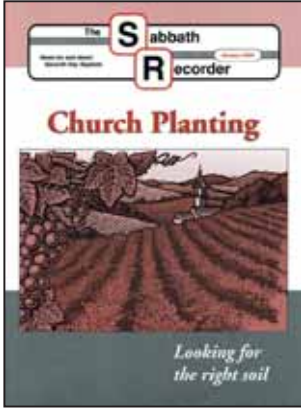
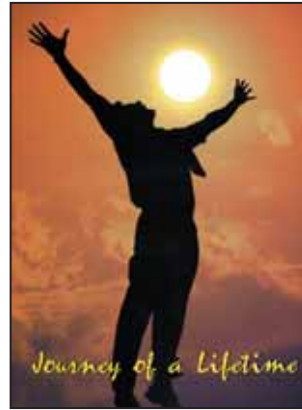
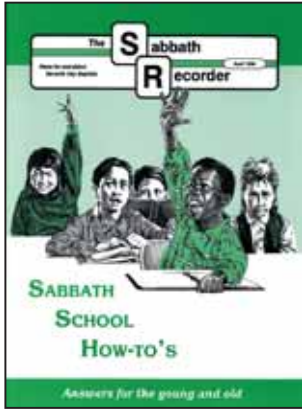
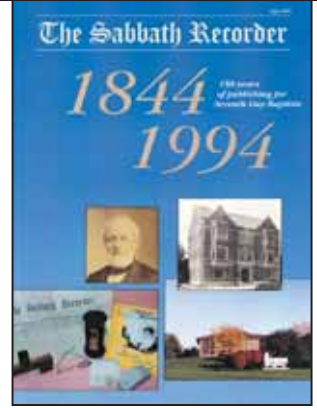
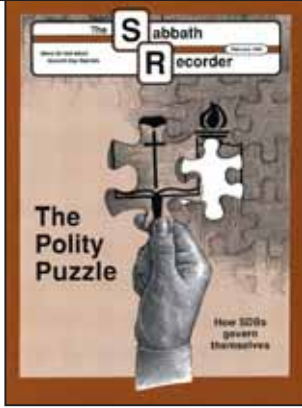


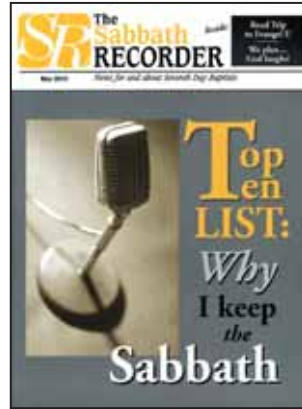
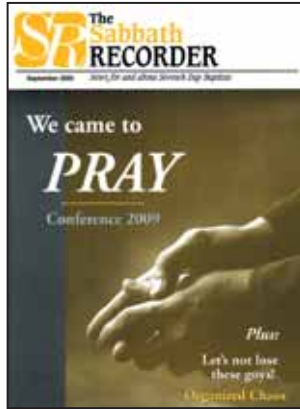
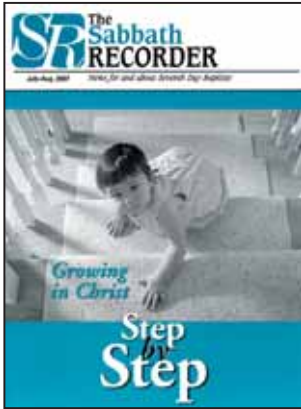
The Sabbath RECORDER

January 2012

News for and about Seventh Day Baptists



The Editor's
250th
issue





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

Missionary Society Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the members of the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society will be held at the Missionary Society Office, 19 Hillside Ave., Ashaway, R.I., on Sunday, March 18, 2012, at 2:00 p.m. for the following:

–To elect voting members, a Board of Managers and officers to hold office until the next annual meeting and until their successors are elected.

–To hear and act upon the reports of the Board of Managers and officers for the fiscal year January 1, 2011, to December 31, 2011.

–To ratify the appointment of independent public accountants for the current fiscal year.

–To consider and act upon such other matters as may properly come before said meeting or any adjournment thereof.

The Board of Managers has fixed the close of business on February 28, 2012, as the time at which members entitled to notice thereof and to vote at the meeting and any adjournment thereof shall be determined.

—*Kathy Hughes, Secretary*



Applications for SCSC team members and church projects have been posted on the Women's Board website at www.sdbwomen.org. Please read all information and send completed application forms to:

SCSC Committee

c/o Milton SDB Church,

720 E. Madison Ave., Milton WI 53563.

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

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



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A Seventh Day Baptist publication
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Kevin Butler
Editor

editor@seventhdaybaptist.org

Ⓔ = Editor's Circle members

Contributing Editors

Rob Appel, Clinton Brown, Andrew J. Camenga, Kristin Camenga, Jessica Chroniger, Barb Green, Nicholas Kersten, Gordon Lawton, Rebecca Olson, John Pethel, Morgan Shepard.

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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Thankful for the changes

Reaching 250 issues

by Kevin Butler, Editor

Change.

That was the theme of the first issue of the *Sabbath Recorder* I edited back in April 1989.

Perhaps I should have entitled it, “Cringe.” When I re-read my inaugural Kevin’s Korner, I have to cringe. There was a bit of humility, but probably a little too much brash.

Artistically, I cringe. I tried to cram too much into those initial pages, plus now I can employ the technological advances in software, equipment, and digital photography.

I was thankful to have nearly three months to prepare my maiden monthly mag. The deadline approached amidst attending General Council and staff meetings, trying to learn the “interesting” budget system (still quite “interesting”), and getting comfortable with a Mac platform.

Why did I wait until April when I started working at the SDB Center in January? Scott Smith agreed to continue to edit the *SR* from a distance for six months. (Bless you, Scott!!) But he and I had *zero* time of face-to-face overlap—he had already moved away by the time I was interviewed and hired.

I was glad to introduce some new columns: “From the Heart” (testimonies and guest commentaries), “Pastor’s Profile,” “SR Almanac,” and the above-mentioned purposely misspelled Korner. We also started following specific themes for the feature section, trying to present an SDB perspective and experience on a topic.

Change.

As we highlighted during the Tract Council program at Conference, the *Recorder* has undergone tremendous changes during its 167-year history, and none-too-few during the last 250 issues alone.



My stack among the stacks. Bound issues (plus the unbound ones from 2011) are piled high, depicting nearly 23 years of steady deadlines and praising God that we met each one on time.

The magazine would not happen if it weren’t for willing writers (thank you feature writers, department editors and local news updaters), a faithful assistant (Leanne, I miss you since your retirement in 2008), a helpful and talented Center staff, and all of your generous contributions. I give all the glory to God, and may that never change. **SR**

And some tributes...

The Sabbath Recorder is a resource where I can see what is happening with other SDB churches around the U.S., keep them in my prayers, or learn from their examples and lessons.

Daniel Lovelace
Dallas, GA

It's the way I stay connected to the Conference while away from an SDB community when I'm at school.

Dorothy Noel
Elon University, NC

I love reading about our brothers and sisters in other states and countries, and the articles written by them.

Catherine Pradetto
Riverside, CA

Congratulations Kevin! Here's to hoping you see another 250 issues because I can't imagine *The Sabbath Recorder* not having Kevin's Korner.

Receiving the *Recorder* in my mailbox every month is a pleasant reminder of how SDBs played a huge role in forming who I am as a Christian.

Even though I do not attend an SDB church right now, I will always have a special place in my heart for Seventh Day Baptists. Many Blessings.

Angi Roy
Riverside, CA

The Sabbath Recorder has been a constant in my life—it's great to be able to get the scoop on anything Seventh Day Baptist. I have some of my best growing moments when I read the arti-

cles and even when writing a few. It's wonderful to know that there is a piece of our heritage in the past, present and future.

