



The  
**Sabbath**  
**RECORDER**

*Inside:*

This little  
light of mine

Hopelessly Devoted

March 2011

*News for and about Seventh Day Baptists*



*Light*

vs. Darkness



## 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)

An important packet of information has been mailed out to each SDB church pastor, moderator and clerk.

The **Ad Hoc Committee for Denominational Restructuring** has prepared a draft copy of by-law changes needed to implement the recommendations approved at General Conference in Springfield, Mo., last July.

An e-copy of this packet can be obtained at our website: [www.seventhdaybaptist.org](http://www.seventhdaybaptist.org) in the "Resources" box.

The Committee asks you to review the material and be ready to discuss the proposed changes at Conference this year. Contact information for the Committee is found at the end of the packet.

## 2011 General Conference "Living in the Fruit of the Spirit"

July 31 – August 6  
Hope College, Holland, Michigan

Info websites: [holland.org](http://holland.org), [hope.edu](http://hope.edu)

Planes: into Grand Rapids (GRR)

Trains: into Holland (HOM)

Automobiles: Mapquest or GoogleMap  
Hope College, MI

To volunteer:

[berniewethington@hotmail.com](mailto:berniewethington@hotmail.com)

## Wednesdays for Fasting and Prayer

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

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

**Each Wednesday** will focus on:

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

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





Establ. 1844

March 2011  
Volume 233, No. 3  
Whole No. 6,970



**A Seventh Day Baptist publication**  
**SabbathRecorder.org**

*The Sabbath Recorder* (ISSN 0036-214X) (USPS 474460) is published monthly (combined July & August) by the SDB General Conference's Tract and Communication Council, 3120 Kennedy Road, PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547-1678. This publication is distributed at no cost to members and friends of Seventh Day Baptist churches and is made possible by donations from its readers. Periodicals postage paid at Janesville, WI, and additional offices.

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to *The Sabbath Recorder*, 3120 Kennedy Road, PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547-1678

This is the 166th year of publication for *The Sabbath Recorder*. First issue published, June 13, 1844. Member of the Associated Church Press. The *Sabbath Recorder* does not necessarily endorse signed articles.



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**WRITERS:** Please type manuscripts double spaced. Only manuscripts that include a stamped, addressed envelope can be returned. Unsolicited manuscripts are welcomed; however, they will be considered on a space available basis. No remuneration is given for any article that appears in this publication. Paid advertising is not accepted.

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# “This little light of mine”

by Emily Graffius



I bet you could sing along with me:

“This little light of mine,  
I’m gonna let it shine.  
This little light of mine,  
I’m gonna let it shine;  
Let it shine, let it shine,  
let it shine!”

That simple children’s song that many of us grew up with holds more weight than we may know. If we have chosen to follow Jesus, then we have His light inside us. But how much it shines, and if others can even see the light—that’s a whole ‘nother story.

Are we walking in the light of Jesus? Are we letting our light hide under a bushel? Is Satan being allowed to blow out our light completely?

Most people don’t want to walk around in the dark. That’s obvious. We get stubbed toes and bruised shins.

Dealing with that physical pain is far easier than the emotional and spiritual parallels of a bruised heart or a hurt ego. We need the light—God’s truth—to guide our lives and hearts through the darkness.

Light vs. Darkness. Truth vs. Lies. God vs. Satan. Good vs. Evil. These dynamics are at war within us all. Who will win?

So what is truth? How can we tell we’re living with the true light of God or the false light from Satan? Satan pretends to be an angel of light, you know. “For Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising then, if his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve” (2 Corin. 11:14-15).

Part of shining God’s pure light is knowing when to turn from the lies—

those false lights that pretend to be truth.

I’ve had many epiphanies over the years as God draws me in and sheds more light about who He is and gives me treasures of His truth to hold dear. One truth was clarified for me this past summer as I was part of a Beth Moore Bible study called “Breaking Free.” There she discusses the difference between “my” truth and God’s truth.

Here is how it breaks down:

**My environment  
+ My experiences  
= My “truth”**

*(or really, My “perception”)*

---

**My "truth"  
+ Nothing  
= Incomplete**

Our "truth" is subjective and is not the whole truth. It's simply our perception.

As children we have memories of things and perceive them from a child's mind. Remember going back to your childhood home, playground or church, and you remembered it being "so much bigger" long ago? Or talking about memories as a kid and you learn more details later from your family?

Our own truth is extremely subjective and not the whole truth. We can't use our own truth as a light in the darkness because it's not complete.

**My "truth"  
+ Satan's lies  
= Captivity**

Satan begins trying to lie to our hearts from a young age: "You're not good enough." "No one will like you." "Don't even try because you'll fail." "You're stupid." "You must be perfect."

There's a whole stream of lies that Satan tries to whisper to people's hearts and minds. And if we're caught up in our own truth of what is going on, plus letting Satan keep us in darkness with his lies, we are in captivity. We're not only in darkness but locked in a cage, in the dark. Imagine trying to take off handcuffs, in the dark, with no key and no one to help.

**"This little light of mine...  
I'm gonna let it shine."**

“  
**If  
we're  
caught  
up in our  
own truth of  
what is going on,  
we are in captivity.**  
”



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**God's Truth  
> My "truth"**

**My "truth"  
+ God's Truth  
= FREEDOM!**

Freedom is the ultimate goal here! To walk in the light as He is in the light.

God's truth brings true power and freedom. "For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit,

joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12). Without using God's Word as a penetrating force in darkness, the light will only be dim, if it shines at all.

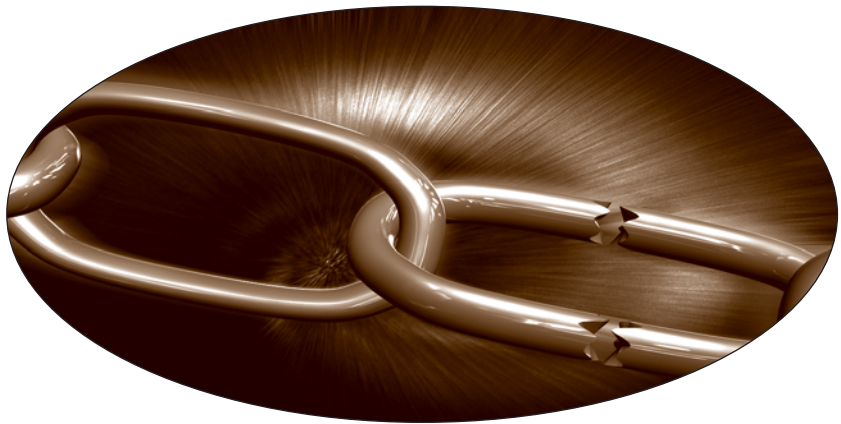
Freedom is a liberating feeling. And once you've tasted it, you want everyone to have it! Beth Moore breaks it down simply saying:  
Lies lead to captivity,  
Truth leads to liberty!

**"Don't let Satan  
blow it out...  
NO! I'm gonna  
let it shine!"**

"To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, 'If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. **Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.**' They answered him, 'We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?' Jesus replied, 'Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed'" (John 8:31-36).

The only way that chains can be broken around the captive is through truth. Satan holds those bound in chains through lies. This Scripture talks about Satan's schemes: "He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies" (John 8:44).

In Douglas Groothuis' book *Truth Decay* (InterVarsity Press) he says, "The truth itself does not decay. In



***Freedom is the ultimate goal here!  
To walk in the light as He is in the light.***

the words of the prophet Isaiah, “The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever” (Isaiah 40:8). Likewise, Jesus affirmed that “heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away” (Matt. 24:35). Yet the human grasp of truth in a fallen world may loosen or slip.” (pp. 22-23)

And that, my friends, is where the rubber meets the road. “Yet the human grasp of truth in a fallen world may loosen or slip.” Therein lies the rub.

In a fallen world, in a fallen workplace, in fallen relationships, fallen churches, fallen homes... where is your light? Has it been tucked away in some dark closet where no one goes and we can’t remember even how to get there?

Has it been blown out because we lack the fight to keep it going? Or is it sitting on the front porch to help lead others home?

It’s tough to shine light in a world where some try to blow it out the first chance they get. It’s tough to be standing for Christ and have Satan nipping at your heels. It’s sad to see others fall prey to temptation and surrender to the lie, “This is how I’ve always been and how I’ll always be.”

