



The
Sabbath
RECORDER

Inside:

Digging for
family treasure

Faith Proved
Genuine

April 2011

News for and about Seventh Day Baptists

“I am a family”



**Singles in
the church:
The same, only different**



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

Seeking a Pastor

The Foothill Community Church (SDB) is seeking a pastor.

We are located 15 minutes north of downtown Los Angeles in California.

All interested persons contact Dannette Montague at 310-782-0646

2011 General Conference

"Living in the Fruit of the Spirit"

July 31 – August 6

Hope College, Holland, Mich.

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Planes: into Grand Rapids (GRR)

Trains: into Holland (HOM)

Wednesdays for Fasting and Prayer

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

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

Each Wednesday will focus on:

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

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





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The same, only different

by Scott Hausrath
Redmond, Wash.

Our marital status has no bearing on our inherent worth, on our moral standing before God, or on our responsibility to make an eternal impact via the Good News of Jesus.



What does the Bible say to single people? Pretty much the same thing it says to married people.

Each of us—whether we’re single or married—is created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27). Similarly, whether we’re single or married, each of us falls short of the glory of God because of our sin, but we can be made righteous through faith in Jesus Christ (Romans 3:21-26).

Furthermore, both single people and married people are called to

take the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all nations (Matthew 28:16-20).

Temporary or eternal?

Our marital status has no bearing on our inherent worth, on our moral standing before God, or on our responsibility to make an eternal impact via the Good News of Jesus.

This makes sense, of course, because marriage—according to Jesus—is a temporal institution, existing in this age but not in the age to come

(Luke 20:27-40). If you’re currently married, please take the time right now to appreciate your relationship with your spouse, because marriage vows are correct: “...till death do you part.” When your time in this world is over, so is your marriage. You will no longer have a spouse.

Scripture encourages us to put our ultimate focus on those things that will endure beyond this world. Paul, for example, urges us to set our hearts and our minds on things above, instead of on earthly things (Colossians 3:1-4).

Paul also realized, however, that in order for eternal beings to live effectively in a temporal world, they must be decisive in both eternal and temporal issues. Marriage is a good example of one of these temporal things, and the apostle was not reticent in addressing it.

There is a choice

One of the facets of marriage that Paul addressed is the idea of choice. One can choose whether to marry or to remain single.

This is a major choice in life, so we should not be surprised to see that Paul discussed it in a very deliberate manner. In 1 Corinthians 7, the apostle counseled the Christians in Corinth to make wise decisions about their marital status. He offered reasons for choosing marriage and reasons against choosing marriage.

Saying “I do”

As for deciding to marry, one of Paul’s theses was that not everyone would be able to choose the single life, for not everyone has the “gift” of self-control that Paul had been given. (See 1 Corinthians 7:2-9.) Those without the ability to control their sexual drive should choose to marry, said Paul, so that they do not “burn with passion” (v. 9).

In this sense, some people view the single life as a gift, while others would even view singlehood as a “higher calling.” I myself don’t place singlehood “above” marriage, or vice versa. Neither lifestyle is more worthy than the other. I view each as a different calling, offering different opportunities to serve God, and thus different avenues for experiencing some of life’s many facets.

Saying “Not now”

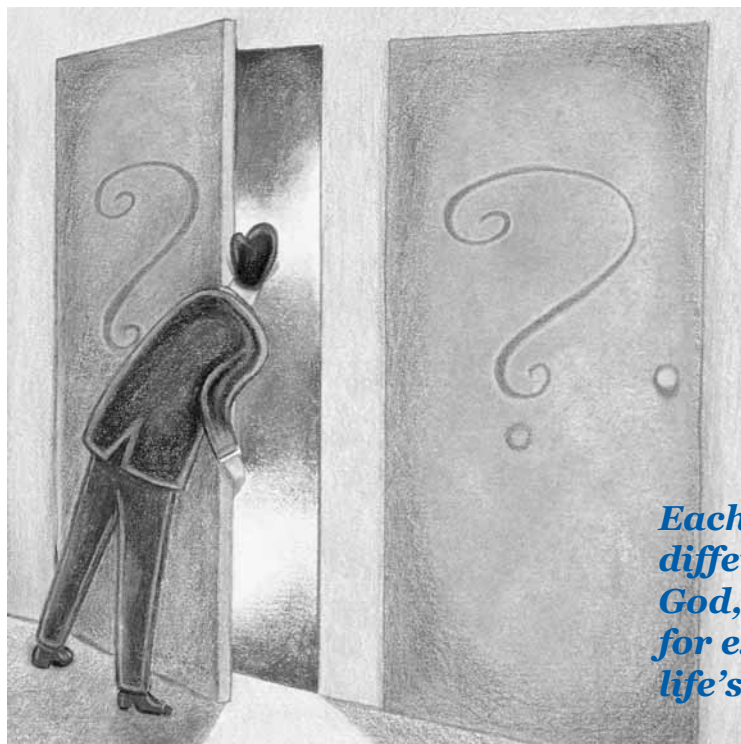
As for deciding not to marry, a major line of reasoning that Paul offered was that “those who marry will face many troubles in this life (1 Corin. 7:28). Though he did not give a detailed account of these troubles, Paul desired to spare his readers of them.

Continuing on through 1 Corinthians 7, we see that another of Paul’s concerns was the division of a person’s interests. Those who choose marriage will have their interests divided, because their concern for the things of God will be rivaled by their concern for the things of this world (the welfare of their spouse).

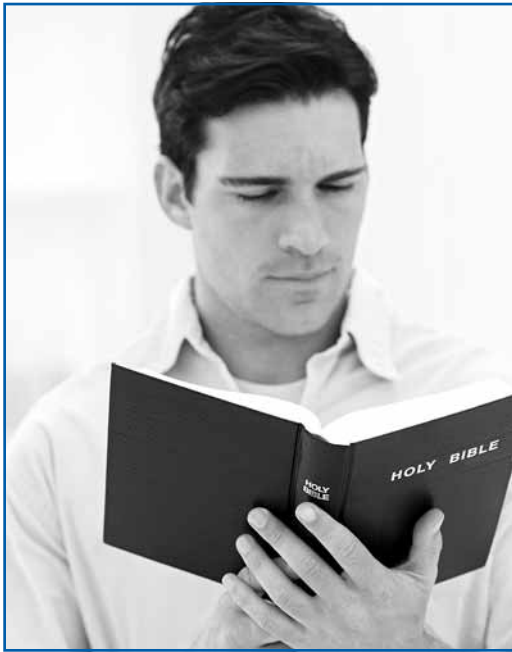
Finally, digging deeper, it appears that Paul’s primary concern for his readers was their devotion to the Lord (v. 35). He counseled some of them not to marry, so they would be able to experience an undivided devotion to God. Jesus himself affirmed the practice of making a deliberate choice for the single life in order to focus on the things of God (Matthew 19:1-12).

Put into context

We must note that Paul’s views on marriage were informed not only by his theology, but also by the historical context out of which he wrote. He referred to one part



Each is a different calling, offering different opportunities to serve God, and thus different avenues for experiencing some of life’s many facets.



Paul counseled some of them not to marry, so they would be able to experience an undivided devotion to God.

of that context in 1 Corin. 7:26: “Because of the present crisis, I think that it is good for you to remain as you are.”

It seems that one manifestation of the “present crisis” was the rampant immorality that infused Corinthian society (1 Corin. 7:1-2). This culture of immorality was another factor that led Paul to counsel marriage for some of his readers.

Some commentators also list the intense persecution of believers as a major factor in forming Paul’s views of marriage. Did the apostle believe that the persecution against Christians would make life more difficult for married Christians than for single ones?

And, could another facet of the apostle’s historical context be his belief that Jesus’ return to earth was highly imminent? If so, then perhaps Paul reasoned that it was not the best time to begin (or to end) a marriage relationship.

