

SR The Sabbath RECORDER

Inside:

Time to
be “Missional”

“Imitate me!”
Really?

December 2011

News for and about Seventh Day Baptists

This year,
give them

Jesus





Who are Seventh Day Baptists?

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

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

The seventh day

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

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

Like the Color Covers?



Our September issue (above) featured colorful images from Conference. The extra cost was sponsored by George and Pat Cruzan of Shiloh, N.J. This month's color comes courtesy of Rob and Cheri Appel from Milton, Wis.

If you would like to see another cover in color, we invite you to send a generous donation of \$500. (Conf. President John Pethtel said that people would gladly pay *NOT* to have his picture on the cover.)

Send your gift to:

Sabbath Recorder
PO Box 1678
Janesville WI 53547

Or, go to sabbathrecorder.org to donate by PayPal. Thank you!!



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 12, 2012**. All church applications must be postmarked by **January 31, 2012**—NO Exceptions.

Please note: Students are limited to only two weeks of camp. Training dates are **June 13-21**; this is DIFFERENT than previously announced, and 2012 will be a four-week project. See the website for further information. You may contact the SCSC Committee at the address above or at scsc@miltontsdb.org.



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Ⓔ = **Editor's Circle members**

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Following the Way of the Master

by *Patty Petersen*
Boulder, Colorado

The young man's name was James and he listened intently as I used "the courtroom analogy" in which he was guilty of a serious crime. As the judge was ready to pass a sentence of life in prison, into the courtroom came a man who said, "Wait a minute, Your Honor—let me take the punishment instead."

"Jesus stepped in and took your place," I told James, "so you could go free."

His face broke into a smile. "Oh yeah, I totally get it! That's a great analogy!"

How did I get here?

This conversation took place in downtown Boulder, Colo. Twice monthly, we set up a table of free literature and Bibles and invite passersby to browse. Four years ago I would never, EVER, have agreed to do street evangelism. I'd never seen anyone do it effectively (quite the opposite) and I preferred to witness to people I knew personally—once or twice a year.

So what changed? I went on a mission trip to South Dakota where Pastor Chet Marks introduced our team to "The Way of the Master."



Members of the SDB church host a booth in downtown Boulder to share the Good News of Christ.

I had been trained previously in three or four evangelism methods, but this was different. Video clips shared people answering a series of questions, and they went from laughing to seriously considering where they would spend eternity.

Jesus used this approach with the woman at the well when he spoke of her many husbands (John 4), with the rich young man when He reminded him of five of the Ten Commandments and told him to sell all he had and give to the poor (Mark 10), and with others. He used God's Moral Law to humble proud hearts, so they could see their need for salvation.

Did he do this every time? No, to those already aware of their sin he extended grace (like the woman in Luke 7:37-50 for example).

The coming judgment

Over the last four years, I've used this approach with family, friends, co-workers and strangers. (Strangers, by the way, turn out to be a lot like the people I already know.) I've witnessed to at least 200 people on the street, most of whom thank me for the conversation. Respect and good listening skills are part of the reason. Genuine concern and a thoughtful approach help, too.

In modern-day America, most unbelievers have heard that God loves them. As a result, they have no fear of judgment. They tell me, "I don't believe God sends people to hell. Jesus was all about love." "When I get to heaven, me and God will have a little talk, and it'll be cool."

They either haven't read or have ignored Jesus' words in John 5 where he refers to the coming judgment five times, including v.22: "For not even the Father judges anyone but He has given all judgment to the Son."

I have a few questions

I start by asking, "Do you consider yourself to be a good person?" Most do. Then I ask, "Have you ever told a lie?" and "What do you call someone who tells lies?" They freely admit to being a liar. Also to stealing, using God's name in vain, and adultery in their hearts (see Matthew 5:28).

Their countenance changes as they begin to see themselves as God sees them.

I emphasize that God must punish sin *because* He is good and holy. You

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***I start
by asking,
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sider yourself
to be a
good person?'***

”

can't get into a holy heaven with the slightest stain of sin on you. Analogies help a lot. I tell people it's like trying to leave the library with a book you didn't check out; you set off the alarm. Same thing if you try to sneak a dirty toe past the pearly gates.

Galatians 3:24 says, "The Law has become like our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith." This is a correct way to use the Law (see 1 Tim 1:8-9).

Some are not concerned

If a person understands he will be guilty on Judgment Day and his destiny is hell, I ask, "Does that concern you?" Some are not concerned: "All my friends will be there." Or they don't believe in hell. There are many good books and websites that can help you answer objections (*see box below*).

You might be thinking, "Aren't you using hellfire to scare people into receiving Christ?" No, just to awaken them to the danger. Wouldn't you try to warn your neighbor if you saw his house on fire when he's asleep?

If the person is concerned about his fate, I ask, "Do you know what God did for you so you don't have to go to hell?" Then I share the Good News, including John 3:16, now that he understands what it means to "perish." I tell him he must repent and trust Jesus alone to save him, not his good deeds.

And it's important to ask, "Does that make sense?" The Gospel is simple, but easily misunderstood. Someone who has the attitude she'll "give this a try" has missed the step of repentance.

Simply sowing the seed

There is no need to push a person to give her life to Christ. The Holy Spirit is the one who brings conviction of sin (John 16:8), not us, and Jesus draws people to himself (John 12:32). We are sowers of seed, or maybe we till the soil (using the Law to soften the ground), or we water. Once in awhile, most joyous of all, we help with the harvest.

Notice that this approach works with the happy-go-lucky as well as

cont. next page

How to Answer Some Objections

Apologetics

Beyond Opinion by Ravi Zacharias
The Reason for God by Tim Keller
Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis
www.ByGodsGrace.org

Evangelism

The Way of the Master by Ray
Comfort (www.WayOfTheMaster.com)
One Thing You Can't Do in Heaven by Mark Cahill
(www.MarkCahill.org)



the down-and-out. I don't tell people Jesus has "wonderful plans" for their lives because I don't see that in the Bible. If anything, I see that he tells us to count the cost of being his disciple (Luke 14:28-33), and that we're likely to suffer persecution because we belong to him (Matt. 5:10-12).

His great Love moves me

Why, then, follow him? Because I live in gratitude for what Jesus did on the cross for me. If he did nothing else for me until the day I die, I would still praise him every day for that one act of love. Look at the "abundant" (full) life described by the Apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians 11. Imprisonments, beatings, stoning, hunger, thirst, cold, and concern for the churches he planted. Yet he says in the next chapter, "Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong."

Some evangelism programs tell us to witness by telling how bad our lives were before Christ and how great they are now, as if the main reason Jesus died was to rescue us from unhappy lives. But I don't know what God has in store for the sinner with whom I'm pleading. I only know her eternal salvation is secure if she understands that God's great love for her caused Him to die in her place, that He rose from the dead to offer her new life, and she responds by repenting and putting her faith in Jesus.

Church member Patty Petersen poses questions to a visitor who stopped by the booth.

I don't tell people Jesus has "wonderful plans" for their lives because I don't see that in the Bible. If anything, I see that he tells us to count the cost of being his disciple.

The Word will accomplish His purpose

I always ask if the person has a Bible, and offer him a gospel portion or a New Testament. Quoting appropriate Scripture as you witness is very powerful, even if the person doesn't respect the Bible.

As the Word of God, it will accomplish His purpose (Isaiah 55:11). Besides, we can argue all day about "What I believe..." Instead, tell him what the Bible says since it speaks with the authority we lack.

This is our lifestyle

Lifestyle evangelism means that sharing Christ is our lifestyle. This is what disciples do—it flows naturally from our concern for people's eternal life.