We are only in control of ourselves and our choices. Guard your heart for it is the wellspring of life (Prov. 4:23). Guard your light for it is your direction, hope and salvation in the darkness.

If you’ve lost your way in the darkness, ask for help. And make sure you’re asking someone who is holding the real, live light of Christ—not someone who’s wearing a mask.

It’s easy to read about this and nod along in agreement. But what happens when someone who you trust has “stabbed you in the back”? Or a best friend believes the worst gossip about you without even asking you first, or the “for-sure” job promotion falls through?

What if you’re the last one “standing for what’s right” around other church members? What if you face abandonment, or your child has turned from everything that is good? What then?

What do you do when your light of truth might be perceived as more of a distraction or annoyance than hope and love?

Remember that you serve an audience of One. It’s not easy, but God is in charge of your reputation. God will sustain. God will provide. God will befriend. God will protect. God will heal.

God will be an advocate for the weak. He strengthens the strong. He increases the power of the weak. That is when it counts to hold your light, even with a shaky hand or broken heart.

God will give you strength. “The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth” (Psalm 145:18).

Sometimes we’re in the darkness and have trouble finding the light, finding truth, finding hope. Brenning Manning, a renowned speaker and writer on God’s abundant love, writes in *Abba’s Child*, “In solitary silence we listen with great attentiveness to the voice that calls us the beloved. God speaks to the deepest strata of our souls, into our self-hatred and shame, our narcissism, and takes us through the night into the daylight by His truth: ‘Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name, you are mine. You are precious in my eyes, because you are honored and I love you... the mountains may depart, the hills be shaken, but my love for you will never leave you and my covenant of peace with

you will never be shaken' (Isaiah 43:1; 54:10)." (p. 59)

God isn't afraid of the darkness and will meet us there with His light. Here's how Manning explains it:

"But when the night is bad and my nerves are shattered and Infinity speaks, when God Almighty shares through His Son the depth of His feelings for me, when His love flashes into my soul and when I am overtaken by Mystery... Alone, I face the momentous decision. Shivering in the rags of my sixty-plus years, either I escape into skepticism and intellectualism or with radical amazement I surrender in faith to the truth of my belovedness.

"At every moment of our existence God offers us this good news. Sadly,

many of us continue to cultivate such an artificial identity that the liberating truth of our belovedness fails to break through. So we become grim, fearful, and legalistic. We hide our pettiness and wallow in guilt. We huff and puff to impress God, scramble for brownie points, thrash about trying to fix ourselves, and live the gospel in such a joyless fashion that it has little appeal to nominal Christians and unbelievers searching for truth." (pp. 59-60)

I have friends who don't follow Jesus or believe that he is God's Son. I have friends who believe in relative truth or haven't really thought of how to define truth.

I'm glad I know them and am

truly blessed by their lives. I don't want to be a "nominal Christian" or a fading light for them. I want to be open when they want to talk—loving them for where they are and having the wisdom to know when to speak and when to listen to their hearts and their struggles.

My purpose is to treat them as Jesus treats me. Who is looking toward your light for warmth?

*"I'm gonna let it shine,  
let it shine,  
let it shine!"* SR

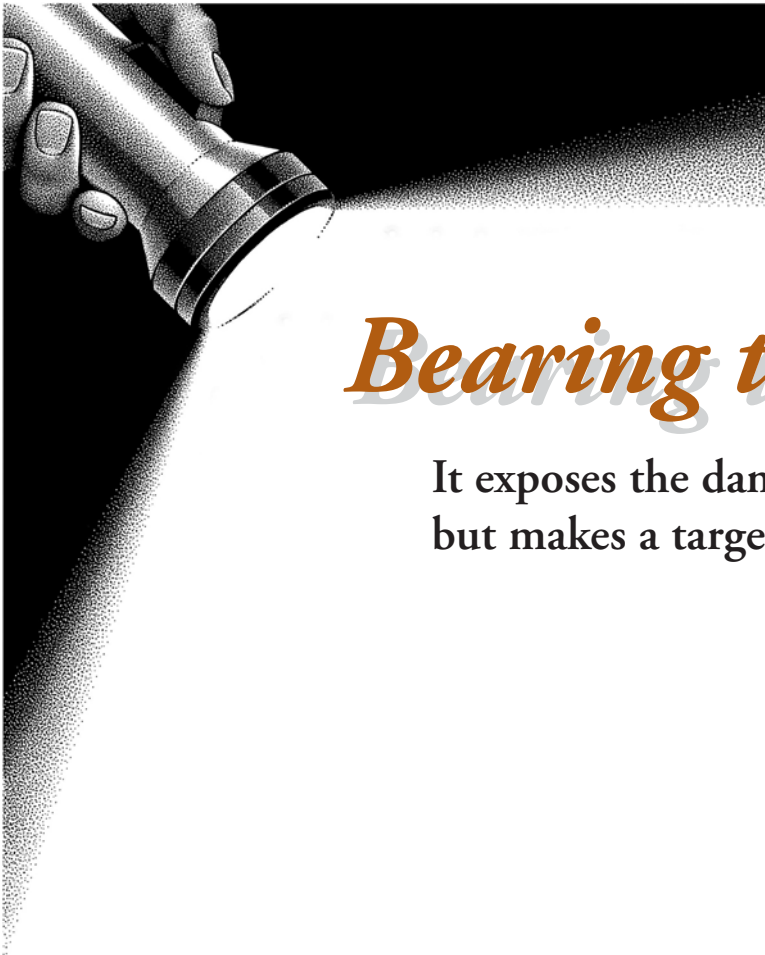
*Emily and Pastor Steve Graffius  
serve the Lord at the Living Word  
SDB Fellowship in Lincoln, Neb.*

## *Don't let Satan...*

If you feel like you're drowning in the darkness or need an encouragement to help keep your light aflame, there are many resources to help you discover truth and freedom. Take time to prayerfully find the best source that fits your need. Here are a few options:

- Beth Moore "Breaking Free" Bible study (updated edition)
- *Abba's Child* by Brenning Manning
- For your marriage: [www.familylife.com](http://www.familylife.com)
- For pastors and pastors' wives: A plethora of resources from retreats and getaways where different levels of counseling is involved as well. We highly recommend Sonscape Retreats (where Steve and I went in the spring of '08). Another wonderful resource page is [www.caregiversforum.org](http://www.caregiversforum.org) (look under directory).
- Apologetics: [www.rzim.org](http://www.rzim.org)
- Addicts: [www.truefaced.com](http://www.truefaced.com)





# *Bearing the Light*

It exposes the danger ahead  
but makes a target for attack

*by Grace Camenga Crouch*

I attend a Bible study on post where my husband is stationed at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. This group of women is part of an international group known as PWOC (Protestant Women of the Chapel).

This year's theme is "Salt and Light" and has been the focus since the fall semester began last August. As a care group leader, I have the opportunity to see God's light at work in the lives of women around me. It's an exciting thing to be used by God to bring His light to others.

Do I always succeed? The Lord has provided me many opportunities to be humbled, and to learn and grow through leadership experiences. In spite of some failures, He has lovingly humbled me and graciously allowed me to still be used for His glory.

## **Leadership begins at home**

We often envision leadership as a position to be held at work or in an organization, but leadership and light bearing begin at home.

I am first a wife and mother. Under my husband's covering, I am the manager of our home. It's my job to be a light to my children; to be a godly example, to discipline according to His commands and to live my life in accordance with His Word.

It is a high calling to be a father or a mother. The home is the heart of the body of believers.

God stressed the importance of His commands being taught at home in Deuteronomy 6:6-9 where He says, "And these words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your sons and you shall

talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. And you shall bind them as a sign on your hand and shall be as frontals on your forehead. And you shall write them on the doorpost of your house and on your gates."

In 1 Timothy 3, Paul makes it clear that leaders in the church must first be leaders in the home. Verse 5 says, "But if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?"

## **Be a Shamash**

If you were to visit an orthodox Jewish home on a Friday evening just before sunset, you would see the mother of the house lighting a candle and reciting a blessing. I recently learned that the Sabbath candle is not lit by a match. It is lit by a special candle called the Shamash.

