school.

A more important part of my high school life has been

my church group. I’ve always been involved with the youth group at Central SDB Church in Mitchellville, Md.

The first two years of high school, the group’s leaders were a committee of interested parents in the church.

We met often to do fun activities. I’m especially a fan of

bowling, but it was also fun to ice skate, ride go-carts, play miniature golf, and eat lots of food. Food is good.

With all the fun times came the realization that we weren’t working on our spiritual growth. Then came a new regime in our youth group.

Our church decided that a single youth advisor (or couple) would be more effective than a committee. They voted that Saul and Heather Alonzo be our youth advisors. The group changed its focus from only having fun to

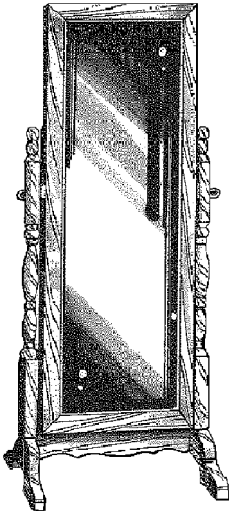
also growing spiritually. During Sabbath School, we study “Truth for Youth” and have less frequent get-togethers, but they are still fun.

Even though I learned a lot in high school to prepare me to face the future, I learned the most important truths from my experience with my church family. I received forgiveness for my sins and a promise of eternity with God.

I learned to read the Bible to help me find the answers to my questions, and that the Lord will always be by my side. I know I can trust Him as issues arise in my life.

As you can probably tell, I don’t think I will miss high school very much. But I will miss being part of a vibrant, spirit-filled youth group that helped to bring me closer to God. I’m looking forward to more years of being part of a church group. **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

Of angels and bracelets

I learned a long time ago that life isn't fair. Still, I get angry when it's not.

Weston McNeilus of Dodge Center, Minn., died this past February. At age 20, dreams stretched across the horizon, dreams that will now remain unfulfilled—like getting a good job, finding a lifelong mate, starting a family.

Weston grew up in Dodge Center. From his earliest years, life was a constant stream of challenges.

At age 4, he was in a near-fatal car accident. Declared brain-dead at one point, Weston eventually "woke up" and talked about sitting on Jesus' lap, surrounded by laughing children. "Jesus is so funny," he casually remarked.

The horrific accident left Weston with lifelong challenges including severely impaired eyesight.

At first, his mother missed the little boy she had known—the one who would run up to her, throw his arms around her neck, and say, "I love you, Mommy." But Tracy and her husband, Brandon, grew to embrace the "new" Weston. And new, he was.

During his adolescent years, Weston became a born again, faith-filled Christian. He quietly but earnestly shared his faith. He wrote about it, talked about it, and lived it.

Weston was clothed in the Armor of God, but he remained a constant

target for the slings and arrows of life. He eventually developed diabetes. Then, just last year, he was diagnosed with a rare and highly aggressive form of cancer. It invaded his jaw and face, requiring a treatment that seemed worse than the disease.

Surgeons removed half his face and rebuilt his eye socket, jaw, etc. Skin grafts were also part of the procedure. Fueled by his faith and delightful sense of humor, Weston's response to the ordeal was typical: "I just hope the doctors don't leave me looking like Michael Jackson."

Flooded with prayers, Weston made it through that horrendous surgery. He wasn't out of the woods, but he was near a promising clearing. Then an arrow pierced his armor. Tests showed that Weston's facial cancer had metastasized to the lining of his lungs. Doctors predicted he had four to six months to live.

Tracy accompanied her son to a special cancer clinic in Colorado, but there was no miracle cure. A month later he returned to Minnesota by air ambulance, defeated in body but not in spirit. He spent his last days in a hospital in Rochester, surrounded by family and friends.

And angels?

"When a nurse walked into Weston's hospital room one day, it filled up with a 'presence,'" Tracy shared. "You could feel it—it was crowded. And it was lovely!"

Tracy asked her boy, "Do you think these are angels?"

