



# The Sabbath RECORDER

Inside:

Conference  
happened at  
Evangel  
University

September 2010

*News for and about Seventh Day Baptists*

## These Biggest Losers



are  
the  
**WINNERS!**

**Group from Boulder, Colo.  
loses 10% body weight**  
*(Names inside cover; story p. 9)*



## 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)

### On the front cover— Boulder's "Biggest Losers"

Front row (l. to r.): Nathan Crowder, Deb Williams, Lynne Severance and Geneva Ferrera.

Middle row: Sanja Looper, Gretchen Zwiebel, Angie Osborn and Deb Skaggs.

Back row: Valerie Heath, Amy Stephan, Chris Severance, Denise Coe and Bert Heath.

Not pictured: Stacy Severance, Ron Williams, Tiffany Crowder, Pat Williams, and Tom, Danette and Alycia Muniz. Check out **page 9** for a story about the "Biggest SDB Loser" program that ran from October to June, and for before-and-after photos of Boulder's **Tiffany Crowder**, the individual who lost the largest percentage of body weight.

### Get your Directory!

The **2010 Directory** of SDB churches and 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](mailto:media@seventhdaybaptist.org), or our website's E-store) to order.

### Wednesdays for Fasting and Prayer

Jesus said, "Go into all nations and make disciples." Are we reaching even our own nation?

This year General Conference passed an important recommendation. In response to the continuing interest and passion in church planting throughout the denomination, each Wednesday of this Conference year should be a day of fasting and prayer to seek God's guidance in this matter.

**Each Wednesday** will focus on:

- Prayer that the Holy Spirit would reveal to individuals His calling to plant churches in the United States and Canada, and for a willingness to respond to the call.
- Prayer that a training program for church planting and missions reveal itself, and for the funds and manpower to be raised to establish the program.
- Prayer for the Holy Spirit to reveal locations where plants and missions are needed.

Let's unify in prayer. Contact Katie Brown at [cb15920@reddies.hsu.edu](mailto:cb15920@reddies.hsu.edu) to commit 15 minutes of your day to prayer. Let's pray from 6:00 am Eastern time to 6:00 pm Pacific time for a renewed vision for our denomination in national missions!





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# Serving through the Word

by Karen Payne

*A look at the first three Bible Studies  
From the Conference Crier*

After a great start to our Conference—with praise and worship on Monday morning—Pastor JoAnne Kandel led us in a Bible study from 1 Corinthians 12:1-25. It was entitled, “Diverse Ministries for Diverse Needs.”

Pastor JoAnne and her two older daughters put together a presentation about the youngest member of their family, Martha. Through her challenging disability we learned what Martha had taught the Kandels about hope and patience among other things.

JoAnne stressed the fact that the body (Church) is made up of many parts, and it just wouldn’t work if everyone was a hand or an ear. She had us break into small groups and look up passages about the healings of Jesus. We were to identify the parts of the body that had been healed and note that they were the ones used in the morning’s Scripture (eyes, ear, feet and hand).

She pointed out verse 22 where we are told that “those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable.” Everyone in the church is needed; no one is better than another. We should look around our church and see if there is someone being excluded due to a disability. Think about what you can do to change that.

Seminary student Dustin Mackintosh led Tuesday’s Bible Study. His theme was, “We’re Stewards of the Ministry, not Lords” using 1 Corinthians 4.

Dusty started out by asking what the definition of a steward was. Verse 1 tells us that we are stewards (caretakers of someone else’s goods) of Christ, entrusted with the secret things of God.


According to Dusty, what’s the difference between a sermon and a Bible Study? In a Bible Study, he got to ask questions and we got to answer, instead of him just telling us everything. So the congregation got involved by reading Scriptures and answering his questions.

One of the points Dusty brought out was that we shouldn’t jump to conclusions by judging before the appointed time. We learned that Paul was being “snarky” when he told the Corinthians that they were SO WISE! We should be caretakers of the things which have been entrusted to us and not judge.

Pastor Kory Geske led Wednesday’s Bible Study on “Jesus: The Example of Ministry” based on Philippians 2. He told us that our attitudes needed to be the same as Christ’s and that it’s possible to take off and put on different attitudes.

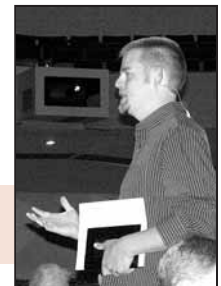
The passage focused on humility and unity. We must have both in the church. In order to do this, we must put others first. Pastor Kory pointed out that the biggest barrier to unity was “self” or selfishness.

Christ, our example, had the right to be selfish but was the embodiment of servanthood. If we follow His leading, we will be united.

Pastor Kory also quoted from a favorite poster: “In matters of preference, go with the flow. In matters of principle, stand like a rock.” This was Jesus’ attitude, so how can we do any differently? 



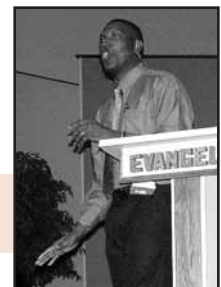
JoAnne Kandel



Dustin Mackintosh



Kory Geske



Derrick Thomas



Dave Taylor





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

**Statistics**

- 470 registered guests
- 269 delegates representing 63 churches
- 58 ministers/pastors present
- 2 official visitors
- 5 students preparing for ministry
- 67 at associated Conferences and with 11 in the nursery
- 22 at Youth Pre-Con, directed by Bernie Wethington with 6 staff
- 23 at Young Adult, directed by John Pethtel with 4 staff

**Elections**

- President 2010-2011: Stephen Rogers, Salem, WV
- President-elect: John Pethtel, Metro Atlanta, GA
- General Council: John Pethtel, Jean Jorgensen
- Council on Ministry: Gabe Graffius, Patti Wethington
- Faith and Order: Virginia Burdick, Bill Burks
- Committee on Support and Retirement: Eric Rudert

- Tract and Communication Council: Gretchen Zwiebel, Leanna Wethington
- Memorial Fund Trustees: Don Graffius, Ruth Reynolds, Stephen Rogers
- Christian Social Action and Disaster Relief: Jeanie Smith

**Awards/Recognitions**

- Women’s Board Robe of Achievement: Wilma Sanford, Little Genesee, NY
- Sabbath School Teacher of the Year: Dagoberto Alonzo, Arlington, VA
- Mary G. Clare Scripture Memorization Bowl: Toronto, ON, Canada

**Next year:**

**July 31–August 6**  
**Hope College**  
**Holland, Mich.**

**Theme:**  
*“Living in  
the Fruit of the Spirit”*



*President Paul Andries (left) passes the gavel to Stephen Rogers.*



*The President’s reception line on Sunday night produced lots of hugs and smiles.*



*Jeff Neher (left) from Dodge Center, Minn., read the report of the Young Adult Interest Committee.*



*The worship team from Washington, D.C. ministered on Friday and Sabbath mornings.*

## Conference Votes for Denominational Restructuring

by Nick Kersten, Librarian-Historian

This year's delegates to General Conference were asked to take action on the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Denominational Restructuring. The report was circulated prior to Conference in the *Sabbath Recorder* (July/August issue, pages 9-11), the SDB Exec Blog through the General Conference website, as well as by the SDB e-mail Network.

After their presentation on Monday morning, the Committee's report and its recommendations were referred to the Reference and Counsel Interest Committee. The five members of the Ad Hoc Committee then spent much of the week answering questions from Reference and Counsel and other interested Seventh Day Baptists.

In committee, concerns were raised and discussed, including the relatively short amount of time some had to consider the proposal. The report was sent to the Conference floor with a recommendation that it be adopted with its recommendations. Reference and Counsel also suggested that if any of the recommendations from the report passed, that the Ad Hoc Committee be requested to draft any necessary bylaw changes.

Both the report and the subsequent recommendation to refer the writing of bylaws back to the Ad Hoc Committee were adopted without discussion. We now await the proposed bylaws, which will be presented as a first reading at the 2011 General Conference session. **SR**

## Awards and Recognitions



Following COM's recommendation, the Conference voted to accredit John Pethtel (left). Gordon Lawton made the presentation.



Janet Thorngate was honored as chair of the Committee on Faith and Order. The new chair is Andy Samuels (left). Member Dale Rood read the thank-you.