Shamash is the Hebrew word for "servant." The Shamash is lit first



then is tipped—as if bowing—to light the Sabbath candle. A Shamash candle is also used during Hanukkah to light each candle. Its purpose is to bring light to the other candles.

This reminds me of John 13 recounting the story of Jesus washing the disciples' feet. The thought of Jesus washing his feet made Peter very uncomfortable, because washing feet was the job of the household servant.

Peter knew Jesus' position was greater than his own. Yet, Jesus said that he washed their feet as an example to them. "A slave [servant] is not greater than his master; neither is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them" (John 13:16-17).

Leaders are to kindle the flame of those they lead by taking on a servant's attitude. Jesus says in Matthew 5, "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot

be hidden... Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

While I focus on being a servant leader, it's important to remember that this command from Jesus was to all of his followers. However, those in leadership positions should be a Shamash to those they lead. Leaders are to be a light for us and teach us to serve through the example of their service.

### **Fuel your lamp**

"Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Psalm 119:105).

God's Word is your fuel. You can't do His work without His direction. You can't stay on course without His light leading the way.

This was a hard lesson for me to learn. I have often sought counsel and direction from those I saw as mentors and wise counselors. After all, Proverbs 19:20 says, "Listen to

counsel and accept discipline, that you may be wise the rest of your days." But Psalm 1:1-2 says, "How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers, but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night."

Seeking artificial forms of light will barely illuminate your path, making the trail harder to decipher. For the mission ahead, it is vitally important for all of us to seek His wisdom and not look to the world and what it has to offer. Well-meaning friends and family may give seemingly good counsel. If this counsel does not line up with that of the Great Counselor, then it is foolishness.

Be on guard. Know what the scriptures teach. Be obedient to your calling even if it goes against popular culture or that of influential individuals.

### **Humility prevents stumbling into darkness**

"Humble yourselves, therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you. Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world" (1 Peter 5:6-9).

It is easy to become filled with self-importance as we receive praise for good works. It is equally easy to be fooled into thinking that being a pastor, deacon, SCSC worker, missionary, Sabbath School teacher or



***Seeking artificial forms of light will barely illuminate your path, making the trail harder to decipher.***

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any other type of leader automatically elevates you above the status of your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Galatians 3:28 reminds us that this is not true. “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

When leaders are under the delusion that they are superior because of their calling, not only are they not on guard for the deceiver’s attack, they are already deceived. When pride gets the best of them, the devil has already penetrated their defenses and he is free to roam about under their spiritual guise and devour more than just the leader, but those under that leadership.

### **Use the light to expose the enemy**

Someone recently shared an interesting historical tidbit about military warfare. Before “night vision” was a common technology, a single tank equipped with a “headlight” would be sent ahead of the other tanks. The job of this lead tank was to quickly flash a bright light, momentarily illuminating the enemy tanks.

While providing a glimpse of the adversary and a target to shoot at, it also allowed the enemy to see the lead tank. That tank’s only true defense was to keep moving so as not to be attacked. Its light offered the perfect target for the enemy.

If the lead tank was taken out, the other tanks that followed might lose their way and fall victim to the enemy. It was crucial to the mission that the lead tank do its job and keep its defenses up. Its demise could be the failure of the mission.



***When leaders are under the delusion that they are superior because of their calling, not only are they not on guard for the deceiver’s attack, they are already deceived.***

### **Leaders are light bearers**

Likewise, spiritual leaders are light bearers. This is a two-fold issue.

First, they are to shed light ahead for those they are leading. While individuals are accountable for their own walk with the Lord, we look to our leaders for guidance and edification. If a leader sees danger ahead, he needs to use the Word as a light to expose it.

Leaders are to shed that light, but it is the Holy Spirit who is responsible for convicting the individual.

Second, as light bearers, leaders

make perfect targets for attack. Under a false feeling of superiority, leaders often fall to the temptations that follow pride. It is no wonder that immorality abounds in many churches. When our leaders fall victim to the attacks of the devil, those following his or her lead often lose their way as well.

We need to pray for our leaders and hold them accountable to the Word of God. It is better to deal quickly and biblically with an issue than to ignore a problem that can cause disappointment and disillusionment within the body.

If a brother or sister stumbles into darkness, then it should be the goal to restore that person to right fellowship within the body, regardless of position. However, some people remain unrepentant and choose to continue their sinful behavior. In 1 Corinthians 5:5, Paul says of those who live in immorality, “I have decided to deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.”

Although this instruction is difficult to apply, it’s better that the flesh suffer separation from the comfort of fellowship than for the spirit to experience eternal separation from God. Ignoring sinful behavior within the church should not be an option. That would be like the “lead tank” in the battle refusing to shine its light on the enemy.

### **Called out of darkness into light**

Finally, we need to always be mindful of our calling to be a light to the world. Matthew 5:15 says, “Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a peck-measure, but on the lampstand; and it gives light to all who are in the house.”

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If you are hiding your light under a basket full of worldly lusts, then it will go out for lack of life-giving air. The light of God is what separates you from darkness.

It is a difficult thing to evaluate your life and eliminate all the things that dim your light. However, those who are God's light should not be walking in a way that is contrary to His character. We should not be finding comfort in the twilight, dwelling somewhere between the light and the darkness.

“For you were formerly darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light. For the fruit of the light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth” (Ephesians 5:8-9).

I have been challenged in many positions to do all of these things.

***If a leader sees danger ahead, he needs to use the Word as a light to expose it.***



There have been times when my arrogance and failure to follow God's guidelines landed me in trouble. Some mistakes serve as emotional scars that remind me to remain a humble servant in my leadership roles at home and elsewhere.

Weeding out the areas of my life that don't please the Lord has been, and continues to be, a long process. I love the old saying: “Be patient—the Lord isn't finished with me yet.”

It is my prayer that the light of God will grow ever brighter as He continues to show me His truth. I pray the same for you. **SR**

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*Grace Crouch manages a busy household while husband Rick serves in the military. She home-schools their four boys.*



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## Providing a light to the youth

*This article first appeared in the Janesville (Wis.) Gazette on January 10, 2011. Reprinted by permission.*

Call it providence or serendipity, but it all came together during a prayer last November.

At least, that's how the Rev. Nate Crandall says a youth center in Milton, Wis., made the leap from years of planning by a church committee to finding a home in a building at the former Milton College.

“I was in my office praying, and I just had a sense to go up to the college campus, up to Main Hall,” Crandall recalled.

Crandall, associate pastor of the Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church, had never set foot in the buildings at Milton College, which closed in 1982 and now is maintained by the Milton College Preservation Society, a nonprofit group.

Crandall said he saw lights on in the college's hulking Main Hall so he walked in. He was met by Judy Scheehle, the Preservation Society director, who has an office in the building.

Pastor Crandall introduced himself, and Scheehle's jaw dropped.

She'd just been researching a Milton College graduate whose last name was Crandall.

That day, Crandall took a tour of the circa 1854 Main Hall. As soon as he saw the building's spacious downstairs—where the college once housed its cafeteria and a student lounge—he said he had a revelation: the place was going to become a youth center.

“I knew it was right when I walked in,” he said.

Crandall said Main Hall's down-

***cont. next page***

...Cont. from page 11

stairs has everything a youth center needs: a kitchen, a meeting room, and most importantly, a large lounge area.

“Now that we’ve got the space, the push is here,” said Jon Cruzan, a member of the Milton SDB Church and part of a committee that’s toiled for more than three years on plans for a youth center.

The center has formed a rental and utilities agreement with the college preservation society. According to Scheehle, the society previously used Main Hall’s downstairs for family functions.

The newly-named Milton Area Youth Center will operate after school from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. on weekdays, targeting youths age 12 to 14. It would serve as Milton’s only full-service youth center, giving students a place to study, eat a snack, play video games or just relax.

“There’s a whole demographic of students for whom there aren’t after-school activities,” Crandall said. “We wanted a place where students can stop in and always find safe, positive things to do.”

Plans show the center would be run as a nonprofit organization, separate from the umbrella of the Milton SDB Church. Crandall said the center would be faith-based, but youths won’t be forced to participate in religious programming when they’re there.

“Our intent is not to proselytize or to convince students of any religious slant,” he said.

As a former program director of a teen center in White Cloud, Mich., Crandall plans to serve as interim director of the Milton youth center. He said he’ll eventually turn operations over to a part-time director.