"I don't know," Weston replied, "but I'll soon find out."



Weston
McNeilus

And once when Weston was in his hospital bathroom he asked, "Mom, who are all these relatives in here? I don't recognize any of them, but I know they're relatives."

Did God allow this young man a glimpse of the loved ones waiting to greet him in heaven? Did He strengthen Weston by sending an army of angels into his room?

During the private graveside service, many people removed their sturdy, rubber prayer bracelets. Weston's name, a small cross, and the words "Courage From Above" were imprinted on them.

As they laid the bracelets by Weston's remains, Pastor Dale Rood of the Dodge Center SDB Church shared that his wife's bracelet broke the day Weston died.

Eerie coincidence? Perhaps. But I like to think it was a sign.

After fighting a courageous seven-week battle against lung cancer, Weston McNeilus was finally free—free from physical pain, but also from all the other woes that accompany life on earth.

Weston's prayer bracelet broke because he no longer needs our prayers. **SR**

"Servants Together..."



in God's Ministry"

SDB General Conference

Springfield, Missouri

July 25-31, 2010



The President's Page
by Pastor Paul Andries

Bible Study that follows, but most importantly serves as a tool to open our hearts so the Father may fill us.

Two mornings (Monday and Thursday) we will have traditional hymns, and two mornings (Tuesday and Friday) contemporary choruses. Both styles are appropriate, thus we should consider and prefer one another. On Wednesday morning, we will worship with both—reflecting our unity in Christ and in worship.

I invite you to be in continual prayer for the various speakers, teachers, lecturers, singers, accompanists, college staff, and other volunteers as we move closer to the Conference date. We know that when we purpose in our hearts to do anything for the Lord, the enemy might show his ugly head. His mode of operation is to steal, kill and destroy. If he is successful in even one, then "mission accomplished." Let us bombard the Throne of Grace to receive mercy, grace and favor, so that the weapons that form against us would not prosper.

Would you join with me in these prayer requests?

1. Pray that all participants would prepare well.
2. Pray that they will minister with the Lord's conviction and anointing.
3. Pray that all attendees will position themselves to receive from the Lord.
4. Pray that the enemy would be confounded and every weapon formed will fail.
5. Pray that hearts will turn "fully" to the Lord, whether for the first time or in returning.
6. Pray that there will be a new awakening among SDBs worldwide.
7. Pray that the Lord will be totally glorified.

May the Lord grant us eyes to see, spirits to sense, and hearts to know that we are connected to each other, affirming that we are truly co-laborers for the Lord. **SR**

The speaking lineup and a call to prayer

We are only weeks away from the "great migration" to just about the most central spot we've ever held our General Conference—namely, Evangel University in Springfield, Mo.

Still waiting to decide about Conference because you haven't heard who the speakers will be? Well, wait no longer. Here is the lineup:

Bible Studies

Monday: Pastor JoAnne Kandel,
Hebron, Pa.

*"Diverse Ministries for
Diverse Needs"*

Tuesday: Minister Dusty Mackintosh
Seminary Student, Thornton, Colo.

*"We're Stewards of the Ministry,
Not Lords"*

Wednesday: Pastor Kory Geske,
Battle Creek, Mich.

"Jesus: The Example of Ministry"

Thursday: Pastor Derrick Thomas,
Guyana SDB

Member at Queens, N.Y.

"The Ministry of Mentoring"

Friday: Pastor David Taylor,
Mitchellville, Md.

"Senior Servants:

The Voice of Reason in Ministry"

Evening Services

Sunday: Pastor Helmer Umana,
Arlington, Va.

"The Ministry Is the Lord's"

Monday: Pastor Ericessen Cooper,
Brooklyn, N.Y.

"The Lord Calls to the Ministry"

Tuesday: Pastor Steven James,
Verona, N.Y.

"Off the Sideline, Into the Game"

Wednesday: Pastor Dale Rood,
Dodge Center, Minn.

