



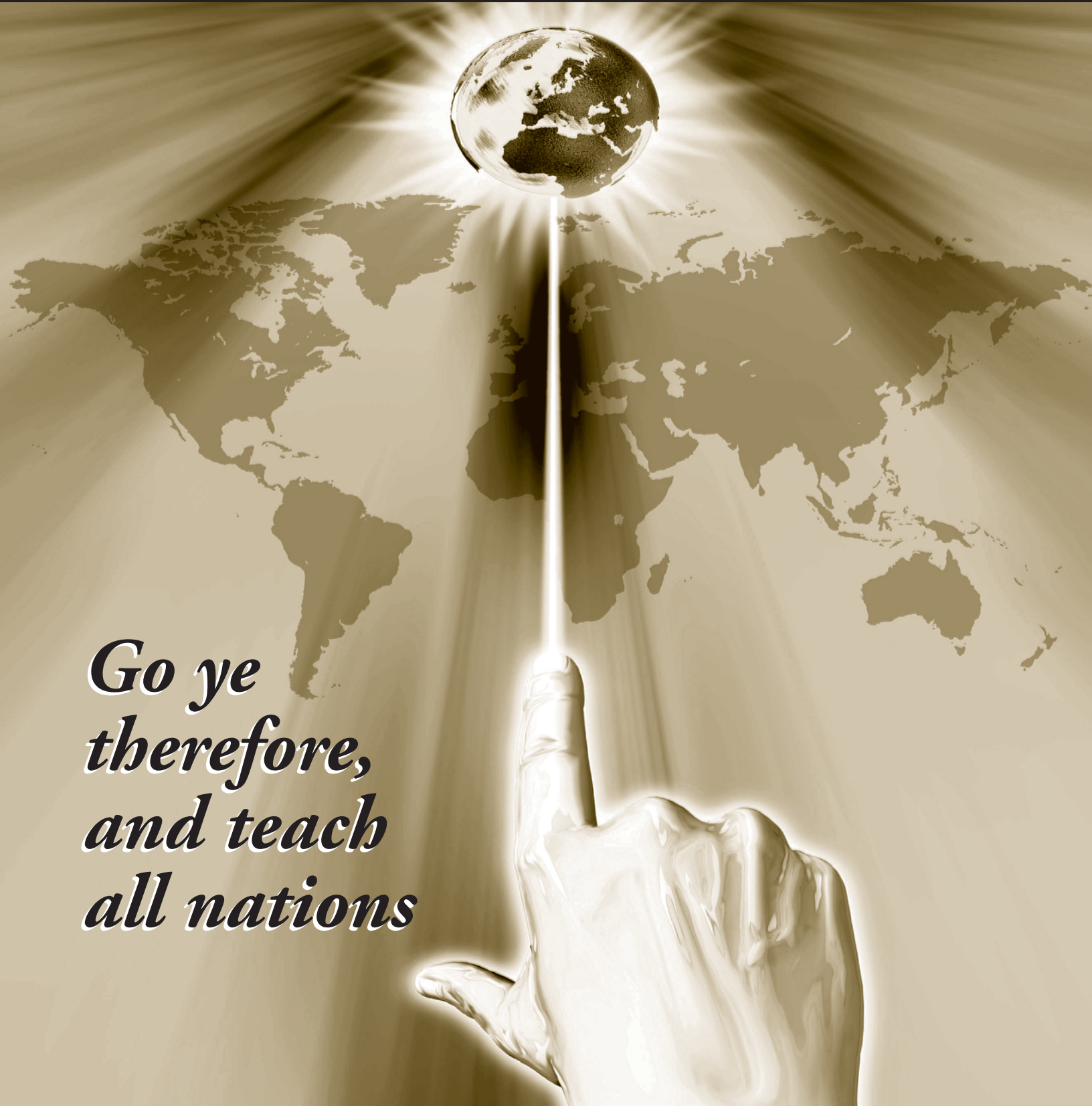
The
Sabbath
RECORDER

Inside:

2011
Missions
Issue

January 2011

News for and about Seventh Day Baptists



*Go ye
therefore,
and teach
all nations*



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



EST. 1964

SUMMER CHRISTIAN SERVICE CORPS

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

Student applications must be postmarked by

January 10, 2011. All church applications must be postmarked by **January 21, 2011** — NO exceptions.

Please note: Once again we are limiting our students to only two weeks of camp. Please see the website for further information. If have any questions, please contact the SCSC Committee at the above address or by e-mail at scsc@miltonsdb.org.

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 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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The future of the Philippines

What do the pastors and churches believe?

by Pastor Rodney Henry

Rod and Camille Henry served as SDB missionaries to the Philippines in the 1980s. He has visited there several times since, helping to reinforce and update their T.I.M.E. (Training In Ministry by Extension) program. What follows is a report from his latest trip, made at the request of the SDB Missionary Society.

It was a long 38-hour trip of airplanes and airports after a wonderful Sabbath of dedicating our new church building in Thornton, Colo.

After my arrival in the Philippines, I spent the morning and afternoon with Pastor Al Paypa, president of the SDB Philippine Conference. He explained that he had made all the arrangements and that more than 50 pastors were planning to attend their Pastors' Conference.

Pastor Al was concerned that this conference could produce a great deal of conflict. As we talked, we both agreed that I could not change what I believe and teach on the core subjects.

What was taught before

Pastor Al (and his father before him, Pastor Eli Paypa) had taught that a pastor and church in the Philippines must agree with the SDB Statement of Belief to join the Conference. On all other matters outside of the Statement there was "freedom of conscience."

But other denominational leaders had taught that one could believe anything and still be a Seventh Day

Baptist. There had been many attempts to bring these churches together theologically, but their teaching never resolved the differences.

So now we would be doing the same thing we had done before—hoping that we could bring theological agreement and unity. I told Pastor Al that doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results is a definition of "insanity."

What to do now?

I asked, "What should we do differently this time?" Pastor Al suggested that it was time to re-establish the SDB Statement of Belief that was already part of their Conference by-laws. This would help them identify and unite.

I agreed. That day he created a document that pastors were to take back to their churches. Either their church accepted the SDB Statement of Belief, or they "were free to leave the Conference."

They were given until November to make their decision. On all points of the Statement of Belief they had



Pastor Al Paypa



SDBs help to feed many children in the Philippines each week.

to be in agreement to be part of the Conference. On other matters there was freedom of conscience. We both made it clear that the Conference is *not* deciding who is a *Christian*, but it is deciding who is a *Seventh Day Baptist*.

“Teach and admonish”

With this background, the teaching took on a new intensity since the future participation of some of the churches would be determined by their agreement with the Statement. The words of Colossians kept coming back to me: “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another.”

I taught extensively on the doctrine of salvation by grace. I taught on the ordinances of baptism and the Lord’s Supper. And I taught on the doctrine of the oneness and threeness of God.

On all the doctrines there were pointed questions. All during the teaching, it was reassuring to me that SDBs teach theological positions that go back to the great Reformers of history.

At the end of the Pastors’ Conference, President Paypa handed out forms that the pastors would take back to their churches. The form asked if they agreed with the Seventh Day Baptist Statement of Belief, and if they wanted to remain a part of the Philippine Conference. Pastor Al believed that the teaching had changed some pastors’ minds and put questions in the minds of others. I also did an altar call at the end of the teaching with four people accepting the Lord.

Sabbath: A time for worship and old friends

After the teaching was completed it was time for the Sabbath. I went



This sign points to the church where Pastor Paypa serves the Lord.

“*The Conference is not deciding who is a Christian, but it is deciding who is a Seventh Day Baptist.*”

to preach at the first church in the Cebu area and to see their ministry. The Bankal SDB Church with Pastor Paypa has a daycare with 17 children that they help and teach during the week. On Sunday afternoons they have a program with 90 children that they minister to and feed them lunch. I preached to a “church full,” and six people accepted the Lord.

Later, I went to the Cebu Seventh Day Baptist Church in Lanbangan and preached to many people I knew. It was good to see them again.

The final stop of the day was the Banawa SDB Church. This is the church of Pastor Bernard Agudera who died (in his 50s) this past year. His widow and daughters continue his ministry. They have an outreach to 30-50 children on Sabbath afternoons. They minister and feed these children every Sabbath.

Do what it takes, or Do what is right?

My trip reminded me of this text from Colossians 3:17, “And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”

There is always a temptation to try to control the outcome of various life situations. We assume that we know what the best outcome is, and then we “do whatever it takes” to get that result. Sometimes it is better to not speculate on the outcome and just *do what is right*—and leave the results up to God.