When the “role” is called up yonder

The Bible says that we need to make a wise, deliberate choice about whether or not to marry, because that choice will bring serious implications into our lives. For example, in the church, how does one compare the role of single people to the role of married people? They’re the same, only different.

What I mean is this: Every human being has the same role in the church, whether we are single or married. Each of us is called to walk with God, to walk with fellow believers, and to encourage other people to join us in this journey.

Working alongside

Our marital status has no bearing on the fact that we are called to work alongside God in building the church of Jesus Christ. However, our marital status has a tremendous bearing on the specific ways in which we do this work.

When I was a single pastor, I was able to extend the length of my hospital visitations with parishioners, because I did not need to return home in order to be with a wife or children. I enjoyed “hanging out” with my church members, attending a ball game, watching a movie, or spending time visiting in a coffee shop.

Of course a married pastor is also able to engage in these activities, but my single status gave me a more flexible schedule, making it easier to meet with my parishioners when they were available.

On the contrary, since I was a single pastor, my ministry to married couples was more limited in its scope. A minister who enjoys a successful marriage can team up with his/her spouse to have a very fruitful ministry to other married couples. I understood this dynamic and made my ministry decisions accordingly.

Same role, played differently

Though I am no longer serving a church as pastor, I’m still called to work alongside God in building His church. As a single person, I enjoy ministry opportunities that I would not have as a married person, but there are ministry opportunities that I leave to those who are married.

Single people and married people play the same role in the church, but we play that role differently. Single people don’t build the church more effectively than do married people, and vice versa. We just do it in different ways.

I believe that author Nancy Leigh DeMoss is correct when she says, “It’s not singleness that we embrace, and it’s not marriage that we embrace. It’s the Lord that we embrace, ultimately.” **SR**

I am a family

And I just want to be included and valued at church

by Stephanie Sholtz
Dodge Center, Minn.

By feeling sorry for myself, I was telling the Lord that He was not enough to meet my needs...



...and that is an outright lie.

Looking back on the past 20 years, my path has been so incredibly different than I ever could have imagined. That is truly a testament to the gracious and mighty God we serve.

My high school friends would probably have voted me “Most Likely to be a Stay-at-Home Mom” with a whole tribe of kids. They weren’t that far off from my plans.

I can honestly admit that when I started college 19 years ago, my primary goal was to find a husband. Ironically, many of my friends went to school looking for a career and they found husbands. I was looking for a husband and found a career. Well, really more of a calling.

So over time, my focus shifted to graduate school and then to my work, both professionally and in the church. I learned to enjoy the path that God set before me and to appreciate the joys of being single.

Like everyone, I have my ups and downs. As my friends began to get married and start families, I would sometimes question God and wonder, “Why not me?” At those times, I wondered what was wrong with me, felt like I was all alone and I felt sorry for myself.

About 10 years ago when I was in one of those down times, God asked me, “Am I not enough for you?” I was stunned. My goal and aim had been to follow God’s will for my life.

As I tried to sort out the answer, He asked me again, “If you never marry, will I be enough for you?”

I realized that by feeling sorry for myself or thinking that something was wrong with me, I was basically telling the Lord that He was not enough to meet my needs, and that is an outright lie.

So I began to work on accepting my life as it is. I’ve come to see singleness as a gift God has given me. However, my goal is neither to remain single nor to marry. It is simply to follow God’s will and serve Him to the best of my ability. For this season of my life—however long it may last—I accept the gift of being single.

cont. next page

Attitudes and Assumptions

For me, one of the most difficult things about being single has been the attitude of caring and well-meaning people within the church. Over the years, many who I know care about me and want the best for me, have approached me with pity, or like there is “something wrong” with me because I am not married.

The message conveyed over and over by the discomfort and pity of others (or the types of things I’m asked to do, or by the assumptions others make) is that I’m not as valuable or worthwhile or capable because I’m single. I’ve experienced this many times and I’ve watched single friends get hurt in similar ways.

This includes little things like not being included in various activities

to do as much as someone who’s married.

I’ve seen people work incredibly hard to set singles up on dates, because they “just want them to be happy.” I know they want to help, but what does that really mean? Does it mean that you can’t be happy if you’re single? Does it mean that there is something wrong with you if you are not actively trying to end your singleness?

I’ve seen singles questioned by married people about what they could possibly gain from Bible studies or retreats on relationships or love. They honestly couldn’t figure it out.

I’ve had people—who truly mean

well—pray for me to find a husband because obviously I need one. And I’ve had people tell me I wasn’t welcome with their friends or in particular groups simply because I am single.

Most of all, I’ve seen and experienced the pity of those who seem to believe that the life of a single person can’t be full or fulfilling. It may be true that singles have to work harder to make sure they have fellowship, accountability and a solid support system, but many singles live joyous and full lives. Sometimes they are even able to take jobs or do certain types of ministry that would be much more difficult for someone with a family.

One of the most difficult things about being single has been the attitude of caring and well-meaning people within the church.



or ministries because it’s assumed I’ll be uncomfortable. Or others will ignore my gifts and abilities simply because I’m single. People used to ask my married friends (who didn’t cook) to bring hot dishes, and ask me (a good cook who really enjoys cooking for others) if I could maybe bring the chips or soda. Just a little thing, but it didn’t make sense and helped to convey the message that I’m “different” or can’t be expected



It may be true that singles have to work harder to make sure they have a solid support system, but many singles live joyous and full lives.

Invite and Include

So how do you make singles feel like a welcome, valuable part of your church and its ministry?

First and foremost, do not pity them. Get to know them and look for the ways that God is using or wants to use the gift of singleness in their lives and in the lives of others. If they are struggling with being single, help them to see the gifts and rewards of singleness during this season of their lives.

Involve singles in the ministries and activities in your church. Just like any other group, single people can't be stereotyped. We are all different and have individual gifts and needs. So invite them to join in and trust the individual to make choices

about how God wants him/her to serve or what he/she enjoys.

Most of the singles I know are not looking for a specific ministry aimed toward singles. They just want to be included and valued. I am one of the families in my church. I may be a family of one, but I am still one of the families in my church.

Don't make assumptions about why people are single. Singleness is not automatically a sign of irresponsibility or of difficulty relating to others. There are many varied and valid reasons as to why people remain single.

Be a friend to the singles in your church. I know a couple who has a great ministry to a small group of singles, but not because they set out to have a formal ministry to singles. They simply chose to befriend some of them. They helped out, not out of pity or need, but because it's what friends do and they are very com-

fortable with having single friends in their home.

I've heard people say they don't invite singles because they're afraid that single people wouldn't be comfortable around couples or around kids. It's true that there are people—single and married—who aren't comfortable with kids. That usually has to do with the individual's personality and has nothing to do with whether or not they are single.

Personally, I'm comfortable spending time with both couples and families with kids, as long as they're comfortable with me. If I sense that someone is uncomfortable with my presence, then I will quickly become uncomfortable as well. I choose to spend the majority of my time with friends who accept me for who I am. With these friends, whether I'm single or not is never even an issue.

When it really comes down to it, I don't believe singleness is a "condition" that needs to be discussed or fixed or solved. It's not simply the result of people being immature or refusing to grow up. And it's certainly not some kind of punishment.

In 1 Corinthians 7:7-8 Paul says, "I wish that all of you were as I am. But each of you has your own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that. Now to the unmarried and the widows I say: It is good for them to stay unmarried, as I do."

Singleness and marriage are both gifts from God that come with their own unique rewards and challenges. Those who remain single have gifts, time, abilities and, of course, needs that God can use within your church and community.

Each single in your church is a family with your larger church family and should be treated as having equal worth and value with other church members. **SR**

Great T.I.M.E. in Brazil

by David and Margaret Taylor
Central Maryland SDB Church

From Bowie (Maryland) to Brazil

Reflections from Dave Taylor

Margaret and I made our third trip to Brazil earlier this year. Each trip has been unique and wonderful.