Micayla Neher
Minneapolis, MN
cont. next page

SABBATH RECORDER BY THE NUMBERS

In these 250 issues, Editor Butler has worked with:

23 different
Conference
Presidents

3 different
COM and
Miss. Society
Executives

different
Women's
Board
Presidents

5

different
Executive
Secretaries/
Interims/Director

**"A
bunch"** of Beacon
youth editors
(all great!)

MANY

General Council
and Tract Council
members

5 or 6 Laptops; **Dozens** of red pens;
Reams of paper and **Too Many** ink
cartridges; and...

ONE

Great loving and supporting wife
(She really looks forward to the 21st
of each month... Deadline is the 20th.)

When received – excited;
when read – informed;
when discussed – enlightened;
when filed – blessed. Thank
you Kevin!

Yvonne and Mel Stephan
Rensselaer, NY

Over the past 15 years of
genealogical research, I learned
that my father's ancestors em-
braced the Seventh Day Baptists
and were members until my
father married my mother in
1948. Since there was no SDB
church within reach of their
home, they attended my mother's
choice of church. I also learned
that his grandfather was T.J. Van
Horn, an SDB missionary minister.

Thanks to the Rev. Don Sanford
(the late Historian Emeritus) and
entries in the *Recorder*, I have
been able to feel much closer to
my ancestors in Rhode Island and
New York. Some of the Carpenter
family are buried at the First Hop-
kinton (R.I.) Cemetery.

I learned from the *Recorder*
where my great-grandfather
spread the Gospel and where he
and his wife are buried. Their last
church was in South Daytona, FL.

Yes, the *Sabbath Recorder* has
had a great impact on my life and
has helped me re-affirm my faith
in our Lord Jesus Christ. As I was
raised Lutheran, I was baptized
as a baby. On January 4, 2009,
I was baptized by immersion
to re-affirm my faith, thanks to
subsequent communications with
distant cousins, including Janet
Van Horn Thorngate.

Even though I am not affili-
ated with any one particular
denomination, I have great
respect and admiration for the
diligence and devotion of Sev-
enth Day Baptists and the word
they spread to all through the
Sabbath Recorder.

Many blessings,
Jan Robison
Wauseon, OH

The Sabbath Recorder is
and has been a key for me to
understanding who we are as a
people called Seventh Day Bap-
tists. Having access to all the
Recorders from the first copy,
through the State University of
New York at Alfred library, one
thing has not changed: a love of
the ordinary (if there is such a
thing) Seventh Day Baptist.

Pastor Ken Chroniger
Alfred Station, NY

The Sabbath Recorder has
been a blessing to me ever since
I became a Seventh Day Baptist
well over 10 years ago. I wasn't
raised in SDB churches or brought
up knowing any Seventh Day Bap-
tists, so the *Recorder* has been a
great tool for me to get to know
"Our Family" in a greater way. It
helps build bonds and ties with
people from other churches,
countries, and keeps us all look-
ing at the bigger picture as we
serve Christ.

As I think how awesome the
Sabbath Recorder has been, I
remember when I first joined the
Daytona Beach church. Our group

gathered and sent clothes for one
of our missions in Malawi. Later
in the *Recorder* I saw a picture
of children receiving those very
same boxes. It definitely played a
large part of why I feel a special
connection to this denomination
and our ministries. I pray the
Sabbath Recorder will always
remain a vital part of our past,
present, and future as SDBs.

Marie Ward
SDB Church of Edgewater, FL

The Sabbath Recorder is
our small congregation's link
to the rest of Christ's church
throughout the United States and
through missions. It helps us to
understand how our piece of the
puzzle makes for a bigger picture.

Marilyn Lee
Little Rock, AR

I have been writing for the
Sabbath Recorder for a much
shorter time than Kevin, but
he has taught me the most
valuable writing lesson of
all—the importance of white
space. While trying to fill a page
with worthwhile prose, it is often
what we don't say that makes the
biggest impact.

Whether relief that I don't
have to fill the page, or frustration
that I don't have enough space
to say what I want, it is the white
space that creates the sense of
balance. Kevin has also passed
on his love of mushrooms... but
that's another story.

Morgan Shepard
Janesville, WI

A lucky find?

by Kevin Butler

Retired Pastor Don Richards handed me a photocopy of this poem from an old *Recorder* and thought I could pass it along. It seemed especially appropriate for this milestone issue.

Don wasn't sure what year the poem first appeared. The only clue to the timeframe was a mention of Mizpah Greene's "Children's Page" column, which ran for many decades.

While standing in front of the daunting bookshelves packed with scores of bound *SR* volumes, I reached for one at random, about thigh-high, to see if Mrs. Greene's letters were in there. Yes, there was the Children's Page— and on the facing page was this very poem! I nearly fainted. It was first printed in the pamphlet-sized January 4, 1932 *Sabbath Recorder*. The Editor was H.C. Van Horn. Also listed as Editor Emeritus was Theodore Gardiner, who had retired the year before at age 87.

This was meant to be, Pastor Don! Thank you.

(By the way, we still don't know the author. If anyone has an idea, we'd love to hear from you.) SR

Happy New Year

I've been reading the *Recorder*
 Looked the pages o'er and o'er
 And it seems each time I read it
 That I wish to read it more.
 Often times I see the picture
 Of some friend I used to know,
 One who still is dear to memory
 Tho' a friend of years ago.

Often on first page or cover
 Is a face we know so well;
 It is of one who was our pastor—
 How it thrills us none can tell—
 And we call to mind how often
 He would chide us to "beware
 Of the evils that confront us"
 Strewn along life's road of care.

And then we read the items
 From the sister churches, dear;
 It gives the heart more courage,
 Seems to fill one's soul with cheer.



Then we read the children's pages;
 Their response from Mrs. Greene
 Sure will lift the thoughts still higher,
 Yearn for higher lives we ween.

Then we read the deaths more sadly
 Of some friends we bade adieu,
 Only one year since we parted,
 But those days, how fast they flew.
 Tho' we are left near broken hearted
 O'er death of those who are no more,
 Still we wait, anticipating
 We may meet on yonder shore.

Then we prize the dear *Recorder*;
 Yes, we prize it more and more,
 For it brings to us so often
 News from near and foreign shore.
 So to those who build its pages,
 Giving good advice and cheer,
 May there come life's richest blessings
 Through the coming glad new year.

—Contributed from Dodge Center, Minn.

You've gotta check out this new magazine!!

by Kevin Butler

Donna McCorrison is a transplant from New Jersey living in Milton, Wis., and she is a character. She likes to remind me of how the Sabbath Recorder has played a part in her Seventh Day Baptist church experience. I caught up with her at the Milton Area Youth Center where she volunteers. (Oh, and my wife said that you should “hear” Donna’s answers in a thick Noo-Joyzee accent. I think it does help.)

Then I was talking to your wife about the Recorder one day and she pointed out that her last name was Butler, and that you guys were married, and that you were NOT a traveling salesman!! I was shocked!



Donna hanging with the kids at the Youth Center.

How long have you been with the Milton SDB Church?

I think since 2008. I got baptized in December 2009 with a whole bunch of kids. You can see my picture with them in the fellowship hall! I told them that we should have a big pool party in the baptistery.

And you got into reading the Sabbath Recorder right away?

Oh yeah, and I started recognizing some of the names of other church members: Nick (Kersten) and Leanne (Lippincott) and Barb Green and Rob (Appel). It was cool to know these people who were writing for the magazine.

But you still didn't know the editor.

Right!! I was convinced that you were some regional sales rep because you were gone a lot on the weekends.

So you thought I was a traveling salesman.

Yep! You were some traveling salesman going here and there...