I don’t know what the final outcome is going to be regarding the churches of the SDB Philippine Conference. I attempted to do God’s will by being faithful to the Bible and gentle with the people, without compromising the teachings of the Word.

In the end, I have reason to give thanks to God, knowing that the future work of Seventh Day Baptists in the Philippines is in His hands. Let us remember to pray for their future. ✠

And from Missionary Society Executive Director Kirk Looper:

I want to thank Rod Henry for his commitment to our God and to Seventh Day Baptists. He is always ready and willing to go where we request and is heavily involved with several of our sister Conferences.

Rod is making plans to return to Serbia to further advance the denomination there. We are ready to accept donations for that trip and pray that you are willing to help support this work.



Big improvements in Guyana

by Calvin Babcock

I want to take this opportunity to thank all those who prayed for us and contributed toward the construction and renovation project of the manse in Kitty, Guyana, South America. Through each of you God provided sufficient funds and the right number of workers.

Prior to going there in July, we sent money to the Guyana SDB Conference for a new roof and new concrete steps. The steps were previously made of wood.

By the time we arrived the roof had been completed, except for the area covering the new steps. The steps were poured and the forms were still in place allowing the concrete to cure for a period of time.

Early on the morning of July 10, Sister Elnora Andries and I flew to Guyana from JFK Airport in New York City. After resting for a time, Sister Elnora and I met with Sister Bernice Trotz to review the work that was to be done in the following weeks.

It was determined that the original plans for renovation did not include enough floor space to accommodate the students that would be renting rooms. Floor plans were adjusted to increase the space for each room. The following day we started moving furniture, books, and other equipment away from the walls to give us a clear area on each side of the wall to be removed.

The following day was Sabbath and I attended the Kitty Seventh Day Baptist Church located in Georgetown. I was given the opportunity to give greetings to the brethren and



New windows and siding improved the exterior of the manse in Kitty, Guyana. The SDB church is at the left.

tell them that others were coming the following week to help with the renovation project.

On Sunday, Pastor Sherlock Caesar and I started removing the wall in one of the areas. As the week progressed, we started rebuilding the new wall and made great progress in doing that.

Early Thursday morning we went back to the airport to pick up Justin Camenga and Curtis Palmiter. Those of us who came from the United States carried approximately 75 pounds of hand tools each.

At the beginning of the third week we started working on the bathroom area. While considering the best way to approach adding a water closet, we discovered that the timbers holding up the existing concrete had badly deteriorated. In keeping with our plans not to build over wood timbers that had major decay, we decided to take out the existing walls and timber supporting the concrete floor, as well as the concrete floor.



Waiting for the new concrete steps to cure.

After dismantling the existing bathroom, concrete forms were erected that included new beams for support. To do this, we needed to purchase and install steel rebar.

The day that we poured the concrete we hired additional help to transport it because we could not

get a concrete truck back to where we needed it. The concrete was mixed out in front of the manse and carried by hand back to the bathroom area.

As with the steps at the front, time was allowed for the concrete to cure before we could start building the walls and doing the tile work. Because we had not expected this bathroom renovation, it took a lot of time away from other projects that we had planned to do.

Justin did most of the electrical work and some of the plumbing. Many repairs were made to the existing electrical circuits and new circuits added where necessary. We replaced older florescent lights with new fixtures that included a rapid start.

Curtis worked with Sherlock and Duane Henry. They worked on replacing approximately 20 windows, along with replacing rotted support timbers, rotted studs, rotted siding, and repairing bad flooring as necessary. They installed a new walk-in closet, new front door, new doors for the bedrooms, new locks on doors and various other tasks.

I worked on the kitchen area removing the old cabinets, installed new subfloor to accommodate new

“
**We
were able
to complete
about 80% of
what we set out
to do during the
renovation time.**
”

vinyl tile, and started building the new cabinetry. Much of my time was also spent in securing materials from various vendors in town. Sherlock or Duane usually went with me to downtown Georgetown to secure supplies. They were very watchful to make sure that no harm came to us while we were in Guyana. They were also able to negotiate for the best prices for materials and for transportation.

While we were there, other help was given to the churches in several ways. Justin spoke twice at the

Kitty Church and once at the Uitvlugt Church.

Sherlock graduated from Guyana Bible College while we were there so we were able to attend the graduation service and have a celebration meal with the other grads and faculty. The faculty received us as if we had been friends with them for a long while. This is probably because long-time SDB Jacob Tyrell has been a teacher at the college for many years.

We also helped with Kitty's Vacation Bible School by supplying funds to purchase materials needed for classes. On another occasion we were able to help to feed the children who go to school with no breakfast. During the time that we were there, about 14 or 15 students in grade school came to the church for a meal at lunchtime.

During the last week we had enough funds remaining to help with other things. These included a new refrigerator, lighting, fans, outlets in the church sanctuary, and a new water storage tank for the trestle behind the manse.

There are still jobs that the local people need to finish such as painting, constructing railings on the front steps, and removing trash around the manse and church.

Thankfully, we were able to complete about 80% of what we set out to do during the renovation time. Along the way, we discovered many things that we had not planned on having to repair or replace, so a few things were not completed as we had hoped.

Nevertheless, if we look at the whole picture, we accomplished far more than what we set out to do. Because we had such a great working relationship with Sister Bernice, things went very smoothly between those of us from the United States and the Guyana Conference. **SR**



Using real horsepower to deliver new wooden boards.



Rez Connection continues

by Patty Petersen



The Chet and Barbara Marks family.

What if God offered you the opportunity to spread the Gospel to an unreached people group—without leaving the United States? Now, the location is a little remote, the people may view you with hostility, and there are high rates of social ills—but will you go?

Twelve years ago, Chet and Barbara Marks answered the call and moved to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota, the home of the Lakota Sioux.

Why go to such a place? These are a people God loves no less than any other, yet they have a distorted understanding of the Gospel from

years of mistreatment by “the White man.” How better to reach them than to dwell among them and demonstrate the Good News in person?

That’s why Pastor Chet and Barbara live in the community. Over the years they have offered a mobile children’s church, Bible studies, a chess club at the local school, free lemonade in the park on hot summer days, sack lunches to the homeless, and gardening education. All the activities are focused on bringing people to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

They planted a church, New Life Fellowship, which has a small, loyal

congregation. A solid understanding of the Bible is central to their discipleship program, as is evangelism training.

Why is it so hard to grow a church on the Rez? Their “community” covers 11,000 square miles of wind-swept prairie and pine-covered hills. That makes gathering people a challenge given the fact that towns are at least 30 miles apart and few people have working cars or trucks. (They hitchhike or catch the infrequent reservation bus.)

The New Life ministry gives people rides to church, but those vehicles need replacing every couple of years due to axle-destroying road conditions.

Rez Connection has just started a Christian school operating out of the church building. Working with children is key to helping families open up to the message of hope for a new life in Christ. So far three Native American students from Wounded Knee are attending, along with the Marks children.

Because people are so spread out across the Rez and few families have reliable vehicles, the school has to provide transportation. Monthly financial supporters are sought to participate in this ministry, to pay

Helping to weed the community garden in Wounded Knee. Far right: Chet Marks and Ana Petersen teaching school children about how plants grow.





What if God offered you the opportunity to spread the Gospel to an unreached people group—without leaving the United States?

the costs of fuel, vehicle maintenance, curriculum and supplies.

Eight years ago, God led Chet and Barbara to become Seventh Day Baptists, and the Missionary Society has sponsored a number of short-term missions to “the Rez.” In 2007 our local church Association sponsored a weeklong trip, and I’ve been leading teams there annually ever since.

What do we do on these trips? We take meals to the elderly and homeless. We go to parks to visit with people, play a game of football or chess, and offer a Gospel tract.

We weed community gardens, listen to local people tell their stories and offer them the story of salvation. We help with chores on the farm.

Hay, that’s Butch Hibbard pitch(fork)ing in at the farm. Must be he chose the short straw.



We study evangelism and the local culture so we can share Jesus more effectively. And we are transformed by the experience, making us better servants of Christ back home.

Want to join us this year? A trip is planned for June. Contact me at ppetersen57@hotmail.com, or by phone at 720-320-3418. You may also contact the Missionary Society at SDBMissoc@verizon.net, or call 401-596-4326.

Care to participate in the ministry by praying and/or giving? Contact Pastor Chet Marks at the Rez Connection, PO Box 35, Batesland SD 57716, or by e-mail: NewLifeFellowshipSD@hotmail.com. **SR**



The author getting teased by two of the Marks children.