*"The Seasons of Servanthood:
Knowing When to Step Down"*

Thursday: Minister Jamaal Fyffe
Seminary Student, Toronto, CA

"Young People in Ministry"

Friday: Pastor Alvin Bernard,
Decatur, Ga.

"Servants Minister to God"

Sabbath Worship

Pastor Paul R. Andries,
Washington, D.C.

*"When God's Servants Realize
the Blessings of Shared Ministry"*

Each morning will begin with corporate worship, led by different individuals or groups. The worship is not only to prepare our hearts for the



by Executive Director
Rob Appel

Pass “it” on!

On July 1st, Canada will celebrate “Canada Day.” It marks the anniversary of the British North America Act of 1867, uniting two British colonies and a province of the British Empire into a single country. It is Canada’s “Independence Day.”

Likewise, on July 4th, the United States of America will celebrate their independence from British rule.

Here in the USA and Canada we can be grateful for the many freedoms that we celebrate all year long. We emphasize these freedoms on two special days in July. However, we rarely speak of the freedom that we have in our religious liberty.

Religions and religious beliefs have played a significant role in the political life of North America. In fact, religion has been at the heart of some of the best (and some of the worst) movements in our history, both in the U.S. and Canada.

The inscription on the Statue of Liberty says, “Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free.” It sounds a little like Jesus’ invitation: “Come unto me, all you who are weary... and I will give you rest.”

While the sentiments found in Matthew 11 and those on the base of the Statue of Liberty are not too far apart, it’s important to keep them straight—that is, Church and State; or in essence, Civil practice vs. Biblical belief.

During the celebrations next month, I challenge our churches and pastors to bring a message about the religious freedoms that we have, and need to hold on to. I challenge us to cherish and pass on these freedoms



to each other, especially to the generation coming behind us. I urge us to pray for those in countries that do not have such freedoms.

As we ponder our freedoms let’s be mindful of the thousands of troops who are overseas, caught up in the center of conflict and war. No matter your view on war, or your political alliance, let’s remember they are our nation’s sons and daughters... and they went to serve us all!

I would also like us to think about the separation—or intersection—known as church and state. If you’re wondering whether this is simply a question that refers to sometimes muddled principles of the church vs. political correctness, think again!

The news is littered with stories where twin issues walk hand-in-

hand. We refer to that as the “gray area.” There are questions on abortion, school vouchers, gay marriage, “In God We Trust” on our money, religious symbols, prayer in school, the Ten Commandments in government buildings, and whether “under God” should appear in our Pledge of Allegiance in the United States. These are not only national issues; they have local meaning as well.

We have a great example of how to serve as citizens of this world and as heirs of God. In the company of those who questioned how politics and religion should interact with each other, Jesus held up a Roman coin and said, “Render unto Caesar those things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”

Jesus challenged us to commit to being a citizen of our nation, and a respectful and contributing member of a unified good. He calls upon us to be involved in our communities as good citizens; however, *He never elevated our sense of patriotism over the power of God’s Kingdom!*

Let’s commit to one another that we’ll work to see that we remain faithful to the spirit of those words, “Render unto God the things that are God’s.”

God is the creator of freedom. God is the creator of respect. Let us keep that in mind while we celebrate our independence and religious freedoms! **SR**



Stress: weight-control enemy

by Barb Green, Parish Nurse
Milton, Wis.

Stress is a necessary part of life. Not having any would keep you from getting anything done.

Chronic stress, however, damages blood vessels and the heart, causes the adrenal glands to overwork, tenses muscles, releases stomach acid, and suppresses the immune system. It makes the body release hormones that cause the liver to release sugar for fuel—when you really don't need it. This sugar is then stored as fat.

Stress may cause you to overeat. Can you see how it works against your desire to lose weight and eat healthier?

One way to combat stress is to keep a **stress diary**. Just like your food diary, it can help pinpoint the situations where you're the most stressed so you can take action. For example, if you find yourself getting anxious just before the drive home from work, think of ways to make it more pleasant, such as listening to relaxing music or a book on CD.

