

# **SR** The Sabbath *Inside:* **RECORDER**

The value  
of new eyes

The shade of  
a \$10 dress

November 2011

*News for and about Seventh Day Baptists*



Giving

Care

to the  
Caregiver



## Who are Seventh Day Baptists?

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

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

### The seventh day

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

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

**The Lost Creek SDB Church** in Lost Creek, West Virginia is prayerfully seeking pastoral candidates. If you feel God's calling to lead our church, please contact Rick Fenstermacher at (304) 745-3841 or e-mail: [raf4043@yahoo.com](mailto:raf4043@yahoo.com)

The Central SDB Church in Mitchellville, Maryland, has located a beautiful piece of land on which to build a church. We are asking our brothers and sisters in Christ to help us by sponsoring a square foot of land for \$10 each. Please pray about this and consider helping us in our vision as we go on faith and take a step into the Jordan.



**Please send gifts to:**

**Central SDB Church -- Raakeli Watt, Treasurer  
6608 Pepin Drive Upper Marlboro MD 20772**

## Wednesdays for Fasting and Prayer

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

Last year General Conference passed an important recommendation. In response to the continuing interest and passion in church planting throughout the denomination, delegates made their desire known that each Wednesday 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 church plants and missions are needed.



Let's unify in prayer. Allow the Lord to direct you 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! To God be the glory!



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# The ups and downs of constant care

by JoAnne Kandel  
Little Genesee, N.Y.

**“It’s not my gift, but I do know something about it”**

“Caregiving.” That’s the topic I was asked to write about.

Now why, I wondered, would anybody think that I know anything about caregiving? It is not one of my gifts. I have very little patience with small children and I would make a terrible nurse. The sight of blood makes me woozy.

Maybe I was asked to talk about caregiving because I am a pastor. Pastors often provide care to parishioners. But there are plenty of other Seventh Day Baptist pastors who could be asked to write about providing care.

Could it be because my dad has Alzheimer’s and is in a nursing home? No, I don’t think that’s it. I can’t provide much care for my dad because I live 2,000 miles away from him and I need to care for my 21-year-old daughter who is developmentally disabled.

Maybe that’s it. The fact that I have a daughter with a rare chromosome disorder would lead people to believe that I can write about caregiving. Well, as I said, it is not my gift, but I do know something about it.

I recently completed a three-



week stretch of full-time care for our daughter, Martha. So I can report that it can be difficult and lonely work, especially when it is a full-time job. Martha can be adorable, fun, insightful and loving. But she can also be stubborn, difficult and exasperating.

Caring for another person can be physically exhausting because they may need to be fed, dressed, brushed, bathed and so forth. But it is *mentally* challenging also.

When caring for Martha I’m always trying to think ahead to anticipate where she might have trouble, especially outside of our home.

I take care to avoid driving past places where she might insist that we stop, like a “big box” store because she will want to purchase a video, or a McDonald’s with a play space. If I refuse to take Martha to her favorite store or restaurant she could throw a fit that would rival that of any self-respecting 2-year-old.

If I do decide to take her into a public place I have to analyze the establishment before we enter. Because Martha has trouble with uneven floors, dark spaces and too many steps, I evaluate the entrance and floor plan. I wonder if I brought enough puzzles for her to put together so she will be entertained. Is there food that she can eat? Will she have the patience to sit through a meal?

Now, I am not trying to gain sympathy for my situation because I believe everyone has difficulties and challenges. Having a child with disabilities just happens to be one of our challenges. The reason I’m sharing what it’s like to have a family member who is disabled is so that those who are in a different circumstance can understand a little of what our life is like—and people

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who may be in a similar situation will know they are not alone.

As I said, caregiving can be challenging, but it is something that all Christians are all called to do. Jesus reminded his followers to love their neighbors (Matthew 22:39). He helped others by providing food (Mark 8:6) and healing (Luke 4:40) on numerous occasions. Jesus also told the story of the Good Samaritan to reinforce the concept of caring for strangers (Luke 10:33).

The biblical standard of helping others is clear. But if we are full-time caregivers how can we avoid burnout and depression? And if we are not caregivers, how can we support those who are? Here are some of my suggestions:

### Advice for Caregivers

- Ask for help. Here is where it really helps to be a Christian. We are called to be humble and doesn't pride get in the way of our asking for help?

- Take time for yourself. I know that "alone time" is almost impossible, but if you can get some time away, take it!

- Forgive yourself if you make mistakes and lose patience. Nobody is perfect and caregiving is exhausting and taxing work. Lighten up!

- Exercise and eat well. I need to walk every day but couldn't always do it with Martha home so I would use the only step in our home to

go up and down for exercise and to improve my disposition. Martha and I also make a game of rolling hula-hoops back and forth between the kitchen and living room. It is not for everyone, but again—lighten up!

- Pray. I prefer a nice long "quiet time" for Bible study and prayer, but that's not usually possible when Martha is underfoot. I try to remember that God still hears my prayers even if I can only send up a quick communication now and then. Sometimes we pray and God sends someone to help us but we don't recognize His hand at work. If God offers help from someone you trust, don't be a martyr—take the help. You don't have to do everything yourself!

- Join a support group. When Martha was in grade school some friends and I started a parent support group. We also belong to a national group for people with genetic disorders involving the 18<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> chromosomes. Meeting with other parents who have similar issues is incredibly helpful.

### Advice for Supporting Caregivers

- Pray for people you know who are caregivers and those who they care for. Prayer always makes a difference!

- Visit by phone, e-mail, Facebook or in person. Family caregivers tend to stay home a lot and it can be a lonely time. A visit cheers up your day.

- Offer to help by spending time with the person who needs care. Most people wouldn't feel like they could be responsible to care for Martha alone, but when she's home full time

I would be glad to have someone else help her with a puzzle or chase her hula-hoop while I was in another room.

- Offer to help by running errands, making a phone call, shoveling snow, or bringing over a meal.

There are days when caregiving for Martha is an absolute joy. When she makes up games to play or learns something new, I am so glad that I have the privilege to be her primary caregiver. But there are other days when she repeats the same story (with pictures and signs) over and over and over again, or loses her temper over the smallest thing. On those days I feel that I might go mad.

On the difficult days I am so glad that members of our faith communities check up on us and pray for us and ask, "How is it going?" Because of the support of our brothers and sisters in Christ and the knowledge that God also hears my prayers, I feel more confident that I can make it through to the next day. *SR*



*JoAnne,  
Mark and  
Martha  
Kandel*

# Supporting the Caregiver

## Concern leads to support group

by Barb Green  
Milton, Wis.

Have you ever felt God’s tug on your heart to start something? I felt that as He placed within me the need to start a support group at church for those who are caring for aging parents.

An e-mail invitation was issued to all those I thought might be interested, and in January 2008 we started. I can’t remember how many attended that first meeting but in nearly four years many lives have been touched and a lot of wisdom imparted. This is not *my* wisdom but that of the group.

I prepare a discussion point but many times it isn’t needed. Just sharing with each other fills the time. Laughter and tears flow freely as we realize that we are not alone; most of us have the same concerns.

God continually amazes me in the way He brings things together. I want to share with you some of the things we’ve learned.

### That changes everything!

Nearly all of us experience a “transformative moment”—an event that changes everything and thrusts us into a caregiving situation. It may be a fall, emergency surgery, a chronic illness diagnosis, or just realizing that a loved one’s memory is failing and they can’t be left alone.



***It’s better to talk to your parents or spouse about possible solutions too soon than to allow a crisis to dictate your response.***

Being ready for this moment takes some prior planning. It’s better to talk to your parents or spouse about possible solutions too soon than to allow a crisis to dictate your response.

Advance directives (living will, health care power of attorney) are important as is a durable power of attorney. These can help you know what your loved one wants should they not be able to make decisions for themselves. Tour local facilities to see what living situations are available and best for your family.

These questions need answers: Do they want to be cared for at home? Where do they want to live

if they can’t be independent at home? Is quantity or quality of life more important?

Our society takes a lot of time planning for a new baby. Shouldn’t just as much time be spent planning for our elders?

### Choices and decisions

Our group talks about honoring our parents, and obeying them even when we disagree. Several in the class gave instances of when someone made a decision for them without asking for their input and how angry it made them. Our parents feel the same way, so it is

important to give options and let them make as many decisions as they are capable of making.