A long journey to Africa

by Kevin Butler

Over three years ago, Mark and Linda Bentz, from the Milton, Wis., SDB Church, made their first inquiry with Africa Inland Mission (AIM). They were ready to follow the Lord wherever He led.

“After a long, soul-searching application process and two years of fund-raising,” Linda happily reports, “we have been approved to leave!”

The ups and downs of this long journey have been monumental, but we share in their excitement for this latest news.

Early in December, Mark and Linda flew to AIM headquarters in New York City to review all the details of their travel to Lesotho, Africa. They spent the rest of the month packing, taking care of business and saying their goodbyes to loved ones in anticipation of their December 29 departure. After commissioning the Bentzes during the worship service, the Milton church hosted a reception for the family on December 11.

Their 16-hour flight from Chicago to Kijabi, Kenya will take them to a guesthouse near Rift Valley Academy, the new school for their oldest children, Patrick and Ellen. After two weeks of getting their teens settled, the rest of the family will attend a three-week orientation in Kenya. They will get to spend a few days at the SDB Church in Kisii with Pastor Benard Nyakebere.

In mid-March they fly to Durban, South Africa, then drive to Mokhotlong, Lesotho. (Lesotho is a small nation wholly within the country of South Africa.)

According to Linda, “The joy we feel is indescribable! This is where the Lord has led; this is the appointed time.”

They also have these words for their supporters. “Thank you, Seventh Day Baptists around the country, for the generous financial support, words of encouragement, and prayers. You have truly come alongside us on this journey!”

You can follow their journey on Facebook, or at their blog site: <http://mlbentz@aimsites.org>. **SR**



Mark and Linda Bentz shared these lessons with the Milton church family soon after learning that they would be heading (finally!) to the mission field.

Three Truths we've learned while preparing:

1. God Provides!

In the midst of seemingly impossible circumstances, the Lord provided for our every need. When our van died 1,000 miles from home, two weeks into an 18-week speaking tour, the Lord led us to a man who generously gave us a vehicle. In his words, “I’ve been hanging on to it... for this I guess!”

2. God Owns this Ministry!

Missions is *His* idea and His hand has been in this from the very beginning. When searching for an assignment, we had three requests: that malaria wouldn’t be an issue, that we would not be in a wartorn country, and that our children would have friends. Lesotho is a malaria-free, peaceful country, and our group leaders have children the ages of ours.

3. God is GOOD!!

As much as we would like you to believe that we have never doubted God’s goodness, it’s just not true. In October, we thought we finally had 100% of the funds to leave—only to find out that AIM made an accounting error, revealing a \$1,000-a-month shortage. If we serve a good God, why did that feel so cruel? We spent much of that day on our knees with our Bibles open. By the end of the day, we came to the conclusion that Yes, God IS good. We need to be able to speak that even in the midst of trials.

God has spoken these truths to our hearts. As we depart for ministry in Africa, we cling to these truths.

Please pray for:

- Health and safety while traveling
- Complete peace and absence of fear
- Comfort as we say goodbye

Elston on the National scene

by Ron Elston



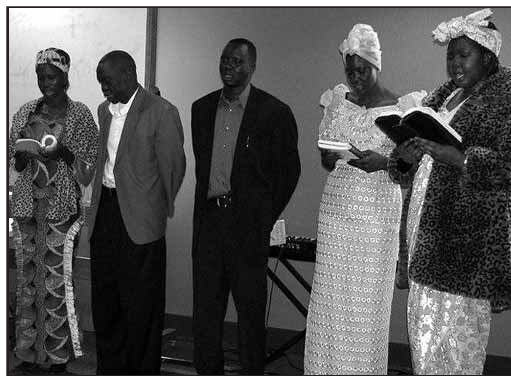
Reaching out in Alaska

The Sudanese Seventh Day Baptist Church in Anchorage, Alaska, has started their Mission Outreach Project, sponsored by the SDB Missionary Society.

The project was developed by the church (with Pastor Mading Bol) and Director of Extension Ron Elston. The five phases of the project will continue through much of 2011. Outreach will cover Anchorage and the surrounding area with evangelistic meetings featuring five ministers from the SDB church. **SR**



Part of the Anchorage congregation.



A quintet sharing special music.



Pastor Mading Bol.

And introducing...



Pastor Brian and Barbara Smith have started a new SDB group in Hardinsburg, Ind. They attended the 2010 Conference with their daughter, Carrie.

Richard and Chris Stowell have started a Seventh Day Baptist fellowship, meeting in their home in Springfield, Missouri. They were happy to attend the SDB General Conference (held in their hometown in 2010) and made many friends who encouraged their ministry.

Both Rich and Chris have ministry leadership experience and are excited about this new work for the Lord. After making several new contacts, a number of people have expressed an interest in joining their fellowship. **SR**



Richard and Chris Stowell



Sin, salvation, and safety

by Ron Elston

National Director of Extension Ronald Elston has been conducting “Safe Church” seminars in local SDB churches for the last two years. The classes touch on ways to ensure safety at our local places of worship, educating leaders on security procedures inside and outside the church.

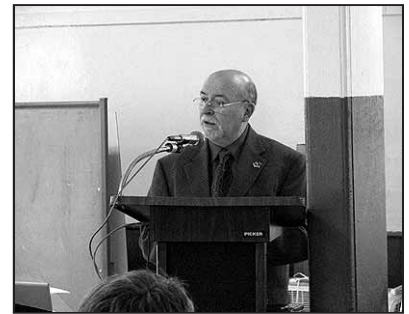
This year Rev. Elston received additional training by attending a “Church Security and Intruder Awareness/Response” course in San Angelo, Texas. He gleaned valuable information to add to his own sessions with SDBs. **SR**



Ron Elston (far right) met with three of the safety trainers for Strategos.



SDB safety seminar at the Texarkana, Ark., church

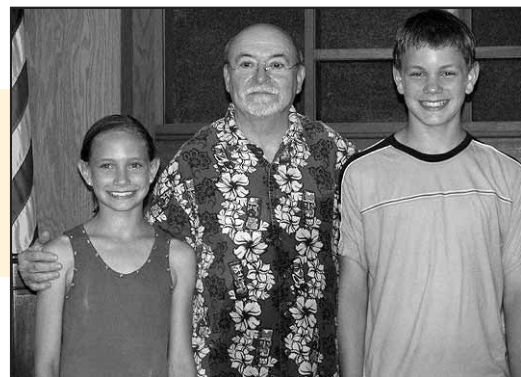


Safety training at the Ashaway, R.I., church

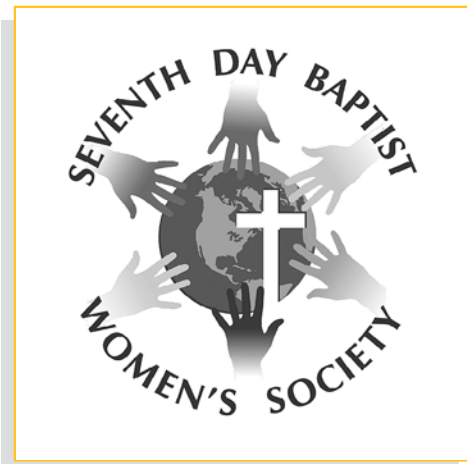
Other ministry opportunities



Pastor Elston (center, standing) assisted Pastor Mynor Soper (left) at the ordination of Deacon Ron Skinner in Texarkana.



Ron had the joy of baptizing some church members’ grandchildren in Old Stonefort, Ill.



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

Ministry is for everyone

by Jane Mackintosh

Kristin's note: Jane Mackintosh has been named the new training director for Summer Christian Service Corps (SCSC). She follows Pastor Steve Osborn who led the training for four years.

In these reflections, Jane shares her vision for how SCSC can help college-age students recognize their ministries in whichever careers and locations God calls them.

* * * * *

My venture into becoming the training director for SCSC actually began 31 years ago. We were considering a career switch to become the new owners of Strawflower Electronics, Inc. in Half Moon Bay, Calif.

We had only been back in the United States for 16 months after four years of SDB mission work in Jamaica. (Doug had been the headmaster of Crandall High School and I had taught in the school.) We had "settled" into career paths of Doug as a school teacher and me as a stay-at-home mom, when we sensed God calling us in a different direction.

That's a whole story in itself, but I remember telling people then that this "call" to Strawflower Electronics—in a small town 500 miles from where we had settled—was as much

a calling from God as our call to the mission field in Kingston, Jamaica.