And you found out that I was traveling for the magazine and visiting churches.

That's right. But we still laugh when I say, "Hey, there's the traveling salesman!"

I've heard that you tried to get someone else excited about the Sabbath Recorder.

Oh, boy... I was standing at the welcome center before the second service began, and I noticed some guy nearby and I told him, "Hey, you should see this new magazine!! It's called the *Sabbath Recorder* and it's full of neat stuff!" He seemed interested, then I asked, "Are you sure that I haven't seen you here before? Because you sure look familiar." He kept saying, "No, I'm pretty sure this is the first time I've met you..."

Was that the last you saw him?

Um, NO!! When Pastor George got up to introduce the guest

speaker, there was the guy!! It was Paul Andries, the President of the Conference!! And there I was, going on and on about the *Sabbath Recorder*...

And then you realized why he looked familiar...

His PICTURE WAS IN THE MAGAZINE every month that year for the President's Page!! And then I found out that the *Recorder's* been around for like 165 years, and I was calling it a "new" magazine! I thought I was going to die.

So, seriously, how do you feel about the Recorder now?

What's great about it is that it helps me see what everyone's doing all over the country. I get to see the family news and who's joining our churches. It makes me feel like we're really "all one," and that I am part of this! **SR**

Amazing!

by Ken Soergel
Milton, Wisconsin

(From the Editor—Early in 2006, a local print shop’s sales rep decided that he would visit the SDB Center and offer to bid on printing our monthly magazine. We liked the numbers and the fact that they were just down the road. Eliminating shipping costs alone would save us much money compared to the printer that was hundreds of miles away, plus they offered us two-color capability on every page.

C&M Printing has given us great service at a good price, and blessed me with a new friend. Hey, I wouldn’t let “just anyone” mooch off my gourmet coffee machine. We’re going to miss Ken when he retires soon, but I have a feeling we’ll see him here at the office—along with his empty coffee cup.)

It’s amazing how long the *Sabbath Recorder* has been in existence.

I say “amazing” because I have seen organizations and companies become excited about the prospect of starting a newsletter to keep their friends and employees informed about what’s happening in their world. Just like you, people want to know what’s changing, what’s new, how it affects them.

The problem usually comes in the fact that after the initial issue or two, the newsletter withers on the vine. People find that it’s not the easiest thing to keep a publication going; sooner or later it either goes from a monthly to a quarterly publication, or becomes non-existent due to lack of participation, workload or a multitude of issues.

I have worked in the printing industry for over 40 years and in the past six years have been fortunate to be involved in the printing of the *Sabbath Recorder*. I mentioned how hard it is to keep a simple newsletter going—imagine the effort that goes into a 28-page booklet ...every month!

Last month when I stopped in at the SDB Center to pick up the files for the *Recorder*, Kevin mentioned that his 250th issue was coming up. That amounts to over 22 years dedicated to keeping the *Sabbath Recorder* coming to your door. Quite an accomplishment!

I was surprised when reading a recent article about a 1911 cyclone that hit the Milton, Wis., area. That town’s newspaper, *The Courier*, said

that the details were written about in the *Sabbath Recorder*. If that was the same publication as today’s, now that is longevity. (Yes, Ken, it’s the same SDB publication. And no, I was not the editor then.—Editor)

It has been my pleasure to have a part in the production of the *Sabbath Recorder* these past years. Congratulations to everyone involved with this informative publication. SR



Editor Butler (l.) reviews the final product with Ken Soergel.

Adding lyrics to a painful song

by Karen (McPherson) Wilkerson
Harrisburg, PA

Quinton and I were married in July of 2006. Nearly two years later, Christian Maximillian (“Max”) took us from duo to trio with his big eyes and curly red hair. In the early fall of 2009, we began trying for our quartet; however, come spring of 2010, we still had not conceived.

On a family outing one day, we got a call from a dear friend who wanted to pray with us. She began praying protection over the life of the baby girl that was growing inside me! Quinton and I were surprised because we were quite sure that we were not pregnant, having taken a test a couple days before. That next morning, another test came back positive.

In July, we went to have an ultrasound to confirm our due date and were surprised when the technician found two sacs. Taking a closer look, we discovered that although there were two viable sacs, only one contained a fetus. While confused, we were reassured that this happens quite frequently and often-times does not cause any problems with the pregnancy.

Time went by but I knew something was wrong when everyday tasks—like helping Max get in his car seat—caused incredible pain. On August 6, I told Quinton that I wanted to have our pastor pray with us because I was concerned

about the baby. In the church parking lot as we were ready to go inside, we miscarried.

We had been told at the doctor’s office that at times the empty sac would pass, not causing harm to the fetus. However, after a trip to the emergency room, it was confirmed that we had miscarried the sac with the fetus. Two days later the other sac was expelled.

After trying for almost a year to get pregnant, it was devastating to have a life growing, to feeling the warmth in my belly, and then to have it taken away. We had begun to share our pregnancy news to family and friends; speaking the words of our loss created a fresh wound each time.

Even more confusing than the miscarriage was the fact that God told us (through a friend) about the pregnancy before we even knew about it. We were told of our daughter and her life, but that life was gone. I grieved for the loss and prayed for understanding, believing that somehow this event fit into God’s plan for our lives.

Soon after the miscarriage, I had a dream that included a commission. God asked me to step out of my comfort zone and perform an act of sacrifice for someone else. After two months of trying to seek out the person from my dream, God finally allowed me to complete the task. That act of obedience not only



Max holding Kyra Lyric.

unlocked something for the other individual, but two weeks later we had a positive pregnancy test.

We knew this baby was our girl from the moment we saw the double lines on the stick. In March 2011, on Max’s birthday, the ultrasound confirmed that a baby girl was going to join our family. We had chosen a name for her the previous July and decided that because God’s promise had not changed—just His timing—her name would stay the same. On July 20th, 2011, Kyra Lyric, our ladylike song, was born with big eyes and dark hair.

From this and other experiences with the Lord, I know that His heart breaks with those who are hurting. God takes time to be in the painful moments with us, but is also beyond the moment, for He knows the purpose and plans that are being fulfilled.

It’s easy to look back and see how God kept us and led us through this difficult time. But in the midst of the struggle, there was only faith. **SR**



Curing and Healing

by Barb Green, Parish Nurse
Milton, Wis.

We know that God is the One who heals us, and that He invites each of us to promote healing and restoration (Exod. 15:26; Luke 9:2). It is interesting that the root word for healing and salvation is the same.

In our current health care environment, we usually expect quick and effective treatments for most illnesses. This works against us when we develop chronic diseases that do not lend themselves to a specific cure. Both doctor and patient can become discouraged.

This may lead us to ask such questions as, “Does God still love me?” “Would God heal me if my faith was stronger?” and “Is this a punishment for my sin?” Part of the problem is that we confuse the terms “healing” and “curing.”

Healing and curing are different and we want to experience both of them! **Curing** is only physical and focuses on the disease. The clinical process involved may be dehumanizing. The goal of treatment is basically symptom reduction and disease eradication. But disability and death can only be delayed for a time.

Healing is always about the *whole person*, and this compassionate process affirms the per-

son’s dignity and value. Healing emphasizes not only the physical, but also the emotional, spiritual and social well-being. The goal of treatment is full restoration in life with God, and increased awareness of His presence. With healing, full and eternal restoration is ours now and forever!

Another important part of healing that cannot be ignored is hope. Despite a poor prognosis, people have the opportunity to “live well” rather than “live sick.”

A focus on living well allows for empowerment, hope, joy, appreciation, love, forgiveness and connectedness. Hope does not depend on the absence of disease, but can be experienced in any illness process. It improves outcomes and the quality of life, and is promoted through attention to nutrition, exercise, and spiritual practices. Hope is the process of *living fully*.