It may be hard to stand by and feel that a wrong choice has been made, but unless it interferes with their safety we need to let them do it.

Sometimes we feel that a loved one would not want to attend a family gathering because they usually just sit and don't join in the conversation. When I felt that way about my mother, it always surprised me that on the way home she would talk and talk about what she had heard and observed. The anticipation of attending a function—and then the memories associated with it afterward—can linger for a long time and make life more worthwhile. It also gives the caregiver a good feeling even though it may be difficult to get your loved one there.

### Dealing with grief

A good share of our time has been spent talking about grief because several have lost parents during the time we have been meeting. Grief is love's unwillingness to let go and it must be worked through. Sometimes it is easier when you can cry with others who understand.

Some **Resources** used in our support group:

- “Coach Broyles’ Playbook for Alzheimer’s Caregivers”
- “Focus on the Family’s Guide to Caring for Aging Loved Ones”
- “And Thou Shalt Honor” edited by Beth Witrogen McLeod
- “A Caregiver’s Survival Guide” by Kay Marshall Strom.

I use [www.caring.com](http://www.caring.com) for many articles I use with the group. Your local Council on Aging has wonderful resources.

One of the books that helped us is a children’s book titled *Tear Soup* by Pat Schweibert. Some in the group buy copies and give them to those who are grieving. You can get the book from the internet.

### Time for hospice?

A friend from a hospice group is willing to come and talk with us on a Sabbath morning. We pick her brain as she listens and patiently answers our questions. Some have come to realize that choosing hospice care does not mean you have given up on a loved one. It is exchanging “life at all costs” for quality of life.

Having hospice as part of your team can relieve you of many time-consuming responsibilities and free you to really spend quality time with your loved one. Hospice care now extends beyond those who have a terminal diagnosis and allows those with “end-stage” debility or dementia to receive hospice services. Ask your doctor if your loved one would benefit.

Some of the questions we ponder include: If you knew when a person was going to die, what would you do

in that time? What would you want others to do if *you* were dying? How would you want to spend your last week? Answering these in addition to taking a crack at writing our own obituary help us look at life and death in a different way.

### Care for the caregiver

Taking care of the caregiver is a big topic. Resentment, exhaustion, sadness, frustration, guilt, anger, pain and exasperation are just some of the emotions a caregiver may feel.

#### To prevent burnout it is important to take care of yourself.

Tips we talk about include:

- Put “staying healthy” at the top of your list
- Have a backup plan in case something happens to you
- Take one day at a time
- Keep your sense of humor
- Pat yourself on the back for the good job you are doing

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***Having hospice as part of your team can relieve you of many time-consuming responsibilities and free you to really spend quality time with your loved one.***



## Supporting the Caregiver, *cont. from p. 7*

- *Get enough rest and eat right*
- *Make time for the things you like to do*
- *Talk about how you feel with others and listen to your friends*
- *Make a list of all the things you are thankful for*
- *Ask for help from friends and other family members, and don't feel guilty.*

You should also try to model an attitude of respect for the one you are caring for. Prayer, Scripture and inspirational music can all lead to stress relief—not just for you but for the one you care for. Kindness is the single most reliable, ethical and practical guide to caregiving.

Sound like Jesus? You bet. Caregiving is very much a spiritual journey. Remember to keep Him on the team.

Caregiving is an important part of our lives. Although we've dealt mostly with elderly parents, caregiving includes taking care of a spouse, a child or a friend. At any given time we may be a caregiver or a care recipient.

Taking care of yourself and having the support of others is crucial. Perhaps your church has a support group like ours. If not, why not start one? We meet during Sabbath School time which seems to work well. If you need help getting started please contact me at [dbgreen13@gmail.com](mailto:dbgreen13@gmail.com). **SR**



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## Caregiver Empty Nesting

### *Five Ways to Get Back to Yourself*

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

Millions of people are caregiving for loved ones in their homes. Parts of your own life must be put on hold, but soon your schedule as a caregiver becomes the new normal, and you begin to cherish new memories.

And then one day, caregiving is no longer necessary. For many people, the transition back to “normal” life is unexpectedly difficult, especially if grief is added into the mix.

“When your ‘shift’ as a caregiver is over, loneliness, grief, and confusion may replace the feelings of being needed,” says Joni Aldrich, author of *Connecting through Compassion: Guidance for Family and Friends of a Brain Cancer Patient* (Cancer Lifeline Publications, 2010).

“Suddenly, you're a caregiving empty nester. Things are too quiet.

You're not being pulled in three different directions... so what will you do now? How will you resume your regular life?”

Aldrich knows this feeling all too well. She cared for her husband, then her mother—before both died of cancer.

“After the oxygen machine was turned off, the silence was deafening. Everything had changed in that one moment in time, and that's when I truly realized that you don't have to have children leaving the house to suffer from Empty Nest Syndrome.”

As you pick yourself up and regain the foundation of your own life, here are Aldrich's suggestions to help you feel better if you are a caregiving empty nester:

- **Give yourself some love**
- **Give others you love some love**
- **Allow yourself to grieve and get counseling**
- **Focus on stabilizing your future**
- **Volunteer: it's good for the soul**

Aldrich concludes, “Once the demands on your time and energy have been taken away, it's important for you to acknowledge that you have served a purpose, and that now it's time to move on, regroup, and rebuild.

“Don't expect this process to be speedy—but if you approach it with self-awareness and patience, you will once again achieve a full, balanced life.” **SR**



# A service of love

by *Bettie B. Pearson*  
Aragon, Georgia



## ***Loving compassion overcame me as I saw Mama suffering.***

We had only been back in Malawi about two weeks when a telegram from my sister arrived.

“Mother diagnosed pancreatic cancer Doctor gives only six months Love Ruth”

David and I had returned to Africa to begin our fifth term of missionary service. We were getting settled and planned to go north for David to help in constructing the Mzuzu Church.

This word came as a terrible shock. What could I do? I decided I must fly home to be with my mother in her remaining time.

We ordered the plane ticket from our usual missionary travel agency. While waiting for the ticket to be

processed and delivered by registered mail, I went north for three weeks. Arriving back south to prepare for my flight, I found that the paper-work had not come.

We earnestly prayed for God’s working and the ticket arrived on Monday morning, the day of my afternoon flight! This confirmed in my heart that God was sending me home to be with my mother.

When I got home and walked into Mama’s room, my heart was broken. Wrapping my arms around her, we both wept. She said she was so happy that I had come and wanted to know how long I could stay.

That was a hard question, for I

had planned to be her caregiver until the end, but how could I tell her that? “As long as you need me,” I simply said.

I soon found out that she didn’t understand her cancer was terminal, and it was my job to tell her. After I somehow managed to explain it, her reaction was that she had wanted to see more of the community youth come to Jesus before her time came.

Dan and Louise, my brother and sister-in-law, had moved in the big house with Mama but had to be away during the day. It was my responsibility to provide her needs, to give her encouragement and most of all, to shower her with my love.

Holding the hand that had so often cared for me in my childhood, I would read Scripture to her. How dear those Scriptures that speak of our heavenly home!

How precious those days and hours with her. It was most difficult to see Mama suffering in pain, and I had to learn to give Demerol injections. It seemed so cruel to have to stick that needle in her, though I knew it was for her relief.

***cont. next page***

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## A service of love, *cont. from p. 9*

I was deeply thankful to others of the family who helped and to a nurse who came regularly.

Loving compassion overcame me as I saw her suffering. Serving her needs, though difficult, could be done patiently because of my love. She did not have much appetite, but I did my best to provide what food she could tolerate.

Not only the qualities of patience and compassion, but *all* the fruits of the Spirit are needed: “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law” (Galatians 5:22-23, NASB). Joy and peace may be hard in such a situation, but if the companion of one so ill gives from the heart, peace and joy come in serving the need.

While I was there, my heart was full of sorrow and yet I was so grateful to be with my mother dur-

ing her suffering as I sensed her life ebbing away. My heart welled up with love to her, and to God who had let me be her daughter and know her life of dedication to Him.