Meanwhile, the center seeks volunteers to staff the center, and organizers are collecting donated items



*Jon Cruzan (left) and Pastor Nate Crandall are helping to organize a faith-based Youth Center in Milton, Wis. The center will be located in the old Milton College Main Hall.*

*Main Hall was built around 1854 as part of Milton College, founded by Seventh Day Baptists. The kitchen, meeting room and large lounge area should be a good fit for the new Youth Center.*

*(Photos by Dan Lassiter)*



to turn the former lounge at Main Hall back into a student hangout. The center already has a pool table and a few video game systems, and organizers are collecting computers to aid with students’ homework.

Jon Cruzan said the church committee looks to yield its youth center plans to a volunteer board of community members. He said fundraising plans are ready, and organizers hope that others will get involved to make the center a success.

Rules at the center will be simple:

Be kind, Be polite, Be safe. Crandall said he hopes it is a model for success. “We have no concrete expectations, but we hope this will become a hub of activity.”

Scheehle said she’s thrilled that Main Hall will get a second breath of youth.

“We have so many kids wander around the campus, and how wonderful if they can feel comfortable and at home enough to come in,” she said. “I want this place to smile again.” **SR**



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

## Caring for three other generations

by Sue Cruzan  
Milton, Wis.

Like many people, I have been a caregiver most of my adult life. Taking care of our two daughters, the occasional sick friend, and my husband Jon when he fell and broke his neck, were all things that seemed natural and came pretty easily.

Going from being parented by loving parents, to parenting (caring for) *them* was a difficult task, and it came at the most inopportune time. Our oldest daughter had been married for several years and our youngest was on her own. Jon and I were finally free to pursue our own interests.

I realized that my parents (Ivan and Virginia "Spin" FitzRandolph) were in need of support about two years before I had hoped to retire. At the same time our older daughter became pregnant. It was a rough pregnancy that brought on mental as well as physical health issues.

After delivering our first grandson, postpartum depression set in and caused new challenges for her to just get through each day.

Those two years of still teaching *and* caregiving for my parents—as well as our daughter and her newborn—were a real challenge, both physically and emotionally. I went through a gradual transition in attitude, accompanied by a need for a renewed prayer life, education on caregiving, and developing a support group. I'm so grateful that I was able to retire at this point and have more time to spend with my family.

Noticing that your parents are in need of help is a bit like having a mild toothache. Something is there, but it can be put on hold for long periods of time and only surfaces once in a while.

At the same time, Jon's sister, Barb Green, was starting some Caregiving Seminars at church. Here at our fingertips were guest speakers ready to help us begin the journey into learning how to care for my parents physically and spiritually.

The core participants from these seminars became the support group that I needed to develop. We have continued to meet together as a group; first monthly, and then weekly as a Sabbath School class. This group became my "sanity" during the years that my parents declined in health and began their journey toward heaven.

So much needs to be done, leaving little time for "being" with your parents. Because Jon and I also do daycare for our three grandchildren, we were able to share the joy of these precious young children with Mom and Dad.

After my mother passed, Dad and I had some wonderful times together driving around his old stomping grounds, going out for a root beer or smoothie, taking walks to the coffee shop and discussing books we had read together.

Caregiving for your parents is not for the faint of heart. I never would have been able to do it without know-

ing that God was always by my side. It is exhausting, frustrating, time-consuming, and at times a financial strain.

It is also a truly rewarding experience. I was able to get to know both of my parents on an entirely new level. These precious fresh memories have carried me through their deaths and will stay with me forever.

Footnote: I am writing this the day after a skiing mishap that resulted in a broken ankle. I have suddenly been thrust into the role of "care receiver." This puts a much different perspective on the situation of caregiving.

*Lord, I don't like being in this situation of having to ask for help. Thank You for showing me the "other side" of the equation. Thank You for surrounding me with family members who love me and will care for me, just as You do. Amen. SR*



Sue Cruzan is a retired first grade teacher and lifelong member of the Milton, Wis., Seventh Day Baptist Church. Sue is pictured (left) with parents Ivan and Spin, daughter Mandy and grandson Ivan.



## Illumination is for Everyone

### *Why labels and dogma are sometimes unhelpful*

The opening lines of the General Conference’s Statement of Belief say that—

*“Seventh Day Baptists consider liberty of thought under the guidance of the Holy Spirit to be essential to Christian belief and practice.”*

This principle has undergirded Seventh Day Baptist belief for hundreds of years. Freedom of conscience is central to the entire Baptist view of Scripture—that each believer has a responsibility to first seek God in the Scriptures and then live accordingly. This belief embodies a controlling confidence and faith that the Holy Spirit will illuminate the Word and make it clear to each one of us.

Our heritage as Seventh Day Baptists demonstrates the positive results of individuals being powerfully affected by God’s Word to live lives that speak for Jesus Christ. Just as the Holy Spirit convicted early Baptists of the Sabbath, God continues to work among SDBs as we struggle to find our place in this world of untruth and unbelief.

Freedom of conscience comes with implied danger. Whenever believers become convinced that God has shown them the truth of the Scriptures, there are myriad opportunities for them to sin against others as they share those convictions.

Self-righteousness is never far from the Christian who is truly convicted of something, and the devoted believer who acts from conviction, but shouts down others who are prayerfully seeking the Lord, has sinned.

One implication of our liberty of conscience is that we must be prepared, by faith, to accept someone whose position on a matter of secondary importance may differ from ours, *without* assuming that God isn’t speaking to them or that we are more mature.

In Seventh Day Baptist life, the dogma of groups or individuals that caused discord coalesced around labels. “Calvinist,” “Arminian,” “hymn-singer,” “psalm-singer,” “foot-washer,” “fundamentalist,” and “modernist” are words that reflect some of the most divisive and tumultuous times in our history. Groups of individuals as-

sumed that they had “God’s truth” on an issue and that someone else was threatening what God had told them.

When some SDBs have divided themselves from the whole as though they had God’s entire truth, trouble invariably followed. History shows that in most debates among SDBs, the labels people felt so free to apply to themselves (or their “opposition”) were not as accurate as they supposed.

Labels have rarely been useful to describe Seventh Day Baptists. In the Fundamentalist-Modernist debates of the last century, there were those who tended to one side or the other of the debate. But most of the fury of the two factions was directed outside the Conference, and then—by implication—read back into it.

While our Fundamentalists and Modernists were simply not as “extreme” as those to whom the labels were commonly applied, it did not keep us from wounding one another in our own meetings. Too often we took the label of the extremists and applied them to our brothers and sisters who were actually much closer to us than to the extreme we associated them with.

As we engage in discussion with one another, we must be careful to learn this lesson of our history. We need to avoid labels and have humble conversations about God’s convicting work in our lives, with full knowledge that our convictions are subject to change and are not necessarily God’s final word on the subject.

Self-righteousness and applying labels to those with whom we disagree must not unduly divide us as we cooperate to fulfill the command to share the Good News.

We would do well to learn this lesson quickly. At this year’s Conference session in Michigan, we will discuss the organization of the Conference which is invariably impacted by our view of the Scriptures. My prayer is that we will patiently share our convictions and ideas without applying any uncharitable labels or having pride rear its ugly head in our midst.

Will you pray this prayer with me, beginning with your own heart? **SR**



## On-line accountability

by Gordon Lawton, Dean  
Director of Pastoral Services

The internet is a great tool and becoming more integrated into our lives. Bibles and study books are available at the click of a mouse or touch of a screen, as well as on-line newspapers and magazines. Even our own *Sabbath Recorder* is there in three different formats.

As with all of life in this fallen world, the internet has its openly sinful side. Some of that side aggressively seeks your viewing, money, and some would say, your soul. A wrong click or a misspelled web address can expose you to inappropriate things that might lead you astray.

You could be reactionary and only use the post office and phone company for your communication, or you could take advantage of accountability and filtering software.

Accountability software keeps track of where you go on the web and sends a report to accountability partners whom you choose. These partners are your friends who love you enough to ask the right questions and help you stay pure as you use the net.

Filtering software can be set at various levels to block certain types of websites. Although this sounds appealing (especially to parents), it does not help people be accountable for their actions. It merely blocks websites identified in the categories that are chosen by the home administrator.