This time I had the privilege of speaking in 11 different churches (we were the first international visitors in five of them) and spoke to the youth and young adults at their church Congress. We were on two radio stations and met with the President of a City Council.

We stayed in many places and were blessed by people not only opening their homes to us, but also opening their hearts. We truly felt “at home” and part of the family of Seventh Day Baptists in Brazil.

One ministry that is exciting to see developed is the T.I.M.E. program (Training In Ministry by Extension). I spent a weekend with 23 of their T.I.M.E. students and saw

the commitment and intense desire to study the Scriptures, “rightly dividing the Word of Truth.”

These students are receiving a quality theological education that is preparing them not only for the future, but also for ministry today. The Brazilian Conference should be commended for its commitment to this program.

We are all excited that two, maybe three new classes are being started. I am proud of the work that Jonas Sommer is doing as T.I.M.E. Pastor.

As more respond to God’s call to leadership and new churches and ministries are established, T.I.M.E. will continue to be used by God to train those leaders, bringing many to salvation through Jesus Christ. I am glad for the privilege of being a part of this great work for our God. **SR**



Sharing Communion at the SDB Church in São Paulo.



Pastor Taylor (on table) teaching Sabbath Theology, with Jonas Sommer translating.



Pastor Sommer (left) leads the T.I.M.E. training. The newest class met in southern Brazil.

T.I.M.E. marches on

During their sessions in February, the Brazilian Seventh Day Baptist Conference officially recognized the T.I.M.E. program as a Graduate Course on Theology (valid only within the Conference). This bestows to the graduates the title of “Bachelors in Theology.”

The SDB Conference of USA and Canada has helped to support the launch of T.I.M.E. in Brazil.

Impressions of our Brazil trip

by Margaret Taylor

I have a notebook full of words that describe the tangible similarities and differences between our two countries. Those intangible things of mind and spirit, however, are not so easy to describe.

The overall impression that continually comes to me is one of reminiscing in my own lifetime to a much calmer, more contented and less competitive environment. It's a time I can recall when personal feelings and opinions and material possessions didn't so sharply define our worth and value.

I was very impressed by the public expression of the Christian faith in Brazil. It not only appears in the churches and homes of members we visited, but in places of business as well. For instance, the bold witness of the garage owner who repaired the bent wheel rim on the Conference car was noteworthy. His only fee was a prayer for his family and business, and to share a song of praise to God. His was a strong testimony of faith in Jesus as his Lord.

Another instance was a sheet of paper taped to a public restroom wall. On it was written a poem of prayer and praise to God for His love and grace and daily blessings. A large sign on the roof of a big city hotel declared, "Jesus Christ is Lord." These things are no longer common in the United States, much to our detriment.

My impression of the people was always one of love and acceptance. I often felt I was treated like royalty—given honor I had not earned, but truly appreciated. My prayer is that we were seen and welcomed, not from the novelty of visiting Americans, but as emissaries of Christ

who had come to encourage and affirm His people among the struggles of everyday life.

We traveled from big city to small farm, from mountains to seashore, encountering all manner of lifestyles, poverty and wealth. In all of that, we experienced a love and commitment to the Body of Christ in every home and every congregation we visited. I pray that such will be the inheritance



One of the many beautiful church families in Brazil.

left to future generations, and more so as the world presses in.

I was thrilled to see the numbers of young people and women who made the commitment and sacrifice to attend the Congress sessions, even though they were held separately from the regular Conference meetings. I was delighted to be able to share with the women during their meeting on Sabbath. There were so many familiar faces and such a warm welcome.

We also give praise to God for the good number of men and women

who have acknowledged His call on their lives and entered the T.I.M.E. program. It is good to hear that many more will be joining them soon. What a great encouragement to us and a joy to report back to the people of our Conference who support it.

I am personally encouraged to see the evangelistic efforts in Brazil. They are commissioning leaders to go into new fields and plant more churches rather than to grow much larger churches in the already-established communities. Maintaining a sense of family, bonded together in the Spirit, is vital to the health and growth of a strong church. This is easier to accomplish where everyone gets to know each other and can work together.

There is so much I could say but will conclude with this thought. The message God gave me for the SDB women in Brazil was to make our lives a beautiful offering to God. He calls us to be peacemakers while being "salt and light" to a needy world.

It is not an easy assignment, but I want to say I can see the Light of God's love in the wonderful people we met while in Brazil. May God continue to bless and guide us as we strive to live for Him. **SR**



A ride to remember. No, this was not the Conference car.



Family history is important

by Barb Green, Parish Nurse
Milton, Wis.

Most of you know that eating a healthy diet, getting enough exercise and not smoking can reduce your risk of disease. But did you realize that family history might be one of the strongest influences on your risk of developing heart disease, stroke, diabetes or cancer?

You can't change your genetic makeup, but knowing your family history can help you reduce your risk of developing problems.

Family members share their genes as well as their environment, lifestyles and habits. Everyone can recognize traits that run in families such as curly hair or dimples. Risks for certain diseases also run in families. Completing a family medical history can help track these traits.

A family medical history is a record of health information about a person and their close relatives. Ideally, information from three generations (children; brothers, sisters; parents, aunts and uncles, nieces and nephews, grandparents and cousins) should be included.

Find out as many details as possible. Document the medical conditions, including the age at which they were first diagnosed, their treatment, and if they ever had surgery. Was the person a smoker, overweight, sedentary? Were they exposed to environmental pollutants?

What was their racial background and ethnicity? If they had cancer,

find out the primary type as well as where it spread.

Everyone's family history of disease is different. The key features that may increase risk are:

- Diseases that occur at an earlier age than expected; i.e., 10-20 years before most people get the disease. Examples include: diabetes prior to age 20; high blood pressure prior to age 40; breast, colon, or prostate cancer diagnosed prior to age 50; stroke before age 60.
- Disease in more than one close relative
- Disease that does not usually affect a certain gender (for example, breast cancer in a male)
- Certain combinations of diseases within a family (breast and ovarian cancer; heart disease and diabetes)

The easiest way to get information about family medical history is to talk to relatives about their health. Important medical conditions to document include cancer, heart disease, diabetes, asthma, mental illness, high blood pressure, stroke, kidney disease, alcoholism, dementia, arthritis, birth defects, learning disabilities, and vision or hearing loss.


This is not an exhaustive list. For deceased relatives, age at time of death and cause of death are important. Sometimes rare diseases that may be due to gene mutations are discovered, such as

sickle cell anemia or cystic fibrosis.

A family gathering may be a good time to discuss these issues. Other sources of information may be medical records and documents such as obituaries, baby books and death certificates. If your parents are deceased or your relatives uncooperative, you may have to become a "detective" to learn more.

Old family photos can provide visual clues to diseases such as obesity, skin conditions and osteoporosis. If you have access to family letters you may also pick up clues. If you are adopted or can't find out more, start the health history with your generation so it can be passed on to your children. Remember to update it every two years.

Sharing your family medical history with your physician is essential. Based on this information, your doctor can assess your disease risk, recommend lifestyle changes to help prevent disease, and prescribe screening tests to detect disease early. He may be able to tell you the risk of passing the disease on to your children or grandchildren.

Documenting your family history is as easy as listing family members by generation and noting their health problems. If you want to be more formal, the Surgeon General has developed an online tool at [family history.hhs.gov](http://familyhistory.hhs.gov). Being aware of your family medical history can save your life and the lives of your children. Start working on it today. 



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

Surviving pain to help others

by Adriana Leiva
Houston, Texas

My story is filled with trials and problems like everyone else. It includes two abusive marriages before I met my husband Miguel.