Yes, I want them to know the joy of life with Christ on earth, but wanting them to avoid eternity in hell is what compels me to open my mouth (see Rom 1:16). And no, I don't think everyone will feel called to the streets, but we must witness more often to those we know. As Pastor John Pethtel exhorted us at Conference, "Choose converts over comfort." **SR**

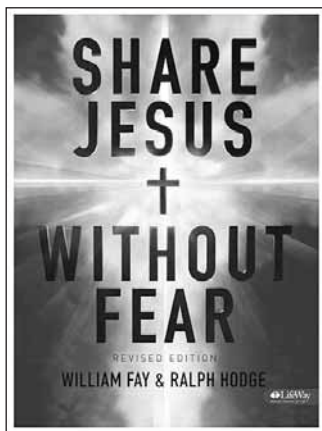


Can we really share Jesus without fear?

An interview with
Pastor George Calhoun,
Milton, Wis.

Earlier this year, the Milton, Wis., SDB Church adult Sabbath School classes went through the “Sharing Jesus Without Fear” program. It consisted of watching video testimonies, then practicing the conversations and questions with other class members.

I asked Milton’s Pastor George Calhoun what he thought of the curriculum. —Editor



Sabbath Recorder: It seems that one of the biggest hindrances to people sharing the Gospel is fear. Would you agree with that, and how does this book and program address that?

Pastor George Calhoun: I would agree with you, Kevin. Fear is most definitely a major factor.

A common fear that prevents people from sharing their faith is the fear of rejection. I hear some people say, “I don’t know enough,” or, “What if people get offended?”

Others mention that they are uncomfortable sharing, or that they’re afraid their life isn’t what it ought to be. Another fear is, “What if I’m

ridiculed or persecuted for sharing?” And then there’s the old “I’m not good at evangelism” excuse.

Over the years I’ve looked at many evangelism programs and most are solid and well done. However, most evangelism programs are written by and for people who have more outgoing and assertive personalities. They typically don’t address the “fear factor” that many sincere believers—who want to share their faith—struggle with.

This program doesn’t negate the “fear” that the vast majority of Christians have, but addresses it head on. That’s the strength of this particular approach.

SR: Isn’t there also the fear of getting asked a tough theological question?

Pastor George: Absolutely! Aside from the material providing 36 responses to common objections, I have often said this to someone who asked me a question I didn’t know how to answer: “I don’t know, but I’ll find out and get back to you.”

The worst thing we can do is make something up, or give an ill-advised and inaccurate answer. Our credibility is on the line and if people

can’t trust the messenger, why would they trust the message we bring?

SR: So you don’t have to be a ‘Bible expert’ to use this format?

Pastor George: Right. The beauty of this approach is that it meets people at their point of reference.

Rather than diving headlong into the Gospel presentation, it seeks first to determine how the Holy Spirit might be working in a person’s life. By asking some key questions, any believer can begin to assess how God might be using them to share the Good News.

This program encourages us to ask five questions to determine where the Holy Spirit is working:

1. Do you have any kind of spiritual beliefs?
2. To you, who is Jesus?
3. Do you believe there is a heaven and a hell?
4. If you died right now, where would you go?
5. If what you believe were not true, would you want to know it?

Asking these questions and actively “listening,” in conjunction with the Holy Spirit’s prompting, provides a believer with several key benefits.

cont. next page

Share without fear, *cont. from p. 7*

It allows the person sharing to assess the background and beliefs (if any) of the person they're sharing with. It lets the person you're sharing with know that you are interested in their life, their thoughts and their beliefs, even if they are different—or even very different—from your own. And, it opens dialogue and provides a platform to share.

SR: *So what's the goal of these questions?*

Pastor George: The goal of the approach is simple: Look for people in whom the Holy Spirit is moving, engage them about what they believe and earn the right to share what you believe.

The theology behind it is straightforward and thoroughly

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*It is absolutely important to remember that **we don't save people, Jesus does.***

”

Biblical. As God provides you with “divine appointments,” ask pertinent questions to see how He might be working. You can see Jesus' response to the woman at the well in John 4, or Philip's response to the Ethiopian in Acts 8.

Studies show that the average person hears the Good News of Jesus Christ approximately seven times before coming to a saving faith in Jesus. That's on what they call the “Engel Scale.”

That being said, the opportunity God gives me to share might be anywhere along that continuum.

It is absolutely important to remember that *we* don't save people, Jesus does. Our role is to “deliver the mail” of the Good News to people in whom the Holy Spirit is working.

A lot of times we think that if we don't “close the deal” we've failed. That's just not true! Again, our role is to faithfully share what the Holy Spirit would have us share, to the people He brings across our path.

SR: *Do you believe that there is a “sin of silence”?*

Pastor George: Yes! Jesus' mission is straightforward. “The Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost” (Luke 19:10).

Likewise, Jesus said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

This is Jesus' primary purpose and plan for His church and those within it. To negate His edict would be to disobey His direct command. Silence is not an option! However, how we go about sharing in word and deed can be greatly varied.

SR: *I understand that you got to talk with the author?*

Pastor George: I did! Ironically, I was calling about the material and got Bill Fay on the phone.

We talked for about 20 minutes and it was great. He has a great love for the Lord and a great passion for the lost. It was an honor to speak with him.

SR: *How quickly did you get to put this method into practice?*

Pastor George: Right away!

During the sessions I visited with someone in the hospital and had an opportunity to ask the questions and share the Gospel just as Bill recommended. I was overwhelmed with the ease of presentation and the willingness of the person to have me share.

SR: *Did you see church members using this approach? How did that go?*

Pastor George: I did. Several of our people shared with friends and co-workers and they, too, shared how wonderfully easy it was.

SR: *Is this the only program you would recommend to our churches?*

Pastor George: First off, I'm not a big program guy! I've had my fill of “sure-fired” ways to do just about anything in the church. However, I'm always on the lookout for effective tools for ministry.

I know how to share the Gospel, I've taught many others how to share the Gospel and I used many approaches. But this is the first “program” that addresses what others seem to lack: the “fear factor.” Plus, it addresses how to start a discussion about Jesus and how to ascertain if the Holy Spirit might be working. In all it's a great tool to have and I would highly recommend it.

One last note. The person I shared with at the hospital did not receive Jesus that day. However, for the first time in my life I rejoiced for having the opportunity to share the Gospel, rather than feeling guilty for not leading them to Christ. Having the opportunity to do my part and letting God do His, not only took a great burden off my shoulders, it made me smile to know that God could use even me! **SR**

Time to be "Missional"

by John Pethtel
Dallas, Georgia



conclusion would they come to as to why the church exists?

In a recent poll, a thousand regular church attenders were asked the question, "Why does the church exist?" Eighty-nine percent responded that the church existed to meet their emotional and spiritual needs. The other 11% responded that the church existed to reach those who were lost and did not know Christ.*

If this poll is an indication of most churches—and I believe it is—then we need help. We need to have a mission shift in our churches. We need to move from discussing the comfort and needs of those already in the church to discussing

the needs and ministry to those outside the church.

The mission of the church is to make Jesus famous and to announce His Kingdom through the Gospel revelation provided to us in the Bible. Dr. Timothy Keller gives a good and concise definition of the Gospel: "The Gospel is the Good News that God Himself has come to rescue and renew all of creation through the work of Jesus Christ on our behalf."

When we realize what the *telos* (end) of the Gospel is supposed to accomplish—the reconciliation of all created things unto Himself—then

we can get past just handing out tracts and selling "fire insurance." We can have a deep Gospel conversation that allows God to use His sanctifying changes in us to show that Jesus indeed makes all things new.

The Body of Christ

One of Scripture's major metaphors used for the church is the Body of Christ. In the fulfillment of this metaphor, the church is the continuation of Jesus' ministry by being His eyes, hands, feet, heart, and mouth until He comes back. What did Jesus do during His ministry to the least of these? That is what we, as the church, do. That is our mission.