Truth (knowing about your disease and its probable outcome) and hope can co-exist. We need to remember to hope for the best while preparing for the worst. Even when we think we have no options, we do! Once we recognize this, we can hope and believe that we have some control over our circumstances.

A good question to ask ourselves when we get discouraged about our illness is, “What is getting in the

way of my hope?” Feeling hopeless is a spiritual and emotional emergency. Boldly asking God for complete healing, yet allowing Him to form us into the people He desires us to be—even with our illness—can help. Talking to a pastor or other Christian mentor about our struggles can also help us cope.

Cure may occur without healing;
Healing may occur without cure.
Cure separates the body from the soul;
Healing embraces the whole.
Cure combats illness;
Healing fosters wellness.
Cure alters what is;
Healing offers what might be.
Cure seeks to conquer pain;
Healing seeks to transcend pain.
Cure ignores grief;
Healing assumes grief.
Cure often is a result of fear;
Healing is usually a result of faith.
Cure rejects death and views it as a defeat;
Healing includes death among the blessed outcomes of care. **SR**

(Thoughts gleaned from The Healing Power of Hope: Exploring the Art and Science by Dr. Lucille Marchand; Theses on Healing (and Cure) by Rev. Frederick W. Reklau; Seasons for Wholeness: Volume V by Ruth Dankanich Daumer.)



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

Not the brightest bulb in the garden

When God commanded, "Let the land produce vegetation," this obviously included flowers.

My thumb tends to be more black than green, but I've always loved flowers. The past few years, I've been planting more and more perennials. I figure that "game plan" will eventually save work as well as money. One year, I ended up planting three separate "crops" of marigolds (annual flowers) after herds of earwigs kept devouring all the blooms.

Author Herbert Rappaport inspired my flower-planting passion. He wrote, "I hope that while so many people are out smelling the flowers, someone is taking the time to plant some."

A few months ago, I once again began burying perennial bulbs deep in the ground. But, as in times past, this activity quickly regressed into my now-common autumn ritual known as, "Power-Planting Perennial Bulbs."

We "PPPB people" share one distinguishing characteristic: the proclivity to procrastinate. If we weren't procrastinators, there would be no need to power-plant.

In October, I bought dozens of bulbs so our yard would be decorated with tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, and crocuses next spring. Regrettably, a beautiful week of Indian Summer arrived at our doorstep, and I was too occupied with other tasks



to even *think* about planting flowers. ("Let the procrastinating begin.")

With November fast approaching, colder weather began sleeping on that same doorstep. That reinforced my inactivity, since I was determined not to plant flowers with frozen fingers.

In early November, after reading that week's weather forecast, I suddenly realized I was running out of time. If I waited much longer to plant the bulbs, I would need a jackhammer to dig holes in the frozen ground.

So, when Monday rolled around, it was now or never. The forecast called for the temperature to reach into the high 50s, practically balmy for that time of year in Wisconsin. (The rest of the week was supposed to be cold and rainy, and it was.)

Since I lost an hour of sunshine that weekend due to Daylight Savings Time, I had to hurry more than ever to get the bulbs buried by nightfall. Using my handy-dandy drill with an attached bulb-planting bit, I worked

at a feverish pace, often drilling six-inch-deep holes in a matter of seconds.

I was acutely aware that my pace was feverish.

First off, sweat was literally dripping from my forehead onto my bifocals. (At times, I strained to see what I was doing.)

Secondly, the drill occasionally became too hot to hold. (As usual, I couldn't find even one matched set of my two-dozen garden gloves.)

Third, I planted the bulbs haphazardly. Normally, I plant flowers in orderly groupings, either alternating different colored flowers in distinct patterns or grouping similar-colored flowers.

I finished planting the last daffodil bulb not long after the streetlights came on. By that point, I was so tired and dirty that I dumped a pail of hard, "old" dirt over the holes instead of gently covering the bulbs with my usual mixture of topsoil, perlite, and peat moss.

After setting down my watering can, I picked up the drill's cord and pulled it out of our heavy-duty, outside extension cord—with my wet hands. (Senior Moment #574.) I got one heck of a shock and had a small blister on the side of my thumb to prove it.

As I headed into the house, I thought, *God will be pleased that I'm "replenishing" the earth with flowers.*

I also congratulated myself, twice. I not only completed yet another power-planting of perennial bulbs, I also escaped electrocution. **SR**



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

Stepping out in faith

by Nadine Lawton
Ashaway, RI

Our September 2011 Women's Society newsletter, "Simply Put," was dedicated to the subject of women's retreats. Whether it is a daylong seminar at church, a long weekend at camp, or a Women of Faith Conference, we enjoy getting together with our sisters in Christ. And we enjoy learning more about and worshipping our Lord and Savior.

We are not the only ones who enjoy getting together. During the Women's Interest Committee at Conference this past August, we had the privilege of having Ruth Lek of the Netherlands and Alefa Lozani of Malawi meet with us. Alefa told us how the women in Malawi enjoy going to the Central African Conference or the Seventh Day Baptist Women's Conference in Lilongwe.

Here in North America, we know it is not always inexpensive to attend conferences or to travel to them. It is the same in Malawi! While Craig and Alicia Mosher (from the Berlin, N.Y., SDB Church) were in Malawi, gas was \$7 per gallon—if it was available! Alicia was able to attend their Seventh Day Baptist Women's Conference.

How can we help our sisters in Malawi gather together for sharing, encouragement and spiritual growth?

That's right ladies, we have a mission project! As we begin this new year, it is a perfect time to challenge you with a mission project. This is

a time that many Christians try to make positive changes in their lives. Since many of our sisters in other countries walk wherever they go and many of us walk for exercise, let's make those steps *count* for our sisters. What a positive change for us and our Malawian friends!

Your challenge, should you choose to accept it, is to keep track of how far you walk from Ash Wednesday, February 22, through Resurrection Sabbath, April 7. Pledge and get pledges for every step or mile that you walk. To measure your steps, you might use a pedometer or drive the route you walk. If you prefer, you may run, jog, skip, or dance!

Your steps may take you around your neighborhood, a park, the mall, Wal-Mart, a few miles on the treadmill or elliptical, or through a Zumba class. Don't forget to count your steps in the grocery store!

Get out there and take that first step of faith! Maybe your steps will beat out the rhythm of the Scripture Memorization Verse for the month, helping you to memorize it.

After Resurrection Sabbath, collect your pledges. The following Sabbath, April 14th, gather with the ladies of your

church for a refreshing glass of water and to bring the pledges together. Have someone lead the group in a study of Matthew 5:41, "If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles." Or Jeremiah 6:16, "Thus says the Lord: "Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls." Perhaps a foot washing ceremony could be a part of your study. Or you could pamper each other with a foot massage and pedicure.

The Women's Board has agreed to match up to \$1,000.00. And Clint Brown, Executive Director of the Missionary Society, has said that they would be willing to send all the funds to our sisters in Malawi. So when you have rested your feet, please send your pledges to the Missionary Society at 19 Hillside Ave., Ashaway RI 02804.

Malawi is 530 miles long and 160 miles wide. How many of us can walk the length or width of Malawi during Lent? Will anyone be able to walk the length *and* width—690 miles?

Lace up those walking, running, or dancing shoes! Let's go the extra mile and help our Malawian sisters get to a conference. **SR**





A “mindset” for the changing world of publishing

Every year since 1998, two professors from Beloit College (not far from us here in Wisconsin) have released what they call “The Mindset List.” The original purpose of this list was to give professors insight into the mindsets of their incoming college freshmen.