To reduce eating in response to stress, try **distraction**. On strips of paper, write ideas for what you can do instead of eating. Examples are taking a walk, playing a game with the kids, e-mailing a friend, reading a book, or gardening. When stress tempts you to eat, pull a slip out of the jar and do what it says instead.

Other ideas include: waiting 10-20 minutes to decide if you still need food; planning your meals and snacks for a week; eating your favorite foods in moderation rather than denying yourself completely; keeping healthy snacks at work or home; rewarding yourself with something

“*Taking control of what you can—this may reduce your stress. Take time to play.*”

other than food; and drinking plenty of water. What works will be different for each of you.

Taking control of what you can—this may reduce your stress. You can cut down on caffeine; spend time with positive people; say “no” to things you really don't have time for or don't want to do.

Take time to play. Play is any enjoyable break from the daily grind. It helps you cope with unpredictable stressful situations and is fundamental to healthy survival.

Learn to laugh at yourself. Sources indicate that you need to laugh at least 17 times a day. Relaxation and getting enough sleep are essential to reducing your stress.

Exercise is another stress-buster. Just breathing correctly with your shoulders back opens the chest, al-

lowing more oxygen and relieving anxiety. Exercise burns through nervous energy and counters tension by pumping your body full of feel-good endorphins as well as hormones that may help you better manage anxiety. Walking is a great way to do this.


Christians have built-in ways of reducing stress. Prayer allows you to connect to your Creator, to ask forgiveness and restore a relationship that a wrong has disturbed, and to confess God's promises morning and night.

Psalms 139 can help you see yourself as God sees you. In addition, corporate worship helps connect with the blessing of community and helps you be an agent of change in your own life and others.

The Sabbath is a tailor-made stress reliever. It is a day to cease working and relax in God's care for you. You can stop things that occupy your workdays and participate in activities that nurture peace, worship, relationships, celebration and thankfulness.

It helps you clear away distractions, regain strength and put life back into perspective. It reminds you that God is in control. Sabbath is a day without a to-do list. God always gives back the time we give to Him.

Keeping Sabbath doesn't guarantee serenity, but failing to keep it guarantees non-serenity. It helps to keep us whole people.

Get rid of habits that harm your body and soul, and learn to live in a way that makes you healthier and lighter. 



Finances at ten paces...

by Bill Probasco, Shiloh, N.J.
SDB Memorial Fund trustee

Ever look at a \$10 bill? That's Alexander Hamilton looking back at you.

But wait—he wasn't a U.S. President or even a signer of the Constitution! Who was Alexander Hamilton and how'd he get on the \$10 bill?

Most of us probably know about “the Duel” with Aaron Burr (and the award-winning “Got Milk” commercial... Remember “Mmaron Mmurr”? Classic!) But since when did being the second-fastest draw or second-most accurate duelist merit any rewards? Usually that merits you a tombstone.

So why do we honor Alexander Hamilton on our currency? One clue is the Treasury Building on the back of the \$10 bill. Hamilton was the first U.S. Secretary of the Treasury, as well as a very good economist. He pushed for and got the new Federal Government to assume all the debts that the 13 states had built up.

As a result, the Federal Government, and not the individual states, took on all financial obligations of the new nation. By doing what seems strange—strengthening a nation by giving it debt—Hamilton paved the way for a strong central government. Otherwise, we'd still be a confederation of states, some strong, some weak, but all dealing with their debts alone.

You may be thinking, *Nice history lesson, but other than having the answer to a trivia question or two, why is this important? How does this relate to me and God?*

Well, the same principle that Hamilton used works for our relationship with God. Jesus came and paid our price on the cross. We didn't. Jesus assumed all our debts, or sins. And not just ours, but *everyone's* debts.

We're not a loose-knit group of Christians, some weak, some strong, and all dealing with our own debts alone.



Christ assumed all our debts. Christ paved the way for our freedom by doing what seems strange—strengthening his people by taking on our debts (sins).