The Council on Ministry (COM) has responded to a recommendation from the Ministerial Interests Committee, as approved by the Conference in 2010. COM was asked to “select the most effective program” and “publicize the availability of this denominational resource to pastors and pastors-in-training prior to Conference 2011.”

COM has established a master account with a company named “Covenant Eyes.” If pastors and pastors-in-training sign up under this account, the cost will be \$2.00 per month for accountability on up to five devices. Add an extra \$1.50 per month if filtering is added. Filtering by itself is \$5.00 per month.


Those who sign up will need to channel their payments through

COM, or have their own master account at \$9.00 per month for accountability.

When signing up through COM, we ask that you pay for a year at a time. If you terminate service before the end of the year, your balance will be refunded upon request.

We would encourage each church to offer to pay the monthly fee for accountability for their pastor. Please contact me at 608-752-5055 or at [com@sdbministry.org](mailto:com@sdbministry.org).

There are free services out there—specifically “XXXChurch”—that have both kinds of software, but the reporting is not as easy to understand as Covenant Eyes. Currently, Covenant Eyes does not have software for Android phones where XXXChurch does, but Covenant Eyes is working to fill that need.

XXXChurch does offer 30-day on-line seminars for men, women, couples and parents. These workshops are designed to “help you get control of your life and put you on the path to happiness.” More information can be found at [www.x3pure.com](http://www.x3pure.com). 

### Updates from the Center on Ministry

- Fourteen students are currently participating on-line in the **Sabbath Theology Summer Institute**. A one-week intensive at the SDB Center will close out the course in August.
- Registration forms for **Pastors' Conference** (April 26-30) at Camp Wakonda in Milton, Wis., are at [www.sdbministry.org](http://www.sdbministry.org)
- **THANK YOU** for responding to the fundraising efforts of our seminary students. The COM mailing with prayer card will be coming your way in April.



## Saints in the Light Serve with Joy

*“We have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.*

*“May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins” (Colossians 1:9-14, ESV).*

It is the Father Who qualifies us to be saints in the light. He gives us strength. He gives us endurance. He gives us joy.

I was reminded today, as I read this passage, of **Amanda Snyder**. She has worked with the Board of Christian Education for more than 40 years—serving in a variety of roles—in order to help this Board equip our churches and our people.

In each role and with each passing year, Amanda has remained faithful to her tasks and has exuded her joy in the life God gives. She has demonstrated to me what endurance and patience with joy can look like.

After 39 years of serving as a director on the Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education, Amanda decided that the time had come to focus more on the other ministries God has given her. If you get the chance, thank her for her service; for taking tasks no one else wanted, and for overflowing with joy—even when she had to demonstrate endurance and patience.

Even as Amanda focuses elsewhere, the ministry of this Board continues. It is directed by 14 Seventh Day Baptists. Each is committed to finding ways to help provide programs and materials that encourage and equip teaching in evangelism, nurture, discipleship, and stewardship. We strive to make this Board’s work a complementary part of the Conference mission to unite, encourage and equip local SDB churches in their endeavors to fulfill the Great Commission.

Each director wants to hear your ideas about how this ministry can be more effective. Please, contact them. If you need contact information, or want to pass your ideas to them through our office, please call 607-587-8527, or write [sdbbce@educatingchristians.org](mailto:sdbbce@educatingchristians.org). **SR**

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## FOCUS on Missions

# Sierra Leone SDBs have land

by Kirk Looper

During my visit to Sierra Leone, Africa in early February, I attended a baptismal service. Over 50 men, women and children were baptized. Another 50 are waiting until the next scheduled service so they can also be baptized.

Out of those candidates for baptism, about 10 were converted from the Muslim religion to Christ. It was exciting to watch them as they arose from the water. Their radiant smiles expressed joy beyond any simple comprehension. They were truly affected by the experience of knowing God through Jesus Christ.

These people were definitely happy with their decision and looked forward to being welcomed into the fellowship of the Church. I thought how every baptism should have this feeling. Thank God for the experience!

Sierra Leone occupies an area of 27,295 square miles—about the size of West Virginia—and has a population of over 3 million people. This war-torn country has had problems with disease, pestilence, and political upheaval. Only recently have they gained independence and formed a relatively firm system of government.

During the past years the economic condition has made it difficult to form any type of stability. Even now they are depressed economically, and many of the people are unable to find work. Their currency is the Leone, with a value of over 4,000 Leones for each US dollar. Even with these depressing facts I found the people to be friendly and in a relatively happy mood.

Work in the Seventh Day Baptist churches is developing at a rather rapid rate. The SDB Conference of Sierra Leone has existed

for only eight years and they already have 17 churches organized, with several groups in the wings. The membership of the churches exceeds 2,500.

In recent months the churches were at a standstill in their active evangelistic outreach. This was because the government temporarily withdrew their registration until they could obtain property for a permanent address for their home office. During my visit in February, funds were presented to the Conference enabling them to purchase the land. They expressed their thanks and appreciation to those members of the General Conference of USA and Canada for these funds.

Members of our Conference were responsible for over \$7,000 going toward the purchase, with additional funds made available through the Missionary Society to make up the difference. It was exciting to see their elation that the land was purchased and the government official agreed to reestablish the registration. They felt that they could now get back to the work of the Kingdom and resume reaching out to those wanting to join their Conference.

Of the 17 churches, eight have schools connected with them. Only two of the schools have been registered with the government. The others are in the process, but lack the \$200 each for the required registration costs.

The Sierra Leone Conference plans to reach out into areas where there are few, if any, Christian churches and schools available. Their plans are to evangelize an area through crusades, then place a pastor to organize and develop the church that results from the crusade.

They estimate that a successful crusade and church plant would cost \$600 per year per location. It is exciting to hear the young ministers speak of the possibilities available there. Churches are needed in so many areas, and most other denominations are working in the larger populated cities. **SR**



*Photos, clockwise from top left: Sierra Leone Conference President Francis Matia and wife Lucy; one of the 50 baptismal candidates; meetings were held at the Bread of Life SDB Church in Magbema.*



# the BEACON

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

March 2011

## He's hopelessly devoted to you

by Emily Olson

It's my senior year. Naturally, I had high expectations for this year's school musical. More than anything, I wanted to do "Grease." So when it was announced that Grease was the choice, I was ecstatic.

The week before tryouts, I listened to the songs a lot. Even though it's not in the version we're doing, the song "Hopelessly Devoted to You" was, and still is, one of my favorites. The song explains that even though Danny continues to reject Sandy, she still can't help but love him.

Sometimes, we treat God like Danny treats Sandy. We ignore Him, we don't listen to Him, and we reject Him—but if He doesn't give us what we want, we get mad at Him.

This song applies to the way God loves us. We push Him around, but He can't help but love us. I guess you could say that God is hopelessly devoted to us.

He gave us the greatest gift anyone could give by sending His Son to die on the cross and save us all. Even though many in the world don't want that gift, God is always there waiting in case they change their mind.

All this reminds me of another story that comes from the Bible: "The Prodigal Son."

The story goes like this:

*"There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.*

*"Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.*

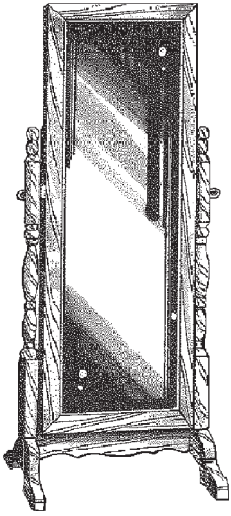
*"When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.' So he got up and went to his father.*

*"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.*

*"The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate." (Luke 15:11-24, NIV)*

God is going to love and care about you no matter what.

Instead of simply acknowledging this, I challenge you to give as much love to God as He gives to you, and leave the whole "Hopelessly Devoted" thing to Sandy. **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*

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## God's handprint of laughter

The greatest gift God has given us is His Son. But another of His awesome presents is the Gift of Laughter.

The Bible contains dozens of references to joy and laughter, as well as their benefits. One well-known verse is Proverbs 17:22, "A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones."

In *The Message* (a contemporary language translation), that verse reads, "A cheerful disposition is good for your health; gloom and doom leave you bone-tired."

While I battled breast cancer years ago, this is one verse that I clung to. I knew that prayer and a positive attitude would amplify the healing power of the chemotherapy and radiation treatments I was undergoing. I even made a deliberate effort to bring joy and laughter into my life during that dark time.