This concept of God's call to secular careers was rather an anomaly to believers back then, but it seemed so logical to me from my study of the Word. Surely ministry was not restricted to "the church" only.

Fast-forward 25 years to when I stumbled upon a believer, Lance Wallnau, talking about the "Seven Mountains of Society" that influence culture. These are arts/entertainment, business/finance, church, education, family, government, and media.

Wallnau believed God was saying that the reason our culture has taken such a nose-dive is that the church has held this concept that ministry is confined to the "church mountain." Believers must shift their thinking to understand that God is calling His people into places of influence in the other six "mountains" if we are to see revival of our culture.

(Statistics from the 2000 census tell us that 30% of Americans claim to be evangelical Christians, while only 5% of Americans claimed to be homosexual. The homosexual agenda has been successful because they "got" this concept of getting into places of influence.)

Finally, here was a believer talking about secular careers as "ministry"! After a few years of studying everything I could get my hands on,

I began asking God what He wanted me to do with what I had learned. When I got the call from the SCSC Committee to consider the training director position, my first response was that I would take a week to pray about it. But I really thought, *Don't hold your breath.*



Jane
Mackintosh

Within minutes of that phone call, God dropped a bomb into my spirit saying, "What better place is there to begin sharing what you have learned than with young people who are on the cusp of their career choices?"

My vision for SCSC is primarily to train these young adults for a deeply spiritual life. Secondly, it is to train them for their SCSC projects.

I see this as first emphasizing true identity by understanding Who God is, how He sees each of us, and what it means to be His child. I want to flesh out the verse from Ephesians 2:10, "For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago." This is where I plan to encourage them to

cont. on page 23



Flashback to China

Reminders of SDB dedication to missions are everywhere

This month's *Recorder* focuses on SDB missions—the locations where our part of the Kingdom's work is being conducted, and the called servants sharing the Gospel in those locations.

This legacy of God's calling on individuals is found throughout the Historical Society's collection here at the SDB Center in Janesville. But there is evidence of SDB dedication in the wider world, as I was reminded recently in my work.

While trying to find an old SDB resource on GoogleBooks, I typed in the name of long-time SDB medical missionary to China, Rosa Palmborg. Several familiar references came up, but also one which was unfamiliar. It was from the January 1908 edition of *The American Journal of Clinical Medicine*.

The editors of that periodical apparently requested that Dr. Palmborg (an avid subscriber to the magazine) write a letter to them explaining her ministry in Lihue, China. She finally did, and her letter—along with comments by the editors—appeared in the January 1908 *Journal*, 103 years ago.

The article is fabulous, but too long for publication in this space. Here are some of the highlights:

...in answer to your request for a letter about my work here, I will write a few words. In the sense of statistics it is not a great work, but in another sense it is, for it helps to make the Chinese better friends to the "foreigners," and is instrumental to some extent in extending the Kingdom of God.

When I first came here five years ago, I could not go on the street or into the country anywhere without being followed by rough crowds and hearing abusive language. But long ago that has changed, and now wherever I go I am greeted kindly by name and title, and treated respectfully, and any other European suspected of being in any way connected with me is afforded the same treatment. And it is all because one foreign woman doctor has lived here these five years, and treated, to the best of her ability, all who came to her in physical or mental distress.


My medical work is mostly confined to the dispensary, excepting an occasional call out, usually to treat attempted suicide, which is very common.

Until a year ago we lived in a Chinese house, very uncomfortable and inconvenient. But this year we have had our own pleasant, comfortable buildings, one for the home and another for the dispensary.

Last year we treated 4,000 patients, but I think the number will be perhaps as large again this year. Many of the patients are poor. Medical services are free to all, but all but the very poor must pay for the medicines.

Dr. Palmborg then wrote about specific treatments she used and various encounters she had practicing in Lihue. At the conclusion of the article, the editors heap praise on Rosa and her work in Lihue (an inland town of about 25,000 at the time).

What is clear from both Dr. Palmborg's letter and the editors' comments after, is that everyone clearly perceived her desire and passion to do the work of a missionary as a call from God—helping to bind up the wounded in a distant place. It is also clear from Rosa's life that she didn't view her missionary service as temporary. She built a life in China, including an adoptive family.

When God called her to serve in China, she wasn't looking for the expiration date on her calling. She was looking to do God's will and fully invested herself in doing it. The dedicated people who are still serving on the mission field have made this same investment, and deserve our prayer and continuous support! 



Dr. Rosa Palmborg and Eling Sung



Supporting our shepherds

by Gordon Lawton, Dean
Director of Pastoral Services

So, what is “full-time”?

What does it mean when we say a pastor is “full-time”? Do we use the labor standard and say that full-time is no more than 40 hours per week? Do we follow the example of the salaried business community and say, “Get it done,” regardless of the hours needed to do it?

There are many different definitions of full-time. When I worked as a warehouseman, full-time was more than 30 hours a week. In that situation being full-time entitled a person to benefits.

When I think about a pastor being “full-time” I consider that a pastor has no other employment. Sometimes this means that there is adequate compensation from the church to provide for the needs of the pastor and his family, sometimes not.

One bi-vocational Methodist pastor I was acquainted with in western New York asked me, “Do you know the difference between a full-time and a part-time pastor?” His jaded response was, “The pay.” He was saying that there are certain things a pastor is expected to do, and does, regardless of the compensation.

In response to this, some have said that being a pastor is a “whole-time” job. In this sense, “whole time” means that there are normal routines as well as pastoral ministry that you do in spite of the hours required. This seems to follow the

salaried vs. hourly thinking. This concept speaks of “being” in addition to “doing”; that is, who the pastor *is*, not just what the pastor *does*.

Many Seventh Day Baptists have to deal with the tension of their strong sense of call to minister as a pastor vs. the reality of needing to provide for their family. 1 Timothy 5:8 rattles in the back of the brain of many a pastor.

Most of our churches wish they could adequately compensate their pastor. They do not desire to limit or prevent proper study and preparation for teaching and preaching. Yet the church finances are often a reality check. (I am tempted to put in a plug here for giving 10% of your income to the local church, but I won’t push tithing this month.)

So, what is COSAR?

The Committee on Support and Retirement (COSAR) is composed of three elected members, one elected each year by the Conference for a three-year term. In addition, the Director of Pastoral Services serves as their executive and the Memorial Fund trustees appoint one of their members to serve. These five are voting members.

Also, any Conference Board or Agency with three employees or former employees participating in the retirement programs of COSAR may send a representative. Currently the General Conference and the

Missionary Society participate along with the Business Manager of the Conference.

Annually COSAR presents salary recommendations for pastors which are posted on the COM website at www.sdbministry.org/Churches.html#sal. The suggestions for 2011 are there.

COSAR also administers the old retirement program that still accepts contributions to the Pastors Retirement Offering Project (PROP). With the recent passing of Pastor Ralph Hays, there are now only 12 recipients in the program.

A couple of years ago, COSAR worked hard to create the new 403(b) retirement plan where current pastors may participate. There is no “back up plan” for those who do not plan for their retirement, so churches are encouraged to contribute to their pastor’s 403(b) account.

Disability insurance for serving pastors is another COSAR program. If your pastor is serving the church 30 or more hours per week, disability insurance is available at no cost to the church. A form must be completed which lists the income that is being insured. That form may be requested from the Director of Pastoral Services at com@sdbministry.org.

In October we said “We appreciate you” to our pastors. COSAR helps us continue to say that in other ways all year long. **SR**



Airport missionary

Learning to be an Agent of Godly Change, wherever you are

As I waved my now-defunct boarding pass under the scanner, the unstaffed counter beeped, a dot matrix printer whirred, and two slips of paper shot out of the slot.

The first slip—a \$6 voucher for a meal at the airport—did little more than remind me that I’d probably once again be eating overpriced food.

The second slip was much more encouraging. It proclaimed that I had a confirmed seat on a flight just two hours away! All I had to do was check in at the gate.

So, pocketing my food voucher, I made my way to the assigned gate. Down an escalator. Across with a train. Up an escalator. Around a corner. And there it was, the assigned gate—with way too many people gathered around.

Nonetheless I dutifully got in line, thinking, *How could I have possibly gotten a confirmed seat when all these other people have clearly been here much longer than I have?*

One by one the people in front of me got their turn with the sole gate agent. After 45 minutes of waiting in line, I had my chance to get the highly valued boarding pass.

Then I heard the words, “You do realize this seat confirmation is for tomorrow’s flight?”