Karen Payne (l.) and Kris North announce the recipient of the Women's Society Robe of Achievement: Wilma Sanford. (See page 12 for story.)



The Toronto SDB Church won the annual Scripture Memory contest bowl. Pastor Herlitz Condison (l.) accepted the bowl from Andrew Camenga.

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# Children learn to serve

*From The Conference Crier*

The children of our Conference followed Pastor Paul Andries' theme of "Servants Together in God's Ministry" in their morning activities.

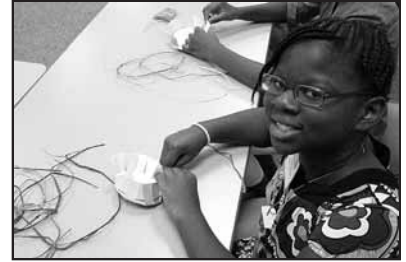
They studied five Bible servants:

- the boy **Samuel**, who served Eli and worked in the temple
- the **widow** who served Elijah and gave her last flour and oil to feed him
- **Barnabas**, who served and mentored the Apostle Paul
- **Dorcas** (Tabitha), who served those in need, especially widows
- and **Aquila and Priscilla**, who served Paul and others through hospitality.

Our children had opportunities to serve others during the week in a variety of ways. They helped at meal times, opened doors, made and gave cards of encouragement, and more.

One of the big events was going to Maranatha Village on Thursday afternoon and presenting a program for their residents. After sharing some lively music, the children handed out small gifts of encouragement to the residents and staff.

What a blessing it was! We were happy to let others know about the love of Christ and more about Seventh Day Baptists. **SR**



*Above and below: Making basket favors for others.*



*More baskets and cards of encouragement.*



*Rehearsing for the Children's Program.*



*The Pastors and Youth basketball game made for some good competition, and ended with the Youth Rally Song.*



*No, he didn't ref the game but Steve James' message encouraged us to get off the sideline.*



# Conference can be a Place of Healing

by Linda Greene, Dodge Center, Minn.  
From the Conference Crier

Wednesday night at Conference was a special time for me.

My faithful and much-appreciated pastor for the last 21 years, Rev. Dale Rood, was presenting the sermon on “Knowing When to Step Down.” That would happen for him at the end of Conference week as he retires from full-time pastoral ministry.

Plus, half of the praise band was comprised of members of the Dodge Center SDB Church Praise Team which I have been honored to help lead for several years. I was so proud to see those four young people on the platform—one of them being my grandson—all of them who sincerely love the Lord. I am blessed to be connected with them.

So it seemed to be a total “setup” by the Lord as my heart was very soft even before the service started.

As the music began, I could feel my heart singing even stronger than usual. Once the choir sang their se-

lection and the praise music concluded, I was feeling quite blessed and unusually emotional. Through the years I have learned this is a sign in my own life that God is doing a special work in my heart.

Pastor Dale’s sermon was just right—humorous and insightful—and the charge to walk in integrity really rang true in my spirit.

As he transitioned into the personal prayer ministry at the end, I did not go forward for prayer, but sat in my seat as long as I could to “soak in” the atmosphere. I was so aware of a very strong presence of the Lord in that sanctuary.


I sometimes wonder if it is a stronger presence of the Lord that we sense, or just our own heightened awareness of His presence. Which-ever it was, it was very powerful.

After the evening was over, I went back to my dorm and visited with the Lord for quite a while about what

I was feeling. I found myself weeping as we talked, and I started to realize just how powerfully I had been touched.

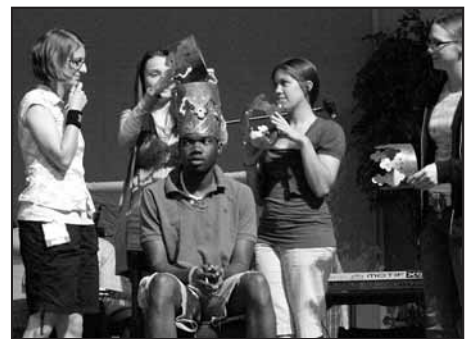
I’m a little slow sometimes, and it’s quite often in looking back that I realize God has done something significant in my life. I was quite “weepy” Thursday morning as God continued His work inside my heart. I couldn’t speak to anyone without feeling the tears well up and usually spill over.

I came to realize that God put in my heart a powerful hunger for integrity—even stronger than what was there before—and I believe He touched me with healing for some physical ailments that I’ve been struggling with for years.

I’ve already seen symptoms diminishing as I write this on Friday. I am so blessed by the mercy and love of our Redeemer Jesus Christ, by whose stripes we were healed. 



Lannette Calhoun led our excellent Conference Choir.



David Pottinger got “crowned with many crowns” during Tuesday night vespers led by YA Pre-Connors.

Go to  
[www.seventhdaybaptist.org](http://www.seventhdaybaptist.org)  
to see **MANY** more photos!!



# BIGGEST LOSER

## SDB style

by Peggy Chroniger  
Alfred Station, N.Y.

It was a typical summer Friday night last year—a picnic in the park with church friends and family. We had just returned from our Conference trip and the conversations revolved around who was there, how they looked, and if anybody had lost weight.

We tend to have this conversation every year, I tend to make my annual vow to lose weight before next year's Conference, and we all move on.

Last year the conversation went in a different direction. I made my usual vow, but my older girls wanted to know how they could help and get in the game, too. Hmm... get in the game... Ooh—let's make it a game! Let's play "Biggest Loser" in our family.

Wait, there are other people at church who want to lose weight; let's play "Biggest Loser" in our church.

Wait, there are people in the denomination who might want to lose weight; let's play "Biggest Loser" with *all* the churches!

Then the "hows and whens" started coming and the answers came as easy as the questions. Next step, call Kevin Butler (he can do anything) and he will help us figure out how to make this work denominationally. He did and it did!

We started out with 15 churches wanting to join the friendly competition, but not all the groups had the time or people to make it work. We ended up with 10 churches participating.

### The Tale of the Tape

Church group location	% weight lost
Boulder, Colo.	10.0%
Battle Creek, Mich.	8.9%
Nortonville, Kan.	4.9%
Milton, Wis.	4.8%
Alfred Station, N.Y.	4.0%
Dodge Center, Minn.	2.8%
New York City, N.Y.	1.7%
Pataskala, Ohio	1.5%
Lost Creek, W.Va.	1.4%
Toronto, Canada	1.2%

**Barbara Antrim** of Nortonville lost the most weight at 52 pounds for a percentage loss of 16.9%.



**Tiffany Crowder** from Boulder, Colo., took individual honors in percentage of body weight loss. Tiffany trimmed 18.4% during the October through June time period.

We asked for monthly figures from each church so we could keep track of how people were doing. It wasn't always easy to get the numbers but the church coordinators did a great job of keeping up.

Thank so much to Barb Green for creating the health and fitness page in the *Sabbath Recorder*. Her ideas and words of encouragement were a great help. And congratulations to all those who lost weight!

So, the conversation at the first Friday night picnic after Conference this year went the same as every other. We didn't do so well this year, but now that we know how to play the game... **SR**

# Teaching and Learning

by Ruth Russell, Albion, Wis.

A little boy sits in his kindergarten class. All of the children have just returned to their chairs after playing on the large colorful rug and putting the toys back in their proper place.

Their teacher is a nice lady that all the mommies like, so they tell their children to learn well from her. Today, she poses a new question to the class.

“Boys and girls,” she asks, “What do you do for or with your mommy when you get home from school?”

After thinking a bit, some children say that they go shopping and see many new things at the stores. Some say they help set the table for supper. Others talk of picking up clothes and toys, reading stories and playing.

The teacher comments on how these are all very good things as the children hear how their after-school activities at home are like the other children’s. They feel good about that. They seem to be the same at school and after school.