This year’s list (at www.beloit.edu/mindset/2015) was particularly arresting. Among other things, college freshman in 2011:

- were likely born during the presidency of Bill Clinton.
- know the “Cold War,” the U.S.S.R., and the Berlin Wall (and its fall) only from history books.
- have only fuzzy memories of dial-up Internet, unless they live in the country. The Internet has always existed.
- Amazon has always been more than just a river in Brazil.
- may not realize that someone before basketball player LeBron James went by the initials LBJ.

The Mindset List shows us that all things continue to change, and things seem to be changing more rapidly than ever. This has certainly been the case for the *Sabbath Recorder* over its 167 years.

In June of 1994, around the same time this year’s high school seniors were entering the world and taking their first steps, our esteemed editor surveyed 150 years of the *Recorder*, summarizing its history and the many changes it had undergone to that point. There were changes in size—from very large to smaller

than the current publication. There were changes in content—from newspaper to magazine; many different columns have come and gone; and outside advertising has long been removed. There were changes in publication schedule—from weekly, to bi-weekly, back to weekly, then monthly. In all

“

Things seem to be changing more rapidly than ever.

”

of these cases, the *Recorder* was still an immediately tangible thing, produced and distributed with actual paper. Even that long-standing constant was about to change.

In the same issue that summarized the *Recorder’s* first century and a half, Kevin wrote an article called “The Bleeding Edge.” It referenced how difficult it was keeping up with recent technological changes; behind the cutting edge is the bleeding edge. Kevin noted that the “new” Macs the Tract Council purchased in 1991 were nearly out-of-date, and that his publishing contacts were looking forward to computers with CD drives which would replace floppy disks. (Kids reading this column—go ask your parents about floppy disks.)

By that point, rapid changes in technology must have seemed inevitable. Kevin correctly predicted that in the future, we would all “...be amazed at how ‘old-fashioned’ we were in 1994.” Kevin wasn’t done with his predictions in that column. He forecasted the importance of hard drives, e-mail, and newer, fancier software programs (“chewing up more and more memory space”) to aid in the production of the *Recorder*.

For his final prediction in the article, Kevin wondered about “downloading all the magazine info into your home computer, or you accessing just certain portions at your convenience from your voice-activated wristwatch satellite transponder.” The first of those things has certainly happened, and the second is close—though not on a watch, but through cellular phones. Will there be “an app for that” soon?

As we consider Kevin’s reaching his 250th issue, we should be thankful for his continued work for the Tract and Communication Council and the Conference. It is safe to say that no one in the history of our publishing efforts has gone through a period of greater technological change than Kevin, and the ship has continued to sail, maintaining its course. Kevin has manned the bridge and made sure that Seventh Day Baptist life is being reported on the pages (either on real paper or digitally) of the *Recorder*. Thank you, Mr. Editor! **SR**



So you say you need a pastor

What does pastoral search look like?

by Gordon Lawton, Dean
Director of Pastoral Services

From time to time I field a call from someone who asks, “So who is on the available list?” This is usually preceded by being told that the current pastor has just resigned. A list of names might seem like the place to start, but is it? *

Pastoral search is more than accepting resumes or asking COM for Pastor Profiles. If you want to be successful in the search process and have hope for a pastor who will stay awhile, there are some things that you will want to do so you can answer the question, “what gifting and skills do we want or need in our next pastor?”

The majority of Seventh Day Baptist pastors are bi-vocational. That means their focus is divided between the church’s ministry needs and the requirements of a job, even if it is in childcare so the spouse can be out of the home for a full-time job. Chances are your next pastor probably will be also.

You will need, as a congregation, to determine the tasks you can reasonably expect for your pastor to accomplish, and which responsibili-

ties you as a congregation will either do without or step up and cover.

The Center on Ministry has these tools to help you in this process:

- **Section J2 in the SDB Manual of Procedures** has some good suggestions. This is available at the Conference website at www.seventhdaybaptist.org/content/sdb-manual-procedures.


- **“Foundations for Pastoral Search”** is a booklet that speaks of the pastoral search process as well as suggesting three models that churches use to function. Each model requires different skills and abilities in a pastor. It also talks about leadership styles and matching expectations.

- **Pastoral Ministry Survey.** This is a survey of 12 areas of ministry needs that the congregation can complete and send to a candidate to see if church needs meet the candidate’s gifts and ability.

- **Pastor Profiles.** The Center on Ministry has Pastor Profiles completed by current pastors giving some biographical information as well as gifts, skills and some self-evaluation on tasks often done by pastors.

- **Salary Guidelines** are suggestions from the Conference Committee on Support and Retirement (COSAR) for minimum and goal salaries. There are also suggestions on how to manage expectations when a church can only provide a part-time salary. They are available at www.sdbministry.org/CosarSalaryRec.pdf

- **Sample forms and documents** may be helpful, including a Job Description Outline and a Sample Agreement between the congregation and the pastor.

Please feel free to contact me at the SDB Center with questions. Contact information is on page 3. 

More materials on Pastoral Search

Confirming the Pastoral Call: A Guide to Matching Candidates and Congregations by Joseph L. Umidi. (Probably the most helpful of the three)

When the Word Leads Your Pastoral Search: Biblical Principles & Practices to Guide Your Search by Chris Brauns.

When the Spirit Moves: A Guide for Ministers in Transition by Riley Walker and Marcia Patton.

* *Trouble is, there is seldom a “list of pastors” who are available. From time to time someone may let me know they would be open to a call, but even those who might be open have seen the SDB “grapevine” disperse information and are not ready to tell their current congregation. It is better to seek a pastor with the skills and gifting your church needs.*



This is the ENDS (to begin the new year)

God has called us to be diligent about the work and calling He has placed on our lives. While that call to be diligent needs to be exercised daily, when one year gives way to the next there is a natural inclination to think about where we are going and what we are doing. That inclination is present in organizations and people.

For the Board of Christian Education, it means we consider again our mission to provide programs and materials that encourage and equip Seventh Day Baptist churches to teach Evangelism, Nurture, Discipleship, and Stewardship. It also means that we think again about each of the identified teaching areas and look for ways to improve our ministry.

The following descriptions were crafted to help us think about these teaching areas. We've published them in our annual report to General Conference, but had never put them in the *Sabbath Recorder*. As this year begins, take a little time to think about how you engage in [Evangelism](#), [Nurture](#), [Discipleship](#), and [Stewardship](#).

Evangelism is proclaiming God's Gospel

Proclaiming God's Gospel to those inside and outside the Kingdom of God is evangelism. God works through evangelism to invite people to be reconciled to Himself, to make them part of His Kingdom, and to carry them through any trial. Evangelism is a direct result of the Spirit of God working in us to produce faith

and hope in the work of God through Jesus Christ, and to provide adequate expressions of that faith and hope for others to hear.

Christians proclaim the Gospel to each other in word, song, and teaching. Christians must share the Gospel with those who are saved and those who are lost.

Nurture is demonstrating God's nature

Demonstrating God's nature in deed and word is nurture. God works through nurture to show humanity a glimpse of His nature—preparing unbelievers to hear the Gospel and strengthening believers. Nurture is a direct result of the Spirit of God working in humans to produce “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control” (Galatians 5:22-23).

Christians show love to friends, enemies, and strangers because God first loved them (1 John 4:19). Christians must be holy because God is holy (1 Peter 1:15-16).

Discipleship is setting your heart on studying, doing, and teaching Christ's word and way

The life-long work to know the words and way of Jesus, to value that which He declared valuable, to develop the attitudes He commended, to do that which He commanded, and to teach others to do the same is discipleship. God works through discipleship to transform people by renewing their minds, correcting

their attitudes, and changing their behaviors.

Discipleship is a direct result of the Spirit of God working in humans “to open their eyes so that they turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a share among those who are sanctified” by faith in Jesus (Acts 26:18).