Reality set in. Not only had the airline’s computer rescheduled me for a flight the next day, it had not even bothered to put me on the earliest flight out. After admitting to the

agent that I’d noticed the date of the flight, she offered to put me on the standby list and get me a confirmed seat on the early flight to Buffalo.

She then told me:

—that the standby list would automatically roll over from one flight to the next through the day

—that I could watch status updates on the computer monitors at each gate, and

—that I shouldn’t bother any gate agents unless they called my name.

She also let me know that every flight into Buffalo was booked full, including ones from their other hubs. I thanked her for her help and stepped back to see what the monitors were showing.

The monitor defiantly displayed that of the 14 first-class seats and 128 coach seats on the plane, 13 first-class and 127 coach seats were confirmed full. The remaining seats (that would be one first-class and one coach) were assigned but not yet confirmed.

“

How can someone be an agent of Godly change in this set of circumstances?

I thought about it and prayed about it. I did not have an answer.

”

Then the monitor revealed that more than 50 people were on standby, and that I was near the end of the list.

So, I settled in, pulled out the computer, and started to work. It didn’t take long to realize that I had slept poorly enough on the red-eye flight into this airport that I simply wasn’t able to tune out all the chatter of those around me. I put the computer away and started watching and listening to the crowd.

I soon recognized a group that was trying to cope with their situation by laughing, telling stories, and talking about how they came to be stranded. I moved a little closer to them. As the flight left—pulling only one person off the standby list—that little group scattered.

The departure time for the next flight drew nigh, and I noticed the same group of people form again. This time, there were a *couple* of open seats, a few no-shows, and growing camaraderie among the stranded.

cont. next page



FOCUS on Missions

New National Assistant named

by Ron Elston

On November 1, 2010 Rev. Stanley Fox began his duties as Assistant to the National Director of Extension Rev. Ronald J. Elston Sr.

Pastor Fox will assist the National Missions Department in areas of church planting and extension. He will be working from his office located in the central part of Washington state at Yakima.

Brother Fox brings a wealth of experience to the Missionary Society, having working in various areas of ministry for many years.

Stan will continue as the Senior Pas-



Rev. Stanley Fox has been added to the National Field.

tor of the Central Washington Seventh Day Baptist Church in Yakima (formerly the Ahtanum Community Church).

Duties will include church planting and extension, training seminars, and developing contacts on the National Field in the USA and Canada.

The SDB Missionary Society feels blessed to have Rev. Fox as part of their National Field Development Team.

To contact Stan's office in Washington state, phone (509) 961-5918 or e-mail him at:

stansdb@hotmail.com. **SR**

Airport missionary... Continued from p. 16

They cheered as would-be passengers were pulled from standby and given seats. They speculated about why some additions to the list were added in the middle and others at the end.

These people drew others into their group and enjoyed their time, even as they hoped to get out of the airport before the last flight took off. I watched that little group shrink as one by one, seats opened up. With each flight's departure, the group disbanded, went their separate ways, and reformed at the next gate.

At some point in the day I began to wonder, "How can someone be an 'agent of Godly change' in this set of circumstances?" I thought about it and prayed about it. I didn't have an answer. And then set the question aside.

As the last flight of the night approached, the remainder of that little group coalesced around where I was sitting. Two of them lived in Toronto and enjoyed traveling to various parts of the world. They were on their way home. A couple of businessmen speculated that their companies were punishing them by sending them to Buffalo in December!

Three older ladies were heading back to Ontario after a trip to Disney. They called themselves the "Golden Girls," and were having a lot of fun. One of the three started talking to me, explained that she was a Christian, and thought that people really should help each other more than they do. She brought up the highlight of their Disney adventure—visiting another park called "The Holy Land Experience."

When the departure announcements began, she started to head back to her friends, but before she did, she thanked me. She said that she'd been watching people throughout the day and had noticed that several times I had helped others figure something out, take care of a task, and a few other small things.

It was then I realized that even though Christians are called to be agents of Godly change, and even though we should be these agents "on purpose," God is the one who makes the assignments—and sometimes our assignment is so secret that we won't know about it.

Then, on the last flight to Buffalo of the night, with one seat left open, my name was called. I got to go home. **SR**



the BEACON

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

January 2011

I, _____, resolve to...

by Emily Olson

As the new year begins, lots of people make resolutions. Some are personal, some are important, and some are small. I don't normally make resolutions, because honestly, I don't have enough time to stop and think about it.

I am extremely busy, especially for a person my age. It's my senior year, and despite what everyone says, it's not that easy.

As a student, I have homework. At the beginning of the school year I was running cross-country. On top of that, I was in and out of school orchestra, on the yearbook committee, and on Student Council. I was also accepted to area All-State for flute. That's a great honor, but it means major practicing.

After cross-country, I decided that I hadn't gotten enough of "the crazy life" so I tried out for cheerleading for the first time. I'm still in cheerleading and in drama (and orchestra and yearbook) as well. I am secretary of my class.

At church, I play guitar for the praise band, I'm the youth representative to the advisory board, and I volunteer a lot. With all of this, the fact that I still have time to do my homework mystifies me.



There are some good things about being busy. Living a crazy life actually helps me to get better grades (which sounds weird), but I think it keeps me more focused. These things also make me well rounded, which looks good on a college application. However, with good things come some bad things.

When I'm busy, I'm distracted. I don't have time to focus on bad influences (and that's good), but I also don't have time to focus on good influences like my family and church (and that's bad).

I miss out on a lot of things. YF time is sometimes replaced with homework. Friday night fellowship time is often replaced with race and

game time. And church is unfortunately replaced with music opportunities. I forget about God sometimes, and that is a *big* problem.

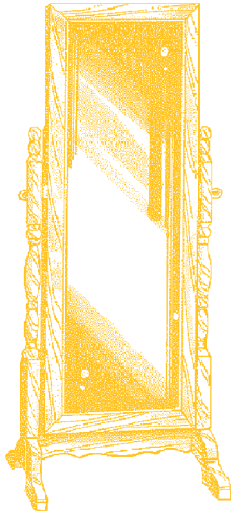
All the things I do "get" to me and I become distracted from the Lord. Sometimes, I get really stressed and I can't figure out how to calm down. I'm so focused on other things that I can't see God waving His hands and saying, "Hello?? You're supposed to be focusing on Me! If you talk to Me, you won't be so stressed!"

God wants us to put our focus on Him. He'll take all of our stress and strife away, if we just talk to Him and ask Him to. Sometimes, however, we get so focused on finishing that last little bit of whatever project we're doing, or perfecting that last paragraph, that we don't stop and think about God.

Focusing on God is important. I don't know about you, but I need to remember to stop and take a breather to focus on Him.

So this year, I'm making a resolution: I, Emily Olson, resolve to let God handle my stress. I will think about Him a lot more than I do now. I will not let my business get in the way of worshipping Him.

I encourage you to fill in your name where mine is, so we can all focus on God a little bit more this year. **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*

Time for the New Year



It happens every year, like clockwork. I wake up on the first day of January, glance at the spanking new calendar hanging in the kitchen, and rub my eyes in disbelief.

Another year has faded into the foggy past, and a new year is peeking shyly through the windows, not quite sure how I'll greet it.

Sometimes I try to chase the New Year out of our house. I'm not ready to be another year older. I don't know what the coming months will bring, and I hate uncertainty. I also hate change.

At other times, I welcome it with open arms.

I feel blessed to mark yet another year of life on earth, especially since my serious brush with cancer. As I anticipate the unfolding months, excitement fills my heart and soul. Uncertainty can be exciting. And change can be renewing.

Whether I welcome the New Year or not, one thing is undeniable: time not only marches on, it flies by. And each year it appears to be flying faster and faster.

It seems like only yesterday when I was stockpiling food as the "Y2K" scare saturated the airwaves.

"Experts" predicted that on January 1, 2000 all the world's computers would crash because they wouldn't be able to distinguish between the years 2000 and 1900. (Early on, computer memory was expensive, so they saved space by

using two digits to designate the year rather than four.)

Authorities said there was a good chance the "luxuries" of life would be destroyed, leaving people without electricity, running water and heat—not to mention sufficient food.

Thankfully, the doomsayers were wrong. The beginning of the new millennium, which once seemed light-years ahead, is now a decade behind us.

I was particularly reminded of time's speed when my daughter turned 38 last June. That was how old I was when I was widowed, and how old my husband was when he died. How can "Little Jumpin' Jenny" be a wife and mother of four young daughters? In my mind, she's a perpetual 9-year-old...

Other things also remind me of the passage of time. My hair is getting grayer, my brain is getting more forgetful, and my bones are becoming more brittle.