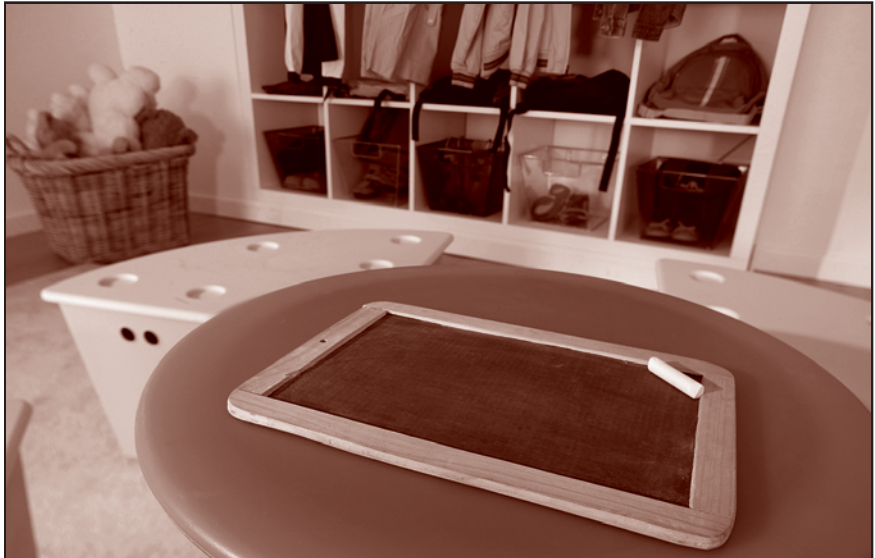
Then the teacher notices one boy (that all the children liked) had not answered the question yet. She calls his name and asks what he does with or for his mommy.

All of the children had listened closely as the others had answered the question, and now were eager to hear his answer, too.

He looks at his classmates and his teacher, and says, “When I go home, I go on the roof of the house and pick lots of flowers to give to my mommy. It makes her smile and laugh with me.”

The children think it is a marvelous thing to go on the house roof and pick flowers. Many of them smile and laugh at the happy thought of it.

The teacher does not laugh. She does not even smile.



She looks at the boy and the class gets very quiet. The boy sits down. He doesn’t know what to do, but the teacher looks at him like he was bad, and the children are very quiet; waiting—not sure what for—but waiting.

The teacher, still not smiling, looks down at the boy and asks another question.

“Do you really think we believe you go on the roof of your house and pick flowers? What sort of boy are you to say such a thing? Doesn’t your mother know enough to teach you not to lie?”

The boy tries hard not to cry. (Even little boys know that girls can cry, but not boys.) But the teacher looked at him in a hard way, and the children had listened carefully to the teacher—their mommies told them to listen so they would learn.

They look at her and then they all look at the boy, and finally they look at each other.

The look in their eyes is different now. They look at each other “hard,” like the teacher. They were there to learn and they learned a lot that day.

\* \* \* \* \*

When school was over, the little boy went home to his house. It was small, but just right for his family. It was made in the side of a hill so the flowering meadow was the roof of their house.

That is where his mother found him with a fist full of flowers, crying the tears and sobs of a little boy who felt he no longer belonged.

As his mommy held him and the flowers on her lap, he told her all he learned at school that day. His mother wondered and prayed to God how to fix his tiny broken heart, and how to fix the shattered thoughts and feelings of those who had learned from the teacher.

### What the teacher taught the boy:

- His mother is not smart—maybe not even a good mommy. Can he believe her? Trust her? Should he do what she says?
- Since he did something different from the rest of the class the teacher implied he is a liar, not to be believed. That he is not a

good boy. So, should he talk to people? Should he say (lie) that he does what everyone else does, just so he “fits in”?

- She taught that he is different from the other children and no one wants to be near him anymore. Maybe he won't have friends anymore. There is no trust.
- Maybe he will become very different because the teacher taught that different is not good, and he will not be part of the group anymore.

What the teacher taught the class:

- Not to respect other adults. She put his mommy down, implying that she was not a good mommy.
- Not to believe when you hear



about things you don't already know. If it is different, the person is lying and don't ask how what they say could be true. Pre-judge.

- If someone is not just like you, keep your distance, do not trust; they must be liars and bad.
- It is okay to be mean.
- If *his* mommy is not smart, maybe *mine* isn't either. Maybe I should tell teacher everything mommy says so teacher can tell me if mommy is right or not.

The children don't trust each other as they did before.

Parents are no longer the final say to the children. Children do not obey or honor their parents. They will maybe obey and honor a teacher.

What have you learned today?

What have you taught today? **SR**

## Denominational Dateline

### September 2010

- 4 Columbia, Md.—Kirk Looper
- 8-21 Family events, New England—Gordon Lawton
- 11-12 SR Committee, Atlanta, Ga.—Kevin Butler
- 17-19 North Central Assn., Portage, Wis.—Rob Appel, Ron Elston
- 19 Memorial service for Leon Lawton, Westerly, R.I.—Lawton, Looper
- 21-22 Historical Panel, Mystic Seaport, Conn.—Nick Kersten
- 25 Metro Area Churches Day, Central, Md.—Butler
- 25 New England Yearly Meeting, Newport, R.I.—Looper, Elston, Kersten
- 26 Missionary Board Executive Meeting, Ashaway, R.I.—Looper, Elston

### October

- 2 Washington, D.C., and Arlington, Va., churches—Appel
- 2 Ordination of Wayne North, New Auburn, Wis.—Lawton

- 3 Breakfast with DC area pastors—Appel
- 4-5 Baptist Joint Committee, Washington, D.C.—Appel
- 8-10 CLT at SDB Center, Janesville, Wis
- 22-24 Daytona Beach, Fla., church—Lawton
- 23 Boulder, Colo.—Appel
- 23 Next Step Church Dedication, Thornton, Colo.—Appel
- 23-24 Missionary Society Board of Managers, Ashaway, R.I.—Looper, Elston
- 23-24 Memorial Fund meeting, Thornton—Jan Ehlers, Appel
- 24 BCE Directors meeting, Alfred Station, N.Y.—Andrew Camenga
- 28-11/8 California churches—Looper, Elston

### November

- 5-7 Tract Council Annual Meeting, SDB Center—Butler
- 6 Scranton, S.C., church—Appel
- 12-14 S. Atlantic Assn., Daytona Beach—Appel
- 18-28 Lebanon—Looper



## Robe of Achievement Recipient quiet yet dedicated

The 2010 Women's Board Robe of Achievement was presented to Wilma Siedhoff Sanford of Little Genesee, N.Y. Her service in her church, community and Conference has been quiet, yet dedicated and extensive.

Wilma Siedhoff was born in Battle Creek, Mich., and grew up in Salem, W.Va. She was baptized in 1934 and joined the Salem SDB Church. After high school she graduated from Salem College in 1943. Wilma married Gordon Sanford of Little Genesee on August 7, 1943 while he was serving in the armed services.

She taught school in Ohio for one year and then worked for the civil service while Gordon was in the military. They returned to Little Genesee in 1946, at which time she joined the SDB church there.

Wilma has been a key member in her community. She was deeply involved in the Sunshine Society that functioned both as a church Ladies' Aid and a community group. They took care of the church's Community Center, putting on dinners to raise money for its upkeep and keeping it clean. The group organized community birthday parties and prepared meals for funerals of community members.

Willie was president of the Sunshine Society for a total of 19 years until it folded in 1995. She remains involved in the community through the Quilt Club, a group that meets weekly to quilt together. Her projects include a beautiful hanging for the SCSC table in 2005. She is also aware of neighbors' needs, lending a helping hand as needed. She and Gordon were named Town of Genesee Citizens of the Year in 1994.

Wilma has served her church in a variety of capacities, both official



“**Wilma has been a key member of her community and church.**”

and unofficial. She has always been ready to bring food to church functions and outreaches, and to help clean and keep up the facilities. She serves as a trustee (2003-present) and deaconess (2001-present), titles that recognize service she had been giving for many years prior.

She has the gift of hospitality. Many a visitor, pastor, or member of the First SDB Church of Genesee has been invited to lunch after worship services. The Sanfords have hosted SCSCers and befriended and mentored a number of young pastors who started their ministry there. Wilma and Gordon have been the quiet backbone of the church for many years, though they have intentionally passed their leadership roles to others

and worked to support new leaders.

Wilma served as treasurer of her church or co-treasurer of the denomination for more than 50 years. When Gordon was elected treasurer of Our World Mission (denominational budget) from 1963-1982, it was a partnership recognized by the Conference. In that age prior to computers, she did all the typing and much of the accounting.