My children were subjected to physical and mental abuse that was directed at me. My son, now 32, became involved in drugs at the age of 17. He had several heart attacks due to the drugs, is now disabled and needs a heart transplant. His situation brought me to my knees many times and I was convinced that it was better to die than to live.

Just thinking of that chapter of my life is still painful. I know that I could not have survived those years without God. He brought me out of that misery and because of that I will serve Him the rest of my life!

When Miguel proposed to me I was not looking to marry again—not after two failed marriages. But somehow I knew that God had a purpose for my life. I have been married to Miguel Leiva for seven years, and from the very first day of our union I have been blessed. Our two hearts have the same rhythm. We want to serve God.

So many times in my past I asked myself, "Why me? Why did I have to go through what I did?" But even in those bad situations, even if I didn't know it, God had a purpose.

I now have an understanding when someone comes to me from an abusive relationship. I now un-

“

*Even
in those
bad situa-
tions, even if
I didn't know it,
God had a purpose.*

”

derstand when someone has a child on drugs. I now can empathize with someone who has a loved one in ICU fighting for their life. And I know the feeling of desperation of a mother whose daughter is pregnant at an early age.

In so many situations, the church needs to be run like a hospital. People come in with all kinds of problems and need to be treated. They need to be heard. They need to be cared for!

They have come to us to feel better, but don't want to hear rules or doctrines from us. They are simply looking for someone who is going to listen and hopefully understand what they are going through.

We had a mother come into our church and she told me that her son had committed suicide about three months ago. About the same time of his suicide, I had been in their neighborhood passing out invitations to our church but I didn't get

to their street. I don't feel that the suicide was my fault, but there are so many people out there who are in need of a Savior.

We need to get out of our comfort zone and let the Spirit of God use us to bring these people to Him. We need to understand that we are here to serve, not be served. We need to be ready to stand on the front line of the battle.

Although we sometimes have pain in our lives, we have blessings even more. We need to stop and acknowledge those blessings. The Iglesia Bautista del Septimo Dia (the Seventh Day Baptist Church) in Houston has been blessed so far this year with 10 new people. They have given their lives to Jesus and have taken the step of baptism.

I urge everyone to take this to heart. We need to do the work that God has commanded us to do on this earth. I don't know about you, but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord! **SR**



Pastor Miguel
and Adriana Leiva



Lessons from a map

When our assumptions betray us

For much of the last two decades, visitors to the SDB Center in Janesville had the opportunity to view a display put together by former Historian Don Sanford. On a large map, Don placed pins representing the physical locations of SDB congregations throughout our history in North America, as culled from our records in the Historical Society archives.

Extinct churches were marked on the map with blue pins, while active churches were marked with a red pin. The ratio of extinct churches to living churches was about 4 to 1. As you might guess, the display garnered many comments from visitors who provided their own interpretation about what it meant.

While each would-be interpreter undoubtedly came to their own conclusions about the map's meaning, there were generally three responses.

—The first group was surprised at the geographic variety of the locations, perhaps not expecting Seventh Day Baptists to have had as wide an influence in America.

—The second group uniformly lamented the ratio of blue dots to red dots, drawing the conclusion that the SDB General Conference was in trouble. This group often included data about declining membership and personal anecdotes about numerical decline.

—The final group of interpreters were struck by the large areas where SDBs have never had a significant witness, and by the many locations where our historic witness is no longer present. This third group often commented that it was wrong that SDBs should have entire states where there are no active churches.

Each interpretation has some merit, but the group's assumptions are often more interesting than the conclusion. What we assume often tempers how we interpret what we see. In this case, the assumptions of all three camps are instructive, offering us both correctives and challenges.

“

What we assume often tempers how we interpret what we see.

”

We all stand to be corrected because of faulty assumptions that pervert our understanding. The first group, those surprised by the map, teach us that separating ourselves from our history leaves us as slaves to our own memories and experiences. Our view must be broader than the successes and failures of one local church in our lifetime!

The second group, those focused on the ratio of extinct churches to living churches, teach us that context in history is critically important. Many factors influence the data interpretation (like many churches being formed, then moving to follow the westward migration). Jumping to the conclusion that SDBs are in dire straits because of a few pins pushed into a map reveals a fear that God is through with us, or that we are doomed to fail. It is needlessly fatalistic.

The third group, those who see only the places where there are no SDB churches, fail to see our successes. All three views have a “little man complex,” thinking that there is something inherently wrong with us and then reading that opinion back through our history and current ministry.

On the other hand, each group has something to teach us. We have a lot to learn from our history that can encourage us to be more faithful—learning lessons from our past that equip us for the present.

Our emphasis must be the urgency to carry out Christ's mission to our generation, rather than a mission based on fear. Having vision and passion to spread the Gospel to new areas is critical to our shared Conference ministries.

Seventh Day Baptists have a lot to offer a world hungry for the Gospel. But let's be careful about what we presume about ourselves and the world, lest our blind assumptions undermine our Kingdom work. **SR**



Seminarian Profile

Seminarian Profile

Name: Dave Stall

Birthdate and place:

October 12, 1977 Bennington, VT

Family:

Wife: Jennifer

Daughters: Lexia (8), Loreli (6)

Education:

Berlin (N.Y.) Central High School
AAS in Business Marketing, SUNY
Ministry Leadership, Barclay Bible College, Kansas
Alliance Theological Seminary, Nyack, N.Y.
(Expect to graduate in December 2011)

Ministry experience:

SCSC; Stained Glass music ministry;
Focus on the Family, marketing/fundraising
Youth/Music minister at: Colorado Springs SDB;
North Pownal Congregational; Berlin, N.Y., SDB
Grace Christian School, marketing/communications
Pastor, First Hopkinton SDB Church in Ashaway,
R.I. (2010–present)
Individual and group Music ministry
(9th CD on the way)

Other employment:

Hardware stores; house painting; pretzel shop;
Cracker Barrel giftshop; school janitor; carpet
cleaning sales and marketing; ski conditions sur-
veyor; delivery truck driver; landscaping; bed &
breakfast owner/operator; substitute teacher
(those are at least the highlights!)

Favorite Bible passage:

Psalm 139

Favorite author:

King David

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

TITHE! Then, pay bills and serve God without
the distraction of debt.




A great answer to prayer was:

When I prayed for confirmation about the move to Ashaway, God spoke very clearly and affirmed our calling and removed our doubts. And now I'm praying for that \$10,000 check from the last question!

A project I'm excited about:

There are two. First, I'm excited about the Stained Glass music ministry that is resuming this summer. We pray that God uses it in awesome ways! Next, I am really excited about our church-sponsored "Family Day" outreach event this July.

My vision for SDBs:

I pray that we will lead many thousands of lost people to their savior, Jesus Christ and that we will provide answers to Christians who are wondering where the Sabbath went! This will happen when we revitalize and transform some of our established churches and seek God's direction for where to start new ones. 



Faith Proved Genuine

God comforts and supports His people. But this comfort can come in ways that make little sense to those who haven't yet trusted Him. In fact, there are times when those who *do* trust Him are hard-pressed to make sense of the circumstances in which they find themselves.

Some of our trials are self-inflicted, yet many of them aren't obviously connected to actions we've taken. Still, Christians trust God and hope in His salvation.

Peter wrote a letter about how the Christian's hope is real and made stronger when tested. He said that "these [trials] have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed" (1 Peter 1:7, NIV).

Peter was confident that trials refine our faith. The depth of that confidence is revealed when he wrote that the proper response to real suffering for what is right is this: "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have" (3:15).

Those two quotes show that 1st Peter is well worth reading and studying. It helps us better understand who God is, who we are, and how we should live. The letter pointedly deals with how we should respond to "those" times—the times when "no good deed goes unpunished" seems to accurately describe the events.

Since the letter is worth reading and studying, why don't we do that? To help you, the Board of Christian Education has printed a study guide for First Peter. We think that it works well for individual and small group study. There are questions to help you think and talk about the text, space for taking notes, and leader's comments to provide guidance as you seek to apply God's Word to your life.