Now, I'm afraid we can interfere with this strong centralized organization Jesus has established. We can get tempted and led astray. Money is one easy way. God even warned us in the Ten Commandments: “Thou shalt not covet.” While accumulating debt works for nation-building, it doesn't work for faith-building.

You hear a lot about credit scores and having good credit. You need good credit if you want to borrow money for a house or car. Ironically, a good way to prove you have good credit is to owe money and pay it back in a timely fashion, just like Alexander Hamilton planned for the United States to do as a young nation.

It's when we build up our debts and can't repay them that we fall short. Our good credit scores plummet. If we start to covet too much, or spend more than we should, our focus becomes clouded.

Jesus warned about this in his Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 6:19-24). We are to lay up our treasures in heaven, not on earth. We can't serve two masters; will we choose God or money (mammon)?

If we let materialism take over, if we are striving to keep up with the Joneses, then who are we serving? And if we indebt ourselves to the Visas and MasterCards of the world, how can we focus on the Lord?

Many Christians carry credit cards. But if a purchase will bring a burden with it (such as a balance you can't pay off right away or draining your funds from more worthwhile goals), we need to walk away from that “altar to mammon.”

Alexander Hamilton died in a duel because he couldn't walk away from a dangerous situation that he caused. We don't have to follow his example.

We have a much better example to follow. An example set by One Who has already taken our debts and set us free. And that's worth more than all the \$10 bills in any Treasury! **SR**

The Next Step

The Jamaican Leadership Retreat—Part 2

by Rob Appel

Last month I wrote about the trip that Pastors Andrew Samuels, George Calhoun, and I took to Jamaica in March. We were instructors at a retreat for the leaders within the Jamaica SDB Conference and taught on the theme of “Leadership Styles and Techniques.” This was Pastor Andy’s long-awaited dream for the people of his homeland.

What was the reaction?

“In my opinion, the retreat exceeded expectations. I literally saw the evidence of ‘light bulbs’ going on in the heads of people as they embraced particular leadership principles being taught. I believe the ‘leadership lid’ was lifted from people as they began to realize that God was releasing them from the limitations they had placed on themselves, as well as those placed on them by others.”—*Pastor Andy*

Attendees said: “Challenging, uplifting, inspiring, motivating; Just what I needed; Spirit-led; Let’s do this again and take the next step; I will definitely be making some changes in my leadership style.”

Pastor Naval Harley, chair of the Jamaica Council on Ministry, said, “I give it an A+.”

Where do we go from here?

Pastor Andy sees the next step in this way: “An experience like this is certainly not to be left without follow-through. I would like to see a subsequent opportunity to reinforce the leadership principles taught there, as well as a forum to put them into practice. Role-playing through typical scenarios would require utilizing one or more of the multiple functions of leaders.”

Pastor George says, “I feel that our next step would be to actualize what we taught by having them apply these concepts to their ministry situations. This could be done by providing a prescribed assessment of their ministries in advance, then breaking them into small groups to share and brainstorm about possible solutions. Scenarios and ‘role-play’ would permit them to apply learned techniques. We could also help them to create ‘flow-charts’ to observe flow of ministry problems, issues and resolution.”

What about our ministries around the world?

Pastor George: “My assumption is that our Conferences around the world are committed to the Lord and His work. The thing missing, however, is a way to assess and format that commitment into a workable model that trains, equips, mobilizes and uses the available resources. Ephesians 4:11-13 tells us that God has given leaders to the Church so that the Church may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith. We are to become mature and achieve the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. The question is, who will train the church leaders? We are to instruct those who are to be apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers, and to **prepare** others to do the works of service or ministry!”

Pastor Andy imparts this: “The



Top photo: Presenters Andrew Samuels (l.) and George Calhoun. Above: The Maiden Hall Conference Center in Jamaica.

leadership principles shared are universal. Therefore, they can benefit any of our SDB Conferences around the world. What would be needed is willingness for a particular Conference to welcome a retreat/workshop/seminar, and then the ability for that Conference to mobilize the leaders from their churches to attend. This would be a commitment to make the principles more than mere theory.”