Certainly that all-important fruit of the Spirit is vital, for the flesh is weak—too weak for the fullness of compassionate love. God grant a special blessing to those who so serve. In her book *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*, Shelly Beach writes, “The work of caregiving should be reserved for the truly courageous or the blindly naive. It is soul-crunching, spirit-bending, body-wearing work because it is redemptive work. In caregiving we reflect Christ’s love: unconditional love, unequivocal love, unreserved love. We are called to love in ways that will either change or break us.”

That last weekend she had stopped eating and was unconscious. We knew her frail body could not

sustain her much longer.

When the end came, I stood beside her as she gasped her last breath, then lay still. I thanked God for her life and the life she gave me to serve Him far and near. “*Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord...*” (from Revelation 14:13). **SR**



*Bettie Butler Pearson (rt.) served many years as an SDB missionary in Malawi, Africa with her husband David. She is pictured here with her mother about a year before her passing.*

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## New pastor at Hebron

by Kent Kenyon

The First Seventh Day Baptist Church of Hebron, Pa., is pleased to welcome Carl Greene to serve as pastor in the community.

Pastor Greene resides at the church parsonage with his wife Cindy and children Seth, Luke, Sam and Ellie. The Greens moved here from their family farm in Berlin, N.Y.

Pastor Carl recently felt called to ministry and will be completing seminary (by distance learning) at Bethel University while serving the Hebron Church. He was recently installed and a welcome reception held at the Hebron Community

Building for the locals to meet the Greene family. **SR**



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# Get your Care Kit ready!

*Having the right tools on hand can be the difference between life and death*

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

Being a caregiver can be one of the most challenging, complicated, and rewarding jobs you'll ever do. It can require lightning-fast decision making that could potentially affect the outcome of a person's recovery.

Nobody understands this more than Joni Aldrich. She spent two years learning the intricacies, trials, and triumphs of being a caregiver for her husband, Gordon, when he was diagnosed with cancer. Most recently, Aldrich was faced with being the primary caregiver for her mother, who was battling lung cancer.

"As the primary caregiver for my 84-year-old mother, a recent morning started out pretty normal," explains Aldrich, author of *Connecting through Compassion* (Cancer Life-line Publications, 2010).

"Coffee, breakfast, medicine—all standard stuff. Minutes later, she told me that her mouth, tongue, and throat were numb, and she was having trouble swallowing. I immediately got her nurse on the phone.

"It became apparent that she was having an allergic reaction to an antibiotic. After a brief conversation, I ran for the Benadryl. And because I had some within reach, a possible catastrophe was averted."

The problem, says Aldrich, is that many caregivers don't realize how having a few basic tools on hand can not only make their jobs easier, but could also end up being lifesaving for their patients.

If you're a caregiver looking for a little advice on how to stock your own supply, Aldrich is here to help. Here are ten items she says are must-haves:

**1. Seven-day, multiple-section pill organizer.**

This can be a lifesaver for you and your patient. Aldrich recommends using one that has slots for every day of the week *and* different times for each day.

**2. Updated list of all medications.**

Keep a copy in every possible place where you may need it at a moment's notice like your purse, coat pockets, and vehicles. Tack a copy by the phone and the patient's bed for easy access as well.

**3. Good pill cutter.**

Using a knife might mean a sliced finger, or the pills go flying where you can't find them—but your pet or grandchild may later. A good cutter also ensures a consistent dosage size.

**4. Over-the-counter oral antihistamine.**

Benadryl is a great drug to stock in your medicine cabinet in cases of mild allergic reactions.

**5. Latex or non-latex gloves.**

Gloves are necessary to protect patient and caregiver from harmful germs, and they can be used in a variety of situations—from serving food to cleaning up messes.

**6. Hydrogen peroxide.**

Good for getting bloodstains out of clothing and bedding, or soak your toothbrush to kill germs and viruses. Peroxide can also be used for cleaning surfaces like sinks and showers.

**7. Rubbing alcohol.**

Rubbing alcohol is a good cleaning agent. Aldrich recommends using a cloth with alcohol to sterilize often-touched surfaces.

**8. Digital thermometer (with covers).**


You should have several on hand in the event that one doesn't work, you are unsure of a reading, or you can't find one in the middle of the night.

**9. Good blood pressure monitor.**

Look for a fully automatic version that measures blood pressure correctly on the upper arm at heart level.

**10. Plenty of paperwork.**

Have a calendar for organizing appointments, medical tests, and a schedule of caregiving help. Keep a three-ring binder for storing medical test results.

Aldrich concludes, "Do your research, plan ahead, and don't be afraid to ask for help. The peace of mind you'll get from being prepared is one of the most precious gifts you can give yourself as a caregiver." 





# 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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## Tornado can't kill love

On May 22nd, a tornado hit Joplin, Mo., a city of about 50,000. The F5 storm killed 160 people, injured more than 900, and destroyed over 8,000 homes and businesses.

According to the National Weather Service, the Joplin tornado was the single deadliest in the U.S. since 1950, when modern recordkeeping began. The twister was about three-quarters of a mile wide and had winds in excess of 200 mph.

While driving to my brother's home in Arkansas in July, my husband Fred and I made a side trip through Joplin's outlying business district. The devastation was unbelievable. Going on to Michigan we toured Joplin again, this time traveling down side streets into residential areas.

It looked like terrorists had detonated a series of powerful bombs. Entire neighborhoods were leveled, leaving manicured lawns looking like trash dumps. The few trees left standing were stripped of most of their limbs and bark. Dozens of damaged vehicles looked like they had been spit out of trash compactors.

We later learned that by early August, the Army Corps of Engineers finished clearing 1.45 million cubic yards of debris from Joplin's hardest hit areas.

In addition to the thousands of homes, the Joplin tornado destroyed

or severely damaged 10 of the city's dozen schools. In a stroke of good fortune, Joplin High School's graduation ceremony was held at a nearby university and ended just hours before the storm destroyed the school.

At St. John's Regional Medical Center, the tornado blew out all the windows and sucked people out of the first-floor emergency room, depositing them in the parking lot. The storm also pulled intravenous tubes out of patients' arms. One unconfirmed report had the hospital shifting four-inches off its foundation. Miraculously, only five patients and one visitor were killed.

Since Fred works part-time at Home Depot, we visited the "temporary" Home Depot store in Joplin. They erected it near the spot where the original building once stood. While visiting with employees, we learned 28 people survived by crawling under tables in the training room. One employee and six customers died in the store.

Exploring outside the store, I happened upon a makeshift memorial where two stuffed animals guarded two of the small wooden crosses. I later learned that Rusty Howard, 29, was found beneath a 100,000-pound slab of concrete, holding his two children in his arms. Daughter Harli was 5, and son Hayze was 19 months old. (They were



Photo by Leanne L-Wuerthele

placed in a coffin the same way.)

It was heart wrenching to view the devastation in Joplin, but there were also heartwarming moments. Like the sign that read, "Pray for Joplin," and a large billboard proclaiming, "A Tornado Can't Kill Our Love for Each Other."

Immediately following the disaster, area farmers showed up with large equipment to help clear impassable roads. Staff members of "Samaritan's Purse" were on site the day after the tornado, surveying the damage and lining up a host church for its volunteers.

Help even came from unexpected sources, like the embassy of the United Arab Emirates, where Islam is the official state religion. It donated \$500,000 so every high school student in Joplin would have a new laptop when school started again.

Natural disasters can devastate the human spirit, but Christians who put their faith into action can spread hope, love, and light during the darkest moments of life. May all of us become the hands and feet of Christ when the opportunity arises. **SR**



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

## Lessons from an icy catwalk

by Sharon Campbell  
Shiloh, NJ

*[Kristin's note: This continues a series where SDB women share how they have seen God work through them in their daily occupations. Sharon Campbell tells of how God made His presence evident during a big challenge. May you be encouraged when you find yourself in difficult circumstances!]*

One wintry day at my job in emergency medical services, my ambulance partner and I were called to a local warehouse. Upon arrival workers led us to the rear of the facility. My partner ran on ahead as I grabbed the necessary medical equipment and quickly followed.

An employee led us first through a large room, then through a boiler room, and finally back outside into the early morning sun that glared brightly on the snow-covered landscape.

Suddenly, the worker stopped and looked up. He was standing next to a catwalk. This tall, ice-covered set of steps preceded a long steel plank. I could see that about the same number of slippery steps appeared on the other side of the plank, about 10 to 15 feet away.