The church is not perfect but it is what God has given us to advance His Kingdom. We tell the story of when the Kingdom came into being. We act as agents of the Kingdom in the present. We provide a foretaste of the Kingdom to come.

The Missional Church

In order to accomplish the task of making disciples, we (us and our churches) need to become "missional." To be missional is to form the identity—and align all of the programs, functions, and activities—of the church around the mission of God: making Kingdom disciples.

Being missional is both words and works. It is an inherent understanding that the church is not here for us. "The church is only the church when it exists for others." — Dietrich Bonhoeffer. The missional church

What is the Mission of the Church?

Most of you have been a member of a church for at least a short while. In that period of time, what have you determined the mission of the church might be?

If someone who was not a part of your group were to show up at your church business meeting, what topic would they see consuming most of the discussion? Would it be the color of the new hymnal, or how "we don't have money," or what the pastor does or does not do?

If these things are the case, what

*From a message by Greg Laurie, Senior Pastor of Harvest Christian Fellowship in Riverside, CA.

cont. next page

does not create a Christian sub-culture, or a social club; rather, it points people to the Kingdom.

Missions vs. Missional

A church with a missions program usually sees mission as one activity alongside many activities of the church. A *missional* church focuses all of its activities around its participation in Kingdom mission in the world.

A church with a missions program sends others to witness on its behalf. A missional church understands that the *congregation itself* is sent by God to proclaim the Kingdom and to be a sign of the reign of God. The missional church does not just see every member as a minister but every member as a missionary. Because of this impetus, the missional church seeks to reproduce spiritually, as individuals and corporately.

Missional Living

Missional living is simply being intentional in your role to advance the Kingdom by interacting with those you encounter regularly. These contacts may include family members, colleagues, neighbors, or people who participate in the same activities as you.

It may involve purposefully picking where you live, work, play, and go to school. It is living your life in front of others and displaying how Jesus has changed your life through words and actions.

Missional living is not “shoe-horning” Jesus into every conversation. It is about developing authentic friendships with these people. If you love Jesus and He is important to you, Gospel conversations will happen naturally as people wonder why the things that concern them don’t concern you. Jesus went out of His way to encounter the people

who needed Him the most. Do you? Will you?

Eight Ways to Be Missional

Here are a few examples of how we can be missional without overloading our schedules. (These are taken from an article by Jonathan Dodson, a pastor at Austin City Life, Austin, Texas.)

1. **Eat with Non-Christians.** Most of us eat three meals a day. Why not make a habit of sharing one of those meals with a non-Christian or with a family of non-Christians?

2. **Walk, Don’t Drive.** Be deliberate in your walk. Say hello to people you don’t know. Strike up conversations. Take interest in your neighbors. Ask questions. Pray as you go. Save some gas and maybe some people.

3. **Be a Regular.** Instead of hopping all over the city for gas, groceries, haircuts, eating out, and coffee, go to the same places. Get to know the staff. Go to the same places at the same times. Smile. Ask questions. Be a regular.

4. **Hobby with Non-Christians.** Pick a hobby that you can share. Get out and do something you enjoy with others. Be prayerful. Be intentional. Be winsome. Have fun. Be yourself.

5. **Talk to Your Co-workers.** How hard is that? Take your breaks

with intentionality. Show interest in your co-workers. Pick four and pray for them. Work on mission.

6. **Volunteer with Non-Profits.** Find a non-profit in your part of the city and take one day a month to serve your city. Bring your neighbors, your friends, or your church.

7. **Participate in City Events.** Instead of playing video games, watching TV, or surfing the Net, participate in city events. Go to fundraisers, festivals, clean-ups, summer shows, and concerts. Strike up conversations. Study the culture. Reflect on what you see and hear. Pray for the city. Love the city. Participate with the city.

8. **Serve your Neighbors.** Help a neighbor by weeding, mowing, building a cabinet, fixing a car. Get creative. Just serve!

Let’s not make the mistake of making “missional” another thing to add to your schedule. Instead, make your existing schedule missional. For some other resources about missional living, please visit my blog post on “Missional Living Resources” at jjpethtel.blogspot.com. **SR**

John Pethtel is pastor of the Metro Atlanta (Ga.) SDB Church, and is serving as President of the 2012 General Conference.

Missional living even at Halloween. John’s wife Tabatha posted this on Facebook. John served hot drinks to the parents and candy to the kids. The neighbors really appreciated the extra effort.



SR Feature Index for 2011

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Miami, FL	Apr, Dec		



Changes to loan program

No large Memorial Fund loans for 2012

by Morgan Shepard

“Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it?” (Luke 14:28 NIV)

During this year’s Memorial Fund presentation at Conference, we touched on the loan program. In the past few years, loans have gotten bigger and constitute a larger percentage of the portfolio while at the same time the market value of the overall investments have decreased. (Whose hasn’t?)

At the Memorial Fund Board’s Annual Meeting in October they reviewed the overall loan program and the way forward. Here is a snapshot of the loan program as of September 30, 2011:

Loans Disbursed to Date	\$5,056,857
Loans Approved Pending Disbursement	<u>677,000</u>
Total Loan Obligation	<u>\$ 5,733,857</u>

% of Endowment Value (\$10,162,814)	56%
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By the end of September, churches have paid \$141,887 in interest income while returning \$192,735

in principal (\$344,622 total).

As you can see, loans constitute 56% of the Memorial Fund total endowment value. In addition, the Memorial Fund holds custodial accounts for a number of churches and SDB agencies. However, we do not invest those custodial funds in loans because the owner can request a withdrawal of their funds at any time and we cannot have them tied up in a 30-year loan.

The Memorial Fund Trustees invest funds to create income for endowment recipients, custodial account holders and growth for the future of the fund. They maintain a balance between growth and income by varying the types of investments: fixed income investments and growth investments.

Loans comprise the fixed income portion of the portfolio while the stocks and mutual funds are primarily invested for growth. Generally accepted investment strategies would have anywhere from 20-25% in fixed income investments. The remaining should be in growth investments, growing anywhere from 6-10% in a year (hopefully).

What does all this mean? Well it means the Memorial Fund is over-extended in loans.

In order to deal with the current loan situation the Trustees voted not to consider loan requests over \$25,000 in 2012. They recognize there might be emergencies that require assistance and want to be


able to assist. This limitation will be reviewed again in October 2012.

If and when larger loans are considered there may be additional changes to loan requirements:

- Participation in the “CPR” vision-developing program to help a church focus on spiritual growth and evaluate how a new or remodeled building impacts their growth plan;
- Require a 25% down payment for purchases and new construction;
- Change in the interest rate structure to more closely correspond to loans available to churches on the commercial market.

What can you do? Churches that already have loans can consider making additional principal payments. While that will reduce the loan balance, it will also reduce your overall interest payments and shorten your payback period! Also, for those loans already approved, there will be no change in interest rates for 2012. Letters confirming 2012 mortgage payment amounts will be out before the end of this year.

Don’t stop searching for God’s vision for your church. Use this time to ensure that vision and raise the funds needed to complete God’s work.

“Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law.” (Romans 13:8 NIV) 



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

Who's in control, baby?

by Erin Inabnit
Algona, WA

I have worked for my entire adult life. Since I was 17 years old, I have held a series of jobs that have allowed me to travel the world, feed myself and pay the rent, get regular pedicures, and more recently, help take care of my little family.

These jobs also afforded me a way of viewing myself, an identity. At work, I was seen as competent and in control—attributes I carried through the rest of my life, especially that control thing! I knew what I wanted, I generally had a plan to achieve it, and I was usually able to get it. My life was what I made it.

When I learned that I was pregnant last fall, I began to plan for my 12-week maternity leave. I began to read all the “right” books and started organizing the nursery for the coming baby. In short, I was competent and in control!