The guide is called *Faith Proved Genuine: Faithfulness in Hard Times*. Each 77-page book is \$5, but if you order 10 or more, the price goes down to \$4 each.



You can order the book through our Conference offices. By phone: (608) 752-5055, or by mail: PO Box 1678, Janesville WI 53547. And by the web at seventhdaybaptist.org (E-store, 'other publications'). **SR**

From the back cover:

Life is hard. Sometimes it is very hard. How do you respond to hard times? With joy? With bitterness? With defeat? For the earliest Christians, life was hard and the state was against them. For example, a Roman governor wrote to the emperor:

"I interrogated them whether they were Christians; if they confessed, I repeated the question twice again, adding threats at the same time; when, if they still persevered, I ordered them to be immediately punished..."¹

And the emperor replied, in part:

"...if indeed [Christians] should be brought before you, and the crime is proved, they must be punished; with this restriction, however, that when the party denies himself to be a Christian, and shall make it evident that he is not, by invoking our gods, let him... be pardoned upon his repentance."¹

Just a few years before these words were exchanged, the apostle Peter wrote to Christians facing their own set of hard times. He promised that faithfulness was possible and that God would be faithful to those who trusted in Him. As you study this letter, you will learn more about following Christ in hard times (and in easy times, too).

¹ Pages 178-180. Riddle, Joseph Edmond. **Manual of Christian Antiquities**. Published by John Parker in London, 1843. As transcribed by Google Books on July 1, 2010.



FOCUS on Missions

Burundi: Intervention and instruction

by Kirk Looper

For seven years, the SDB Conference in Burundi, Africa has been working on their development and future organization. They were admitted into the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation during the last Federation session in 2008.

The Conference continues to grow and develop as they try to resolve problems that arose from past experiences. Many of their problems are not experienced in the churches of our Conference in North America. Most are not experienced by the older Conferences outside the U.S.

The problems that arise usually affect the growth of the Conference and can result in the loss of churches. Often it is necessary for the Executive of the Missionary Society to visit and meet with the leadership and, in many cases, government officials. This is the case in Burundi.

Most of the churches in Burundi are registered with the government. However, as they started to spread to the north, some of the congregations were not registered. One of the leaders wanted to remove General Secretary Gilbert Nduwayo from his office because the new leader wanted to be in that position. Apparently this person came from another denomination and saw that some representatives to the foreign offices received many benefits. He assumed that Seventh Day Baptists worked on the same basis.

He did not take the time to learn about SDBs. So he spread rumors that the groups meeting in the north were composed of rebels and were preaching against the government. That caused the government to be suspicious. There actually were other groups of rebels meeting in the north, so the government hired mercenaries to rid them of these groups. That made all of the unregistered groups in danger of being shot during their gatherings.

When I met with the government officials (in charge of cults and religions) it resulted in a better understanding of the way that SDBs worked. After a few hours of questions and answers they realized the truth and our groups were allowed to meet in their homes until a building is provided.

I relate this story so you can see that some of the problems are very volatile and need additional representation. We have had several of these situations where a meeting with government officials was needed. It is an important aspect of our relationship with sister Conferences and churches. These meetings result in the country being able to resume their work in growth and development.

Another need of our new Conferences is the education and training of the leaders, especially the General Secretary. Burundi is no exception. Gilbert Nduwayo needs some training in ministry and evangelism.

When a meeting was held with Burundi's leadership in February, they requested funds to send Nduwayo to school in Kampala, Uganda. It would cost \$2,000 each semester for the tuition and some for living needs. We decided that he could attend the Kampala Evangelical School of Theology for about \$4,000 each semester.

I did explain to them that we would have to advertise this need to the members of the USA and Canada Conference and see if we could get some donors for this project. They appeared to be happy with this arrangement and look forward to hearing from us about this valuable asset for the Burundi SDB Conference. **SR**

A women's choir worships in Burundi.



Pastor Nduwayo.





the BEACON

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

April 2011

Don't Worry

by Emily Olson

I don't know if it has anything to do with the fact that I'm always running around, but I tend to worry a lot.

Actually, that's an understatement. I worry almost all the time. Sometimes it's little things like, "Did I leave that textbook at home?" or "I really, really hope I didn't leave my headlights on..."

But sometimes it's things like, "How am I going to go to school, a doctor's appointment, musical practice, orchestra, and finish all my homework?!"

No matter what I'm doing, there's always a little voice in the back of my head questioning whether or not I did something, or whether or not I have time. I used to give myself headaches and stomachaches from worrying so much. In fact, up until recently, I still did.

About a month ago, I had an especially stressful week. It was the weekend of my school's semi-formal dance. After being given a few projects to do, I was a little sleep-deprived and I had a big week ahead of me. Unfortunately, that wasn't the worst of it. Most of my family had the stomach flu. My Dad and I were the only ones not showing symptoms, but neither of us were safe.

On Saturday, along with my own

responsibilities, I took on the role of my Mom (who was lying on the couch, too weak to get up). I got up early, made breakfast, did the dishes, went to the church early to practice for praise time, and taught her Sabbath School class. After church, I went home to get ready for the dance.

Sunday came and I tried desperately to finish my homework, but the room with the computer in it had been taken over by sick people. By Monday night, I was a nervous wreck. I was overwhelmed by homework, I wasn't eating very much (not just afraid that I was going to get sick, but my wisdom teeth had been removed the previous weekend), plus I hadn't slept in two days.

I went over to youth group full of worry and stress, not really wanting to interact with anyone. My Mom knew how I was feeling, and she gave me a Bible passage to read. It was a common one—something I had read before—but it changed my entire day around:

"For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap, nor gather into barns, and yet their heavenly Father feeds them. Are

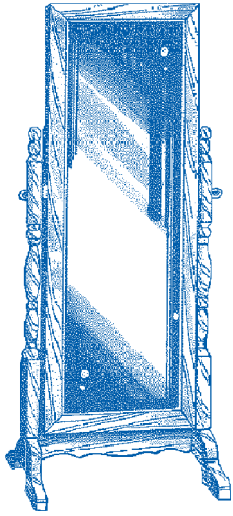
you not worth much more than they? And who of you by being worried can add a single hour to his life?...

"You of little faith! Do not worry then, saying, 'What will we eat' or 'What will we wear for clothing?' For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things, for your heavenly Father knows that you need these things. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness and all these things will be added to you. So do not worry about tomorrow for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." (Matthew 6:25-34)

All of a sudden I felt a peace come over me, one I hadn't felt in days. I realized I didn't need to worry, especially since it didn't really help me any.

I went home after youth group and caught up on some much-needed sleep, my dreams no longer plagued with worries. I didn't get sick, I got all my homework done, and the rest of the week went by with very few problems.

Now I carry this passage on a piece of paper everywhere I go. When I start to worry, I pull it out and read it, no matter where I am. I encourage you to remind yourself that God takes care of you and meets your every need, so you don't have to worry. **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

Digging for family treasure

One of the Bible's fascinating features is its genealogical facet, tracing the lineage of multiple generations.

1 Chronicles 9:1 (from *The Message*) says, "This is the complete family tree for all Israel, recorded in the Royal Annals of the Kings of Israel and Judah..."

Matthew 1:1 begins, "A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of David, the son of Abraham" (NIV). It eventually covers three sets of 14 generations, from Abraham to Jesus.

In Genesis 4, we're told that Cain and his wife conceived a son, Enoch. Enoch's son, Irad, became the father of Mehujael, and Mehujael was the father of Methushael. Methushael's wife bore Lamech, who in turn married two women.

As Sonny and Cher sang in the '60s, "The Beat Goes On."