I looked at the man, hoping that he was kidding, but I could tell by the look on his face that he was serious. In response to my questions he informed me that this was the only way to get to where we needed to be. My mind flashed back to those

old pirate movies where “walking the plank” was never a good thing. Talk about a sinking feeling!

In my EMS career I have been *truly* afraid for my own safety only a few times. This call was immediately added to that list. I swallowed the lump in my throat as my intense fear of heights resurfaced.

I prayed. Philippians 4:13 came to mind: “I can do all things through Him who gives me strength.” *Not some things*, I said to myself, *but all things*.

The worker, my partner and I began the trek upward.

The “Don’t Look Down” theory did not apply. I soon realized that the grated metal steps were spaced extremely and unusually wide. It seemed best to watch my feet to make sure that I made each step successfully. Other than that as an issue, it was a lovely aerial view of the surrounding area. (Gulp!)

The emergency equipment strapped to my shoulder shifted slightly during a step, causing me to stop. My partner asked me if I was okay. I managed a brave “yes.”

In my mind I could hear the phrase *Psalms 61*. I thought about that prompting briefly, but I couldn’t recall that particular psalm. Softly and quietly words flowed—“Lead me to the Rock that is higher than I, for You have been my refuge, a strong tower against the foe.” A surge of protection flooded my inner soul and I found myself finally stepping back down onto ground level.

We found a few people in a small room. We soon learned that the patient was fine and did not need

our services after all.

It was time to walk back the way we had come—yes, over that catwalk. I prayed once again for my safety. I took it step by step slowly, arriving back down on the other side. After the last step was taken—first by my partner and then by me—I looked up at the beautiful blue sky (complete with puffy white clouds) and I thanked the Lord for His goodness.

Finishing up that call we got back into the ambulance and put away our equipment. While heading back to our station, I said to my partner, “You know that was all God, right?” We discussed going on that icy catwalk, and how the reportedly ill patient was fine.

“That *had* to be the hand of God. How awesome,” I said. My partner responded, “Sharon, I think you’ve got something there.”

I shook my head and said, “No doubt.” **SR**



*Sharon Campbell is married to Ron and is a mother and grandmother. She lives in Shiloh, New Jersey and is a member of the Shiloh Seventh Day Baptist Church.*



## The Value of New Eyes

### *The contributions of Robert B. St. Clair*

As I travel to local Seventh Day Baptist churches, certain themes repeat in the conversations I have with church members. One conversation I seem to have frequently is about the “long family lines” that an individual has in the SDB movement. These conversations center on the blessing of being connected to SDBs for many generations.

Nearly as often, I have conversations with those who do *not* have these long-standing SDB roots. The juxtaposition between these conversations is often striking, as the two groups do not always have the same view of our history.

While there are certain blessings wrapped up in our strong heritage, the denomination seems to have been blessed just as much by those who are “first generation” members, because of their vision, passion, and ability to see what long-time SDBs cannot.

The Rev. Robert B. St. Clair, pastor of the Detroit SDB church, is a prime example of how someone coming to SDBs can profoundly impact our history.

St. Clair moved to Detroit, Mich., in 1916 after several years of ministry with other denominations in Ontario, Canada. While in Ontario, he was approached by a co-worker who had come to believe in the seventh-day Sabbath after talking with Adventists.

Determined to prove the woman’s new convictions were not grounded in the Scriptures, he began to study—but within an hour was also convinced of the Sabbath, though not the teachings of Ellen G. White. When he moved to Detroit, St. Clair gathered a Seventh Day Baptist church, which was recognized by the Conference a few years later.

St. Clair was a man of deep convictions. He spent his life confronting what he saw as error and evil, refusing to cower in the midst of challenges. He wrote a monthly paper called *The Voice*, which regularly refuted the teachings of Adventism.

He spurred SDBs to carefully consider the times and how young people were moving into cities and away

from their home churches. This led to the formation of the Conference’s Vocation Committee, charged with trying to help our young people find work and remain connected to SDB life.

He became involved almost immediately in the work of foreign and domestic missions among SDBs, with a passion that the Gospel be shared around the world. He also scheduled speaking tours for believers from Ethiopia who traveled to rural SDB congregations to talk about the history of the Ethiopian church and to rectify misunderstandings about Christianity in Africa.

St. Clair was also an advocate of Prohibition laws, pushing local police to fully enforce the legislation. It was this last conviction which may have led to his demise. He died from a cerebral hemorrhage under suspicious circumstances on a Detroit street in 1928, leading his friends to suspect that he was murdered. The circumstances surrounding his death were never explored by police.

Robert B. St. Clair’s contributions to SDB life are many. His newsletter, *The Voice*, came into the hands of Free Seventh-day Adventists in Jamaica, and those Free SDAs ultimately formed the Jamaican SDB Conference (*see the January 2000 SR, p. 14*). His efforts to open the eyes of SDBs to different cultures and ethnicities are reflected in our Conference’s current multicultural flavor.

His concern for SDB young people in cities has been echoed in the years since. His passion for the cities is reflected by nearly four decades of urban and suburban church planting efforts.

While St. Clair’s involvement was tragically cut short, it is clear that his passion deeply influenced our people. What is your passion for Seventh Day Baptists? Would anyone know it from the way you live?

Whether we are new to SDBs or the latest in a long family line, we have a responsibility to act according to our convictions. **SR**



# Seminarian Profile

## Seminarian Profile

**Name:** David Sebastian Fox

**Birthdate and place:** Feb. 27, 1985  
Manassas, VA (Hometown: Gahanna, Ohio)

**Family:**

Wife: Rachel (formerly Hargett)  
Parents: Dean and Susie Fox

**Education:**

Gahanna (OH) Lincoln High School  
Ashland (OH) University  
Reformed Theological Seminary, Atlanta Campus  
(I expect to graduate in May 2013)

**Ministry experience:**

Active Church Membership (Pataskala, OH and Metro Atlanta, GA)  
3 years of SCSC (Shiloh, NJ; Seattle, WA; and New Auburn, WI)  
COM Pastoral Internships (Seattle, WA and Metro Atlanta, GA)  
Multiple years serving as worship leader, teacher, administrator, and camp counselor

**Other employment:**

Wendy's (during high school)  
Catering (during college)  
Welding / Heavy manufacturing (when first moved to Georgia)  
Sears Home Appliance Showroom (current job)

**Favorite Bible passage:**

Ephesians 2:8-10

**Favorite authors:**

Mark Driscoll, John Piper, and C. S. Lewis



**If given a \$10,000 check I (we) would:**  
Buy an iPad and pay off debt.

**A great answer to prayer was:**  
Finding the right seminary.

**A project I'm excited about:**  
Pastor John Pethtel's (Conference) presidency.

**My vision for SDBs:**  
A shift from being mere "seventh day" Baptists to being seven-day Christians.

The **2012 Seventh Day Baptist History Institute** will begin with online work in February. The classroom week at the SDB Center in Janesville, WI, will be August 12-17, 2012. Instructors are: Janet Thorngate, President of the SDB Historical Society, and Nicholas J. Kersten, Librarian-Historian of the Historical Society.

Registration form is on front page of the COM website at [www.sdbministry.org](http://www.sdbministry.org).



## This teacher an agent of Godly change

### *Retired Pastor Victor Skaggs receives Crystal Apple Award*

God uses you to influence others. Let me put that a different way: God uses you to *change* others.

As a follower of Jesus Christ, you have been called to be part of God's work in this world. You are an agent of Godly change. Over the next few months, this Christian Education page will explore what it means to be an agent of Godly change.

This month, I'd like you to consider Pastor Victor Skaggs. He retired in 1983 after serving several Seventh Day Baptist churches as pastor and serving the General Conference in a variety of roles. Retirement was not the end of serving churches and people. Twenty-eight years later, he continues to lead a Bible Study for an ecumenical group that gathers near where he lives and to teach a Sabbath School class at his home church in Boulder, Colo.

Pastor Vic has a real joy in the work God does and a sense of peace that comes from knowing God and His plans for good. The joy and peace are contagious. Not only do you want to capture those traits when you see them on display, they are contagious because Pastor Vic wants others to know the One who makes those traits become real. Without becoming a "Bible Thumper," he encourages others to see God more and to change to be like Him.