We believe that leaders train followers, but good leaders train leaders. Our role is to train leaders to lead, to help them to lead, and help them train others to lead. **SR**

Obituaries

Kirsch.—Edgar C. Kirsch Jr., 85, of Tecumseh, Mich., passed away February 2, 2010, after a prolonged illness. He was born March 9, 1924 in Battle Creek to Edgar C. and Lorena M. (Hussey) Kirsch. Ed was a member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church in Battle Creek, and attended Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Tecumseh. He served in the U.S. Army during WWII and earned a Bronze Star and Purple Heart while serving in France and Germany. He retired from Federal-Mogul Corporation in 1983, after 26 years of service. A longtime amateur radio operator, Ed's callsign, W8SSH, was well known in the area.

Ed is survived by his wife of almost 64 years, Pauline (Boehm); a son, David Kirsch of Tecumseh; a sister, Joyce Hall of Battle Creek; one granddaughter and one great-granddaughter, and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by an infant brother and three sisters.

Cremation has taken place and a private family memorial will be held at a later date.

Kenyon.—Karl Elwin Kenyon, 60, of Charlestown, R.I., passed into eternal peace on March 28, 2010 after a courageous battle with pancreatic and liver cancer.

Born on November 21, 1949 in Westerly, R.I., he was the cherished son of Elwin and Ellen (Rathbun) Kenyon Jr. of Charlestown.

Karl achieved the rank of Life as a Boy Scout and was active as an assistant scoutmaster. He joined the Coast Guard in 1969 and attained the rank of E-4 Radarman Third Class Petty Officer. In 1973, he graduated from the North American School of Conservation. Karl worked for the RI Department of Environmental Management (DEM) from 1984 to 2010, holding several ranger and supervisory positions.

Karl was a member of the Paw-

catuck SDB Church in Westerly and attended the Quonochontaug Baptist Church in Charlestown.

At the time of his passing, Karl held several Fire Protection positions in the area. As a Certified Wildland Fire Instructor, he trained firefighters in Rhode Island and at the Long Island Fire Academy. Karl was a member of the RI Western Fire Crew, working with crews from Massachusetts and Connecticut. The teams responded to over 15 states fighting wildland fires, where Karl was a squad boss, crew boss and engine boss.

Karl was instrumental in developing and implementing the current RI Basic Wildland Search-and-Rescue Course.

He leaves his devoted wife Patricia (Lindsley) of Charlestown. Also surviving are two sons, Eric of Plymouth, Minn., and Keith of Westerly; one sister, Kathleen Hughes; four grandsons, one stepgrandson, and several nieces and nephews.

Overall, Karl spent his life taking care of his family, friends and community. His true passion was teaching fire prevention following his mentor, "Smokey Bear." In 1993-1994, Karl was the chairperson for Smokey Bear's 50th celebration. Most of all, Karl will be missed for his sense of humor, his puns and one-liners.

Due to flooding and power outages, funeral services on April 1, 2010 were moved from the Pawcatuck SDB Church in Westerly to St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Charlestown. Burial was in River Bend Cemetery, Westerly.

Death Notice

Louis E. Sunby, 95, of Milton, Wis., died on April 27, 2010.

Births

Matthews.—Twin daughters, Natalie Jayne and Jillian Grayce, were born to Shayne and Danielle Matthews of Texarkana, TX, on June 12, 2009.

Richards.—A daughter, Laila Faith, was born to Greg and Emily Richards of Texarkana, TX, on September 18, 2009.

Broadus.—A daughter, Melody Ann, was born to Jason and Wendy Broadus of Douglasville, TX, on December 24, 2009.

Soper.—A son, Evan William, was born to Mynor III and Sarah Soper of Texarkana, AR, on March 26, 2010.