Much to my embarrassment, the 10th chapter of Genesis stymied many of my early attempts to read through the Bible. As it detailed the generations of Noah's sons, I read names like Havilah, Sabtechah, Arphaxad and Hazarmaveth. I ended up with "brain freeze," and my huge King James Bible went back to hibernating on the coffee table.

I've recently become quite interested in genealogy research and family history. (Late SDB Historian and former coworker, Don Sanford, would be proud of me.) It's an exciting pastime that's already gener-

ating mixed feelings and thoughts.

On the **positive** side, my research has given me a profound appreciation of ancestors who lived productive lives in spite of innumerable hardships and tragedies.

Years ago, it wasn't uncommon for babies (and mothers) to die in childbirth, and for young children to die prematurely. My great-great-grandfather—Morten Olsen—lost his wife (Karen) when their son, Karl, was born in Denmark in 1840. Soon afterwards, Morten married Karen's sister and had 10 more children, including my great-grandfather, Hans Mortensen.

Past generations also witnessed moments of unbridled joy as families gathered for weddings, baptisms and holiday celebrations. Life was hard, but it was good.

On the **negative** side, it's difficult to understand why other people weren't as excited as I was when I discovered a great-grandfather was addicted to morphine. Amateur genealogists can "talk shop" for hours, but everyone else doesn't give a rip.

Genealogy is akin to being both a treasure hunter and a gold miner.

Searching libraries, cemetery records, and genealogy websites is like following a treasure map, going from one clue to another. With all that "digging," unexpected nuggets of family information can pop up at any time, providing new facts or shedding light on old ones.

I knew that my mother's 10-year-old brother, Vernon, died of pneumonia in 1929. But I just learned



that prior to his passing, he was bed-ridden for eight weeks, and that his mother (my maternal grandmother) suffered a nervous breakdown from the stress of caring for him.

While checking out a World War I registration card of a distant relative, I learned that he had lost his left arm. A few weeks later, I discovered that he lost it in a hunting accident while his parents were at church. I had struck gold once again.

Doing genealogical research isn't without its frustrations. Conflicting information surfaces all the time, especially regarding birth and death dates. And it doesn't help that immigrants to this country quickly "Americanized" their names.

In Morten Olsen's family, his son Jens became "Jim"; Karoline became "Caroline"; and Johanne became "Johanna." To further complicate matters, some of the Mortensen boys became "Martinson," "Martinsen," "Olsen," or "Olson." Once they arrived in the U.S., Morten's daughters went by the last name of "Olsen," not Mortensen. (I feel a brain freeze coming on.)

I never got to meet these pioneering ancestors in person, but I already feel like I know them. What great reunions await all of us in heaven! **SR**



Holland, Michigan July 31–Aug. 6, 2011



The President's Page
by Stephen Rogers

Living the Fruit of the Spirit of Faithfulness

The seventh Fruit of the Spirit mentioned by Paul in his letter to the Galatians is “faithfulness.” The Greek word “pistos” which Paul uses here can be translated in a variety of ways: to be trusted, to be counted on at all times, of a firm persuasion, faithful, loyal, steadfast, trustworthy, dependable, devoted, reliable, believing, resolute, and honest. It is a quality of character, a kind of attitude.

When I think of faithfulness, I see it existing in the shape of a triangle.

The first side of my faith triangle represents **our faithfulness to God**. We demonstrate this faithfulness by having absolute trust, absolute confidence, absolute obedience, and the unconditional surrender of ourselves to God.

God is always faithful to us and we, in turn, must be faithful to Him. Though this faithfulness may not be blatantly obvious in our lives, it will certainly be apparent to God “who looks at the heart” (1 Samuel 16:7). And I think that if we truly have that faithfulness to God in our hearts, it will be apparent in the way we relate to others.

The second side of my triangle represents **our faithfulness to others**. John Donne has pointed out that “No man is an island entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main...” We must live in this world with others. We can’t be good Christians if we do not treat others the way God has treated them—with faithfulness.

An old adage tells us that, “A man’s word is his bond.” This is our faithfulness to others. We can be counted on to do what we say we will do. Jesus spoke of those who tried to force an external and artificial means of faithfulness on us by imposing the swearing of oaths. He pointed out that there is no way to make a deceitful person honest. Jesus says in Matthew 5:37, “Simply let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes’ and your ‘No’ be ‘No’...”

That brings us to the third side of the faithfulness triangle: **being faithful to oneself**. Our faithfulness to ourselves will enable us to do the right thing, without regard to the pressures on us. Sometimes these pressures come from the out-

side and sometimes they come from within.

Most true acts of courage are not of a physical nature (as often portrayed in the media by action heroes). Our most courageous acts are moral ones. They are not glamorous acts displayed for all to see. More often, they are very small acts that go unnoticed and unappreciated. It may be something like taking an unpopular stand on an issue, or standing up to peer pressure, or refusing to take the easy way out.

Whatever the situation, it ultimately boils down to facing up to your duties and obligations. It means taking responsibility for yourself and your actions, especially when it’s not an easy thing to do.

In *Hamlet*, Shakespeare has Polonius giving this advice to his son:

“This above all: to thine own self be true,
And it must follow, as the night the day,
Thou canst not then be false to any man.”

Architects know that one of the best ways to achieve strength in any structure is to make use of triangles. Bridges, roofs, cranes and towers all make extensive use of triangular construction techniques that create strong, durable structures. Let us learn from them and use “faithfulness triangles” to build strong, lasting relationships.

Living in the Fruit of the Spirit of Faithfulness can be a steadying influence in our lives. In uncertain times as these, it can be a firm hand or a guiding light if we remain steadfast in our faithfulness to our God, to others, and to ourselves. **SR**



by Executive Director
Rob Appel

Growth of a church plant

Mother church gives birth

Last month we read details of the SDB Church in Miami, Florida. This time we head just a bit north and find a “daughter” church of Miami, based in Fort Lauderdale.

Right after the beginning of the new millennium, the Miami, Fla., Seventh Day Baptist Church became focused on branching out. Their efforts ended up taking them north toward Fort Lauderdale.

In 2003, approximately 30 people were “reallocated” from the Miami church to become the core of the new church plant in Fort Lauderdale. They held a commissioning service for that objective.

As part of the mother/daughter relationship between Miami and

Fort Lauderdale, the two churches agreed that Pastor Andrew Samuels would provide pastoral leadership for both groups. Little did they know that this relationship would last for eight years!

As the Fort Lauderdale church grew it had to change locations. Their attendance continued to increase so they started the process to join the SDB General Conference of USA and Canada. That goal was achieved in 2005 at the Conference sessions held at Hope College in

Holland, Michigan (where Conference will be again this year). They were voted in as a member church of the General Conference.

The Fort Lauderdale church was no longer a “daughter church” and was growing into maturity as a “Church on the Move.” What more did they need to continue this journey? How about getting their own pastor?

Thus started the next chapter—the process of calling a pastor. One of the objectives in calling a pastor is having the right candidate, and having a candidate who says, “Here I am” helps in that call. After years of looking for the right fit, Pastor Norman Fearon from Jamaica answered that call.

Pastor Norman U. Fearon, along

cont. next page



The congregation and guests at a recent service in Fort Lauderdale.

...Cont. from page 21

with his wife Alethia and son Norman Jr. (Jay), were installed into the pastorate at the Fort Lauderdale SDB Church on February 26, 2011. People at the celebration came from many Florida churches: Daytona Beach, Bradenton, West Palm Beach and Miami.

Other guests came from the SDB Center in Janesville, Wisconsin, representing the Center on Ministry (Gordon Lawton) and the General Conference's Executive Director (Robert Appel). Also, Brother Patrick London from the Toronto, Canada, SDB church was there as was Pastor Bobby Wilmot of the Majesty Gardens Covenant Community Church located in the inner city of Kingston, Jamaica.

Pastor Fearon has touched many lives and come across many people in his ministry, and they wanted to be there at this historic occasion.