Christians rely on the love of God, the grace of Jesus, and the fellowship of the Spirit for discipleship. Even though it is hard work, it is not the Christian's own work that makes the transformation occur. Just as the Christian walk does not begin with “picking yourself up by the bootstraps,” it does not become the Christian's effort to make oneself right with God.

Stewardship is exalting Christ as King

Continually exalting Christ as King—Creator, Sustainer, Ruler, and Owner—and yielding to Him His rightful place is stewardship. In other words, stewardship is worship. God works through stewardship to help Christians know that they no longer belong to the domain of darkness but are transferred to the Kingdom of His beloved Son (Colossians 1:13). Stewardship is a direct result of the Spirit of God working in humans to help them yield all to God.

Christians use the resources God has entrusted in ways that will please Him. **SR**



FOCUS on Missions

Am I ready to serve?

by Clinton R. Brown

“Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.” (2 Timothy 2:3)

Paul, the apostle, wrote that we are to endure hardships as a good soldier. Since I was a soldier in the U.S. military, this admonishment in 2 Timothy 2:3 strikes a chord with me.

There are several other places in Paul’s letters we are warned to be on our guard against an adversary and to equip ourselves with the armor of God. It would seem that he is encouraging us to prepare for a battle with a very real enemy.

Serving in the army gave me opportunity to live out this practical application. I was prepared to face conflicts in the physical world and to achieve objectives laid out before me. I would not necessarily recommend enlisting in man’s armies to grow closer to God, but perhaps the Lord can use my experiences to help ready others for the good works He has prepared in advance for them.

For example, I learned that for soldiers to be fit for service it was best if they disciplined themselves in all aspects of their life:

1. Have your finances in order.

Before deployment, wills were made out, payroll direct deposits were set up, and attempts were made to resolve other financial concerns. Likewise, for us to be prepared to serve God, we should budget our funds so that we are not encumbered with credit card debt, or if avoidable, living week-to-week to pay our bills. If we are enslaved to the debts of this world, how can we serve the only Commander who is actually worthy?

2. Have a physical check-up.

Military soldiers are of little use if they cannot physically perform the objectives their commanders lay out for them. Therefore, keeping their soldiers’ bodies and essential equipment fit for battle is a priority of any good platoon sergeant. Along those same lines, we are poor soldiers in God’s army if through our own negligence we allow our physical bodies to fall into disrepair. Poor food choices and inactivity top the list of easy traps to fall into if we do not remain alert. Would it not delight the enemy if none of the opposing soldiers could join the battle because they couldn’t talk themselves into getting off their couches?

3. Train for the mission objectives.

Sending soldiers out on a mission untrained would be unthinkable. Soldiers are drilled again and again over the materials they should learn to perform their part in the mission. Similarly, if we are serious about doing our part in God’s plan for our lives we should study the resources He has made available. He provided the perfect trainer in the Holy Spirit and other learning through Christian teachers, as well as the most comprehensive training manual of them all, His Word. We should continually seek to become more proficient in sharing our Faith and to share the reason for the Hope within us.

4. Always keep in communication with headquarters.

Operating and keeping communications equipment in good working order is essential to a modern soldier’s training. If you cannot communicate with your commanding officers, you will not be able to get the support you need. Often you will end up in the wrong place or get in serious trouble if you fall out of communications. The parallel here is obvious. If we do not pray and keep in constant communication with the Lord, how can we expect to have the relationship we need to face the conflicts of this world and an enemy that is prowling around seeking to devour us?

Like soldiers, we are not intended to go it alone. We train with our brethren and seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit in our united efforts to advance Christ’s kingdom here on earth. None of this is to suggest that we can achieve God’s plans through our own meager efforts. However, if we are earnest in our desire to share our Father’s love and minister to those in need, should we not do our part in being soldiers fit and ready for service? **SR**

*“For we are God’s workmanship,
created in Christ Jesus to do good works,
which God prepared in advance for us to do.”
(Ephesians 2:10)*



the BEACON

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

January 2012

Are you doing your best?

*by Rebecca Olson
Berlin, N.Y.*

We've been discussing "laziness" recently in my Sabbath School class. Our teacher, Josh, taught us that there are different kinds of laziness, from procrastination to just not doing the work at all.

My good friend and I argued that we were never lazy, at least not when it comes to school. In fact, we always get our work done ahead of time, and save the free time for after it's done.

Josh told us that was being "responsibly lazy"—getting the work done quickly so you can slack off afterward. We insisted this was not true. If we get straight A's, and do a better job than anyone else in the class, how can that be slacking off?

"Ah," he said, "but is it your *best* work?" He tried to explain that just because it's the best in the class doesn't mean it's up to par. He said that God had given us the gift of knowledge, and we weren't using it by His standards. God wants us to do *our* best, not the "best" of the kid sitting next to me.

I'm afraid to say that I didn't quite get it. I was stuck in this mindset that if I could get the same grade by doing half the work, why should I do the best work I can do? Still, I

resolved to try out his idea for a little while.

I have to admit, it felt pretty good when my English teacher read the class my insightful answer to a question, or when my average came out three points higher than any of my friends. But all this work just seemed to be going to my head. And I was pretty sure that being arrogant about my gift was just as bad as not using it.

It took me another week before I finally got what Josh had been saying. I went in to take a test in one of my classes, and at the end of the test was an essay. Within the 40-minute period, I wrote the very best essay I possibly could. It was the front and back of two pages, and it included every detail I could remember about the chapter.

I was proud of what I had accomplished, but this time I didn't feel better than anyone else. I had done my best, and it was all I could do.

After we left the room, I talked to a friend of mine who had finished the test early and had already received his grade. He told me that he had written a front of one page in less than half the period, and had gotten 100% on the essay.

All of a sudden, the "responsibly lazy" idea came into focus to me.

How was it fair that I worked a lot harder, and from what he said, wrote something of much better quality, and he could still get full credit? It didn't seem right that he could get a perfect score without even really working for it.

I suddenly got the picture that just because the bare minimum gets you the credit, doesn't mean you deserve it. From now on, I'm going to try to do my best on everything, no matter how insignificant in the long run.

How about your own gifts? Whether God has given you a talent in music, writing, athletics, or anything else, you should always be striving to use it the best you can. Use your gift to bless the people around you, whether at home, school, work, or church.

God hasn't given us these gifts to take for granted. If we don't use them, we might as well not have them. God doesn't want us to give Him something that's just "good enough." He expects our very best. And that's something we should always be giving Him.

*"Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people."
(Colossians 3:23, NLT) SR*

I surrender... Really?

by Micayla Neher
Dodge Center, Minn.

At SCSC training a few years ago I was reading *My Utmost for His Highest* by Oswald Chambers. One devotional reflected on John 15:13—“Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friend.”

Chambers approached this verse from an entirely different perspective than I had ever heard before. He talked about how God longs for us to be His friend, to be in relationship with Him. If we believe this to be true, then we should want to surrender our lives to Him and allow Him to lead us on a path that will be pleasing to His will.

I thought about this verse, and Chambers’ perspective of it, in the context of that summer and how I was dedicating those weeks to God’s work. I was giving Him my life to do with it what He pleased. I grew a lot that summer and learned much about being in-tune with God and seeking after His purpose.

“
***Will we choose
to let God guide
us, or will we
take the reins
ourselves?***
”


Recently, I’ve had to remind myself of God’s promises. Yes, He knows the plan and purpose for my life, but the realization that graduation is coming this spring has been weighing on my heart. The worries of where I’m going to go and what I want to be have been pressing on me, and at times it brings fear and doubt into my life.

I fear that I’m not going to figure it out in time and I’ll be wandering without a plan to lead me. I find myself getting worked up about these worries, fears, and doubts so much

that I forget that God already knows what plan He wants me to seek.