I was also confident that the time I spent with her would be calm, enjoyable, organized, and manageable. Since my maternity leave would start at the end of summer, I wouldn't have to go back to work until she was almost 5 months old. Now I would certainly have the time and freedom to do all the things around the house I needed to get done.

I could tackle our “organizational system” (a desk we piled papers on top of), redo our bedroom, maybe even start long-range planning for when I went back to the classroom. Taking care of one little baby cer-

tainly couldn't consume my every waking moment, right? To their credit, the experienced mothers I shared all my plans with didn't laugh in my face.

Naomi Lee Inabnit was born at 8:02 pm on June 29, and quickly shattered every misconception I had about childcare. By two weeks in, I was sleep deprived, surviving my days on peanut butter and jelly sandwiches (I could hold them while nursing), and constantly worried about my low milk supply. In short, I had begun to feel both INcompetent and OUT of control. Now, these are both feelings that are common to new mothers, but ones I was definitely not accustomed to.

One night in the five minutes I managed to squeeze in reading before I fell unconscious, I picked up a devotional book and randomly turned to a page. What I read there threw me for a loop. Psalms 37:8 says, “Do not fret—it leads only to evil.” Whoa... Fretting is evil? I could think of a bunch of things that were evil, but fretting?

But the more I thought about it, the more it made sense. To worry is to question God's ability to solve problems and answer prayer, and my need for control was the same as fretting. My constant planning, freaking out when a 2-week-old derailed those plans, and worrying about revising those plans basically stated that I needed to be in control because my circumstances were too much for God alone.

I realized in that moment that I needed to give up that control to Christ—give it all to Him, and trust that He is mighty enough to carry

me through whatever happens.

As I'm writing this, our baby girl is nearly 4 months old. Have I completely surrendered my control issues to Christ? Not completely. It took 36 years to create them, it may take a little while to break them down.

But, every time my daughter stops trying to stuff her entire fist in her mouth for a moment, and looks at me with such love, and trust, and joy, I am reminded once again that God is strong enough without my help or my plans. He is the reason that she is here, and the reason for all she will become.

This morning I managed to get us both fed and dressed, and—bonus points for me—I remembered to throw away last night's diaper. For now, that's enough for me; the rest I have decided to leave to God. And that is a mighty and beautiful, if sometimes painful, blessing. *SR*



Erin Inabnit is a wife, mom to 4-month-old Naomi, stepmom to 17-year-old Courtney, 4th grade teacher, and member of the Seattle Area SDB Church. In her rapidly decreasing spare time she loves to get outside for any reason, especially if that means avoiding housework.



Proactive remembering

Church history writing & 30 years of SDBs in Miami

For the past half a century, Seventh Day Baptists have made repeated efforts to reach out with the Gospel in new places. (See the November 2010 “Nick of Time” for more about this.) As part of these efforts, many new churches have been planted.

These congregations have played exciting and dynamic roles in SDB history. Many of the new congregations are healthy and growing today, representing their faithfulness and the blessings of God as they work on His behalf.

Unfortunately, retelling the stories is becoming an increasingly difficult task. Some of the groups have been so busy with their other Kingdom work that they have neglected to write down the story of God’s work among them! After talking with people in some of the churches, there seems to be a belief that they haven’t been around long enough to merit recording their history. Let me say emphatically: it’s never too soon to start remembering the history of your congregation!


If you’re looking for an example of how to do this, look no further than the newly-published history of the Miami, Florida church, written by Rev. Andrew Samuels. At the behest of the congregation, and as part of their 30th anniversary celebration, Pastor Samuels collected information and wrote a thorough and complete history of

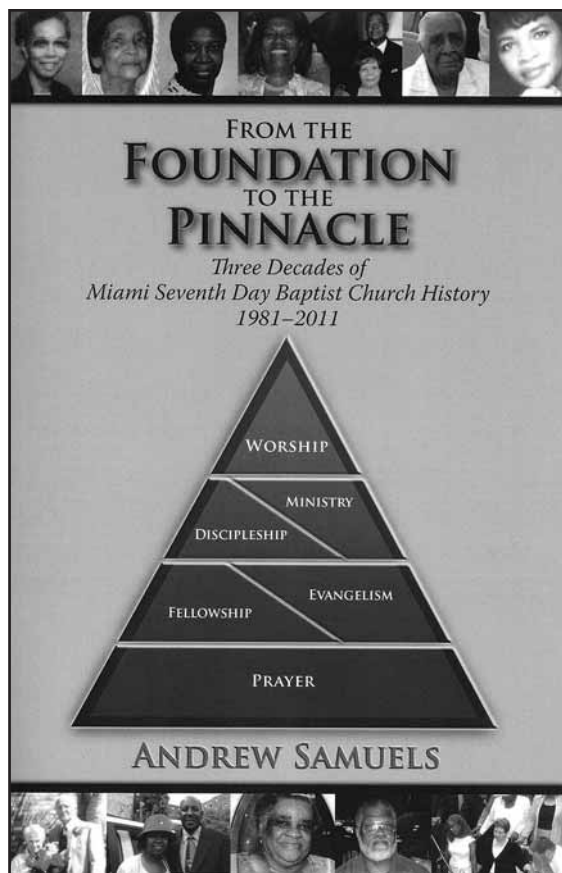
the congregation called *From the Foundation to the Pinnacle: Three Decades of Miami Seventh Day Baptist Church History, 1981-2011*.

In the book, Pastor Samuels surveys significant eras in the church, from the circumstances surrounding its founding in 1981, to its future plan for ministry in South Florida. Pastor Samuels thoughtfully and sensitively details the history of the church as it has grown and changed for three decades, pointing out God’s continuing work in and through the congregation, even in periods of church life that might be characterized as painful.

Despite the challenges associated with changing meeting locations and gathering a congregation that was geographically spread out, it is clear in the reading that God has been in control and has plans for the congregation into the future. The church’s constitution and bylaws are also included, along with lists of members and leaders.

This volume is now available for sale from the church for \$10, plus postage. The church can be contacted by e-mail (andyosam@aol.com) or phone (305-751-8594). Copies can also be purchased by contacting the Historical Society by phone or e-mail (sdbhist@seventhdaybaptist.org).

If you’d like to read a more extensive review of the book, please consult the SDBlog on the Conference website (www.seventhdaybaptist.org/blog). 



Seminarian Profile

Seminarian Profile



Name: Jamaal Fyffe

Birthdate and place:

August 12, 1980 Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Family:

Wife: Jasmyn
Son: Manoah

Education:

Runnymede Collegiate Institute (High School)
Seneca College—Business Administration
York University, Toronto—Bachelor of Arts
and Bachelor of Education
Tyndale University College and Seminary,
Toronto
(I expect to graduate in June 2013)

Ministry experience:

Summer Christian Service Corps. Served in
Seattle, Wash.; Colorado; South Carolina;
and Toronto.
Volunteer at Scott Mission and Meals on Wheels
in Toronto.

Other employment:

Braeburn Junior School, teaching vocal music
and physical education

Favorite Bible passage:

“So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”
(John 8:36, ESV)

Favorite authors:

Peter Abrahams, John MacArthur

If given a \$10,000 check we would:

Give a portion for the purposes of tithe/
charitable donation and pay down debt.



A great answer to prayer was:

Being able to preach in different churches.

A project I'm excited about:

Contributing to the growth of my church and
denomination.

P.R.O.P. needs some serious propping!

Most of our pastors have their own 403b retirement accounts. “PROP” — the Pastors’ Retirement Offering Project— is the old plan. The 11 recipients (or their spouse) represent nearly **350 years of service** to Seventh Day Baptists.

- 7 are widowed
- 7 are over 85 years of age
- 4 are over 90 years of age

Previous donations to PROP will be totally depleted in early 2012. Our Committee on Support and Retirement (COSAR) is dealing with how to continue these necessary checks. Just under \$8,000 is sent out each month.