As I shared in last November's "Reflections," during a holiday time chemo treatment, I wore a large black wig bedecked with ornaments and lit Christmas lights. The smiles from the doctors, nurses and patients—and the laughs that echoed through the hallways—were healing for everyone.

Ecclesiastes 3:4 reminds us that there is "a time to weep and a time to laugh."

Proverbs 15:13 (in *The Message*) reads, "A cheerful heart brings a

smile to your face; a sad heart makes it hard to get through the day."

I've always tried to be a cheerful individual. That trait was verified under my high school yearbook photo: "Never glum or out of sorts; always jolly and fond of sports."

Like everyone else, I have my "down" moments and sad times, and I've even battled depression off and on. But I certainly enjoy a good laugh and strive to share that God-given gift with others.

I also have a well-earned reputation for doing dumb things. I tell myself that I do those things on purpose to bring joy to others, but deep down I realize that's just who I am.

Last November, I made two pumpkin pies to take to a Thanksgiving gathering. I baked them in the morning, then set them outside to cool. Not wanting to share those desserts with our backyard rabbits, I set the pies on top of our outdoor grill, out of harm's way. (**NOTE TO SELF:** *When placing food outside, always cover it with plastic wrap or aluminum foil.*)

When it came time to leave our house, I opened the patio door to retrieve the pies. Picking them up, I alertly noticed that one pie had a strange "decoration" on it. After carrying them into the kitchen, I asked my husband what the marking was.

"That's a squirrel's paw print," Fred casually replied.

It seemed squirrely that there were no other signs that a ravenous



rodent had tried to sample my pies or their crust. So, adeptly using my forefinger, I smeared the paw print to make it less distinct.

Later that day I led a guessing game called, "What Happened to One of Lee's Pies (This Time)?"

My son-in-law, Jamie, eventually hit on the terrible truth. He was just as shocked as everyone else after listening to my disgusting tale—I mean, tale—but was undeterred when it came to enjoying the pie.

"If I wake up with a bushy tail and a desire to hunt for nuts, it'll be your fault," Jamie chattered while gobbling up his third piece.

I'm all for spreading joy and laughter, usually at my own expense. That's why I hope that during some Thanksgiving celebration years from now, a great-great-granddaughter of mine will beg her mother, "Mommy, please tell us the story of 'The Squirrel Pie' again??" **SR**



Holland, Michigan July 31–Aug. 6, 2011



**The President's Page**

by Stephen Rogers

## Living the Fruit of the Spirit of Goodness

In the Conference theme verses (Galatians 5:22-23), Paul lists “goodness” as one of the qualities that is evident in our lives when we are filled with the Holy Spirit.

Since it is sometimes easier to focus on a subject when we have its clear definition in mind, I decided to consult my Webster’s Dictionary. There I found seven definitions for “goodness,” the first of which said: “the state or quality of being good.”

When I looked up the word “good,” I found 50 more definitions, and a dozen or so synonyms. In some translations, the word used for “goodness” is also translated as “generosity.” Getting a *simple* definition was not going to be as easy as I thought.

This is not a new thing. People have been struggling with the question for centuries. In the Old Testament, Micah 6:8 raises the question, “O mortal, what is good?” Then he proceeds to answer his own question. “Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God.”

We read in the Gospel of John 10:11-18 that Jesus is not just a shepherd, but a “good” shepherd. He

“**Good people have a sacrificial heart that they take with them wherever they are.**”

says, “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.” There can be no doubt that Jesus put into practice the very principles that he believed in and preached to others.

Good people are willing to make sacrifices for others. They share what they have with others. They invite others to participate in that sharing. Good people have a sacrificial heart that they take with them wherever they are, giving all the time.

Certainly a part of goodness is sacrificing for others. Goodness is a quality that reaches out compassionately beyond our circle of family and friends. It’s easy to make sacrifices for those whom we love—our relatives and our church family. But what about those people we

don’t know, have never met and will never meet?

You can seldom pick up a newspaper, listen to a newscast, or see a video on television that doesn’t contain some bit of news about a disaster. Whether these events be floods, droughts, fires, storms, earthquakes, or volcanoes, they all highlight people in need of assistance.

Goodness recognizes the need for aid and responds to it. When we are moved to action out of the “goodness of our hearts,” we are exercising that generous nature of the Holy Spirit. Real goodness recognizes the one family of humankind.

In 1908, William Dunkerly wrote this familiar definition of goodness:

**In Christ there is no East or West,  
in Him no South or North;  
But one great fellowship of love  
throughout the whole wide earth.**

**In Him shall true hearts everywhere  
their high communion find;  
His service is the golden cord  
close-binding all mankind.**

**In Christ now meet both East and  
West;  
in Him meet South and North.  
All Christly souls are one in Him  
throughout the whole wide earth.**

So what is goodness? It is the quality of doing good, a moral excellence, a virtue, kindness, generosity, excellence of quality, the best part of anything.

If we are truly “Living in the Fruit of the Spirit of Goodness,” our effect will outlive us and reach into an infinite number of places. **SR**



by Executive Director  
Rob Appel

## Miami: Divide and Multiply

### *Church branches out to meet needs*

*A note from Rob: Last month we heard from a newer church in the denomination and their wonderful outreach and growth. This time we hear from my good friend Pastor Andrew Samuels and the Miami, Florida SDB Church.*

*Miami was one of the churches started in the early '80s when the General Conference was looking to start churches in strategic areas around North America. The Miami church planted the Fort Lauderdale church (now a member of the Conference), and is currently mentoring the West Palm Beach and Kissimmee, Fla., SDB churches.*

#### **Written by Rev. Andrew Samuels**

This year marks 30 years since the Miami, Fla., SDB Church has been in existence. While the church hasn't perfectly fulfilled its potential, its history to this point holds much that is noteworthy and that can be highlighted.

The Miami Church's history demonstrates in no uncertain way that its pioneers and leaders had an understanding that the Church of Jesus Christ needs to have an outward focus. When the church began through the initiative of Alcott and Jasmine Lynch in 1981, they lived in West Palm Beach, about an hour's drive from the facility's location.

So why did they choose to start the ministry so far from where they lived? By their estimation and judgment, that's where they would find the most receptive people. That, in

itself, is an insightful church growth principle.

Week after week, often several times per week, one or both of that pioneering couple would journey back and forth between West Palm Beach and Miami. They looked for rental facilities for the church, reached out to new contacts, followed up on visitors, and conducted home Bible studies. In the absence of a resident minister, Pastor Kenneth Van Horn was initially released by the Daytona Beach church to preach on a monthly basis in what had become its daughter church.

Recently relocated, William Vis and his wife Roselyn were engaged by the church in an Ambassador capacity. That gave Pastor Vis the authority to function as the church's spiritual leader under a Missionary Society-sponsored program.

After about five years of consistent and stable ministry (during which time the church became incorporated in the State of Florida and also became a member church of the SDB General Conference), it called its first full-time pastor, Thomas Whitney. Regrettably, that tenure was short-lived and after about six months, the church was once again without a pastor.

About a year later, in June 1988, Andrew Samuels was employed as the next full-time pastor, with Bill Vis named as the assistant pastor. Pastor Vis had been a fixture either as Pastor, Ambassador, Assistant Pastor, or Acting Pastor during these leadership transitions. He would remain that way until 1992 when he left as part of the core group that founded the West Palm Beach church.

The church in Miami began to chart new courses and venture into new waters. Although numerical growth was never explosive, there

**cont. next page**

*...Cont. from page 21*

was increase and expansion. It embarked on a radio ministry, special Evangelistic Services, direct mailing to new residents, and a weekly ad in the area's most celebrated newspaper, The Miami Herald. All of these efforts provided valuable exposure and visibility to varying degrees.

By 1992 the church had attained some success in grooming lay leaders, and was also experiencing some changes as a result of new people. The West Palm Beach church was planted as a branch of the Miami church.

That initiative resulted in the loss of close to a dozen of the most prominent members, including all those who had served in major offices for the entire life of the church up to that point. It also meant the loss of an estimated 35% of its income. The pastor had to immediately be reduced to part-time compensation. There would clearly need to be a time of rebuilding.