The Boulder Seventh Day Baptist Church decided to nominate Pastor Vic for the annual *Crystal Apple Award*. This award is presented by the Board of Christian Education to recognize good teachers and to remind everyone that Sabbath School is one spectacular tool for gathering people around the Word of God in order to teach and learn "on purpose." As is always the case, we received nominations from multiple churches for those who are very good at teaching in their local church. From the nominations, we chose Vic as this year's *Sabbath School Teacher of the Year*.

One of the couples attending his class wrote this about their experience: "Victor draws from his vast store of knowledge of the Bible. He researches the subject of the lesson on the internet and from various Bible dictionaries and commentaries. To this he adds experiences from his pastorates and applies it to current events. He manages all the above, keeping our attention and interest for an hour of Sabbath

School NONE of us want to miss out on! He also applies the lesson to our present lives and our church."

Consider Pastor Vic's example—a career of service followed by a retirement of service. But, the example is more than just service; it is an example of knowing God's love, living in that love, and wanting to help others do the same. His life is an obvious example of someone who has sold out to God and is living as an agent of Godly change.

God has called you to be a citizen of His Kingdom while living in a world that refuses to acknowledge Him. If you've received Christ, you are a citizen of His Kingdom, you are an agent of the Gospel, you are an agent of Godly change. **SR**

*The Boulder congregation  
applauds as the BCE's Andrew  
Camenga (l.) and Pastor Steve  
Osborn present the Crystal Apple  
Award to Pastor Victor Skaggs.*

*[Photo from Facebook.]*







# Introductions are in order

by Clinton R. Brown

If you have been paying attention to Missionary Society news lately, you already know the Society has been going through some changes. One big one would be the hiring of a new executive director. That would be me—Clinton R. Brown from Texarkana, Arkansas.

For my first *FOCUS on Missions*, therefore, I felt it would be best to introduce myself to those who may not know much about me.

It may come as a surprise to some that the Society members picked me as their executive. I count myself among the many who did not fully see it coming. Six months ago I was happily living among family and friends, part of the body of believers serving in ministry that I felt God had gifted me to perform.

I was working in a career where I was valued, and living in a home that had been in the family for more than 40 years. Then I found myself having to explain to my loved ones why I needed to uproot my family and move to Rhode Island.

To explain it to them, I had to explain it to myself. God had been preparing me with the skills, training and experiences for the work He wanted done there and around the world. God had used my obedience and even my disobedience in His foreknowledge to equip me for His service at the Missionary Society.

People ask me why I chose to accept this position and move so far away. Fortunately, God had made it an easy decision. He made clear to me that I was being called and it wasn't *my* life to begin with. My life was His from the beginning and I was just a steward.

It was time to really put into practice what I have been preaching to the youth group in Texarkana for years. The question is not: "What do I want to do when I grow up?" Instead it is, "How does God want to use my life throughout?"

I believe it is important for me to seek God's perspective on this truth. In this position, I will often be encouraging others to sacrifice their own time, money, and resources to advance God's kingdom in the United States, Canada, and throughout the world. But if we look at it from God's perspective, I will actually be asking brothers and sisters to share the blessings that God has entrusted them to do His work.

Even in the few weeks I have had to train with our retiring director, Kirk Looper, and begin to settle in, I can already see that—though prepared—I am inadequate alone for the proper performance of the calling that has been set before me. Fortunately, for all of us, I know that through the Christ we love, all things can be accomplished.

To that end, I ask for continued prayers of wisdom that I may see God's will in setting goals and performing the work He has for us, and also for the strength to go wherever God calls me.

May He remove as much of my own faults, prejudices and shortcomings from the situation and let the Holy Spirit guide my actions, motives, and heart. **SR**



*Clint Brown in his new office.*

***I ask for continued prayers of wisdom that I may see God's will in setting goals and performing the work He has for us, and for the strength to go wherever God calls me.***



# the BEACON

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

November 2011

## Safe through the storm

by Rebecca Olson  
Berlin, N.Y.

Recently, the U.S. East Coast was struck by Hurricane Irene. In many places, the damage was extensive, wiping out roads and houses.

In the valley where I live, there was a lot of damage from flooding, including a bridge near my house that was completely washed out. However, the damage would have been much worse if not for the mountains surrounding our valley. Those mountains sheltered the valley from winds that could have done greater damage to Berlin and the surrounding towns.

There were cities close to Berlin that were a lot worse off because they were not sheltered from the winds. Bennington, Vermont, for example, suffered horrible damage. The flooding was much worse than anything we had here in Berlin. Also, there were trees down and power outages—two problems Berlin didn't have to face.

At the end of the storm, the hurricane wound up as more of an inconvenience than a true disaster here in our valley, especially compared to cities nearby.

The hurricane put our town in a situation that makes me think of the storms in our life. Whatever chaos comes our way, God surrounds and shelters us from



Part of the flooding in Bennington, Vt.

the worst of the storm.

As Psalm 46:1-3 (NIV) says, *“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.”*

Like the verses say, no matter what happens, we don't have to be afraid because God is there to protect us.

I wish I could say that because of God's protection, nothing bad will ever happen, but I can't say that. Just as there was still damage here in Berlin, things still go wrong for us. Having God as our fortress doesn't make the storms of life go away, but He does make them easier.

Though the bad times will still

come, God's love and protection makes them more manageable. We know that with God, there is always somebody there and we never have to face what we're going through alone. We also have the assurance of eternal life waiting for us. Christians don't need to fear death or worry about what happens next.

God has a plan for our lives that involves the good times and the bad times, and we know that His plan ends in everlasting life with Him in heaven. *“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future’*” (Jeremiah 29:11).

We know that no matter what life throws at us, it's part of God's perfect plan, and we can rest assured that everything is going to be okay. **SR**

# You have an influence!

by Brooke North  
New Auburn, Wis.

Last month, I entered my first semester of college eager and strong. I looked at the campus as my new “mission field.” I was excited to let God use me by impacting those around me, ready to make a difference and turn the university “upside down.”

However, during the first week of classes I felt so small and meaningless. I found it extremely hard to make new friends or even connect with others. The girls in my dorm wing already seemed to have their own group of friends or didn’t seem social at all. During and in-between classes I did my best to be an example of Christ. However, I felt like I was making no impact at all.

I began to doubt my purpose at college. *Did God really want me to go here? Should I be somewhere else?*

Wondering why it was so hard to connect and make friends, I began to worry about how I appeared to others. The phrase “What do they think of me?” would consume my thoughts throughout the day.

It was at this time that I started attending InterVarsity, a well-known campus ministry. Immediately feeling at home in the group, I made many friends who had the same vision I did for the campus. God had placed this ministry before me to encourage me. “You have a purpose here,” He reminded me, “and you are not doing it alone.”

In the following weeks I began to form friendships with the girls in my dorm. We engaged in long group discussions, often on deep personal issues. Through this, I

was able to offer Godly advice on these matters and show Christ’s love. One of the girls remarked, “I don’t know why, but I barely even know you and still feel like I can share anything with you.” This was another reminder from God. He had placed me in this dorm to be His voice and show His love to these girls.

“  
**The way we  
live our life matters.  
Your example  
can give strength  
to others.**  
”

Not only did God remind me of my purpose, but He sent me even more encouragement: I discovered that over half the girls in my dorm wing were Christians!

We now hold a weekly Bible study together. Many of these girls are even contemplating attending our church on Saturdays since it is a much closer drive there than to their home churches.

God continues to open up doors for me with my campus ministry. To see how faithful God was just within the first month of this school year was amazing! And to think that only weeks earlier I believed I had no purpose and made no impact.

What matters most is not how you *feel* at a particular time or how you *appear* to others, but what you believe about your own value and significance. God esteems us well,

and I am confident that I am placed exactly where He wants me. My job is to seek out what He wants me to do.

Just as a stone ripples out when you throw it in the river, so does your influence. Your attitude and how you interact with others influences those around you.

The way we live our life matters. Your example can give strength to others. People need your encouragement. What if Esther had not recognized her influence? She would have missed the opportunity to change the course of history.

We have to fight the lie that we are trapped in our circumstances. You may feel that your hands are tied, but remember that God’s are not. Before David was king, he could have believed the lie that he couldn’t make a difference. Even his own father had overlooked him.