But happily, those losses are countered by "gains." My mouth is getting new crowns, my weight keeps increasing, and my pillbox is becoming more and more crowded.

Time for some interesting quotes concerning time:

"An inch of time cannot be bought with an inch of gold."

—*Chinese proverb*

"Half our life is spent trying to find something to do with the time we have rushed through life trying to save."

—*Will Rogers*

"Don't serve time, make time serve you."

—*William Sutton*

"A man who dares to waste one hour of his life has not discovered the value of life." —*Charles Darwin*

"All my possessions for a moment of time." —*Queen Elizabeth*

"Time is a great healer, but a poor beautician." —*Lucille S. Harper*

"Time is a great teacher, but unfortunately it kills all its pupils."

—*Hector Berlioz*

"Do not squander time, for that is the stuff life is made of."

—*Benjamin Franklin*

"Time is at once the most valuable and the most perishable of all our possessions." —*John Randolph*

"Lost wealth may be replaced by industry, lost knowledge by study, lost health by temperance or medicine, but lost time is gone forever."

—*Samuel Smiles*

It's my hope and prayer that I can learn to live as American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow suggested: "Look not mournfully into the past, it comes not back again. Wisely improve the present, it is thine. Go forth to meet the shadowy future without fear and with a manly heart." **SR**



Holland, Michigan July 31–Aug. 6, 2011



**The President's
Page**

by Stephen Rogers

Living the Fruit of the Spirit of Patience

“Lord, grant me patience and give it to me now!”

Most of us have either expressed this sentiment or had it run through our mind when facing a particular taxing situation. We can see the humor in that “prayer” and that helps us realize that we need to practice patience continually. (Maybe it’s easier to joke about patience that it is to become a patient person.)

Just what is patience? Several Bible passages use the term “long-suffering” as a synonym. Other times we may find “the bearing of provocations, annoyances or misfortune.” The story of Job comes to mind here.

Some have suggested that patience is simply waiting for an expected or anticipated event to take place. Others have seen patience as the God-given power of “creative waiting.”

Why is waiting so hard? I believe that it is because we want to be in control. We want things to happen the way *we* want them to happen, *when* we want them to happen.

Here we could take a lesson from God. We are told that He took His time in creating the world. Why should we try to rush things to suit ourselves? Can we not follow our

Creator’s example of practicing patience, not expecting others to do what we want them to do when we want them to do it?

Children are often impatient and desire instant gratification. We can certainly draw parallels of parenthood and our relationship to our Heavenly Father. How difficult it must be for Him to have patience with our “childish” behavior—and yet He does.

Our Scripture memory passage for this month comes from the book of Ephesians. Paul probably wrote this letter from a prison cell in Rome. It would be logical to think that Paul might be angry, bitter and resentful of his situation, being held there against his will. He was likely concerned about his future as a prisoner and anxious to get out of jail.

However, consider his advice to his Christian brothers and sisters in Ephesus: “As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace” (Ephes. 4:1-3).

It’s hard to imagine a person in prison telling free people to be patient. It seems as laughable as “wanting patience and wanting it now.” Paul was able to do this because *spiritually* he was “free.” His mind, imagination, and thoughts were free even though his body was not.

English poet John Milton was struggling with a malady when he wrote a sonnet titled “On His Blindness.” The last line of the poem is very familiar, but the entire poem speaks of patience:

**When I consider how my light is spent
Ere half my days, in this dark world
and wide,
And that one talent which is death
to hide,
Lodg’d with me useless, though my
Soul more bent
To serve therewith my Maker, and
present
My true account, lest He returning
chide,
“Doth God exact day-labour, light
deny’d?”
I fondly ask; But Patience to prevent
That murmur, soon replies, “God
doth not need
Either man’s work or his own gifts:
who best
Bear his milde yোক, they serve
him best. His State
Is kingly: Thousands at his bidding
speed
And post o’er land and ocean
without rest:
They also serve who only stand
and waite.”**

Sometimes the only thing that we can do is “stand and wait.” Patience is a virtue and that, too, can also be a service to God.

I began with a “prayer.” Let me end with a well-known one:

“God grant me the *patience* to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference.”

May we always strive to live in the Fruit of the Spirit of Patience! **SR**



by Executive Director
Rob Appel

Taking it to the streets

At Conference 2009, I recommended that the SDB General Conference study where we might plant new churches like we did in the late 1970s and early '80s. At our 2010 Conference, Larry Watt suggested where some of the areas might be.

The CLT (Coordinating Leadership Team) has been discussing where we could be intentional at encouraging, nurturing and planting churches in areas that have the most potential for longevity and growth.

For the past eight months, Ron Elston (Director of Extension for the SDB Missionary Society) and I have been looking at areas where we can concentrate on church planting and growth. Two of the areas that stand out are in Phoenix, Ariz., and Columbia, South Carolina.

We have had some individuals plant churches in recent years. Their stories will be told throughout the year. Pastor George Lawson of the Maranatha Church in Colton, Calif., started a church in 2006 with just his family. He now has a group of over 20 worshipping in Colton, plus an even bigger audience worshipping each Sabbath on-line.

Miguel Leiva, pastor of the Iglesia Bautista del Septimo Dia in Houston, Texas, started a church two years ago with four people. One Sabbath in July they had over 70!



Although their plan and styles are different, they are getting it done for Jesus!

At Conference 2010, a section of my presentation was called "Churches on the Move." Many people told me afterwards that they were encouraged by hearing of the exciting things happening in our churches around North America. I was encouraged that they got so excited!

I decided then and there that I was going to devote this entire year telling stories of your growth, new ministries, retreats, building, relocating, the calling of new pastors, dynamic community service, and stepping outside the normal way of doing things. Yes, many of our churches are going through these transitions, "morphing," and engaging in out-of-the-box ministries in their church.

In the months ahead you will be hearing about a church that had to move simply because they could not

keep up with the growth. You will read about a long-time SDB church that sold out... their building, that is, so they could take the next steps in growth, outreach and community.

You will be encouraged by the progression of a church plant to an active growing church and finally becoming a Conference member church. You will go through the relocation process with two groups, and the building-on process with another.

You will find out what the "young folks" were singing about in that old standard SDB tune by going from "Cali to Rhody." You will see what is happening in three communities where the churches have been around for a long time, but they seem so new! You will hear of a church that is taking steps of outreach into a whole new realm.

And finally you will learn of the nine-year church planting progression from an idea to reality—including a brand new building! *Are you kidding me?*

And who knows? With my travels, I might need to add others or make some quick changes to my articles. As things get exciting in your church, please let me know. I'm not giving any promises that you will grace the pages of the *Sabbath Recorder*, but I might just give you a shout-out! **SR**



Present(s) for a future

by Erin Burdick Inabnit
Memorial Fund Trustee

I'm a really easy person to buy presents for. Just find that loud/bright/kooky thing you kind of wish you could wear or use, and buy it for me. And if the label is in a foreign language, then it's a job well done!

My Mom is even easier. Buy her something involving her grandchildren and she's ecstatic. My husband: if it has the word "snowmobile," "motorcycle," or "jet-ski" on it, you're set.

My stepdaughter doesn't even want you to set foot in a store for her—you may get the wrong thing. Just hand her a pretty envelope shaped like a gift card, and you've bought yourself a very nice thank-you.

My Dad, however, is a toughie. He's the guy who says, "Don't buy me anything" and means it. Yep, he's *that* guy—or he was until the year that my brother bought him a pair of goats for a family in a Third World country. My father thought it was the coolest thing he'd ever received and kept showing off his certificate all day long!

I know what made that present so special for him. It was the human connection. It was the thought that instead of money being wasted on yet another unneeded shirt or tie, it was sent somewhere to someone who needed it, and he was blessed by that message of love.

Since then, we've filled backpacks with school materials for girls in Afghanistan in the name of my mom, and my husband Eric and I have begun donating to Gideons International on Father's Day to honor our dads. The amazing thing is what it has taught us about giving—how sharing and loving can become the central theme instead of the pressure of finding "the perfect gift."

As I write this, it's that time of year again. It's a time when excess is so easy to fall into and the true "reason for the season" is so easy to lose sight of.

I've been trying to find a way to keep myself centered on Christ this Christmas, and this is what I've come up with: to keep my presents centered in the same direction, and on sharing and love. Now, I understand that as you read this, Christmas is a faint, tinsel-wrapped memory, but the act of giving is a year-round opportunity to share.