About a year later, the church relocated to a different rented facility and began a new era in its life. Just prior to that, it was featured in the documentary "A Choosing People," which was aired on some Public Broadcasting and local access television stations. During this period, Alvin Bernard served in a voluntary capacity as an associate pastor. Through his instrumentality, a building was located for purchase. His expertise and skills in construction came in handy for the renovation of the new facility.



*Pastor Andrew Samuels*

On Sabbath, May 2, 1998, the first service was held in the remodeled place of worship. A year later, an elaborate Dedication Service was held. Funds for the mortgage were provided through the SDB Memorial Board. As a result of the growth, development, and maturity of the church, it was able to commit to a 30-year mortgage, while also having its pastor resume full-time employment by the church.

Owning the facility provided the possibility for much community outreach. Such activities have included feeding the homeless and needy through an annual Thanksgiving Dinner, giving school supplies to children as they begin a new school year, and giving toys to children at Christmas time.

Over the years, the church has developed a strong overseas mission emphasis (starting in 1994) helping to establish the first SDB church in Haiti. The pastor has made mission trips there at least seven times. Two

missions involving youths and young adults have been led to Jamaica, and others to England and Malawi.

A few years after the beginning of the new millennium, the church became more focused on branching out—this time with the launch of a church plant in Fort Lauderdale. That objective was fulfilled in 2003 when approximately 30 persons were commissioned to comprise the core of that new group. As part of the mother/daughter relationship of the two churches, it was agreed that Pastor Andrew Samuels would provide pastoral leadership for both groups. Once again, there would be the need to rebuild.

One year after the departure of the Fort Lauderdale brethren, the Miami church appointed two associate pastors in the persons of Shirley Morgan and Dalmon Murphy. They had primary responsibility for Outreach and Discipleship respectively. They were offered a stipend and the SDB Memorial Board helped make that possible by providing a matching grant through a program directed by the Council on Ministry.

Shortly afterwards, the church entered into a partnership with a neighboring doctor's office to operate a weekly Emergency Food Pantry for the community. Now in its sixth year, that ministry has given between 60 and 100 boxes of groceries per week to needy families near the church.

The Miami church continues to fulfill its mission to bring people to saving faith in Jesus Christ. We aim to develop these people to Christlike maturity and empower them for a meaningful ministry in the church and the world, in order to glorify God.

In our three decades, we cannot say it has become any easier, but the fulfillment is definitely there. There is nothing greater that we would rather be doing than pursuing God's call on our lives, as individuals and as a church. **SR**



*The Miami SDB Church in the late 1990s.*



## There and Back

### A Seabee's Tale

by Morgan Shepard

*"In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven"*  
(Matthew 5:16, NIV).

**I'm back!** (For those of you who noticed I was gone...)

I left in November of 2009 and spent a month of "NARMY" training in Virginia and South Carolina. After 24 hours of flying and five airports, I arrived at Camp Lemonnier in Djibouti, Africa on December 23.

Fast-forward 11 months... I got home in time for Sam's 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday (November 20) and Thanksgiving with my family!

My official title during deployment in Djibouti was Director of Facilities, Engineering and Acquisition Division for Camp Lemonnier. I headed up an office of 12 officers and nine civilians overseeing the construction of the camp. We had over \$170 million of construction contracts including new aircraft taxiways and parking ramps, new water production and distribution, new wastewater treatment plant, new electrical lines, a new chow hall, and a myriad of other projects.

This next year, Camp Lemonnier will start building new roads, fencing

and warehousing. In essence the Navy is building a new base from scratch. We finished two of the projects.

Djibouti is a land of extremes: stark landscape, beautiful beaches, beautiful undersea life, colorful people, 122° F, the lowest point in Africa (Lake Assal), torrential rains, damaging winds, high humidity, the world's slowest internet, and the list goes on. We often saw ourselves "at the edge of the empire."

Even though it seemed I accomplished a lot, the true heroes are the ones who stayed here. First and foremost my wife Kate who stayed behind with two very active boys and kept the home fires burning. I am truly blessed by all that she does.

Jan Ehlers at the SDB Center took on my job to "keep the money moving," all the while still doing her job for the General Conference. Many others selflessly stepped up and did whatever they could during my absence. To all of you, I am eternally grateful!



Local bus service, Djibouti style.

What does this have to do with "Light in the Darkness"? No matter where God sends us, no matter what we are doing, no matter how bleak we may find our surroundings, no matter who God sends—He calls us to be a light unto the world.

Our actions, our deeds, our attitude, our smile to a stranger in the middle of a bad day, our hope in God's eternal promise—that is the light that people will remember.

You may not have been called to serve in "darkest Africa" but you are still a light unto the world. Go shine! **SR**



A small village market.



Working at a construction site.



## Soup and Pie, My-oh-my!

The Alfred Station, N.Y., Seventh Day Baptist Church held a “Soup and Pie Lunch” on January 30, 2011. Proceeds (\$1,100) from the annual event were designated to go to the church’s youth ministries.

The church offered 16 different soups to try and it was a success. Donna Rogers (via Facebook) said it was “the best Soup Lunch ever! That will pay for a lot of kids to go to Camp Harley Sutton this summer!”

Luan Ellis thanked everyone who attended and also noted that it was good to see Tom Reed in attendance. Reed (pictured with church member Elianna Chroniger) is Congressman for New York’s 29<sup>th</sup> district. *SR*

## Historical Society Annual Meeting



The **Seventh Day Baptist Historical Society** announces its 2011 Annual Meeting at the SDB Center, 3120 Kennedy Road, Janesville WI on **May 15** at 2:00 p.m. All interested SDBs are invited to attend.

## “The Sabbath in the Gospel”

This year’s **Sabbath Renewal Day** is scheduled for May 21. Packets of worship helps will be sent to each church.  
*Celebrate the Sabbath and be renewed!*

## Denominational Dateline

### March 2011

- 5 Central Maryland and Arlington, Va., churches—*Rob Appel*
- 7 Baptist Joint Committee, Washington, D.C.—*Appel*
- 8-9 Baptist World Alliance, Wash., D.C.—*Appel*
- 11 West Virginia Wesleyan, Buckhannon, W.Va.—*Appel*
- 12 Cumberland, Md., church—*Appel*
- 12 Paint Rock, Ala., church—*Gordon Lawton*
- 19 Alfred Station, N.Y., church—*Andrew Camenga*
- 20 Missionary Society Annual Meeting, Ashaway, R.I.—*Kirk Looper, Ron Elston*
- 27 Nurture Series: Identity meeting, Verona, N.Y.—*Camenga*

### April

- 16-17 Memorial Fund meeting, Seattle, Wash.—*Morgan Shepard, Appel*
- 23 Enfield, Conn., church—*Lawton*

- 23-24 Missionary Society Board of Managers, Ashaway—*Looper, Elston*
- 26-30 Pastors’ Conference, Milton, Wis.—*Lawton, Kevin Butler, Nick Kersten, Appel, Camenga*

### May

- 13-15 Eastern Association, Marlboro, N.J.—*Appel, Looper*
- 14-15 Historical Society Board of Directors, SDB Center—*Kersten*
- 15 Historical Society Annual Meeting, SDB Center—*Kersten*
- 21 Sabbath Renewal Day

### June

- 3-5 Southwestern Association, Stonefort, Ill.—*Elston, Appel*
- 18 Riverside, Calif.—*Appel*
- 24-26 Appalachian Association, Salem, W.Va.—*Appel*



## New members

### **Metro Atlanta, GA**

*John Pethtel, pastor*

Joined after testimony

Rebekah Hargett

Joseph Seo

### **Nashville, TN**

#### **(Branch of Paint Rock)**

Joined after testimony

Linda L. Scott

Sara Nakamoto

Luke Nakamoto

William Nakamoto

Adam Nakamoto

Anna Nakamoto

### **Westerly, RI (Pawcatuck)**

Joined after testimony

Lori Havens

### **Thornton, CO**

*Rodney Henry, pastor*

Joined after testimony

Ted Casellini

Pamela Casellini

## Births

**Rood.**—A daughter, Briella Hannah, was born to Timothy and Kelly (Ketterman) Rood of Castle Rock, CO on December 15, 2010.

**Mackintosh.**—A daughter, Scotlyn Jude, was born to Jonathan and Reba (Mims) Mackintosh of Thornton, CO on January 21, 2011.