Richmond.—A son, Rylan Grant Richmond, was born to John and Julie (Sias) Richmond of Salem, WV, on April 21, 2010.

New members

Bay Area, CA

Steve Crouch, pastor

Joined by testimony

Jairo Alvarado

Hedda Alvarado

Boulder, CO

Steve Osborn, pastor

Joined by testimony

Darwin Steele

Cheryl Steele

Tom Muniz

Danette Muniz

Marriage

Richards – Merritt. Tyler Richards and Brittany Merritt were united in marriage on April 25, 2010 at Garrison Gardens outside of Texarkana, AR. The Rev. Mynor G. Soper officiated.

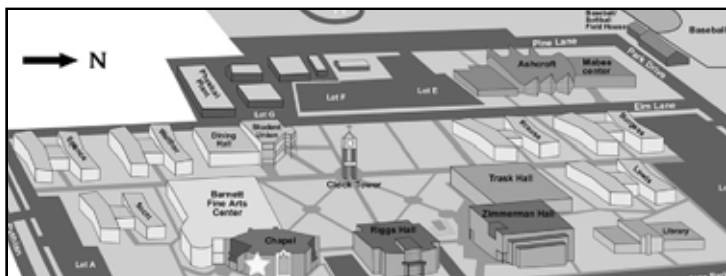
It's Getting Close!

SDB General Conference

July 25-31, 2010

Evangel University, Springfield, Missouri

Evangel University is located in the north part of Springfield, Mo. (west of Hwy 65, south of Hwy 44 and north of Hwy 60/160). A printable campus map, detailed list of area hotels/motels, and a virtual tour of the campus is at www.evangel.edu/Map/index.asp



Transportation

Please use the Springfield-Branson International Airport. It is the only airport from which the Host Committee will schedule and provide free transportation. Parking on campus is available next to the chapel and dorms, and along the streets in front of the chapel. Drivers and golf carts will be available on campus all week.

Campus

No other activities are scheduled on campus.

Exhibits: 30 spots have been designated for exhibits in the student union/cafeteria area. Tables are provided. Display your church's activities and ministry events. Don't forget to bring items to sell at the Women's Board Craft Table for SCSC!

We will be able to use the track (above the basketball courts) and weight room in the recreational building.

Housing

The four dormitories are multi-level buildings with no elevators. There are a limited number of "handicap" rooms available. Each room has two beds and shares a bathroom with an adjoining room. Children, up to age 12, can sleep on the floor for no additional charge. Each dorm room occupancy is limited to four.



Linens

Towels, washcloths and bedding (sheet, blanket and pillow with case) will be provided. Towels will be replaced every other day. However, you may bring your own linens for a reduced room rate. Small appliances are allowed in the rooms (toaster oven, small microwave, small fridge). No open burner or heater coil appliance is permitted. Microwaves in the lounges are student-owned (college not responsible). Each dorm floor has a lounge and the dorms are open until midnight.

Technology

Duplicating services are available. We pay for what we use. The Conference will have a printer available. Bring an Ethernet cable for the dorm rooms; Wi-fi is available in the dorm lounges. Computers will be available at a computer lab and in other areas.

Nursery

The Nursery will be in the Barnett Fine Arts Center, near the chapel and meeting rooms. Volunteers always needed! Contact Mike Graves at 913-370-1390 (cell).

Off-campus Housing

12 hotels and motels provide discount coupons. Visit www.Travel-Springfield.com and select "Special Offers and Coupons." Currently, the Best Western has rooms for \$42 a night. More area savings are at that website!

Food



The cafeteria has plenty of seating with adjoining rooms for special gatherings. Group meetings can take place there. A

lounge in the student center can also be used as a gathering place, with the option of ordering burgers, etc.

Register now!

You may register on-line at seventhdaybaptist.org, or use the form found in the *May Sabbath Recorder*. If you register on-line before June 30, there is a discount on each person's registration fee.

KEVIN'S

ORNER

Am I the new Mr. Greenway?