The SDB Memorial Fund offers a lot of options for donations within our own denomination; places to send your money that would see infinite returns. The Timothy Mackintosh Fund helps families offset the costs of going through the adoption process, and Youth Education Scholarships (YES) have helped many of our young people pay for college.

There's a fund for church planting, one for training lay leadership, several for helping to educate our future pastors, preserve our past, and send missionaries to spread God's Word.

Want to give money to something closer to home? Find a ministry nearby or start one at your own church; even a small one can be a beautiful gift to and for someone. Donate a high chair so a young family can stay longer at lunch and fellowship with others.

Put money toward your church VBS or camping program and watch kids grow in Christ. Find a place to send your money in the name of someone you love that will change lives and eternities, and watch that knowledge transform the special occasions of the people receiving your gift.

I'm excited about my presents this year. I'm excited about seeing their power to move people and their power to spark change and Christ's love in those I don't know.

I'm excited to know that my gift will make so many so happy, including those who receive the tiny slip of paper showing their name and the place where their gift is going. I hope to receive one just like it, probably inside a card that's loud/bright/kooky and has the message written in a foreign language.

And don't worry, Courtney—you've still got that pretty gift-card shaped envelope, but you also got a piece of paper with your name and the "Timothy Mackintosh Fund" on it. I knew your heart for kids would see how beautiful it is and be blessed by it. **SR**

Little Rock YF helps others

by Marilyn Lee

The youth group of the Little Rock, Ark., Seventh Day Baptist Church participated in a fall service project. At the Lonoke County Fair (held September 22-25, 2010) our young people and their sponsors constructed a booth in the Merchant's Building. Colors of the original Temple mentioned in Moses' time were used for the backdrop.

The group witnessed to fairgoers by visiting with them and passing out coloring pages, tracts, Ten Commandment and Lord's Prayer posters, and bookmarks. They were able to witness to several Spanish-speaking families as well.

This project was seen as a "trial run" in hopes of participating in the much larger Arkansas State Fair in the near future.

Our spring project had the youth assembling hygiene kits at the Disaster Assistance Center at Ferncliff Camp near Paron, Ark. When the Southwest Association's Camp Miles was held at Ferncliff in 2009, the campers toured the assistance facility and were impressed with its mission.

The disaster in Haiti brought to mind how we could help others by volunteering our time locally. Kits are mailed to Ferncliff Camp (sponsored by Presbyterian Churches)

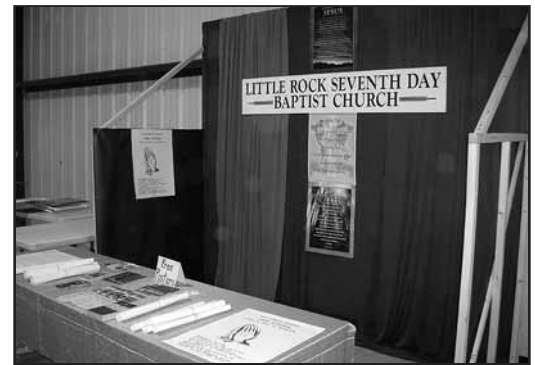
from throughout the United States.

We checked the kits for contraband that could not be mailed to oppressed countries and added other items. After packing the kits, the boxes were sealed and placed on pallet jacks for mailing.

The boxes were banded and shrink-wrapped. Church World Service works with the disaster center in transporting these kits to countries around the world that have experienced disasters. You can learn more about these organizations at www.ferncliff.org and www.churchworldservice.org.

Any size group can purchase items, assemble the kits, and mail them to Ferncliff. The center is housed in a large metal warehouse.

When you finish your volunteer shift, you get to sign your name with a Sharpie on the inside walls of the



Top: Packing disaster relief kits in Arkansas. The camp staff is on the left, and youth group members Joseph, Susanna and Sarah Monroe are on the right.

Above: The Little Rock church's fair booth.

building. We were proud to "leave our mark" and receive a blessing by serving our fellow man. **SR**

Ministry is for everyone *cont. from p. 13*

dream beyond the summer into their life assignments.

My hope is that as we emphasize Who God is, who we are and why we are here at this point in time, in this place in the world—with specific "good things to do that He planned for us long ago"—these SCSCers will take the next step in their spiritual

journeys to intimacy with the Father.

I want them not just to know *about* Him, but to truly have intimate experiences *with* Him, so they are never satisfied with anything less than deep intimacy with the Lord. In training them for their projects, I want them to explore their individual personality types and spir-

itual gifts so they can work as a team more successfully and efficiently, which will hopefully help them learn skills for life as well.

My prayer is that this summer's experience with SCSC will catapult these young adults into a deeper relationship with their Father. He delights in each one as His special child and I want them to understand that they are here on earth with a purpose that can be discovered. **SR**

New members

Middle Island, WV
D. Scott Smith, pastor
Joined after baptism
Bree Lough

Philadelphia, PA
Kenroy Cruickshank, pastor
Joined after baptism
Eric Lamont Avent
Summer Smith
Joined after testimony
Marqueta Aiken

Marriage

Bofinger – Scull. Eric Bofinger and Katy Scull were united in marriage on June 26, 2010 at the Shiloh, NJ, Seventh Day Baptist Church. Rev. Donald Chroniger officiated.

Are you following the **SDBlog**?

The “SDB Exec” web log features posts and news from our agency executives. Check it out at seventhdaybaptist.org

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

We also invite you to **Post your Church News** at that new section of the redesigned site

Births

Medina.—A daughter, Alexandra Brynn, was born to Juan and Jennifer (Boyajian) Medina of Boca Raton, FL on November 1, 2010.

Solomon.—A son, Isaiah Paul, was born to Nicholas and Lydia (Davis) Solomon of Salem, WV on November 17, 2010.

Soper.—A daughter, Cadence M., was born to Richard and Elizabeth Soper of Norfolk, NE on November 18, 2010.

Matthews.—A son, Max Rylan, was born to Shayne and Danielle (Richards) Matthews of Texarkana, TX on November 19, 2010.

Obituaries

Kuehn.—Howard Edwin “Mike” Kuehn, 92, died peacefully on October 1, 2010 in Green Valley, Ariz., following an extended illness resulting from kidney disease.

Howard was born on November 30, 1917 to Ruth Dickerson and Howard Frederick Kuehn. “Mike” graduated from Westerly (R.I.) High School in 1936.

A talented draftsman and engineer, he worked in New England’s textile industry for Atwood Machine, Universal Winding Corp. and Whitin Machine, rising to chief draftsman then assistant director of Research and Development. Moving to Farrell-Birmingham in Ansonia, Conn., he developed heavy machinery for the paper, sugar and rubber industries. He was awarded several design patents, some related to the early radial tires for planes in WWII.

Mike loved to travel in Airstream trailers. After retiring in 1981 he spent his winters in Dade City, Fla., later becoming a full-time resident. His numerous paintings included landscapes and abstracts, and he became a rockhound and created jewelry. Supporting the communities in which he lived, he served terms

on the Orange, Conn. School board, church boards, the local chapter of the American Bell Association, and the board at Travelers Rest in Dade City. He was also a life member of the Assn of Mechanical Engineers.

Howard was predeceased by his much-loved wife Marguerite Beebe Kuehn (in 1996), and his young sister Anna. He is survived by his sons Brian, Roland, and Ward; his daughter Elaine; seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Kennedy.—Lola “Elaine” (Sands) Kennedy, 87, of Lost Creek, W.Va., passed away quietly at her home on October 3, 2010 following an extended illness. She was born in McWhorter, W.Va., on December 20, 1922 the daughter of Mack and Ora Sands.

An active leader in the Lost Creek community, Elaine was a member of the Lost Creek SDB Church where she played the organ for 57 years. She was a member and past president of the Lost Creek SDB Ladies Aid. Elaine was past president and treasurer of the General Federation of Women’s Clubs, as well as president and treasurer of the Lost Creek Senior Citizens.

cont. next page

Obituaries... continued

After 32 years of faithful service she retired from the Harrison County Board of Education as secretary and administrator at Lost Creek and South Harrison High School. "Mrs. Kennedy," as known by the students, was at times their mother, nurse, and confidante who always guided them to make the right choice. Elaine touched many lives of fellow educators and associates. Though retired, she often attended school functions, especially class reunions invited by former students.

Elaine was preceded in death by her husband S. Gene Kennedy in 1979. She is survived by her son, W. Gene Kennedy of Lost Creek, and daughters Judith Hartzell of Clarksburg, W.Va. and Jane Reinhold of South Bend, Ind. She is also survived by six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by three brothers and one sister.