Remember that God has a purpose for you right now! You have influence on those around you right now! **SR**



Brooke North



*The President's Page*  
by John Pethtel

Buckhannon, WV July 29–Aug. 4, 2012

## Alliance to Reliance

*“Be ready and keep ready, you and all your hosts that are assembled about you, and be a guard for them.” (Ezekiel 38:7 ESV)*

One of my favorite games growing up was “Capture the Flag.”

I remember playing it for the first time at Camp JOY in West Virginia. To play the game, people are split into two teams and each team places a flag somewhere on their side of the playing field. The object of the game is to cross the other team’s field, capture their flag, and bring it to your team’s side without getting caught. My job during this game was to “guard” our flag and the people my team caught on our side of the field.

It didn’t take long for me to learn that “guarding” the flag and prisoners was not where the excitement was! I quickly became bored with my position and ventured off to be a “hero” and win the game for my team. In less than 10 minutes after I had left my flag “unguarded,” the other team had won the game.

My irresponsibility led to my team’s defeat. I was not ready for the lack of activity that “guarding” the flag meant. I was also not ready to realize the importance of having someone guard that flag.

“

***Both sides of an alliance have a responsibility to guard and rely upon each other.***

”

My selfishness caused our defeat. My team needed me to stay and guard the flag. If my team was ready and had prepared me for what my role meant, we might not have lost. If I was ready to perform my job like I had agreed to, we might not have lost.

In this month’s memory verse, Gog and Magog are about to go to battle with each other. If you look further at the context, you realize that these two powers are not going at it alone. Each is an alliance of armies looking to defeat one another. They are identified by their most powerful players.

As the most powerful army in its alliance, Gog seems to be in charge of the readiness and safety of their alliance until either victory or defeat happens. The other members of the alliance relied upon Gog to help defend and protect them.

Here’s the thing with alliances: they change frequently and they are only as strong as the weakest member. Just as I looked after my own interests in the “Capture the Flag” game, when an alliance no longer meets a participant’s interests, they leave or refuse to participate. Just as I was the least informed member on my team during the game, my team suffered because I didn’t understand the rules and expectations of the game.

In our churches, this is just as true. People leave when their interests are not met. Churches are hindered when no one is disciplined and challenged to grow.

When we take on the challenge of being on guard for every member of our alliance, we are asking them to rely upon us to protect and help and nurture them as we are relying upon them to share and grow and contribute. In my game, I relied upon my team to inform me of the right strategy to win the game. (They failed.) They relied upon me to guard the flag. (I failed.) Both sides have responsibility in this process of alliance.

Consider your alliance—your local church, your Association, our Conference. Both sides have a responsibility to guard and rely upon each other. How can your church guard the flock better (protect, equip, teach, live the Gospel)? **Are You Ready** to help your church rely upon you to accomplish this?

Our churches are only as healthy as their members are. Our Conference is only as healthy as our churches are. **Are You Ready** to use our alliance to guard and grow our churches? **SR**



by Executive Director  
Rob Appel

## Step-by-step to Thornton

*[Note from Rob: As part of our series “Churches on the Move,” we look at the former Denver SDB Church, now known as the Next Step Christian Church located in Thornton, Colo. This was part of the message shared by **Pastor Rodney Henry** at the new church’s Open House last fall.]*

Eleven years ago, the Denver, Colo., SDB church was not at its high point. However, we had a very small core of excellent leaders!

One evening during this time, four leaders met in my basement after reading *The Purpose Driven Church*. We all came to the same conclusion that the church described in the book was wonderful, but it was not our church.

Over time our leadership—and then the church—decided that we are “a Next Step Church whose purpose is to encourage and equip people to take the next bold steps toward Christian beliefs, maturity, and ministry.” This is what God has called us to be and do. This **purpose** was our next step in becoming more of what God wanted us to be.

We decided that our **method** of outreach was to invite new people to our church and include new people in our lives. At that time,

we began to question whether we could be successful at this method when so many of our people lived in Thornton, Colo., and some even further north of the church. This realization was an important but difficult next step.

We also at this time began asking God to “reveal to us our more preferable future.” We prayed this together every Sabbath. We asked, “What would our church be like if

we were everything God wanted us to be?”

Finally, God gave us a **vision** of His more preferable future for us. God called us and is still calling us to fulfill our vision of **worship, fellowship, service, holy living, outreach, and edification**. We accepted God’s vision, and like Paul, “We were not disobedient to the vision.” With this vision, we

**cont. on p. 23**



*The Next Step Church in Thornton, Colo., as it neared the final stages of construction.*



# Доверяй, но проверяй ("Trust, but verify")

by Morgan Shepard

*"Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey.... After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them." (Matthew 25:14-15, 19 NIV)*

In his dealings with Mikhail Gorbachev, President Ronald Reagan often used the Russian proverb "Doveryai, no proveryai" ("Trust, but verify"). It implied a sense of faith along with a need to validate. The master in Matthew 25 trusted his servants but also verified what they did upon his return.

Do you trust your church treasurer? I should hope so—but at the same time you should have processes in place to ensure that trust. It protects both the treasurer and the church, and eliminates questions of where the money went or who authorized expenditures.

Do you know how much money passes through your treasurer's hands in a year? An informal sur-

“

*It implies a sense of faith along with a need to validate.*

”

vey of church treasurers I know shows anywhere from \$100,000 to \$350,000 per year moved through their churches in 2010. As a comparison, the Memorial Fund had over \$8.6 million in transactions for 2010. (You can get this info for your church by getting a copy of the General Journal.)

The procedures and processes an organization uses to manage its accounting and finances are referred to as "controls." Controls outline the methods, authorized approvers, reports, etc. used to document and verify the accounting procedures.

Controls also help when a church changes treasurers. Due to the variety of accounting systems churches use (remember last month's article), having written procedures helps during the transition period. During my absence last year I prepared "Standard Operating Procedures"


outlining our accounting procedures so those remaining behind could carry on the tasks without having to guess how it was supposed to work. We continually review and update these procedures.

Here are some common tools for controls we use at the SDB Center:

- Voucher** – A form submitted to get a check written for expenditures. It should include backup documentation (receipts, invoice, letters, etc.) to justify or validate the expenditure. The voucher should also specify the expense account being charged. Ideally the voucher should be signed by at least two people to ensure full disclosure. If you are reimbursing yourself, then get someone else to sign.

- Audit / Review** – The church books should be reviewed or "audited" at least annually to ensure accuracy and full disclosure. If possible the General Ledger, General Journal, Balance Sheet, Profit/Loss Statement and checkbook should be reviewed monthly. Treasurers sometimes make mistakes and these reviews help in catching mistakes early.

The master in Matthew 25 "audited" his servants upon his return and found some faithful and some lacking in the use of their talents. Have we been faithful? Can we prove it?

I think God trusts us, but He will also verify what we have done. He may even say it in Russian. 

## Step-by-step, *cont. from p. 21*

continued taking the next steps.

With **method, purpose, and vision** in place, we began taking action to put ourselves in a position to fulfill these important steps in our church. It took time for us to start making changes in our location, name, organization, and leadership. We had taken on the identity of a people who were willing to take the next step to becoming what God wants us to be and do. We had an identity as a “next step people” and a vision for the future.

Part of our vision for a more preferable future was for us to sell our building in Lakewood and move to Thornton. Part of our vision was to have our church name match our church identity. So we became the “*Next Step Christian Church.*” We also reorganized our leadership and structure in order to better accomplish our vision. We believed God called us to construct a new church building as an important part of our more preferable future.

So now, every aspect of our vision has a coordinator responsible for their part of the vision. That coordinator is accountable to the Advisory Board and to the church. Our coordinators are people with a heart for Jesus and for ministry.

We have new ministries of outreach: **GroupOne80** (more than 50 children come to the first Sabbath



*Pastor Rod and Camille Henry*

“  
***God is calling us to take the next bold steps toward Christian beliefs, maturity and ministry.***  
”

evening of the month), **Outreach Sports** (volleyball and basketball tournaments with a Gospel message), **Thorntonfest** (a community festival where we have a booth), food bank assistance, coffee time of fellowship before church, great Sabbath School and “*Play and Praise*” for our many young children, to name a few. We can do all of these things and invite the community, because we are a community church.

We have recently started the **Next Step Bible Institute**. For those who want to take the next steps toward Christian beliefs and knowledge, our goal is to put them on a life-long path to pursuing Godly understanding.