Watch for a future capital campaign. But **please give now**, to those who gave so much.



“Imitate me!” Really?

Sabbath school classes and Bible study groups tend to break into conversations about the arrogance of Paul when a certain phrase is encountered. Every now and then, the phrase slips by unnoticed at first, but sooner or later someone trips over it. And when that happens, the whole group usually stumbles right along with the first person.

The phrase is: “Imitate me.” Now, I don’t think there is a Seventh Day Baptist group I’ve met that would object to those words coming from Christ. We know that Jesus set an example worthy of following. But, Paul?

Isn’t this call to imitate Paul an obvious example that he thought too highly of himself? Isn’t it proof that he was arrogant? Simply put: NO!

Paul might have been arrogant at some point in his life, he may have even struggled with arrogance. But by the time God was guiding him to write to churches, whatever arrogance he might have had was broken. Paul did not rely on his own strength, he relied on Christ’s.

As God preserved those letters for us to read, He preserved them for our good. We are not supposed to consider all of the people recorded in Scripture as good examples, but Paul is one whom God lifted up for us to consider as we choose how to live.

When Paul wrote “Imitate me” he was not being arrogant. He was calling people to various behaviors that were all marked by relying on

Christ for power and perseverance. When he first used the call in his letter to the Philippians, it was a challenge to steadfast straining in Christ’s upward call (Philippians 3:12-17). When he issued it a second time, it was a call to live in such a

“

It was a challenge to steadfast straining in Christ’s upward call.

”

way that we place our emotions and thoughts in the care of Christ (4:4-9).

When he first used the phrase in his letter to the Corinthians, it was a call to humility (1 Corinthians 3:18–4:16). In each of these passages, he was repeating the Gospel call on the lives of Christians. Paul did not claim to have achieved what we would label perfection, but he had ordered his life by the call of Christ and was urging his readers to do the same.

I mentioned these passages first because each call to imitate Paul can be read as a call to influence self. Each call might indirectly impact those who live with us, those who work with us, and those who watch us—but they are not direct calls to

influence other people. In that sense, they are “safe” calls.

We might (incorrectly) conclude that the calls demonstrate Paul’s arrogance. But more or less, we are willing to accept that each call should apply to us. That is, we accept that the things we are called to imitate should mark all Christians.

Let’s look at one more call to imitate Paul: “Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. Give no offense either to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God; just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit but the profit of the many, *so that they may be saved. Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ*” (1 Corinthians 10:31–11:1, italics added).

This calls us to imitate the intentional work of helping others see and respond to the Gospel, *that they may be saved*. For many, this is the call that is hardest to heed. We want to leave the work of saving others to the evangelists, to the apostles, to the pastors, to anyone else. Yet with this passage, God again makes it clear that each person in His church, His Kingdom, is part of His work in bringing others to salvation: life in Jesus Christ.

Don’t be blinded to the call by imagining Paul’s arrogance and writing off the words. Instead, hear the call, and do all for the Glory of God. Don’t neglect so great a salvation. Be an agent of God’s Kingdom. **SR**



FOCUS on Missions

Missions start at home... but where is that?

by Clinton R. Brown

Since I started working with the Missionary Society in September, I have taken some time to visit and fellowship with a majority of the Seventh Day Baptist congregations here in the Northeast. I have been encouraged by a common thread among the believers: a desire to know God better and, through that, better know His will for their lives.

I met many missionaries in those visits, but many of them may not have realized they were missionaries. They may not have made the connection that, at least for the time being, the place they consider their home is their mission field.

Growing up, I had the misconception that a missionary was only someone who went to distant lands and ministered to exotic people of different cultures. Of course, I had heard my pastor preach that we could each be missionaries wherever we were put by God. But it seemed to me a cheap substitution to the exciting and special life of the “missionary.”

It took me a long time to realize that it was not the location of the missionary’s feet that made the difference, but it was the location of their heart.

Most of us are probably aware of the old gospel hymn, “This World Is not My Home.” Its lyrics point to Matthew chapter 6 where Jesus explains the relationship between the focus of your life and what you value. He warns us against investing ourselves in the things of this temporary world instead of the permanent things above.

The true difference in the “missionary” and other believers is that God has helped them incorporate into their reality that their home is not in this world. It stands to reason that if they are not attached to earthly things then that should translate into a heightened readiness to give up things of this world and be wherever God leads them to be.

For some that would mean they will go somewhere else, but for many others it may mean they will stay. The important part is that they do it out of a love for and obedience to God, and not their own earthly attachments.

As the new executive director of the Missionary Society, I am inspired by the fact that we have a lot more missionaries than most people realize. People are staying places to minister (that they might otherwise leave) because they feel God has a particular ministry to do there. People are opening their hearts and honestly asking, “What do You want me to do, Lord?”

We have congregations that see a fundamental part of their existence is equipping, training, and supporting each other to fulfill the particular ministries to which they are called. That also means my job is even bigger than we thought since my ministry is to help missionaries *wherever they are*.

Please continue to pray for the Missionary Society, for my position as the director, and your participation in “missions”—wherever our Lord leads that to be. *SR*



Signs of SDBs in New England!



the BEACON

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

December 2011

One a-maze-ing retreat

by Rebecca Olson
Berlin, N.Y.

On October 20-23, my church in Berlin, N.Y., had a youth retreat for kids in grades 7 through 12. We had some trouble getting kids to come, and ended up with only six people.

However, because the six of us were close friends, we still had a wonderful time of learning and fellowship. In between the Bible studies and group sessions, we enjoyed a range of activities from dance parties to blacklight bowling.

One particular activity (which we do every year) was finding our way through a local corn maze.

This corn maze is one of the largest corn mazes on the East Coast, with a total of 8.6 miles of trails. I am proud to say that I am one of the three who managed to complete all four different sections of the maze!

At first, though, my friends, my two youth leaders, and I were hopelessly lost. Well, maybe not *hopelessly* lost. We probably would



have figured out where we were in the maze eventually. But like I said, we were lost.

That was when our third youth leader, Kevin, who had to come late, showed up. Somehow he knew where we were in the maze, found us, and led us to each checkpoint in the maze without getting lost again. I have to admit I was impressed, since I am my father's daughter and have absolutely no sense of direction.

From that point on, we easily completed the maze without having to stop and puzzle over the map. My two friends and I didn't even have to think about it; we just ran ahead through the maze while Kevin shouted directions from behind, "Go left! No, the other left!"

The whole situation made me think of Isaiah 30:21—"Whether you turn to the right or the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, 'This is the way; walk in it.'"

The Psalms sure have a lot to say about God as our guide.
It was hard for me to pick only a few verses!

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;
I will counsel you and watch over you." —Psalm 32:8

"Who is the man who fears the Lord? He will instruct him in
the way he should choose." —Psalm 25:12

"For this is our God, our God forever and ever; He will be
our guide even until death." —Psalm 48:14

This verse is clearly telling us a few things. First off, *we are going to get lost*. There is no way around it because we are not perfect. However, there is a promise here that when we do get lost, God will tell us where to go next.

When we are hopelessly lost in our lives, unsure of where to turn, we only have to turn to God for directions. Just as Kevin knew the way in the maze, God knows the way He has planned for us in life.

As we discussed in our Bible study after the maze, God has a plan for each of us, and we are empowered by the hope of our purpose. God is the only one who knows where your life—your own little maze—ends.