She served as church treasurer for periods totaling more than 30 years during 1946-1962 and 1983-2008. She continues as assistant treasurer. Her careful attention to detail and willingness to serve others have been evident in her diligently-prepared reports, even in times of stress such as the rebuilding of the meetinghouse following its destruction by fire in 2001.

Wilma has frequently been a caregiver for others. She and Gordon raised four children: David, Cynthia Matthes, Steve, and Teresa Ploetz. They have been blessed with 10 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Wilma has cared for a number of family members as they neared the end of their lives, including her Grandmother Siedhoff in Salem, her mother Nida Hudson, and a number of in-laws. She has also served as a helpmeet to her husband; they just celebrated their 67<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Their marriage has been an example of tender devotion to many.

Since Wilma was unable to attend this year's General Conference, her niece Doreen Sanford Davis of the Seattle Area SDB Church received the robe in her place. The Robe and plaque were presented to Wilma on August 7 at her home church.

*“The greatest among you will be your servant” (Matthew 23:11).* **SR**



*At Conference, the Women's Board unveiled the new logo for the Women's Society (above).*

*To help bring the logo to life, Women's Board President Althea Rood and SR Women's Page Editor Kristin Camenga shared a series of vignettes at the Women's Banquet. They illustrated how this logo represents the work of the Women's Board throughout its history. Following is a short overview of their skit.*

In the new logo, you can see hands reaching out to the world. These are *our* hands and we are responding to the needs around us in the world.

At the center of what we are doing is the cross of Christ—we view the needs of the world from God's perspective and respond with His compassion and strength. In order to do this, we believe that we need to study God's Word to see through His eyes and share life deeply with each other to enable one another for service.

When the Women's Board was founded in 1884, the purpose was "to raise funds for our various denominational enterprises and to enlist the women of the denomination in these enterprises, in such ways and by such means as may seem to them practical and best, provided they do not involve this Conference in financial responsibility."

This can be seen in the ways we have worked with different Conference agencies throughout our history to meet needs at home and abroad.

### **Circa 1900: Promoting evangelism**

In 1910, the China Mission had been in existence for 63 years.

Through her letters, Lucy Carpenter—one of the early missionaries of the 1840s—sparked a Conference-wide vision for mission there. When the Women's Society was formed, they immediately worked with the Missionary Society not just to support mission workers, but to create a process for female missionaries to apply and be recruited.

Missionaries like Dr. Ella Swinney, Dr. Rosa Palmborg and Susie Burdick were sent to China in the late



*Althea Rood (l.) and Kristin Rood in character during the banquet.*

1800s and served for decades. Another round of workers like Dr. Grace Crandall and the West sisters each served many years in the first half of the 1900s.

Missions were not limited to half-way across the globe. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Women's Society supported women's quartets, field evangelists, and tract publishing. They used methods like thank-offering boxes, Lord's Acre projects, quilt sales, and prayer calendars to support these works financially and prayerfully. Between 1884 and 1897, the Women's Society raised \$60,000

to support missions at home and abroad—the equivalent of \$1.5 million in today's currency!

### **1964: Providing leadership development**

A new vision was birthed in the 1960s—a program to train young adults for service in their own churches and among SDBs across the country. You might know this program better as SCSC (Summer Christian Service Corps).

Students in this program join in local church projects to serve as needed. Currently, through advance modules and in-depth training, students are given tools for service that are practiced in teams. These team relationships are foundational in learning and serving each summer. Study and experience are key tools to equip our young adults for ministry.

The Women's Board has always been committed to organizing this leadership development opportunity and raising funds for it, fulfilling their goal of not placing a financial burden on other agencies of the Conference. Sales at the Conference craft table, donations from individuals, soup and salad luncheons, special offerings in local congregations, and many other means have been used to raise money for SCSC. The students also raise part of the money themselves. Many others volunteer their time to review applications and organize projects, serve as training staff, lead the SCSC teams as project directors, and to pray for those involved.

### **2010: Mobilizing support for seminary students**

Currently, our Conference faces a new and exciting challenge. We have

*cont. on page 24*

# Scripture Memory

Conference Theme: “Living in”

## Youth/Adult

The Scripture Memorization Program for 2010-2011 Conference Year will focus on Conference President Stephen Rogers’ theme: “**Living in the Fruit of the Spirit.**”

The Board of Christian Education has chosen these verses to be memorized by the family. Anyone who prefers may memorize one or more of these verses from a different Bible version.

A list of persons from each church who have completed this Scripture Memorization Program should be submitted to the Board of Christian Education Office. The post-marked deadline is **July 1, 2011**. Certificates for those who memorize all verses will be distributed at the 2011 General Conference.

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

**October** Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and, Love your neighbor as yourself. (Luke 10:27)

---

**November** If you obey my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands, and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. (John 15:10-11)

---

**December** Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. (Ephesians 4:3)

---

**January** We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised. (Hebrews 6:12)

---

**February** I led them with cords of human kindness, with ties of love; I lifted the yoke from their neck and bent down to feed them. (Hosea 11:4)

---

**March** Live as children of light, for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth, and find out what pleases the Lord. (Ephesians 5:8b-10)

---

**April** Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. (Proverbs 3:3)

---

**May** Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. (Philippians 4:5)

---

**June** For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. (2 Peter 1:5-7)

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– or –

**1 Corinthians 13**



# Verses: 2010-2011

## the Fruit of the Spirit

### Junior

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. (Luke 10:27a)

I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. (John 15:11)

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. (Ephesians 4:3)

We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised. (Hebrews 6:12)

I led them with cords of human kindness, with ties of love. (Hosea 11:4a)

Live as children of light... and find out what pleases the Lord. (Ephesians 5:8b-10)

Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. (Proverbs 3:3)

Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. (Philippians 4:5)

For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control. (2 Peter 1:5-6a)

### Primary

Love the Lord your God with all your heart. (Luke 10:27a)

I have told you this so that my joy may be in you. (John 15:11a)

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit. (Ephesians 4:3)

We do not want you to become lazy. (Hebrews 6:12a)

I led them with cords of human kindness. (Hosea 11:4a)

Live as children of light. (Ephesians 5:8b)

Let love and faithfulness never leave you. (Proverbs 3:3a)

The Lord is near. (Philippians 4:5b)

...add to your faith goodness. (2 Peter 1:5)

### **1 Corinthians 13**



## Rediscovering our spiritual classics

The inspiration for this month's column came unexpectedly one afternoon this past spring when the Society's treasurer, Paul Green, stopped by. On that particular day, Paul brought an article from his files entitled, "Communing with the Saints" by Brian Donst, suggesting I might like to read it. It was published in the November 1986 issue of *The Christian Ministry*.

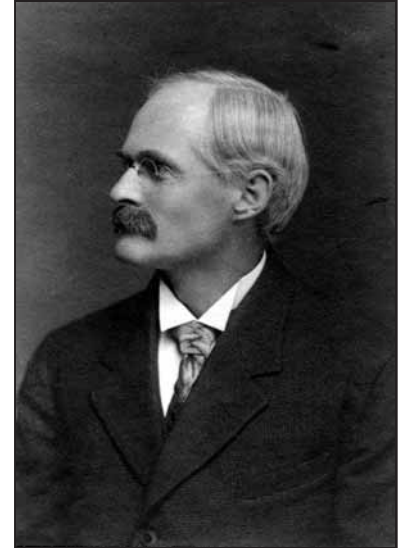
The author commends older spiritual writings—or "spiritual classics" as they are sometimes called—as a tremendous blessing to our own spiritual vitality. He refutes the idea that newer writings are more in tune with the Spirit of God because they are more "contemporary." Donst recounts in his own spiritual journey how he was encouraged by the writings of believers who have long since gone to their reward.

This lesson is one that resonates with me. It reminded me of a professor at Denver Seminary who routinely remarked that believers today often stubbornly refuse to see the gaping holes in their own spiritual lives because they are not able to receive the wisdom of godly people from the past.

This professor also encouraged us to read spiritual classics like Brother Lawrence's *The Practice of the Presence of God*; Thomas à Kempis' *The Imitation of Christ*; *Confessions* by Augustine; and *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis. While the works are not canon and must be read carefully, the spiritual wisdom they impart far outweighs the discerning work that must be done to mine them for spiritual treasure, and I commend them to you.