Thanks to God and good leaders, we are not the same church we were 11 years ago! We have come a long way and we still have a long way to go. We truly are new wine in new wineskins.

In a sense, the new church building is a dream come true, but it is not the most important part... the *people* are! Because of their faithfulness, maturity, and ministry, our more preferable future is arriving. At the same time, God is still calling us to take the next bold steps toward Christian beliefs, maturity, and ministry. God is still calling us to better fulfill our vision of **worship, fellowship, service, holy living, outreach, and edification.**



*Top: Next Step's stage area.  
Above: Enjoying coffee time before worship.*

It took a lot of human effort to build the new church building and we thank all of the people who worked, contributed, and sacrificed to make this a reality. But only God can build a church people and for that we are grateful to Him.

As we reflect on the steps that God has called us to take in the past 10 years, we realize that we are part of a Seventh Day Baptist people who have taken the next step—over and over—to set an example for us to take the next steps in our generation. Jesus said, “*I will build my Church.*” And our response is “*Great is Thy Faithfulness.*” **SR**

## **NOTICE!!!**

On January 1, 2012, the cost for “Life Memberships” in the SDB Historical Society will increase from \$150 to \$200.

Members of Seventh Day Baptist churches who wish to support the mission of the Society and join at the current rate—before the price increases—need to send their application and payment, to:

**SDB Historical Society**  
**PO Box 1678**  
**Janesville, WI 53547**

## **New members**

### **Bay Area, CA**

*Steve Crouch, pastor*  
Joined after testimony

Frances Cenotti

### **Texarkana, AR**

*Mynor Soper, pastor*  
Joined after testimony

Jeremy Arndt

Jennifer Arndt

## **Births**

**Jenkins.**—A son, Abram James, was born to Tristan and Brittany (Bond) Jenkins of Clarksburg, WV on July 12, 2011.

**Meathrell.**—A son, Davis Richard, was born to Chuck and Jessica (Talerico) Meathrell of Columbia, SC on September 13, 2011.

**Richards.**—A daughter, Ellen-Claire, was born to Greg and Emily (Beck) Richards of Texarkana, TX on October 6, 2011.

**Lubke.**—A son, Henry Abram, was born to Neil and Katie (Zamzow) Lubke of Milton, WI on October 12, 2011.

## **NY Concert helps spread Gospel**

*by Rachel Smith*

On June 4, 2011, the New York City SDB Youth Fellowship staged an inspirational evening of music, drama and dance under the theme “I AM FREE.” The time together was a reminder of the believer’s freedom in Christ Jesus. Theme verse came from St. John 8:36.

Highlights of the evening included a stellar performance from the Young People’s choir under the direction of Sister Sherifa Shorter. We were blessed to have the fellowship of other

SDB churches such as Agape and Faith, as well as community churches. Another highlight was the “Ministry of Infinite Praise” from the Beulah Church of the Nazarene. This group of five young men used mime to deliver a very moving performance that touched the hearts of many.

Proceeds from this concert were sent to Pastor Chet Marks at the “Rez Connection” ministry in South Dakota to aid in spreading the Gospel to Native Americans. *SR*



## **Obituaries**

**Dutcher.**—John B. “Bernard” Dutcher, 83, of North Loup, Neb., died on August 19, 2011 at the Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney, Neb.

Bernard was born June 11, 1928 at Greeley, Neb., to Ralph and Nora (Andersen) Dutcher. He was raised on the family farm northwest of Greeley. He attended country school and the Scotia Consolidated High

School. He farmed before entering the U.S. Army, serving from 1952 to 1954. He returned to farm in the Greeley area.

On May 5, 1963, he married Katherine Severance. The couple moved to North Loup in August of 1975, but he continued to farm in Greeley.

Bernard was a member of the North Loup Seventh Day Baptist



## Obituaries, *cont. from p. 24*

Church. He enjoyed gardening, reading farm magazines and bowling. He loved his wife, children and grandchildren and enjoyed attending their sporting and music events.

Survivors include his wife, Katherine of North Loup; two daughters, Beth Dutcher and Nora Borer, both of Kearney; a son, Kyle Dutcher of Holdrege, Neb.; four grandchildren, Benjamin and Cody Borer, and Elijah and Maxwell Dutcher; and a brother, Jim Dutcher of Greeley.

Funeral services were held August 22, 2011 at the Seventh Day Baptist Church in North Loup with Darlene Psota officiating. Burial was in the Hillside Cemetery at North Loup.

**Ayars.**—Frederick Munro Ayars, 84, was called home by the Lord on September 4, 2011 at his home in Lansdale, Pa.

Born March 1, 1927 to Albert and Lavinia Ayars in Stow Creek, N.J., Fred grew up in the Marlboro SDB Church. He was baptized by the Rev. Herbert Cottrell and was faithful in his attendance.

He joined the U.S. Navy at age 18, serving from 1945 to 1949 as an electrician. Returning home he resumed church activities, teaching Sabbath School and was ordained as a Deacon.

Fred married Virginia Bivins on June 15, 1952. She survives, as do their three offspring: Christine Sias of Salem, W.Va., David Ayars of Bensalem, Pa., and Barbara Sokomoto of Norristown, Pa.; five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. He also leaves behind two brothers, Herbert Ayars and Howard Ayars, as well as a sister, Sophie Amaranto. He was predeceased by a sister, Rose Davis.

Frederick Ayars served on the SDB Council of Ministry (1985-1988) and the American Sabbath

Tract Society Board (1959-1974). He also prepared films for the SDB Missionary Society, and ran the public address system for the General Conference several years.

Fred helped found the Philadelphia SDB Church in 1982, where he served as a Deacon and Sabbath School teacher. His leadership was invaluable. He was loved and respected by his church family.

A memorial service was held on October 1, 2011 at the Philadelphia Seventh Day Baptist Church, with Pastor Kenroy Cruickshank officiating.

**Hill.**—Mabel Lewis Hill, 88, of Hill Lane in Johnson County, Ill., died on September 18, 2011. She was born July 28, 1923 in rural Saline County, Ill. to Ralph H. Lewis and Ida (Martin) Lewis.

Mabel was the widow of George Barnet (G.B.) Hill, whom she married February 17, 1940 and who preceded her in death on January 3, 2008.

Mabel joined the Old Stonefort (Ill.) Seventh Day Baptist Church in 1934 and also faithfully attended the United Methodist Church in Stonefort/Carrier Mills with her family from 1947 until her death. She was a member and supporter of United Methodist Women.

Mabel experienced many jobs besides that of wife and mother of seven. Her number one priority was being the wife of G.B. Hill, but she also worked in a cream station at Stonefort, Universal Match in the Ordill area, a dress factory at Hermin, a cap factory at Harrisburg and was the first staff hired at A.L. Bowen Children's Center at Harrisburg, Ill., working there until it closed.

She was an avid reader and the source of all our family history stories. Mabel liked to sing, quilt, share old recipes and songs, and discuss Bible interpretations. She

also loved anything to do with the Lewises or Old Stonefort SDB Church. She spent her life listening to each member of the family and doing whatever was needed to help each one achieve the immediate goal—whether physical, spiritual, professional or personal. We thank God for her loving care and the legacy of her life.

She is survived by her children Nan Tanner, Eddie Hill, Danny Hill, Elaine Keely, Janice McCormick, and John S. Hill; 21 grandchildren and many great-grandchildren; a brother, Arthur Lewis of Vienna; three sisters-in-law; and many cousins, nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her son, Jim Hill; her parents, Ralph and Ida Lewis; a stepmother, Edith Lewis; two brothers, Howell and Ralph Leman Lewis; two stepbrothers, Robert and Frank Cobb; and four sisters, Jean King, Kathryn McSparin, Alice Roe and Ethel Pauline Lewis.

Funeral services were held on September 20, 2011 at Absher-Nicholson Funeral Home in Carrier Mills, with the Revs. Keith McDannel and Stan Irvin officiating. Burial was in Joyner Cemetery in Stonefort.

### Death Notices

**Ruth D. Horsley, 88,** of Rancho Mirage, CA died on July 18, 2011.

**Dr. Lewis H.V. "Pete" May, 83,** of Arcadia, CA died on October 4, 2011.

**Ruth (Davis) Cruzan, 89,** of White Cloud, MI died on October 19, 2011.

# Caregiving at Christmas

*Five ways to show Christ's Love to those who are caring for an ill loved one*

by Dottie DeHart  
Hickory, N.C.