## Marriages

**Ward – Ray.** Samuel David Ward II and Jenna Irene Ray were united in marriage on January 1, 2011 at the chapel of West Virginia Wesleyan College in Buckhannon, WV. Pastors D. Scott Smith and Edward Lowther officiated.

**Holbrook – Sanford.** Ryan William Holbrook and Kathleen Teresa Sanford were united in marriage on January 23, 2011 at the Milton, WI, Seventh Day Baptist Church. Pastor Nathan Crandall officiated.

## Obituaries

**Cruzan.**—Marion E. Cruzan, 96, of White Cloud, Mich., passed away on January 4, 2011 at his home.

Marion was born on February 21, 1914 in North Loup, Neb., to Ira and Ruth (Babcock) Cruzan. He married Ruth Davis on October 26, 1945 in Boulder, Colo. Marion was a life-long resident of the White Cloud area where he started as a builder with the Briggs Construction Company and then joined the United States Army. After his return from the military, Marion and his brother Don formed Cruzan Brothers Builders. He continued his trade into his mid-80s.

Marion was an active member and deacon of the Seventh Day Baptist Church in White Cloud. He enjoyed flower gardening and baseball in White Cloud with the Little League and Pony League groups. He had also served on the White Cloud City Council for several years.

Survivors include his wife, Ruth;

children, Cheryl, Duane and Edward Cruzan, all of White Cloud; seven grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren; brothers, Don and Marvin Cruzan of White Cloud, Irvin Cruzan of Fremont, Mich., and Harvey Cruzan of South Carolina; sisters Doris Peck of Colorado and Marvel Pamroze of Georgia; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his sister, Joyce Shick.

Funeral services were on January 7, 2011 at the SDB Church in White Cloud with Rev. Bernie Wethington officiating. Interment was in the White Cloud Cemetery.

**Harrison.**—Hilda M. (Maine)

Harrison, 89, of Westerly, R.I., passed away on January 20, 2011.

Born in Stonington, Conn., she was the daughter of Clarence and Reba Maine, and wife of the late William C. Harrison III.

Hilda was employed as an inspector for the Ashaway Woolen

Mill until her retirement. She was a lifetime member of the Women's Auxiliary Amancio-Falcone-Gaccione VFW Post #8955, a member of the Pawcatuck Seventh Day Baptist Church, the Westerly Senior Song Birds, Westerly Senior Center, and the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center.

She is survived by five daughters, Rena Fullerton of South Portland, Maine; Reba Gould of Westerly; Rita Franz of Orlando, Fla.; Wendy Kuzenka of Groton, Conn.; and Barbara Crider of Orneville, Maine; 16 grandchildren, 31 great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

Besides her husband, Hilda was predeceased by a brother, Claude L. Maine, as well as two grandsons, Russell Gould and Greg Fullerton.

A funeral service was held on January 24 in the Pawcatuck Seventh Day Baptist Church in Westerly, with Rev. James Glenn officiating. Interment will be in the Oak Grove Cemetery, Ashaway.



## Women's Society Robe of Achievement 2011 Nominations

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

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

A complete résumé should be submitted con-

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

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

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

## PRESS on...

This new book by Mayola Warner includes a short autobiographical section, testimonies from family members, and reprints of over two dozen articles by Mayola printed in the *Sabbath Recorder* (earliest one in 1952). There is no set price for the book but proceeds from these sales will benefit the ministry of the *Sabbath Recorder*. Please keep in mind that it costs over \$3 to mail each book.



You may contact Mayola at 4124 Sholtz Road, Oneida NY 13421. Phone 315-363-4565, or e-mail [g\\_m\\_warner@juno.com](mailto:g_m_warner@juno.com)

## “Leading Through Outreach Change”

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

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

More info will be at  
[sdbministry.org](http://sdbministry.org)

# KEVIN'S

## ORNER

### Jesus is “R” Light

On Super Bowl Sunday, NASA released some spectacular 3-dimensional photos of the sun. Twin probes, now orbiting on opposite sides of the star, beam back the images to earth. The technology should improve space weather forecasts for airlines, power companies, satellite operators and other customers.

Located 93 million miles away, the sun is still one powerful force for our planet. But is the sun the “light of the world”?

I guess it depends on how you spell “sun.” The S-O-N of God—Jesus—declared himself to be the light of the world. And he

could say that since it was he, existing with the Father at Creation, who *made* the solar system.

Right before Jesus proclaimed himself as light of the world (in John 8:12), the scribes and Pharisees had brought a woman caught in adultery. They demanded Jesus’ opinion on her punishment according to the Law.

Jesus stooped down to write on the ground. After speaking briefly, he went back to writing.

When he looked up again, all the accusers had scattered. Only the woman was left.

Why? They didn’t like the light.

If you turn over a log in the woods, all of those bugs scurry away! Are they scared of you? No, the light is **repulsive** to them. They don’t like it.

It’s the same for those trying to live by the light of this world.

God’s true light also **reveals** much. We never truly see ourselves until seen in the context of Christ. In that light, we are revealed!

In that light, doubting Thomas could say, “My Lord and my God!”

In that light, the woman at the well saw herself and said, “Come, see a man who told me everything that I did!”

In that light, the thief on the cross saw himself and said, “Lord, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.”

Let me throw out some more (and more positive) “R” words.

God’s light is **refining**.

As the sun in the sky can purify, so the Sonlight of God purifies and refines wherever He shines. When He comes into our heart, it is a refining, uplifting experience.

When Jesus came into the demon-possessed man, the evil spirits went out. When He came into the heart of Peter and the disciples, there was a holy refinement.

The light is **regulating**.

Ever think much about traffic signals? (Some people don’t, and they get a lot of tickets.) Most of us only think of traffic signals when we’re in a hurry, or when the lights get stuck or go out.

What happens when the signal goes out? There’s no light coming from behind those colored lenses. And those lights regulate us, don’t they? We stop, we go, we use caution (or speed up), we turn—all because of lights.

Landing lights at airports do the same thing. They guide and regulate those huge planes to make safe landings.

Can the light of Jesus do something similar for us? Shouldn’t Jesus tell us—from his teachings and from us having that light inside—when to go and stop, when to use caution, and guide us to “safe landings”?

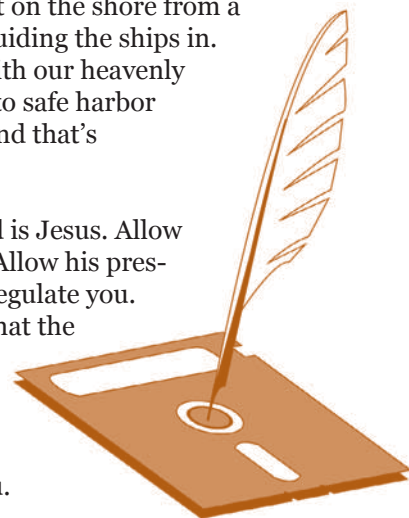
And finally, light is **reassuring**.

When you’re on your way home at night and you see the lights of your hometown, aren’t those lights reassuring? There’s comfort in seeing a light on in the window, or a light on the shore from a reassuring lighthouse guiding the ships in.

It’s the same thing with our heavenly light. We are coming into safe harbor to our spiritual home, and that’s reassuring!

The light of the world is Jesus. Allow him to reveal the light. Allow his presence to refine you and regulate you. And let’s be reassured that the light of Christ shines forever for his own.

Take that light and let him shine for you and through you.





Important Memo:

**166 Years and counting!!**

**To: Friends of  
The Sabbath Recorder  
From: Editor Kevin Butler**

**DID YOU KNOW THAT THE SABBATH RECORDER  
IS FUNDED BY YOUR GIFTS? YOUR DONATION TO  
THE SABBATH RECORDER IS PART OF THE TOTAL  
SDB DENOMINATIONAL BUDGET.**

**I HOPE THAT YOU HAVE BEEN ENJOYING THE  
MAGAZINE DURING THIS PAST YEAR AND WILL  
BE ABLE TO MAKE A TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION  
TO THIS PART OF OUR SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST  
CONNECTION AND OUTREACH. MAY GOD BLESS  
YOU AND THANK YOU.**

**GRACE AND PEACE,**

*Kevin*



***YES!*** *I want us to stay connected through The Sabbath Recorder!*

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