If you need guidance about what books you should read, talk to some spiritually mature people in your local congregation. Ask them about what books have been helpful to them, and follow in their footsteps!

Furthermore, as you consider your spiritual journey as a Seventh Day Baptist you should also look to those with similar convictions. I submit the following to you as a partial list of "SDB Classics" from our past which you should consider for your edification. Many of these works are difficult to track down because they are out of print, but the Historical Society is working to make




*Rev. George B. Shaw authored a pair of what could be considered "SDB Classics."*

them more widely available. Some are already at Google Books ([books.google.com](https://books.google.com)).

If your church has a library, these books are likely to be found in it. If you can't access a copy, please contact the Society and we'll try to find one you can read:

- ***Allen of Alfred*** by E. (Edwin) H. Lewis was published in 1932. It contains gems of wisdom from Jonathan Allen, long-time instructor and President of Alfred University. After a biographical sketch of Allen, brief devotional-length thoughts follow on topics ranging from righteousness to faith.
- ***Letters to Young Preachers*** by A.H. Lewis. Published in 1900 near the end of his life, this was Lewis' attempt to impart wisdom to a new generation of SDB leaders. The insights he shares are good for much more than young preachers. Several of his other works would be good fodder for extended study and belong on this list as well.
- ***Pulpit Gleanings*** and ***Letters from the Haymow*** by George B. Shaw are two works that include sermons and personal letters, respectively, from the beloved SDB pastor. Both give practical insights and clear wisdom about how to live life.

God's blessings as you search our spiritual classics and grow in your walk with Jesus Christ! 



## FOCUS on Missions

# T.I.M.E. around the world

by Kirk Looper

A program for pastors available through the Missionary Society is called “Training In Ministry by Extension” (T.I.M.E.). It has been offered to our sister countries and churches for the last two decades.

Over the past 10 years the number of countries using T.I.M.E. has increased substantially. Presently the Missionary Society has supplied and partially supported programs in nine different Conferences. These include Brazil, Cameroon, Ghana, Guyana, Liberia, Malawi, the Philippines, Sierra Leone, and Uganda. Each country has advanced through the program at a different rate depending upon the funds available and the amount of time the leadership has to commit to the program.

The major part of the preparation was completed through the work of Rev. Rodney Henry. He established the T.I.M.E. program for the Philippines and started the work there in the 1980s.

Rod has returned several times to upgrade their program and help them produce a Manual of Procedures for their Conference. Since its inception, he has updated the program’s literature and modules several times. We appreciate Pastor Henry’s dedication to this program and look forward to hearing of his more recent trip to the Philippines to help them again.

Few countries have full-time coordinators. In some cases the Conference has established a person and budget to get the work done. Usually the funds came from the U.S.

In the case of Brazil, they were blessed through the contacts that Pastor Jonas Sommer developed with the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation. Members of the USA and Canada Conference support the work in Brazil through their donations, but mostly through special offerings from the General Conference. Last year and again this year, Brazil will receive funds from the tithe of the

Conference Services portion of our denominational income.

Other Conferences are not as well blessed. They will depend upon donations from individuals and churches through the Missionary Society.

Each T.I.M.E. program may require up to \$22,000 per year for a steady and successful course. In most of the countries mentioned above it will not cost that much; they can creep along on \$500 per year. The process will take longer and does not supply for as many participants, but it continues forward.

It would be great to have some churches of our Conference dedicate a nominal amount per month to support this work. It would advance the churches in our sister Conferences and ensure growth in those countries. Due to lack of funds, some

Conferences have temporarily discontinued the program, but hope that they can restart at a later date when funds are available.

It is wonderful that the Brazil T.I.M.E. program is supported in this method and we are pleased that they have an opportunity to run a completely funded program for their pastors. It would be wonderful to have some of our churches and individuals support the work in other countries with a small donation each month. You could choose the country and send the funds to the Missionary Society to forward to your country of interest.

The effectiveness of our sister Conferences and churches depends upon the work of their pastors. By giving them some education we are able to help support their pastors’ ministries.

The Missionary Society furnishes the study materials for most of the T.I.M.E. programs but cannot support the total program in any of the countries. We continue to pray that funds will be furnished to enable all of the countries to complete the training. **SR**

“  
***It would be great to have some churches dedicate a nominal amount per month to support this work. It would advance the churches in our sister Conferences.***  
”





# the BEACON

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

September 2010

## Youth Pre-Con led vespers

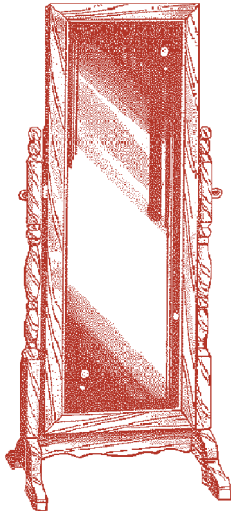
Yup. On Thursday. Who knew they could sing? (left) And play? (below)



Check out many more full-color  
pics at [www.seventhdaybaptist.org](http://www.seventhdaybaptist.org)



Oh, and don't forget the awesome Youth Banquet!



# 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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## The mysterious grandchild connection

*"On the seventh day God rested. His grandchildren must have been out of town." —Humorist Gene Perret*

Grandchildren are a great blessing. Proverbs 17:6 tells us, "Children's children are a crown to the aged." They can also be a mixed blessing.

On the positive side, you don't have to be around your grandchildren 24/7, like you were when you raised your own children. Most of us can pop in and out of their homes, staying six hours or six minutes. No all-day child rearing responsibilities; no guilt when you leave.

When the grandkids arrive at my house, I can enjoy them for as long as I like, then send them home to exhaust their parents instead of me. As that sage grandparent, Rev. Rodney Henry, once confided, "The hardest thing about being a grandparent is pretending to be sad when the grandchildren leave."

There's an unwritten rule that grandparents have a lot of leeway in how they relate to their grandkids. Many of us enjoy the "Spoil 'em Rotten" approach. My favorite T-shirt reads, "Grandma's Rules: Buy them presents, feed them sweets, send them home." As someone else remarked, "Grandmas are moms with lots of frosting."

I believe that God has given grand-

parents an innate ability to "connect" with the younger generation. We can provide extra love and encouragement at just the right moments to make grandkids feel special. Alex Haley wrote, "Nobody can do for little children what grandparents do. Grandparents sort of sprinkle stardust over the lives of little children."

Grandchildren can also make us feel special. Doug Larson penned, "Few things are more delightful than grandchildren fighting over your lap."

Our children's children also restock our storehouse of pride: "No cowboy was ever faster on the draw than a grandparent pulling a baby picture out of a wallet" (author unknown). And as a Jewish proverb says, "One of life's greatest mysteries is how the boy who wasn't good enough to marry your daughter can be the father of the smartest grandchild in the world."

Grandchildren can easily turn your bifocals into rose-colored glasses. Lois Wyse noted, "A mother becomes a true grandmother the day she stops noticing the terrible things her children do because she is so enchanted with the wonderful things her grandchildren do."

There are a few negatives.

Many grandparents no longer have the energy—or the patience—they had during their parenting years. Perret once asked, "Why are grandchildren always so full

of energy? They suck it out of their grandparents."

Sometimes it's difficult to accept how grandchildren are being raised. I grew up when it was common for a parent to deliver a quick swat to a certain padded part of a misbehaving child's lower anatomy. "Time outs" only occurred in sports.

Today's parents make mistakes, but *we* didn't do everything right, either. Mothers of my generation laid sleeping infants on their stomachs and sent helmetless children off on bicycles. (My kids still wonder how they survived childhood.)

Admittedly, we grandparents can be easily manipulated. Perret observed, "Grandchildren are the only people who can get more out of you than the IRS."

Sometimes manipulation isn't necessary. Paul Linden said, "Something magical happens when parents turn into grandparents. Their attitude changes from 'money-doesn't-grow-on-trees' to spending it like it does."

As South African cleric Desmond Tutu wisely pointed out, "You don't choose your family. They are God's gift to you, as you are to them."