So remember that whenever you're lost, you can take some time to read the Bible, pray, and just listen, because God knows where the next turn leads. **SR**

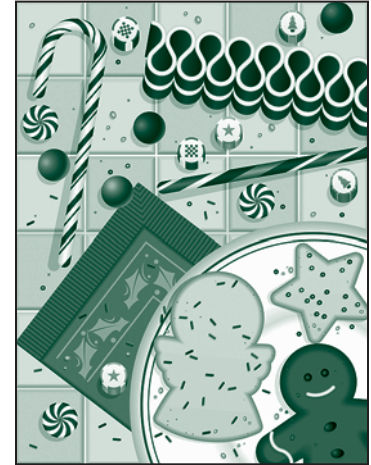


Reflections

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

We love our sweet little girl



Every Christmas, I'm reminded of God's greatest gift—His Son, Jesus. But God has given us countless other gifts, many of which we take for granted. Like the sense of taste.

The tongue and roof of your mouth is covered with almost 10,000 tiny taste buds. As saliva helps break down the food, "receptor cells" in your taste buds send messages to your brain via sensory nerves, telling you what flavors you're tasting.

God has given us four basic kinds of taste: sweet, salty, sour, and bitter. The salty/sweet taste buds are located near the front of your tongue, sour taste buds line the sides, and bitter buds are located at the very back of your tongue.

My favorite taste buds are those that convey "sweetness." The Bible mentions this in various forms.

Exodus 16:31 reads, "It [manna] ... tasted like wafers made with honey." Solomon proclaims, "Your lips drop sweetness as the honeycomb, my bride; milk and honey are under your tongue" (Song of Songs, 4:11).

The Word of God does caution about overindulging in sweets.

In Proverbs we read, "It is not good to eat too much honey..." (25:27). Verse 16 states it even more bluntly: "If you find honey, eat just enough—too much of it, and you will vomit" (NIV).

My almost 9-year-old grand-

daughter, Julia, loves sugar. Since she was a toddler, the nickname "Sugar Girl" has stuck like a licked lollipop. (Rumor has it her first sentence was, "Mother, will you please stir a cup of sugar into my strained peas?")

Sharks can smell one drop of blood in a million drops of seawater, and grizzly bears can smell a dead animal 18 miles away. Julia is able to detect sugar 25 miles away—no small feat since sugar doesn't have an overt odor.

Julia's parents have always emphasized good eating habits, and all four daughters consume their share of fruit and vegetables. Julia, however, obviously has a hard time resisting anything sweet, especially candy.

One family story is legendary.

When Julia was 3, her mother (my daughter, Jennifer) spotted her walking through the house one day, acting strangely. Julia would stick her right index finger into the front pocket of her blue jeans and then stick said finger into her mouth. She would smile, take several more steps, and repeat the action.

Upon investigating, Jennifer discovered Julia's pocket was full of powdered candy.

A few days earlier, Julia's oldest sister had celebrated her birthday, which included Pixy Stix straws as party favors. Jennifer "hid" the remaining Pixy straws on top of the refrigerator for future rationing.

Like a two-legged bloodhound puppy, Julia was quickly on the trail.

Apparently, the little "sugar thief" had dragged a kitchen chair across the floor, climbed onto the counter, and somehow scaled the side of the fridge, grabbing her loot undetected. Tearing open several of the straws, she dumped the delectable dust into her pocket. Julia ended up getting "busted," but not before consuming enough sugar to fill the Rose Bowl.

This past October, as Julia and I approached my open garage door, she spotted a dozen large bundles of pink fiberglass insulation sitting on the garage floor. Her eyes grew as wide as sugar bowls as she breathlessly asked, "Is that cotton candy?"

I gently replied, "No, Julia. I'm afraid it isn't."

I feel partially to blame for Julia's penchant for sugar. One of my T-shirts reads, "Grandma's Rules: Buy Them Presents, Feed Them Sweets, Send Them Home."

Being the awesome grandmother that I am, I always make it a point to faithfully enforce all rules. Especially ones that promote the weekly allotment of sugar for my grandkids. **SR**



Buckhannon, WV July 29–Aug. 4, 2012



The President's Page
by John Pethtel

What are you feeding on?

“I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready.” (1 Corinthians 3:2, ESV)

I have two children. They are not babies any more. As a matter of fact, my 3-year-old daughter Addison is very insistent that she is not a baby. She says all of the time, “I’m a big girl!”

But I remember when they were babies and I have spent time around some babies in the last few months. Their diet consists mainly of one thing: milk. (Or a formulaic substitute for it.) This is the main ingredient in their diet because it contains everything they need to grow—nutrients, vitamins, etc.—for the first year or so of life.

We all love little babies. We think they are terrific. There is nothing like seeing the cuteness and newness of a baby and seeing it experience the wonders of growth for the first time. However, there is nothing quite as heartbreaking as seeing a 40-year-old man act like a 2-year-old boy.

Emotionally and spiritually, this is the problem of discipleship in the church. We have babies and 40-year-olds acting like babies, or we have

babies who are being starved and stunted in growth.

One of the complaints I hear the most from people who have given up on church is, “I wasn’t getting fed.” They are referring to this verse in 1 Corinthians and are unfortunately talking about the issue of discipleship in the church.

In the context of this passage, Paul notices that the spiritual babes in Corinth are not even grasping the basic precepts of Christianity correctly. How could they possibly be *ready* to grow spiritually, numerically, or relationally when they were struggling with the simple concepts of repentance and forgiveness? They were ignoring the divisions going on amongst them so they could live comfortably in their sin.

This typically plays out in the church in one of two ways:

1. **The church focuses solely on milk.** “Milk” is teaching that is uniquely designed to get a proud sinner started on the path of humility and hope. There is something about the word of the cross that can get into the hard and narrow esophagus of self-reliance and bring life-giving hope and humility without choking a person to death. A

church that focuses solely on milk may see conversions but grieves the Holy Spirit by stunting spiritual growth.

2. **The church focuses solely on solid food.** “Solid food” is not something that takes more intellect to grasp. The solid food is not for smart people. It’s for *humble* people. It is for *teachable* people. A church that focuses solely on solid food may have someone who can talk about the deep things of Scripture but may not actually put into practice the basic disciplines of the faith.

Paul advocates the need for both depths of learning in our churches. He is advocating the Gospel to be taught to all believers all the time. The message is simple enough for a very young person to understand (Jesus loves me and died for my sins), and deep enough that we should spend our whole lives studying its truths (Triune God; Justification; Penal Substitutionary Atonement).

ARE YOU READY to give the people God has entrusted to you and your church the diet they deserve? *ARE YOU READY* to challenge them with the whole Gospel message in your preaching, teaching, fellowship, stewardship, and service? *ARE YOU READY* for God to bring unity to our churches as we faithfully ensure that our congregations are being disciplined from age 0 to 99?

The mission of the church (and our denomination) is to make disciples who make disciples. What is your church doing in its discipleship ministries to take people from unbelief to belief, and from belief to service?

How are you challenging those who are “milk only” to grow? How are you challenging those who are “meat only” to serve? **SR**



by Executive Director
Rob Appel

A day to remember!

Note from Rob: This month's featured church went through quite a journey in acquiring a place of worship that they could call their own. For many years they worshipped at the Daniel Drive Baptist Church in Stockbridge, Georgia. While enjoying a wonderful relationship with the church there and with the pastor, the members of the South East Atlanta SDB Church were looking for a place they could call home.

*Below is an article by **Brother David Samuels** and **Sister Theona Gordon**. I will not add much to their writing except some clarifiers. But suffice it to say, I am extremely proud of what this congregation has been able to accomplish! They have been faithful and patient and God has blessed them immensely!*

On September 3, 2011, the members of the South East Atlanta (Ga.) Seventh Day Baptist Church, along with friends and family, experienced God's goodness in a mighty way. In the past, we reported on God's goodness and His favor toward us over the years; shared our joys and disappointments; solicited prayers for God's guidance and provision; and rejoiced as He continuously opened doors for us to step through.

It should come then as no surprise that God has completed the physical aspect of the work that He started with us in the form of a Building Dedication Service. As our choir so beautifully reminded us, "God is able to do just what He says He will do."