Every year, most of us look forward to the Christmas season for a myriad of reasons: beloved family traditions, memorable meals, gift exchanges, special church services, and more. But what if, for the first time, someone dear to you is ill?

What if a close friend or relative finds him or herself in a long-term caregiving role? Suddenly, Christmas might not feel as merry as it once did, and the world might not be filled with quite as much joy.

“Yes, Christmas is a time when we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. But for those who are caring for an ill loved one, sadness and increased responsibility might make it difficult to want to celebrate anything,” says Donna Authers, an experienced caregiver and author of the book *A Sacred Walk: Dispelling the Fear of Death and Caring for the Dying* (A&A Publishing, 2008).

“The upcoming weeks are a wonderful opportunity for you to bring good cheer (as well as a pair of helping hands) to a caregiver’s Christmas season.”

Authers speaks from experience, having served as a caregiver to many—both as a family member and as a representative of ministries

and hospice organizations. She points out that Christmas is likely to be characterized by pain and bittersweet memories for anyone with a loved one who is making his or her final journey.

And because time with that special person is limited, family and friends will understandably want to focus on creating cherished memories with their ill loved one. That’s perfectly natural, says Authers, but remember that the patient is not the only person whose final Christmas is affected by illness. The primary caregivers are also carrying a heavy burden that might very well cause them to struggle.

“Take a moment to think how you can reach out and help make a caregiver’s Christmas meaningful and manageable,” Authers urges. “Caregivers are the unsung heroes who perform a sacred duty day-in and day-out. This is a wonderful time to be ‘God with skin on’ to them and to help bring a measure of peace to their Christmases.”

Below, Authers offers from-the-heart suggestions for supporting the caregivers you know during this special season:

## **Give a caregiver a break.**

What better time is there to carve a few hours out of your schedule so that a caregiver can experience some much-needed free time? When you take over her duties momentarily, she will be able to recharge her batteries.

## **Provide a spiritual top-up.**

Encourage the caregivers in your life to dispel their weariness by

attending a special Advent or Christmas service. (If possible, offer to take over their caregiving duties while they do!)

## **Remember that caregivers need care, too.**

On a regular basis, focus your attention solely on the caregiver. Ask how he is doing; tell him you’re praying for him. Bring him a card or a gift.

## **Make sure that the holiday cheer is good.**

If a caregiver would rather do without social chit-chat, holiday movies, or lights in the windows this year, that’s okay. Remind her that she can always seek some joy from the Christmas message of hope: “For unto us a child is born.”

## **If necessary, adapt traditions.**

It’s very important to temper the Christmas celebrations by keeping in mind their effect on caregivers. Don’t feel that you have to cancel Christmas altogether, but put some thought into what might be most appropriate.

“Ultimately, the Christmas season is going to offer extra challenges to caregivers,” Authers concludes. “Help caregivers meet those challenges by showing support, compassion, and love. After all, those are the values that Christmas is truly centered around. Even if we are passing through the valley of the shadow, Christmas is still a time when faith can be renewed and strengthened through the joyful celebration of Jesus’ birth.” **SR**

# KEVIN'S

## ORNER

### The shade of a \$10 dress

It's funny how a progression of very different events can lead to a divine appointment.

Janet and I took a trip to Vermont in early October hoping to take in the beauty of the fall foliage. It rained every day we were there.

With all of the wet weather we did a bit more shopping than usual. At one store, Janet discovered a clearance rack of ladies' clothes. Tucked in amidst some of the fairly "wild" outfits, she found a little dress. We both thought the style

and color went beyond her usual taste, and I moved along to another part of the store.

When we caught up with each other outside, she was carrying a bag. "I got the dress!" I was surprised. "No, I tried it on," she said, "and it fit, plus it was only 10 dollars!"

"When are you ever going to wear it?" I wondered out loud.

"Oh, some place where nobody knows me," she said with a smile. "Maybe on a cruise?"

Trying it on later, I thought she looked great. I started to think about where I could show off this lovely lady.

After returning to the Midwest, I opened an e-mail from a fancy restaurant that promoted an upcoming concert event.

*That's it!* I thought. *This place is out in the country, it'll be a venue with subdued lighting, and Janet could wear her new dress!*

"Honey, what do you say we go out somewhere nice?"

"Sure!" she responded quickly.

"And you can wear your new dress!"

"Oh..." [much more hesitant now] "I don't know... What if we see someone we know?"

"Look, I can't guarantee that won't happen, but it's not like you'll be 'on display.' We'll be sitting down, just enjoying each other's company and the entertainment."

She agreed to the date, but wearing the dress was still under negotiation. I kept the place and event a secret to heighten the anticipation as the day approached.

As we got ready for our "secret date"—to my surprise—she put on her new dress! I put on a suit and off we went.

Now for a bit more background. I have been facilitating a Bible study using Ray Vander Laan's video "Walking with God in the Desert." He bases the study on the many experiences of God's people in the desert.

His main point: As the Lord was with His people in the physical desert, He is with us during our times of difficulty.

A recent lesson pointed out how God provides shade even in the desert. The psalmist proclaims that the Lord is the "shade at your right hand." Vander Laan goes on to explain how WE (as God's anointed) are to be the shade to the world for people who are hurting.

Well, the concert wasn't quite what I expected—kind of like the rain in New England. We enjoyed being there and getting to dress up, but decided to head home early.

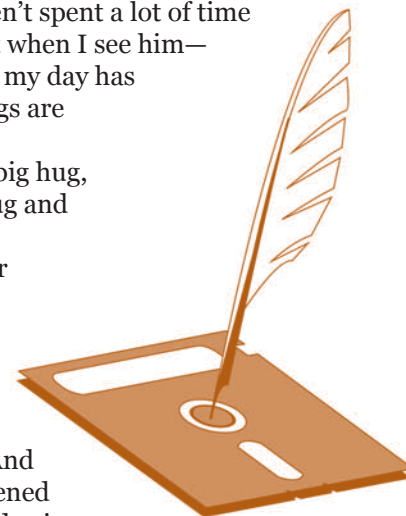
The restaurant hostess just "happened" to walk through the front lobby right when we were leaving. Lou had greeted us earlier, and I reminded Janet how Lou was a relative of a church member where I preach on Sundays. (I was actually at the hospital ministering to Lou and her husband when his father passed away.) Now we had a chance to talk a bit more. She really liked Janet's dress, by the way.

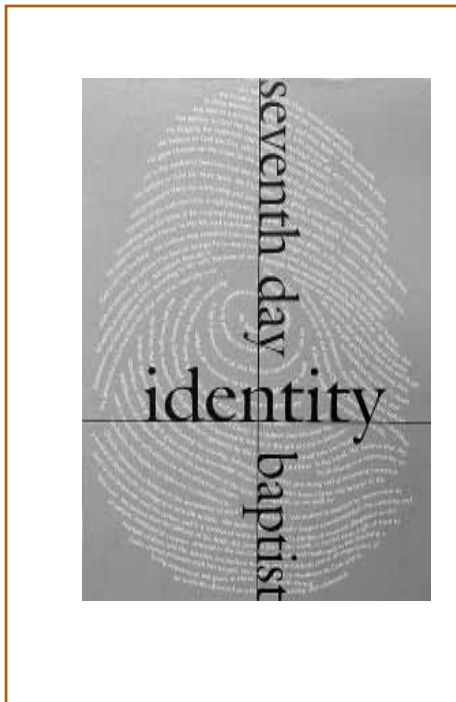
Lou shared how busy she was, how the business was struggling, how she had been to a funeral earlier that day and had another one to attend after the weekend. She seemed to feel better just sharing that info.

Then she looked at me, turned to Janet, and said, "You know, I haven't spent a lot of time with your husband, but when I see him—no matter how 'crappy' my day has been—I know that things are gonna be okay."

Lou then gave me a big hug, Janet gave Lou a big hug and we headed out.

Unlocking the car for my beautiful bride, she said, "You're a good man, Kevin Butler." I was glad to provide some "shade" to someone who was hurting. And it might not have happened if it weren't for a rainy day in Vermont.





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our 'Distinctives'...  
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our 'Identity'!*

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