So what's next for Fort Lauderdale? I can't tell you for sure, but I'm excited to find out what it is!

As a "Church on the Move," they will surely not disappoint. **SR**



Above:
Pastor
Norman
Fearon with
wife Alethia
and son Norman Jr.
Right: the Fort
Lauderdale
church choir.



Denominational Dateline

April 2011

- 2 Daytona Beach, Fla., church—*Gordon Lawton*
- 9 Phoenix, Ariz., gathering for possible church plant—*Rob Appel, Ron Elston*
- 16-17 Memorial Fund meeting, Seattle, Wash.—*Morgan Shepard, Appel*
- 23 Enfield, Conn., church—*Lawton*
- 23-24 Missionary Society Board of Managers, Ashaway, R.I.—*Kirk Looper, Elston*
- 26-30 Pastors' Conference, Milton, Wis.—*Lawton, Kevin Butler, Nick Kersten, Appel, Andrew Camenga*

May

- 1 Women's Board Executive Meeting, Tomah, Wis.—*Althea Rood*
- 6-8 Allegheny Association, Alfred, N.Y.—*Appel, Camenga*
- 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, Lawton*
- 21 Sabbath Renewal Day

June

- 1-2 Panel Discussion, Mystic Seaport, Conn.—*Kersten*
- 4 Alfred Station, N.Y., church—*Butler*
- 10-12 Southwestern Association (**new dates and location**)—Texarkana, Ark.
- 18 Riverside, Calif.—*Appel*
- 24-26 Appalachian Association, Salem, W.Va.—*Appel*
- 25 Central, Md., church—*Lawton*

July

- 25-29 CLT, then General Council—Battle Creek, Mich., SDB Church
- 31-Aug 6 General Conference—Hope College, Holland, Mich.



To save or not to save...

Why did I wait??

by Morgan Shepard

“A good man leaves an inheritance for his children’s children, but a sinner’s wealth is stored up for the righteous.” (Proverbs 13:22 NIV)

I got married when I was 38. I honestly wasn’t looking to get married when “Kate found me” and now I can’t imagine life without her and our two active boys. But that’s not the point of this article.

When I was single, my money was, well... *my* money. (Not really, but that’s a different article.) I spent money on things I wanted. While I wasn’t spending every dollar I made, I also wasn’t saving very much either. My “future” was not very far into the future.

Now that I’m married, my “future” has extended significantly to include not only how to pay the current bills, but planning for our boys’ college education (12 years away)! And what about our children’s children?

Should you view finances differently based on your being single or married? As some have pointed out the Bible does not differentiate between the two. The merits of saving apply to both marrieds and singles.

So what is the cost of saving, or not saving? Let’s say you get serious about your future when you’re 20 years old. Maybe you are in college

or just starting to earn a good salary in your chosen career.

You create a budget and decide you can save \$100 a month. That’s \$1,200 per year. You talk with an investment advisor and put your savings in a plan that earns 6% per year.

What would that look like in one year, 10 years, etc? What would it look like if you waited until you were 30, 35 or older to start?

Take a look at these numbers:

Compound Interest Growth

Age	Value at age...		
20	1,272	----	----
30	16,766	1,272	----
35	29,607	16,766	1,272
40	46,791	29,607	16,766
45	69,788	46,791	29,607
50	100,562	69,788	46,791
55	141,745	100,562	69,788
60	196,857	141,745	100,562
65	270,610	196,857	141,745
70	369,307	270,610	196,857

Value based on \$1,200 invested each year, earning 6% interest compounded annually.



Sobering, isn’t it? Waiting 15 years could cost you or your grandchildren \$172,450!

Here’s another sobering thought. What if the 20-year-old stopped investing the \$1,200 each year after 10 years (stopping at age 30) and just decided to let the investment “ride” to age 70? They could conceivably have \$172,450. It took the 35-year-old over 30 years to get that much!

The lesson is that whether you are single or married, young or old—*don’t wait* to start saving. Think of it as paying yourself first. (Hopefully you are tithing first, but that’s another article...)

You never know when you may end up with a larger family, so wouldn’t it be nice to show your faithfulness in action before you even thought of having more family members?

“Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.” (Proverbs 22:6) SR

New members

Alfred Station, NY
Kenneth Chroniger, pastor
Joined after baptism
Mary Woodworth

Colorado Springs, CO
Harold King, pastor
Joined by letter
Robert Harris
Linda Harris
Benjamin Harris

Nashville, TN
(Branch of Paint Rock)
Joined after testimony
Lyla Johnson
Melvin Johnson
Elaine McCollum
Phil McCollum
Kim West

Washington, DC
Paul Andries, pastor
Joined after baptism
Gabrielle Andries
Bruce Gaye
Christopher Joseph Scott
Joined after testimony
Pastor Juan Amaya
Ethel Amaya
Juan Pablo Amaya
Christian Amaya
Amanda Bailey

Births

Green.—A son, Ezaias Ahmad, was born to Earl and Tsahai (Samuels) Green of Pembroke Pines, FL on February 27, 2011.

Rudd.—A daughter, Rose Elise, was born to Karl and Samantha (McElwee) Rudd of Wollongong, Australia on March 10, 2011.

History in the making

(as reported on the SDB Exec Blog)

by Rob Appel

On February 27, 2011 about 20 people gathered at the Miami, Fla., SDB Church to attend the Ordination Council for Pastor Shirley Morgan. What made this so different? Pastor Shirley was in Nicaragua!

Linked via the internet using Skype, members from five Florida churches, along with Gordon Lawton and Rob Appel of the SDB Center in Janesville, Wis., all participated in the process that determines if a candidate is acceptable for ordination.

After hearing Pastor Shirley's personal statement of belief and answering questions (read by the moderator, Pastor Andrew Samuels), the Council determined that she did qualify as a candidate.

Pastor Morgan's ordination will also take on historical significance; it will be held in Nicaragua with



Photo by Rob Appel

members of the Miami SDB Church attending with Rev. Gordon Lawton of the SDB Council on Ministry.

Whoever said that history wasn't relevant? **SR**

(Editor's note: To find out why Pastor Shirley is in Nicaragua, see the November 2009 Sabbath Recorder. For updates on her ministries there, read the Nov. 2010 issue.)

Obituaries

Powell.—Wilhelmina Albertha (Greene) Powell, 78, of Grayson, Ga., answered the call from labor to eternal rest on November 21, 2010.

She was born on February 15, 1932 to Joseph and Rosa Greene in Blue Mountain, Manchester, Jamaica. After attending Bellefield Primary and Secondary Schools, she went on to work as a department store associate and later as a seamstress.

In 1959 she received Jesus Christ as her Savior and was baptized in the Blue Mountain Seventh Day Baptist Church. That same year she married Gerald Powell, and together they raised their five children.

Wilhelmina migrated to the Unit-

ed States in 1967, residing first in New Jersey while working as a nanny. She relocated to Brooklyn, N.Y., and became a certified nursing assistant at the Willoughby Nursing Home where she worked for 24 years before retiring. She regarded her job as a ministry and performed it with devotion and passion.

She began attending the New York City SDB Church and served the Lord faithfully in a variety of ways. She provided for the needs of others through her cooking, baking, sewing, and general hospitality. The NY City church recognized her servant's heart and ordained her as a deaconess in 1992.

The following year she headed south and immediately immersed

herself in the Miami, Fla., SDB Church, continuing to engage in prayer and the study of the Word, and serving others. As she had done in New York City, she opened her home in Miami and hosted Bible Studies, usually followed by delicious meals. When her health declined and Deaconess Powell was unable to attend church regularly, the Miami church conferred upon her the well-deserved office of Deaconess Emeritus.

She moved to Fairfield, Ohio in 2008 to reside with her son Wayne, and traveled between there and Grayson, Ga., where her daughter Heather resides.