At times like these I am so grateful that God is patient and gracious with His children. He presents us with many lessons, and yet it takes us so long to learn and take to heart.

It has been about two years since I first started learning this lesson and I’m sure I’ve had to remind myself of it at least a dozen times already. But God patiently waits for me to come back to Him and say, “All right God, I’m ready to give you my life [again]. Take it and do with it what You may. I will trust in You and I know You will never let me fail.”

As young adults who are embarking on journeys of discovery—spiritually, vocationally, and relationally—we will always be faced with decisions to make. Our most important decision is who we will allow to guide the course of our lives. Will we choose to let God guide us, or will we take the reins ourselves? 

Denominational Dateline

January 2012

- 14-15 North Loup, NE Church—*Nick Kersten*
- 21 MOST Seminar, New York City SDB—*Andrew Camenga*
- 21-22 COM Annual Meeting, SDB Center, Janesville, WI—*Gordon Lawton*
- 21-22 Memorial Fund Quarterly, Houston, TX—*Morgan Shepard, Rob Appel*
- 22 Missionary Society Quarterly, Ashaway, RI—*Clinton Brown*
- 24 CANOPY Pastors’ Gathering, Verona, NY—*Camenga, Kevin Butler*
- 28 Women’s Board Executive Committee, Tomah, WI—*Althea Rood*

February

- 4 Sabbath School Seminar, Portland, OR—*Camenga*
- 17 CLT, SDB Center
- 18-20 General Council, SDB Center
- 26 BCE Directors Meeting, Alfred Station, NY—*Camenga*

March

- 5 Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty, Washington, DC—*Appel*
- 18 Missionary Society Annual Meeting, Ashaway—*Brown*



The President's Page
by John Pethtel

Buckhannon, WV July 29–Aug. 4, 2012

Affection moves us to share

“So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the Gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.” (1 Thessalonians 2:8, ESV)

The book *Real Hope in Chicago* is about a high school coach named Wayne Gordon. He was doing a Bible study after school with some inner city kids in the Lawndale area—the second poorest community in the country, full of issues with drugs and gangs. God gave the coach such a desirous heart for that community that he moved to Lawndale.

The kids urged him not to move there because it would be very dangerous for him, but Wayne moved there anyway. He got attacked by one of the gangs and had his house broken into again and again.

He persevered not for himself or a sense of duty but a desire to love these kids, share the Gospel, and share his life with them. In other words, the Gospel didn't just transform the people; it transformed the entire community. Wayne Gordon had lived out the truth of 1 Thessalonians 2:8.

Being affectionately desirous

I love being affectionate with my wife and kids. It indicates my desire to continue my relationship with them. Affection is not always physical. It can be demonstrated in a myriad of ways.

How do you communicate affection and desire to your community and to people who visit your church? (Think about what your church communicates with others when you don't answer the phone, your website is out of date, or your property sits empty most of the week.)

I love it when I get to see my friends and other church members at church every Saturday. However, my desire is for others to know the same Jesus who changed my life almost 20 years ago. My affection lets others know that I want them to not just have a relationship with Jesus, but with me as well.

Ready to share the Gospel

According to this passage, the Gospel is not just words but also how believing those words can impact your life. It concerns me that many folks cannot articulate the Gospel of Jesus. This does not bode well for being ready to share it.

If we know Christ, we all have a testimony to share concerning how the Gospel saves. If He has been working in our lives, we all have a testimony to live concerning how the Gospel transforms.

Can you give your testimony to what Jesus has saved you from, saved you for, and saved you to? If you can, then you can speak to the infinite love and grace and mercy of God, and live it among those who don't know Him. If you can't, then will you practice with a friend?

But also our own selves

Sacrificing animals for the atonement of sins is no longer necessary for our reconciliation with God. The death of Jesus provided the ultimate and once-for-all scapegoat for the trespasses of those who abide in Him.

However, there still is a sacrifice to occur by Christians. Romans 12:1 appeals to us *“to present your bodies as a living sacrifice.”* While martyrdom and a physical death in defense of our faith qualifies here, I do not believe that Paul is calling us all to die as martyrs. This passage refers to living your life in such a way that *God* is ordering the steps and not yourself.

Part of our desire for others to know Christ is to provide them with not just testimony of how the Gospel transforms our lives, but an example of how that life is lived. Part of sharing ourselves for the sake of the Gospel is not necessarily moving to the ghetto but allowing others to see how the Gospel impacts your workplace, your marriage, your finances, and your priorities.

ARE YOU READY as churches to be affectionately desirous of your communities, to share the Gospel in word and deeds, and sacrifice your preferences in service of Him? *ARE YOU READY* for the Gospel of Jesus Christ to take its preeminent place in our pulpits and our lives? **SR**



by Executive Director
Rob Appel

Endurance takes encouragement

When I was a senior in high school I severely twisted my ankle walking back after track practice. It was early in the season and the ankle kept getting reinjured almost daily in practice.

As a long jumper, I had to land hard on this sore ankle with every jump I made into the big sand pit. At most competitions I would get one jump, and that was it. I couldn't make the second or third attempts because I was in so much pain and couldn't even run to make the next jump. It made for a very interesting track season.

At the end of the year, regional and sectional meets were held to decide who would go on to compete in the State Finals. The regionals were being hosted at my hometown high school. With my injury, I realized I might have only one shot—and one jump—to qualify for the sectionals.

I made my first jump and the ankle held up. That was good because my toe went beyond the start line by just a fraction of an inch and the jump did not count. When my next turn came the ankle twisted in the landing pit. OUCH! That was it, no more jumping that day.

I waited for the other jumpers to finish. The top three would go on to

sectionals. I missed the cut by less than one half of an inch!

I remember distinctly the kid from Stoughton, Wis., coming up to me and saying, "You are a great jumper! If your ankle wasn't such a mess you would have beat me." I wished him the best at sectionals. The bottom line is, he made my track season a success because of his words.

I think about this incident a lot. I'm not sure why, other than it was encouraging to me at a time I could have been discouraged. When was the last time we encouraged someone when they were at the bottom and couldn't see any way out of the pit?

The *Sabbath Recorder* has been a magazine of encouragement for over 167 years! It has gone through many transformations. With new on-line versions, it is continuing to morph into a magazine that is still relevant today. But it needs your help, your encouragement.

What do you want from your SDB magazine that comes faithfully to you 11 times a year? What do you long to see written in its pages? Or, do you even read the *SR* anymore? If you are reading this, please drop me a line that lets me know you even saw this article. My e-mail is robappel@seventhdaybaptist.org.

We hear very little feedback. That can be discouraging to the many writers for the *SR*.

This month we're noting the 250th issue that Kevin Butler has produced. That's quite the accomplishment. Let's see, 250 issues, 11 issues a year... that makes it nearly 23 years of editing. WOW!

Many things are ranked in this world: movies, songs, sports teams, law firms, steakhouses, just to name a few. I'm wondering if Kevin was to rank the 250 issues, what order would he put them in? Would some of the earliest ones be ranked high, simply because he was encouraged during that time? Or would some of the more cutting edge, or maybe controversial issues rise in the poll?

We all need encouragement! We all need feedback, whether good or constructive. So make the jump, take some time, and encourage those who need some words that can put them back on top.

Romans 15:5-6 says, "May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."

May God Bless you all in this New Year! **SR**



The heartbeat of giving

by Morgan Shepard

*“But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you —see that you also excel in this grace of **giving**.” (2 Corinthians 8:7, NIV)*

At the Coordinating Leadership Team (CLT) meetings in December, I presented the chart below depicting overall monthly giving from 2008 to 2011. The initial comment is that it looked like a heartbeat.