Hays.—Rev. Ralph Lavelle Hays Sr., 83, passed away on October 24, 2010 in McComb, Miss.

He was born in Smith County, Mississippi, on April 21, 1927 and graduated from Moselle (Miss.) High School in 1945. Ralph married Mary Ann Hollock on June 21, 1952 in Pearl River County, Miss. He graduated from South-Central Bible College in 1952 and Belin Memorial University in St. Louis

in 1954. He served as pastor (officially and unofficially) from 1950-1960 in Arkansas and Missouri.

Rev. Hays was accredited as a pastor by the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference in 1960. After his acceptance into the denomination, he served churches in Metairie, La.; Adams Center and Syracuse, N.Y.; Hammond, La.; Texarkana, Ark.; and Chatawa, Miss.



Rev. Ralph L. Hays Sr.
1927–2010

In 1973 his wife, Mary, became a major focus of his attention. She became disabled with a traumatic brain injury due to chemically-induced hypoxia following a tragic series of events after a knee surgery. As a result Ralph became her chief caregiver for 34 years in Chatawa. During this time he and his brother Jack started the Sunshine Mountain Seventh Day Baptist Church.

Sunshine Mountain not only became a church but also a place where Ralph could care for his wife. In doing so, he could also care for others who had the same kind of disabilities. For many years people from across the nation and any walk of life came to Sunshine Mountain for help, to give help, and to live. The Hays brothers offered that to anyone who needed it.

Pastor Ralph worked with children, youth and small groups in most of the churches he served. He was skilled in construction and as an electrician. This is evident in many of the buildings and infrastructure on the Chatawa church property.

He wrote two memorable booklets, "Walking with Angels" and "Dear Mary." They were real descriptions of his life, seeing and living in the wonder of God. "Dear Mary" was a letter written for his wife to read if she ever regained her health. She never did.

Ralph was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Ann (Hollock) Hays in 2007; four brothers, James, Victor, Baxter and Jack; and one sister, Willie Rae. He is survived by his two children, Sally Ann Hays and Ralph L. Hays Jr.

Ralph Lavelle Hays' physical body was donated to the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson. His spiritual body is resting in the arms of his Savior.

Dear SR readers,

Thanks for keeping us informed of your family news. It's a great way to stay connected with SDBs all over the country, and—thanks to the Web—all over the world!

You may e-mail your updates to:

editor@seventhdaybaptist.org

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

—Editor

Death Notices

The Rev. Socrates A. Thompson, 93, of Deltona, FL died on November 20, 2010.

Wanda Jane (Wood) Roe, 60, of Boaz, AL died on December 1, 2010.



Women's Society Robe of Achievement 2011 Nominations

The Robe of Achievement Committee of the SDB Women's Society is looking for nominations for a woman in the denomination who is:

- a committed Christian
- active in her local Seventh Day Baptist church
- has given service as a volunteer in some phase of denominational effort, and
- given special service in her community or family

A complete résumé should be submitted con-

taining a life history, including her achievements and activities. Without a résumé in hand, the committee cannot make a competent choice among many nominees.

The deadline is March 31, 2011, but there is no need to wait until the last minute to submit your nomination. The committee will gladly accept them any time. If you nominated someone before and they were not chosen, please resubmit your nomination.

Contact Karen Payne at 13528 595th Street, Claremont MN 55928 or karen.payne1127@gmail.com for a résumé form. The form is also available on the Women's Society website (SDBWomen.org).

Missionary Society Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the members of the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society will be held at the First SDB Church of Hopkinton Parish House, 8 Church St., Ashaway, R.I., on Sunday, March 20, 2011, at 2:00 p.m. for the following purposes:

- To elect voting members, a Board of Managers and officers to hold office until the next annual meeting and until their successors are elected.
- To hear and act upon the reports of the Board of Managers and officers for the fiscal year January 1, 2010, to December 31, 2010.
- To ratify the appointment of independent public accountants for the current fiscal year.
- To consider and act upon such other matters as may properly come before said meeting or any adjournment thereof.

The Board of Managers has fixed the close of business on February 28, 2011, as the time at which members entitled to notice thereof and to vote at the meeting and any adjournment thereof shall be determined.

—Beverly Kilts, Secretary

“Leading Through Outreach Change”

Dates for SDB
Pastors' Conference
are set for
April 26-30, 2011
at **Camp Wakonda** in
Milton, Wisconsin

Our special guest will
be Dr. Howard Bixby of
ChristWay Ministries.

More info will be at
sdbministry.org

K E V I N ' S

O R N E R

Major life-style change

This Korner about missions first appeared in the mid-90s, before DVDs were popular (or affordable).

Janet and I decided to surprise our kids with an early Christmas present.

Since we live in the valley of a glacial depression, we've "suffered" with little or no television reception for seven years. My attempt at a roof antenna finally blew down last summer, so when the new cable company offered a deal we couldn't refuse, we secretly set the plan in motion.

"You know, dear," I proposed, "if we have cable, shouldn't we look into getting a new TV? I mean, look at this old model!

We got it as a wedding gift! We really need to update our equipment."

I wasn't finished. "And if we want to record all of the holiday shows, won't we need another VCR? There will be *so many* times that we'll want to record two programs at the same time!!"

Well, she went for the TV, but not the recorder. I had to borrow another one.

Back to the kids' surprise. Every Thanksgiving, we've tried to squint through the haze on our one almost-channel to watch the big parades. We could generally make out the shape of the Garfield the Cat balloon.

This time, the kids' eyes popped out to see not only a new TV, but a clear picture on 45 channels! They were ecstatic—and glued to the set.

Since that fateful surprise, on more than several occasions (each and every day), Mom and Dad have looked at each other and chimed in unison: "Major lifestyle change!"

With the free-for-30-days deal on premium movie channels, I kept the stores re-stocking their blank videotapes so I could record great oldies

and recent blockbusters. "Major lifestyle change!"

"But honey," I reasoned. "Look at all the hours of entertainment we'll have once the 30 days are up!"

She thought, *Look at all the hours you spend planning what to tape, at what time, on which VCR...* Major lifestyle change.

That major change became more evident just the other night. During our usual reading time after the kids went to bed, there we were in the living room, watching the Weather Channel! (Not a totally insane idea during our totally insane Wisconsin December.)

All of this reminded me of a movie. How appropriate.

The film featured a whiz-kid anthropologist (played by Timothy Hutton) uncovering a lost tribe and then "civilizing" the natives. A later report shows the once-lost people wearing American football jerseys, partying in drunken revelry, acting like some teens I see around downtown Janesville.

"Major lifestyle change."

Had their life improved?

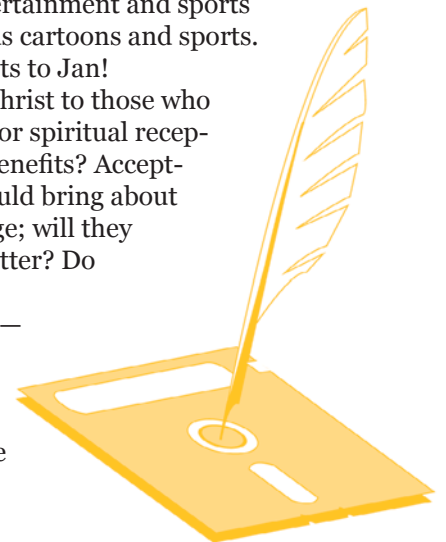
Has our life improved with television?

I keep telling myself that TV has so many educational opportunities and sports and culturally enriching shows and sports and Christian programs and sports and family entertainment and sports and (some) decent kids cartoons and sports. Gotta sell those benefits to Jan!

When we present Christ to those who have suffered from poor spiritual reception, do they see the benefits? Accepting the Lord Jesus would bring about a major lifestyle change; will they see it as toward the better? Do they see it in us?

Gotta sell—and live—the benefits! The biggest benefit? Seeing Him in Glory.

Major after-lifestyle change.



Share the Journey



If you enjoy religious allegories, you'll enjoy reading our full-color special issue "Journey of a Lifetime." And after you read it, how about sharing the story with neighbors and friends?

To receive copies of this special outreach issue, contact us at the **Seventh Day Baptist Center, PO Box 1678, Janesville WI 53547**. Our phone number is **608-752-5055**, and our e-mail is **media@seventhdaybaptist.org**.

Individual copies are free. We will need to add shipping charges for larger quantities. Please contact us for those costs.

We pray that the Lord will bless this story of our beliefs, and many others will join us on our "Journey of a Lifetime."