She is survived by her husband Gerald Powell and daughter Heather Muschett of Grayson; sons Wayne and Norbert Powell, both of Fairfield; and two sisters, Evelyn Anderson of England and Susan Green of New York City; 14 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by a son Ian Powell and daughter Beverly Muirhead.

A funeral service was held on December 4, 2010 at Mt. Patmos Baptist Church in Decatur, Ga., with burial in Melwood Cemetery, Stone Mountain, Ga. Pastors Alvin Bernard and Ericessen Cooper officiated. A memorial service was also held on March 5, 2011 at the Miami SDB Church.

Mosena.—Harriet Ruth (Kenyon) Mosena, 94, wife of the late George Mosena Sr., passed away on March 1, 2011 at the Westerly (R.I.) Health Center.

Ruth was the daughter of Elwin Sr. and Martha (Rasmussen) Kenyon. Ruth loved her church. She was a member and deaconess of the Pawcatuck Seventh Day Baptist Church of Westerly. She also loved her stuffed-animal friends and her many hobbies included word search, crafting, bingo, knitting and sewing.

Ruth is survived by her daughter, Carolyn Greenwood of West Virginia; her brother, Elwin Kenyon Jr.; nine grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren; along with many nieces and nephews. Besides her husband, she was predeceased by her son, George Mosena Jr. A service and burial will be at a later date.

Clarke.—Ethel (Davis) Dickinson Clarke 89, died on March 1, 2011 at Sterling House in Rock Hill, S.C., which had been her home for the last four years.

She was born in Hopewell Township, N.J., on September 16, 1921. Ethel was the daughter of Benjamin Carll and Phoebe Anna (Bowden)

Davis. She married Harmon Dickinson on June 11, 1941. While raising her family, Ethel continued her education and received a bachelor's degree from

Salem (W.Va.) College in 1956.

As a pastor's wife, she served with her husband in Seventh Day Baptist churches in DeRuyter, N.Y.; Ashaway, R.I.; Denver, Colo.; Plainfield, N.J.; and Richburg, N.Y. She worked for the Dean of the University of Denver from 1954-1957. From 1980-1987 they worked in the Seventh Day Baptist denominational offices in Plainfield and then Janesville, Wis. She retired in 1987 after serving as administrative assistant for the General Conference. Ethel also served 10 years on the Tract Society (seven as recording secretary), 13 years on the Board of Christian Education (eight as its Publishing Committee chair), three as recording



*Ethel Dickinson Clarke
1921 - 2011*

secretary of the Conference, and 13 years as editor of the SDB Yearbook. In 1985 she was awarded the Robe of Achievement by the SDB Women's Society for her many years of contributions to the denomination.

On August 5, 2000 she married David Clarke. David and Harmon had been seminary classmates.

Both Harmon and David preceded Ethel in death. Surviving are two sons, Alfred H. Dickinson of Schemectady, N.Y., and Mervin J. Dickinson of Franklin Park, N.J.; her daughter, Loisanna D. Edwards of Fort Mill, S.C.; nine grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren; five stepchildren, five step-grandchildren and three step-great-grandchildren.

She was a member of the SDB Church in Daytona Beach, Fla., and an associate member of Unity Presbyterian Church in Fort Mill.

A funeral service was held on March 6, 2011 at the Shiloh, N.J., Seventh Day Baptist Church, with the Rev. Dr. Dale Thorngate officiating. Burial was in the church cemetery. A memorial service was also held in Fort Mill, S.C., on March 9 at the Unity Presbyterian Church with the Revs. Dan Holloway and Jeannie Bickett officiating.

Correction

The obituary for Socrates Thompson (Feb. SR) should read: "Pastors Andrew Samuels and Wray Winborne officiated, assisted by Pastors Keith McCall and Alcott Lynch."

Death Notices

Floyd L. Schock, 75, of Edgerton, WI died on March 2, 2011.

Evelyn (Babcock) Weber, 87, of Lafayette, LA died on March 11, 2011.

**PASTORS:
You may qualify
to receive
assistance for
Conference expenses**

If you are the pastor of an SDB church and your income is less than the suggested minimum salary recommended by COSAR, you can apply for help for expenses at General Conference sessions (not travel costs).

Retired SDB pastors may also apply.

Details are found at the COM website <http://sdbministry.org/Pastors.htm#cp> just above the "Help from COSAR" section. Salary recommendations are at sdbministry.org/COSARSalaryRec.pdf.

The **deadline** for applying is **June 15**.

**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!

**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

**"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

KEVIN'S

ORNER

What condition is your response?

I love dogs. Especially when they belong to someone else.

Since we've always lived "in town" and needed to travel often for church and family functions, we felt that we had to say "No" to our kids' pleas to have a pet dog. Even though Janet and I grew up with great four-legged friends, we didn't feel it was fair for any dog to be cooped up inside a house or fenced yard,

or shuttled off frequently to a kennel.

Fortunately, two of our neighbors behind us are dog owners. Each house has a pair of pooches—each set with one black and one white. We enjoy watching them run and prance and play in their yards.

The one pair of older dogs has a morning routine. During the winter I can see it unfold in the early hours before sunrise.

The two pals are released out the back patio door to run around and "do their business." When the task is completed and they've gotten a sufficient amount of fresh air (or it's just too darn cold) the white one trudges up the deck stairs, stands at the door and lets out a loud bark.

It's fun to witness the dog's silhouette in front of the lighted doorway. The dog lifts his head to bark and wags his big tail. As the head lowers, the tail simultaneously lowers and slows down. This process is repeated seamlessly several times (lift head, bark; lift tail, wag; lower head, lower tail) until I see his whole doggy-behind wiggling with happiness. The "master" is coming to open the door to let them in.

Who's training whom?

A conditioned response! Isn't that what Pavlov (speaking of dogs) learned from his experiments? Years ago, Russian physiologist Ivan Pavlov used

a bell to call some dogs to their food. After a few repetitions, the animals started to salivate at the mere sound of the bell.

What Pavlov called a conditioned reflex can be both positive and negative. Another positive would be children loving ice cream and getting excited to eat it. It follows that when they hear the ice cream truck coming, they get excited. Here's the progression:

- Unconditioned stimulus: Ice cream
- Unconditioned response: Happy, excited

- Conditioned stimulus: Music from ice cream truck

- Conditioned response: Happy, excited when hearing music from ice cream truck

A negative reflex could involve a war veteran having a relapse of post-traumatic stress disorder after being exposed to fireworks or firecrackers sounding like gunshots.

Do believers in Christ exhibit any kind of conditioned response? According to His Word, we *should*. Here's a

whole list from Romans 12—

"Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse."

"Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn."

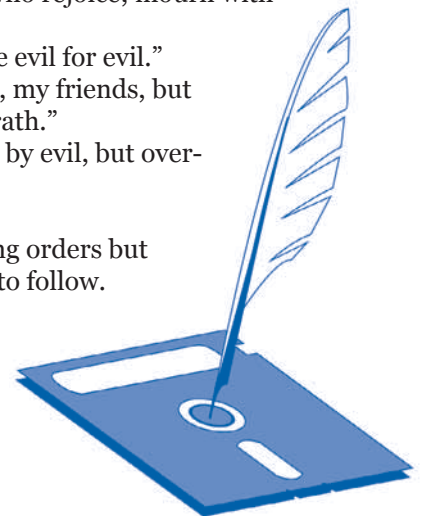
"Do not repay anyone evil for evil."

"Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath."

"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

We have our marching orders but they're not always easy to follow.

When we feel "stuck on the outside" of a situation, let's gently bark out a call to our Master and gratefully greet Him when He responds.





The Offer of Salvation

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

Each 20-page booklet is only 20 cents (plus postage). Please call for larger orders so we can calculate the shipping costs. Or, go to the on-line store at our website and the checkout system will calculate the shipping for you.

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