I grew up in a quiet neighborhood full of ranch-style houses in central New York state.

We were in a newer part of a small village, situated on a great street laid out like a racetrack. Many kids and many bikes logged many miles around the “Black Tract”—so named after the tract of land developed by contractor/builder John “Jack” Black. Our house was one of the first ones to go up.

As years went by more dwellings lined our racetrack. One memorable home, across the street and two doors down belonged to Mr. Greenway. His

gentle smile, a tip of the hat or a wave of his cane showed that at least one serious race fan acknowledged us as we zoomed by.

On many a summer evening, our long-retired neighbor would unfold his lawn chair just outside his garage, facing the street, with a transistor radio tuned into a baseball broadcast. I wondered if Mr. Greenway didn't have a back patio or was just trying to escape the smells of what Farmer Blake was spreading on the fields right behind the house. Or maybe he liked watching our activities.

I don't know how many other kids actually stopped, but I got in the habit of zipping my high-handlebarred and monkey-seated roadster into his driveway (making sure I didn't squeal my tires on the pavement). We would talk about our favorite teams and how our favorite players were doing. As time went on, I'd share how I did in the latest little league contest.

Whole summers passed by like flipping pages in a book. I traded my bike for a car, little league for college, and life seemed to become too busy for me to visit old Mr. Greenway.

Fast-forward about 40 years. Janet and I are living in a quiet (sort of) neighborhood full of ranch-style houses. We're on the front curve part of our “racetrack” street at the bottom of a hill.

Kids are still riding bikes—and skateboards and electric scooters and go-carts—around the track. Across the

street and two houses up lives Dalton. He and his older brother have helped us dig out of some heavy snowfalls in recent years. He's a willing helper with a penchant for mischief. (Picture a cross between Timmy on “Lassie” and Dennis the Menace.)

It's taken a few years of encounters—mostly them begging for school fundraisers—but now I have to plan on spending some extra time when I walk across the street to get the mail. If Dalton and his buddies spot me, I extend my arm to point at them, and they point back. After yelling “Mr. Butler!!” they hop on their bikes to see who can reach me first.

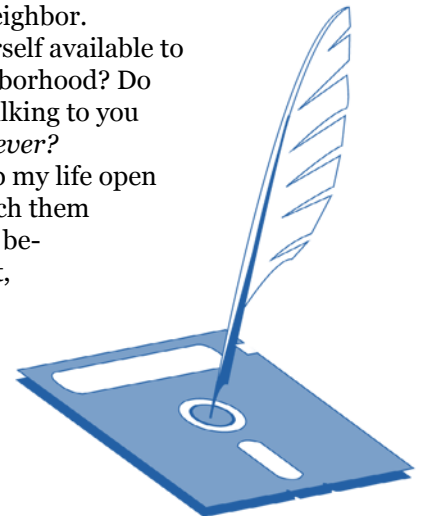
We trade greetings and teasings, maybe toss the football, and shoot the breeze. Dalton is now in middle school and I just got the lowdown on the latest “rec night”—where he *almost* danced with a girl. (He said he'd dance if his friend would dance with his “date,” but they both chickened out...)

It's hard to fathom how quickly the roles changed. I sometimes unfold my lawn chair just outside the garage, facing the street—not because of any foul odor out back, but to escape the loud drone of the interstate behind our house. And instead of being “stuck” listening only to the Mets or Yankees, my satellite radio can pick up any major league game.

Looking back, I hope that my visits helped Mr. Greenway. I know that he helped me connect with a more distant generation as I learned to respect this gentle neighbor.

Are you making yourself available to the youth in your neighborhood? Do they feel comfortable talking to you about, you know, *whatever*?

I pray that I can keep my life open to theirs (and try to teach them to respect their elders), because before we know it, they'll be trading their bikes for cars, little league for college, and life will become too busy to visit old Mr. Butler.





Servants Together In God's Ministry

(aka: General Conference Host Committee)

Evangel University, Springfield MO

July 25-31, 2010

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