I thank the Lord for the precious gift of grandchildren, and pray that He helps me to offer wise advice and loving guidance as they grow physically and spiritually. May the child in me continue to nurture precious, fun-filled memories that will be shared with future generations. **SR**



**The President's Page**  
by Stephen Rogers

Holland, Michigan July 31–Aug. 6, 2011

## Living in the Fruit of the Spirit

*“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit” (Galatians 5:22-25).*

At Conference I spoke of Henry David Thoreau and how he began his two-year stay on Walden Pond on July 4, 1845. It was there he intended to live in solitude, existing only on the fruits of his own labors.

In his book, Thoreau gives this explanation for his actions: “I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived.”

Thoreau wanted to get the most from his life by determining what was really important and then live that life.

Someone might ask me, “Why did you pick this Conference theme and what do you hope to gain from

pursuing it?” Paraphrasing Thoreau, my answer might go something like this: “I selected this theme because I wished us to live deliberately; to examine the basic qualities of our faith—to put them into practice in our lives—so that we would not discover in the end that we had not lived.”

In re-reading the passage about the Fruit of the Spirit, I was reflecting about my church in Salem, West Virginia, and how it was grown and changed from the time it was first organized. It is not the same church that I grew up in as a boy and yet it is the same church, and I still attend there today. Why is that?

Many faces in the church have changed, but the church has not changed. Of course the original church building is gone but the present one sits on the same site where the original log church was constructed over 200 years ago. We still reaffirm our church covenant annually. That covenant was written in 1745 when the church was first established in Shrewsbury, New Jersey.

*“We do give of ourselves unto the Lord, and to one another, to be*

*guided and governed by one another according to the word of God.*

*“We do promise to engage to walk in all holiness and godliness, humility and brotherly love as much as in us lies, to render our communion delightful to God, comfortable to ourselves and lovely to the rest of the Lord’s people.”*

Yes, the people have changed and the building has changed, but the church has not changed.

Living a Spirit-filled life is shown in the way we relate to ourselves, the way we relate to others, and the way we relate to God. In the case of my church’s covenant, we can identify the Spirit’s present fruit in language of those promises written so long ago.

Some years back I was hitchhiking home from school. I was able to get a ride with a man who was a “talker.” Fortunately for me my ride in the car was a short one.

As I got out of the car I thanked my benefactor for his kindness with an apology for not being able to give him anything in return for his trouble. He said, “No problem. Just pass it on.”

He had shown me a kindness without expecting anything in return. I believe that is what God expects from us—to pass on the fruit of the Spirit so that others may feed on it, grow with it, and live in it. Too often our temptation is to pass by on the other side of life’s road as did the priest and the Levite in Luke 10. We “pass on it” and miss the opportunity to “pass it on.”

Throughout this Conference year I would encourage you to look for opportunities to sow the fruit of the Spirit, to grow in the fruit of the Spirit, to give of the fruit of the Spirit, to believe in the fruit of the Spirit, to receive of the fruit of the Spirit, to forgive in the fruit of the Spirit, so you can live in the fruit of the Spirit. **SR**





by Executive Director  
Rob Appel

## Together We Can

In my role as Executive Director, I travel to many churches and other ministries, spending a lot of time on buses, in cars, in airports and on planes.

During my travels I encounter many things. On one trip to Washington, D.C., last March, I witnessed something for the first time. While we were loading the plane in Chicago, one man threatened bodily harm to another just to try to get by him.

It ended up that the man who was threatened (Doug) sat right next to me. Understandably, he was disturbed that this other man had said such harsh words, especially since the man was half his size. Doug used to play basketball at Indiana University.

Doug was convinced that this other man was unstable and even asked him if he had “taken his meds” today. To calm Doug down I asked him questions about what he was traveling for, where he lived, if he had any family, and how was it to play for Bobby Knight at Indiana.

As we disembarked in Washington, the man who had threatened Doug caught up to me on an escalator. He asked where the guy was that was sitting next to me. I said that he got off the plane before me and I wasn't sure. The man went on to say that he wanted to apologize for his actions. He had a rough start to his day and was taking it out on Doug. Doug did not get to hear this apology.



Doug went on to his business in D.C. Imagine if you were threatened with bodily harm—even if you might not ever see this man again—how that thought might creep back into your mind from time to time? I thought about that as well.

From talking to Doug on the plane as I was calming him down, I gleaned some valuable information. He worked for a lobbying group for standardized treatment of Alzheimer's. I learned the city and state he lived in. He was going to an event in Washington. Through these tidbits I was able to locate Doug's number and leave a message on his phone.

He called me back. Doug was shocked that I was able to locate him through the internet, especially since I only had his first name. I told him how the other man caught up to me on the escalator. Doug was so thankful that I took the time to locate him and pass on this news. He said it meant so much to him.

### **We can make a difference in this world—especially if we work together!**

Last year at Conference in Lancaster, Pa., we voted to appoint a five-member *ad hoc* committee to “discover, plan, and formulate a suggested configuration for the General Conference organizational structure that we can all work with going forward. This includes all the functions of the Conference, the Boards and Agencies, the goals, the budget, and accountability.”

At this year's Conference in Springfield, Mo., we reviewed the committee's nine recommendations and voted to accept them and start the process they suggested and we affirmed.

It has been six years that we have worked together. We are embarking on a significant year: year Seven. In the Bible, the seventh year was normally reserved as a sabbatical year for the crops. In many circles of higher learning today it denotes a time of needed refreshment.

In our Conference work, this will not be the case. I see this seventh year as a time of excitement, encouragement, process, implementation and agreement on our future as Seventh Day Baptists.

We can struggle alone, or we can work as a team. Please remember when you feel that you are all alone in a struggle or opportunity, **Together We Can! SR**





## Are you giving all your mite?

by Ruth Reynolds  
Memorial Fund Trustee



*“And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much. And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing. And he called unto him his disciples and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury: For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living.” (Mark 12:41-44 KJV)*

As I think about this example pointed out by Jesus, three things stand out for me.

The first is that she was poor and a widow. The Bible makes it very clear that widows were one of the poorest groups during that time in history. Acts 6 tells us that seven deacons were appointed to take care of the widows who were neglected during the daily distributions.

The financial situation of today’s church members can vary significantly. With the way the economy is, many people are concerned about their day-to-day financial obligations. Yet the widow of the Bible—knowing that she would not have anything left once she threw in her two mites—did it anyway.

Second is the amount thrown into the treasury. Her offering was two mites. Dictionary.com defines a mite as “a coin of very small value, especially an obsolete British coin worth half a farthing.” And what is a farthing? The same source defines farthing as “a coin formerly used in Great Britain worth one fourth of a penny.”

There is no question that the amount given by the widow could be considered insignificant. In fact, very few of us would even consider putting pennies in the offering plate, never mind two mites.


But it’s obvious by Jesus’ words that he did not consider her contribution to be insignificant. Quite the opposite. He takes the time to point out the widow’s gift, stressing that her tiny contribution held greater value than the larger amounts given by those who were rich.

Lastly is the apparent sacrifice demonstrated by her offering. Like many students, I had a part-time job in a fast food restaurant. Initially the goal was to have spending money, buy a car, and then later help with university tuition. Money was generally tight. However, my mother always said something to her three girls that has stuck with me to this day: “If you cannot give from a little, then you’re not going to give from a lot.”

I believe that my mother was trying to teach us what it truly means to give freely to God. To take from a little—knowing that you would have even less or nothing at all—requires sacrifice and faith. There were a few times when I said to God, “This is the last dollar I have to my name, so I am depending on You, Lord, to work it out.”

The Bible doesn’t speak of the widow’s motive but I would like to think that she gave in faith, confident in the knowledge that God would continue to meet her needs. If we give in faith, like the widow, I am confident that He will meet our needs, too.

How many of us use the excuse, “God will understand,” when we allow the offering plate to pass us by?

Let us keep in mind 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 when we give to God, remembering that He truly knows our hearts: *“But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.”* 



# Pastor Profile

## Pastor Profile

**Name:**

Richard “Bill” Burks

**Birthdate and place:**

August 1, 1953 Council, Idaho

**Current positions:**

Senior Pastor, Remembrance SDB Church,  
Fort Worth, Texas (since 2005)  
Principle Staff Engineer, Motorola Inc.