The day began with a ribbon-

cutting ceremony performed by the pastors' wives and a few founding members. We were then led into the sanctuary by Pastors Barry Dailey and Luis Lovelace, and the Dedication Service began as the congregation acknowledged the presence of the Holy Spirit in song.

cont. next page



Several people participated in the ribbon-cutting (above). The new meeting house of the South East Atlanta SDB Church.

A day to remember, *cont. from p. 21*



Movable chairs allow for multiple use of the sanctuary.

Greetings and words of encouragement were given by representatives of the Memorial Fund (Ruth Reynolds), the Council on Ministry (Pastor Gordon Lawton), and the South Atlantic Association (Pastor Lovelace), as well as the Conference Executive Director Rob Appel, and Pastor Lamar Welch of Daniel Drive Baptist Church, our former place of worship.

Culminating the service was a message from Pastor John Pethtel reminding us that God is calling a people, not a building. Pastor Lovelace dedicated the building in prayer. Directly following our fellowship lunch, we witnessed the installation of our new pastor, Barry G. Dailey, who came to us from Canada. Pastor Barry has a heart for worship and outreach and we look forward to what God has in store for us as we follow our pastor as he follows Christ. Our celebration day came to a close with a praise concert.

We would like to thank everyone who prayed with us and contributed in any way. This includes encouraging words, finances, and much-needed time and physical labor. A special thank you goes out to the Memorial Fund for their financial assistance.

Most importantly we would like

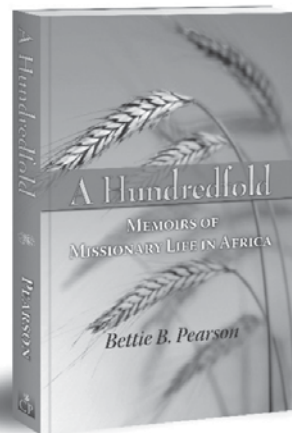
to thank God for His provisions. As we write this, we cannot help but think of Hannah who sought God year after year for a son after He had shut up her womb. One can only imagine how painful the situation must have been for her, especially watching Peninah bless Elkanah with children.

Perhaps in the midst of her pain, Hannah came to realize that her desire to have a child was rooted in selfishness, and it was this revelation that led her to offer to give the child back to God if only He would bless her. Hannah kept her promise to God, and He responded in kind by allowing her to bear more children.

Sometimes as believers our desire to do great things for God can lead to frustration when we lack the resources to execute our plans. Disappointment increases when we see others engaging in similar ministries. We begin to think that God would be more pleased with us if only we could do more.

When we realize that it is all about God, He blesses us. As a body, this is our position. Hence, we gave back to God what He blessed us with: a building and a pastor. May He use them for His glory, and through them bring life to the body. **SR**

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Celebrating 30 years of ministry

by Theo Wilson
Miami, Fla.

In the fall of 1981, Alcott and Jasmine Lynch had a vision and yearning to start a Seventh Day Baptist church in South Florida. The early meetings took place in the home of Ralph and Dorothy Easley.

The Easleys, Lynches and other members in the area (found through various SDB contacts) worshipped in this home for several months until the spring of 1982. At that time, the church became officially organized and started to worship at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church on NW 4th Ave, in North Miami. Dorothy Easley was instrumental in securing that facility as she was the principal of the Lutheran School.

The church was then under the leadership of Rev. Kenneth Van Horn, pastor of the sponsoring Daytona Beach SDB Church. After that, Pastor Thomas Whitney served for a short time, and Pastor William Vis also played the pastoral role. Then, in June 1988, Pastor Andrew Samuels accepted the call to pursue the vision that was cemented a few years prior. This was the early beginnings of the Miami Seventh Day Baptist Church.

On Sabbath, August 20, 2011—three decades later at the Stanton Memorial Baptist Church—a congregation with hundreds of people attended two services (in the morning and afternoon) to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the ongoing existence and ministry of the Miami Seventh Day Baptist Church. Among those present were people connected to the church over the span of 30 years, visitors from other SDB churches, and even local politicians.

Many very special moments took place. At one portion of the morning

service, the city of Miami declared that day as “Miami Seventh Day Baptist Church Day.” It was an exciting and exhilarating experience to see the church recognized as being a beacon in the community!

The praise team and choir ministered during the entire service with beautiful renditions. Everyone was blessed to have an elaborate visual

“

One goal is still sought after—to be a light in the community of the surrounding area.

”

presentation that provided an insight to the entire history of the church, and also revived old memories. Pastor Joe Samuels blessed the hearts of everyone in the morning service, and Senior Pastor Andrew Samuels closed out the celebration.

Over the course of the 30 years, the church branched out to plant two others: the West Palm Beach and Fort Lauderdale Seventh Day Baptist Churches. The ministry of the Miami church even reached international heights as relationships were built with churches in Haiti, Jamaica, and England with several mission projects.

One goal of the church is still being sought after today—to be a light in the community of the surrounding area. The church has established relationships with various local non-

profit organizations that assist the less fortunate in their times of need.

One example of this is our food pantry. Food is donated to the church on a weekly basis, and up to 100 boxes are distributed each week for numerous families. It is a great blessing to be able to serve in this manner. This particular ministry makes the people from the surrounding community aware of the church’s existence, letting them know that they are always welcome and they can make Miami SDB their home.

One of the songs shared on that anniversary Sabbath stated, “We’ve come this far by faith, leaning on the Lord. Trusting in his Holy Word, He’s never failed me yet. Oh, we can’t turn around; we’ve come this far by faith.” Without a doubt, the Miami Seventh Day Church has been moving forward by faith.

There is much more to be done. We hope to have an even more enormous impact in the community, and to continue to build lasting relationships. These will help to further the work of the Lord. Surely there will be many more great things to be done through this church, because with God, nothing shall be impossible. **SR**

To chronicle the events of the church for the past three decades, a history book was written by Pastor Andrew Samuels, “From The Foundation To The Pinnacle.” The book is available for purchase from the church or from the Seventh Day Baptist Historical Society. (See this month’s “Nick of Time” column on page 14 for more information.)

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

Boulder, CO
Steve Osborn, pastor
Joined after baptism
Toni Bates

Births

Worden.—A son, Gabriel Christopher, was born to Chris and Crystal Worden of Scotia, NE on June 1, 2011.

Coombs.—A son, Kajawn Christian, was born to Romando and Nicole (Gilmore) Coombs of Mississauga, ON, Canada on September 14, 2011.

Bernau.—A daughter, Ariana Grace, was born to Frank and Tabbia (Firstad) Bernau of Kasson, MN on October 21, 2011.

Brooks.—A son, Bryson Michael, was born to Sarah Ann Brooks and Jasen Roberts of Alton, IL on October 24, 2011.

Week of Prayer begins Jan. 1

Seventh Day Baptists around the world will begin the new year with prayer. For the 44th consecutive year, the SDB World Federation is sponsoring the **Week of Prayer**, to be held **January 1-7, 2012**. Pastor Marlo Siolo of Brisbane, Australia wrote this year's meditations. The booklets should arrive at each church in early December.



Please remember to take up a special offering for the World Federation on January 7.

Marriages

Neher – La Croix. Jeff Neher and Naomi La Croix were united in marriage on October 15, 2011 in Faribault, MN. Father Kevin Fennigan officiated.

Cougoule – Crouch. Tony Cougoule and Heidi Crouch were united in marriage on October 22, 2011 at Godric Grove at Elings Park, Santa Barbara, CA. The bride's father, Pastor Steven Crouch, officiated, assisted by Doug Mackintosh.

Obituaries

Stewart.—Leonard Stewart, 88, of Wilmington, St. Thomas, Jamaica West Indies, was called to eternal rest on December 30, 2010. Leonard was born October 8, 1922 in Waterford, St. Catherine, Jamaica, one of six children born to Samuel and Miranda Stewart

who were members of the Waterford SDB Church.