**Family:**

Wife: Cindy

Sons: Eric and Carl

**Education:**

Del Valle (Texas) High School  
United Electronics Institute—Associates in Electronics  
T.I.M.E. graduate (1999)  
Missionary Baptist Seminary—Bachelors in Bible;  
Masters and Doctorate in Theology with an em-  
phasis in Biblical languages

**Former positions:**

Little Rock (AR) SDB Church: Assistant Pastor  
(1998-1999)

Doniphan (MO) SDB Church: Associate Pastor  
(2000-2004)

**My first ministry position was:**

Pastor of the Church of God Seventh Day in Jones-  
boro, Ark.

**Personal hero:**

Dr. John Penn, professor at Missionary Baptist  
Seminary.

**Favorite childhood memory:**

The summers I used to spend with my aunt and  
uncle in Belton, Texas.

**Favorite Bible passage:**

Galatians 2:20

**Favorite author:**

Alistair MacLean

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

Go to Israel.

**A great answer to prayer was:**

For my wife Cindy.

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

Working on the Remembrance SDB website and  
adding Podcasts.

**My vision for SDBs:**

I would like to see SDBs engaged in actively planting  
Biblical churches throughout America; could call  
it the “50 state agenda.” I would also like to see  
major cities have multiple churches.

**Center on Ministry Updates**

We have two new T.I.M.E. students:  
**Edson Barrett**, Philadelphia, Pa., and  
**Huethen Livingston**, Enfield, Conn.

And don't forget that October is  
***Pastor Appreciation Month!***

## Study, Sharing, *cont. from p. 13*

12 students in the Seminary Education Program, and this outstrips the funds that the Council on Ministry has available.

We as the Women's Board believe this is another opportunity to come alongside a need in the Conference. In fact, we feel we had a part in *creating* this problem, since nine of these 12 students went through SCSC, and a number have said that this experience was important in helping them consider pastoral ministry!

This is an opportunity to continue the leadership development of SCSC. The Women's Board has voted to allocate \$10,000 that we had saved

toward these needs. We have also agreed to share our SCSC student fund-raising guidelines to help the seminary students who are now being asked to do the same.

We continue to look for ways to work together to raise these funds and support the students and their future ministry within our Conference.

### 2060: ???

Who knows what needs that 50 more years will bring to our Conference? It's already clear that we are meeting current needs for study, service and sharing in new ways—some of which didn't

even exist a few years ago!

The traditional Ladies Aid model is not working in many of our churches. Different groups of women are finding alternative models including craft and service groups, retreats, special events, and online Bible studies. While the method may be a little different, the goals are still focused around study, sharing and service.

Our new logo recognizes that as we study God's Word and share our lives, we will be motivated to serve together, meeting needs at home and across the globe. Christ and His cross will always be our focus, even though the needs, circumstances and methods change! **SR**

## Stonefort happenings

### Third Sabbath Celebration

*by Elaine Keely*

We were so pleased to have Pastor Ron Elston with us for the annual homecoming service at the Old Stonefort, Ill., SDB Church. There were 49 people present at the May 15 meeting.

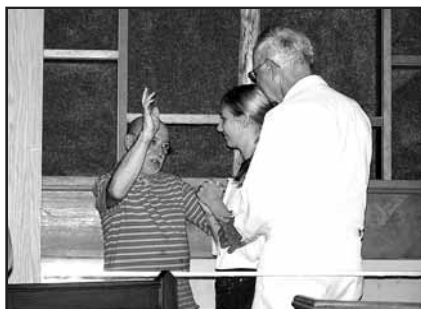
Bill Bethel did a fine job leading the service. He began by saying how good it was to have Mabel Hill there since she was in the hospital during last year's "Third Sabbath" celebration. Merritt Mills still has his singing voice, and he shared two songs with us and led the congregational singing. We love singing those old songs!

Uncle Arthur Lewis also sang two songs, and Carolyn Bethel sang her own composition called "Happy." We enjoyed seeing Kim Buchanon with the children, and I'm sure they enjoyed her story as well.

Communion time brought to mind all the ones who have gone before us. Bill read some of the names of those precious people. The old saying that children need "both roots and wings"

is so true. Sometimes I think we concentrate on the wings and they fly into the world instead of getting rooted and grounded in the Truth.

May God be with us 'til we meet again! **SR**



### Stonefort Baptism

*by Alice Brooks*

Rev. Ron Elston officiated at the baptism of Meghan Hartman on a very hot August day in Stonefort, Ill. The Missionary Baptist Church allowed us to use their baptistery for the event.

Meghan is the granddaughter of Ron and Alice Brooks, and she requested that Grandpa be permitted to assist Pastor Elston in the service.

Meghan testified, "I want to make Christ the center of my life, and felt the call to be baptized according to Matthew 28:19." She spent the past year searching for answers to life's questions, then joined "The Navigators" Christian group on the University of Illinois campus. She graduated from there and plans to attend University of Grand Canyon in Phoenix, Ariz., to become a nurse practitioner.

About a dozen people participated in the service which closed by us joining in a circle and singing "The Family of God." **SR**

## New members

**Alfred Station, NY**  
*Kenneth Chroniger, pastor*  
Joined after baptism  
Martha Thompson  
Joined after testimony  
Joyce Larson

**Central, MD**  
*David Taylor, pastor*  
Joined after testimony  
Alfonza Watson

**Metro Atlanta, GA**  
*John Pethtel, pastor*  
Joined after testimony  
James Leverette

**Middle Island, WV**  
*D. Scott Smith, pastor*  
Joined after testimony  
Aaron B. Smith  
Amanda M. Smith  
D. Scott Smith  
Jean F. Smith

**Texarkana, AR**  
*Mynor Soper, pastor*  
Joined after testimony  
Caleb Gammons

## Marriages

**Gant – Colvin.** Roby Gant and Amanda Colvin were united in marriage on May 1, 2010 in Liberal, KS.

**Gayhart – Quick.** Joseph Gayhart and Bethany Quick were united in marriage on May 16, 2010 at the Alfred Station (NY) Seventh Day Baptist Church. Rev. Kenneth Chroniger officiated.

**Fox – Hargett.** David Sebastian Fox and Rachel Faith Hargett were united in marriage on August 6, 2010 in Rome, GA. Rev. John J. Pethtel officiated.

## Birth

**Weibel.**—A son, David Clark Weibel, was born to Dennis and Angie (Barnes) Weibel of Castile, NY, on April 30, 2010.

## Obituaries

**Bee.**—Arlene J. Bee, 73, of Ocala, Fla., died on June 12, 2010 at her home. She was born on September 15, 1936 in Jersey City, N.J., the daughter of Nils R. and Eleanor J. LeBom.

Arlene graduated from Douglas College (Rutgers University) in 1958 with a Bachelor's degree in English, and from The George Washington University in 1979 with a Master of Arts in Education and Human Development. Arlene taught in the public schools of New Jersey, Maryland and New York since 1971. She also taught child development psychology to nursing students at Charles County Community College in Maryland. She was featured in the national TV broadcast of *Conflict in the Classroom* in the fall of 1980.

She retired in 2000 after 15 years of teaching English at Andover (N.Y.) Central School. Following her retirement Arlene led literary clubs for Morningside House, an assisted living community in Waldorf, Md. Arlene was beloved by her students, fellow faculty and parents. She received many letters of tribute prior to and following her death.

Arlene served as a youth leader, Sabbath School teacher, and deaconess of the Alfred Station (N.Y.) Seventh Day Baptist Church. She was a N.E.T. trainer for the SDB Board of Christian Education, teaching communication skills in churches across the United States and Jamaica.

Survivors include her husband, Ernest K. Bee Jr.; three sons from

a previous marriage, Charles J. Franchino MD, Pittsburgh, Pa., Salvatore A. Franchino, Jupiter, Fla., and Raymond Franchino, Raritan, N.J.; one stepson, Jeffery S. Bee, Middleburg, Fla.; one stepdaughter, Trisha K. Bee, Gaithersburg, Md.; a sister, Elaine Seibel, Hill, N.H.; three grandchildren and two stepgrandchildren.

A memorial service was held on June 21, 2010 at the Legacy House Chapel of Hospice of Marion County with the Rev. Dr. Jack Cushman, Chaplain, officiating. Burial will be in the Pine Grove Cemetery, Berea, W.Va. on September 15, 2010 with the Rev. Dr. Kenneth D. Chroniger officiating.

## Death Notices

**Jean L. Pierce**, 90, of Alfred Station, N.Y., died on January 16, 2010.

**N. Keith Palmiter**, 83, of Arkport, N.Y., died on May 22, 2010.

**Howard A. McAuliffe**, 77, of Higganum, Conn., died on July 7, 2010.

**Evelyn Moland Thomas**, 94, of Rochester, N.Y., died on July 14, 2010.

**Ivan H. FitzRandolph**, 88, of Milton, Wis., died on August 13, 2010.



# Leon Lawton: Six decades as pastor, missionary, executive

**Lawton.**—The Rev. Leon Redford Lawton, 86, of Westerly, R.I., died peacefully on July 18, 2010. He was the beloved husband of Dorothy G. (Brannon) Lawton.

Born in Battle Creek, Mich., on May 21, 1924 he was the son of Stephen R. and Ethel (Chapin) Lawton. At age 12, Leon trusted Christ as his Savior, was baptized in a small lake and joined the Battle Creek Seventh Day Baptist Church.

He became an Eagle Scout at the age of 13 and graduated from Lakeview High School in 1942. He attended Western Michigan College in Kalamazoo that fall but was drafted in 1943 and served in the U.S. Army during World War II. Leon was a conscientious objector who was trained as a medic and later served as a company clerk. His rank at discharge was first sergeant having received a Bronze Star, Victory Medal and the Netherlands Gold Medal of Honor. During Leon's entire school, work and military years, he always asked for Sabbath off and was rewarded by God for his faithfulness by being allowed to work other days.

Leon received his Bachelor's degree from Salem (W.Va.) College and a Master of Divinity from the American Baptist Seminary of the West in Covina, Calif.

His pastoral ministry began as a student pastor in Salem in the summer of 1948, and concluded in 2009 when he stepped down as pastor of the Waterford, Conn., SDB Church. He served in Chicago, Ill. and Walworth, Wis. (1948-49); Los Angeles, Calif. (1950-56, ordained there); Charles Street SDB Church, Kingston, Jamaica (1956-60, 1961-64); Lost Creek and Roanoke, W.Va.



(1960-61, acting pastor for 9 months); Brookfield and Leonardville, N.Y. (1966-68); Denver, Colo. (1969-70); Rockville, R.I. (in rotation with other area pastors, 1970-2009); and Waterford (1992-2009).

While he and his family were missionaries to Jamaica, he was the Supervisor and Corresponding Secretary of the Jamaica Mission Field. Returning to the states, he became Director of Evangelism on the Home Field for the SDB Missionary Society (1964-69), and then Executive Vice President for the Missionary Society, 1970-1991.

Pastor Lawton was the training director for the Summer Christian Service Corps from 1965 to 1978, and also served the SDB World Federation as treasurer for 21 years. Over a three-month period in 1974, he and General Secretary Alton Wheeler made a worldwide "ambassador trip" visiting nearly all of the SDB sister Conferences.

He was past president of the Hopkinton (R.I.) Historical Society and a life member of the Seventh Day Baptist Historical Society.

Besides his loving and devoted wife of over 63 years, he will be sadly missed by his children, Duane E. Lawton of Charlevoix, Mich., Gordon P. Lawton of Milton, Wis., Patricia G. Tauscher of Bristol, Va., and Jeffrey G. Lawton of Bradford, R.I. He also leaves 11 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at the Pawcatuck SDB Church, Westerly, R.I., on September 19, 2010. Burial will be in the Evergreen Cemetery, Albion, Wis. **SR**

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## North Loup flooded

"June 12<sup>th</sup> started pretty much as a normal Saturday morning in North Loup, Nebraska... Unbeknownst to [the residents] that this was a day that would make history..."

Thus begins Twila Leth's reporting of the flood of 2010 in the "Prairie Post" newsletter of the North Loup SDB Church.

Recent heavy rains had overflowed area waterways, and when a dam

broke outside of North Loup, the whole north side of town (including the church and parsonage) was flooded.

With heavy damage done to the church basement, many activities were cancelled or moved. All of the electrical systems were affected—air conditioning, elevator, water heater—and carpets, books, paper goods, toys and more were thrown

out. The church's camp was also affected, causing the cancellation of Junior Camp and the rescheduling of others.

Cleanup and repairs continue. For more on the story, go to the church's website ([www.NLSDBChurch.net](http://www.NLSDBChurch.net)) or use our "Churches" link at [seventhdaybaptist.org](http://seventhdaybaptist.org). The disaster was also reported in our SDB Exec Blog on June 14. **SR**

# KEVIN'S

## ORNER

### Ready to take the stand?

Following the exhaustion that is our annual Conference, I had another “stressor” added to my schedule this year. I was selected to be “on call” for jury duty during the month of August.

And this wasn’t at city court or even county court. This was for the U.S. District Court up in Madison.

They did offer me a chance to submit a letter for dismissal. Not wanting to shirk my civic duty, I kept my name on the list.

I did request a delay for my start date since we were to be with Matt and Danielle to celebrate Adrik’s second birthday on our way home from Conference. (Hope you grandparents enjoy Leanne’s “Reflections” column this month.)

Each Tuesday afternoon I had to call the court office, enter my juror ID number and then listen to a recording to see if I had been chosen to serve.

I learned a few things from this experience. First, being “on call” was driving me crazy! I’m someone who has to schedule things and plan out my days (and days off—which have been very few this year). I have definite weekly and monthly deadlines and expectations. This fuzzy “on call” stuff did not fit my temperament.

Second, I learned a lot more about our court system.

When I opened the official mailing and first saw the *Handbook for Trial Jurors*, I kind of chuckled. Don’t they realize that I’ve seen countless courtroom dramas on TV since the days of Perry Mason?

The handbook contained (*yawn*) basic definitions of the court system, and (*stretch*) different terms used within criminal and civil cases. But then (*eyes widen*) it proceeded to explain some specific procedures of a case, and the duties and conduct of the jury. It told what the jurors

could and could not do—mostly the “could nots”—before, during and after the trial.

Interesting stuff.

It made me want to draft a similar handbook for new people coming to church.

Thinking about church shifted my thoughts to our heavenly Judge, and our desperate need for a lawyer or mediator.

After Job was afflicted with his struggles, he posed some very pointed questions to the Lord. Adrian Rogers once paraphrased the exchange from Job chapter 9:

*“Oh God, You are holy, I am sinful. I need You. God, I can’t argue with You. If You bring me into court, I can’t answer one of a thousand questions.*

*“I’m a sinner. I need somebody to go between. I need somebody to bring me to You. I need somebody who can lay his hands upon us both.*

*“I need an arbiter. I need a middleman. I need a mediator.”*

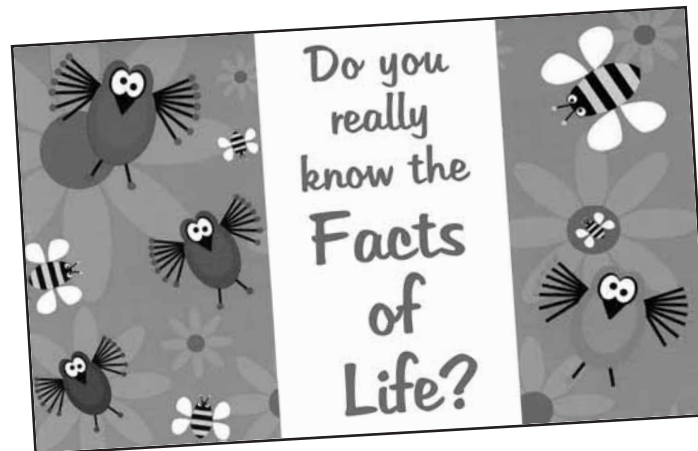
Could such a person be found? Many centuries later, one man did appear, as described in 1 Timothy 2:5-6, “For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for us all.”

Job knew that he needed a savior, a mediator. He was longing for Jesus.

Jesus himself, in his humility and obedience, built that “bridge” between man and God—a bridge made out of a wooden cross.

I pray that our lives would be on the witness stand, always testifying that because of our heavenly lawyer and mediator, we are confident that the case for eternal salvation will be decided in our favor.





## The Offer of Salvation

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

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