As a young man, Leonard moved to Kingston and became an active member of the Charles Street SDB Church. There he met and married Vera Grant. The family migrated to the United States in 1970, attending

Obituaries, *cont. from p. 24*

first the Plainfield, N.J., SDB Church then the 7th Day Christian Temple. Later that year Pastor Herb Saunders and Brother John Bevis formed a Seventh Day Baptist group in the New York City area. Leonard became an active and dedicated member of that church, serving as moderator, Trustee Board chairman and Sabbath School teacher.

Leonard was ordained as a deacon in 1992. As head deacon, he assumed leadership of the New York City SDB Church when the group did not have a pastor.

After 35 years in the U.S., Deacon Stewart and wife Vera retired and returned to Jamaica in 1999. He immediately became leader of the Bath SDB Church.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Vera; children Martha, George, Karen, Antoinette, Richard, Cornell and Sharon; one brother; nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

A funeral service was held on January 9, 2011 at the Bath SDB Church with Pastor Garfield Miller officiating. Burial was in the family plot at his residence in Wilmington.

Horsley.—Ruth D. Horsley died July 18, 2011 in Rancho Mirage, Calif. She had a stroke in March and another in July. She was 88. Ruth was born to Arthur and Anna Doerschler near Cologne, Germany, on Dec. 20, 1922. They came to the U.S. because her father was a conscientious objector. They settled in Kalamazoo, Mich., where she graduated from high school. She married Ervin Stabel in 1943, and they had two sons. They later divorced. She married Ted Horsley in 1963.

After working as a secretary and as an administrator for a nursing home, she then designed and supervised the building of Aspen Siesta

in southeast Denver, Colo., in 1965. “It was a nursing home ahead of its time,” said her son David Stabel. In those days, “she was a businesswoman in a man’s world.”

Horsley established the RDH Foundation to help several charities, including the Denver Rescue Mission, the Denver Dumb Friends League and the Salvation Army. Always active in church, Horsley designed and oversaw construction of the Seventh Day Baptist Church in Denver, said the church’s former pastor, Glen Warner. Pastor Warner shared at the funeral, “Let us always remember her happy face, her wonderful laugh, her realistic conclusions about things, her high standards, her business acumen, her mental toughness, her tender devotions, her insights, her deep love for family and friends, her values and her faith. She lived up to her name, and she hopes and prays that we will, too.”

She is survived by two sons, David Stabel of Palm Desert, Calif., and Paul Stabel of Tigard, Ore.; five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

A service was held on August 5, 2011 at Little Ivy Chapel in Fairmount Cemetery, Denver, with Pastor Glen Warner officiating. Entombment was in Fairmount Mausoleum.

Gunst.—Ila Marion Gunst, 91, of Huntsville, Ala., died on September 13, 2011. She was born January 12, 1920 in Boaz, Ala., the daughter of John Wesley Brown (former mayor of Boaz) and Minnie Potter Brown.

Ila was an active member of the Paint Rock, Ala., SDB Church for over 30 years. She served the church in various ways, playing piano for Sabbath services and eager to share her faith with others.

She is survived by two daughters, Marian (with whom she lived), and Jacqueline of Huntsville; a favorite nephew, John Griffin; a special niece, Katie. She was preceded in death by four sisters, and her husband of 44 years, Edmund Gunst.

Funeral services were held at Valhalla Funeral Home in Huntsville, with burial in the adjoining cemetery. Pastor John Bevis officiated.

Cruzan.—Ruth E. Cruzan, 89, of White Cloud, Mich., passed away on October 19, 2011 at the Newaygo Medical Care Facility in Fremont, Mich.

Ruth was born on November 10, 1921 in Boulder, Colorado to L.C. Leroy and Minnie (Potter) Davis and later married Marion Cruzan on October 26, 1945 in Boulder, Colo. Marion preceded her in death on January 4, 2011.

Ruth had been the Newaygo County District Court Clerk from 1970 until her retirement in 1983. She enjoyed sewing, knitting, crocheting, reading and loved traveling and camping. Ruth was also a non-lymphoma cancer survivor. She was an active member of the White Cloud Seventh Day Baptist Church where she was a Deaconess.

She is survived by her daughter, Cheryl Cruzan of White Cloud; sons Duane and Edward Cruzan, both of White Cloud; seven grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren; her brother, Leroy Davis of La Junta, Colo.; and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her siblings Duane Davis, Dorothy Lusic, Juanita Lusic, Marilyn Davis, Barbara White, and Shirley Cruzan.

Funeral services were held on October 24, 2011 at the Seventh Day Baptist Church in White Cloud, with Pastor Bernie Wethington officiating. Interment was in the White Cloud Cemetery. **SR**

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KEVIN'S

ORNER

Give them the flowers now

William Flynt set up this scenario in a sermon I read recently.

You're at a funeral service and you look upon the beautiful display of flowers—potted plants, the cut flowers, or maybe even some artificial floral arrangements—sent in by loved ones and friends. You know that those flowers are there to pay tribute to the memory of the deceased.

Then this thought comes to mind:

"Wow. What joy and gladness these flowers would have brought to our friend who needed this kind of encouragement and friendship in their latter days."

Flynt then quoted from Leigh Hodge who wrote:

*"What to closed eyes are kind sayings?
What to hushed heart is deep vow?
Naught can avail after parting,
So give them the flowers now."*

Proverbs 25:11 says, "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver."

It's so important to know when—and how—to speak words of encouragement.

Whether I'm editing or preaching, it's nice to hear those "fitly spoken words." A compliment or a pat on the back can be a powerful and motivating thing.

I've had the honor to preach at a little country church for nearly two decades now, and I know that I'm appreciated there. Sure, they remember me in October for Pastor Appreciation time, and I get cards and gifts on my birthday and at Christmas. But it's the every-week signs that provide me that encouraging lift.

After the worship service, I have the privilege of greeting all the folks as they leave. We share meaningful hugs and handshakes, and I often hear words like, "You don't know how much that meant to me." Or, "I really needed to hear that today." Those fitly-spoken words tell me a couple of things.

First, I'm pretty sure that they stayed awake during the sermon. That's always nice! It also confirms that the Lord was able to work through my time and preparation;

that He was able to work in me and through me—in spite of "me being me"! If God can work through fallible and disobedient people like myself, there is still hope for us!!

Back in October, I received an e-mail from our son Matthew when he was deployed in Iraq. Besides working tough 12-hour shifts every day, he apparently had some time to contemplate life while being on the other side of the world away from his wife and family.

He shared some very meaningful feelings and encouragements with his old Dad. I'm reading this thing at work, I'm in tears, and our financial secretary comes to my door to give her usual cheery "A Christian Good Morning!!"

Then she sees my red eyes, and says, "Oh, are you okay?" I say, "Yeah, I just got a really nice e-mail from Matt..." Jan responds, "It's nice to know that your kids 'turned out okay' isn't it?"

Matt "gave me flowers" that day.

Every morning during November, our daughter-in-law, Danielle, posted on Facebook things that she is thankful for. "Day 7 of things I'm thankful for: My great parents-in-law. They have welcomed me into their family and make me feel so loved. I am so glad we have a wonderful relationship and I

look forward to visiting with them every time we go to Wisconsin. :)"

Danielle "gave me flowers" that day.

Maybe you've heard this thought from Berton Braley:

*"If you think that praise is due him,
Now's the time to slip it to him,
For he cannot read his tombstone
When he's dead."*

Most people are hungry to feel wanted and appreciated. But too many others out there are long on criticism and fault-finding, and short on appreciation and expressing that appreciation.

Lest I repeat myself (or Leigh Hodge):
*"What to closed eyes are kind sayings?
What to hushed heart is deep vow?
Naught can avail after
parting,
So give them the
flowers now."*



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