Besides the chart’s statistical significance, the heartbeat is a good analogy. The high and lows are the individual months. The solid flat line is the budgeted average, and the dashed line shows the actual trend in giving (both fairly flat).

In any given year we usually have two months when giving hits a peak, a month or two when the valleys hit a low, but overall the patient is healthy. For 2011 those peaks weren’t as strong as in past years. This has led to the Boards and Agencies having to dip into reserves

more than expected. I expect the churches have experienced the same decrease in “cash flow.”

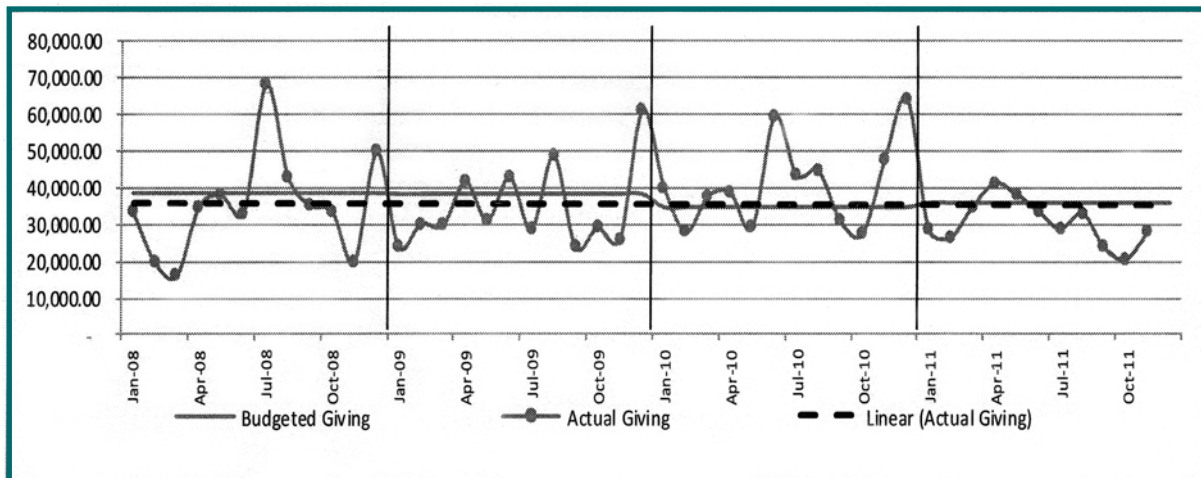
Let’s get one thing clear: our lifeblood is not the gifts you give but Christ’s blood shed for us. We tap into that by accepting His saving grace. We have faith that He will provide. Our faith is shown by giving back to God, whether that is money, time or whatever.

As you think about your tithes and gifts for 2012, we ask that you consider the ministries of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference and the Boards and Agencies that do the work—*after* you consider your church first!

Here are the Designated and Undesignated giving needs for 2012:

Conference Services	161,600
COSAR/PROP	10,250
Christian Social Action	2,000
Council on Ministry	111,000
Tract & Comm. Council	52,000
Women’s Society	28,000
Bd of Christian Education	47,500
Missionary Society	39,000
Historical Society	3,800
TOTAL	455,150
Monthly Average	37,929

God gave us His Son who gave us eternal life. What can we give? Give THANKS! **SR**



A new life in Jesus

Another successful SDB camp

by Georgia Fairclough
 Agape SDB Church
 St. Albans, NY

Seventh Day Baptist children have always looked forward to youth camp. As an adult, I reflected on the years gone by and vowed that I would not succumb to the flat, hard beds, the laborious task of getting the kids to go to bed at “lights out,” and waking up with huge mosquitoes hovering over my head, just looking for an unprotected spot to inject their sting.

I even recalled the discovery of a water snake in the bathroom stall. This caused such a scare that everyone was afraid to take a shower even after it was caught and found to be non-poisonous.

Even with these memories, I could not resist going to camp this past summer. The truth is, I only remembered those things after getting there.

Camp at Jersey Oaks (Shiloh, N.J.) has always been a time of fun, getting to know each other better, making new friends, getting away from the television and other electronic gadgets, and spending quality time learning more about God. That’s always our focus at camp—to stop and reflect on who God is in our lives and how blessed we are to have and know each other. It is always an adventure, and this year was no different. In fact, to me, this was one of the best years.

Our camp committee members at the Agape church worked hard to make this venture possible. After collecting over 40 registration forms, we knew that we would need a large bus to transport all these children

and adults (along with their baggage) to and from camp.

We were low on funds, and with little support we couldn’t see how this was going to happen. But God has a way of working things out. Philippians 4:13 became so true to us as we prayed and trusted God to provide suitable transportation.



A bus was finally located two weeks before camp and the driver was willing to take us there for half the cost. What a blessed hope! Yet, even those funds were not available, so we prayed some more and trusted God even more. God laid on us the idea of a concert.

A concert—one week before camp, to raise funds for transportation—seemed unlikely. However, the faithful few set to work. After much calling and asking for items for the concert, it was finally done. The concert was a success! Enough funds were collected and we thanked God for showing Himself strong in our plans.

The day finally came to gather at the church to leave our regular city life of comfort and go to a place

where we would have to rely on each other for support. What seemed like “ages” to some was all too soon for me when the bus arrived. We loaded our baggage and boarded one by one, all 49 of us, and our journey began.

Some checked to make sure they had bug repellent, while others discussed sleeping arrangements. I thought to myself, *This is going to be a long ride.* I sat down and soon fell asleep.

The noise of excited children alerted me that we had reached our destination. Eagerly waiting for the green light of liberation, everyone dashed off the bus, heading to the dorm to secure the “right bed.” But they were quickly stopped in their tracks and told to meet in the Mess Hall. Their disappointment was short-lived as they were soon released and the race for the beds resumed.

The theme for camp was “A New Life in Christ,” focusing on 2 Corinthians 5:17. Our schedule was packed with activities. Each morning after having devotions in our dorms, we would meet in the Mess Hall where Pastor Ronald Smith gave us a lecture on the importance of reading our Bibles, and how to make that evident by using an actual Bible and not our electronic gadgets. He stated that no one will know that you are reading your Bible and that you cannot attract others to the Word of God if you are reading the Bible from your iPod or iPad.

Sabbath day was led by the young adults. We were reminded by two

cont. next page

New life in Jesus, *cont. from p. 23*

of our young speakers, Akilia and Matthew, that Jesus was the only way to a new life. We should not look to anyone else for this new life. Our speakers reminded us that having a perfect heart before God is what God sees. He wants to give us a new life if we put our faith and trust in him.

God was really working on the hearts of our young people. We were encouraged by their words and their willingness to share.

Classes were arranged according to age and every student participated with much enthusiasm. Before the day was over, we had eight new converts and many who had voiced how blessed they were to be at camp this year.

One young man named David was attending for the first time. He said this unequivocally: "I have finally found what I have been looking for, a remnant of young people who are seeking after God and still want God in their lives." He also mentioned that though at first he did not want to go to camp, he felt so blessed in coming. The experience was wonderful for him, and he was glad to be there.



David was such an inspiration to the young people and even us adults. The Sabbath ended with a time of rest and relaxation which some of us really took advantage of.

Sunday, our last full day at camp, started out like every other day. Everyone was waiting for the sports activities to begin. Activities were tug-of-war, 100-meter races, basketball, and volleyball competition. The day was teeming with the sound of laughter everywhere. We were having such a good time competing against each other that we didn't realize that dinner time had passed.

We quickly did our necessary washing to get ready for the formal dinner, getting all dressed up for

that occasion. The food was great! Thanks to the cooks who worked so hard to make sure we had a delectable dinner and supper—not to mention breakfast. We then got ready for campfire sing-along. Roasting marshmallows to make s'mores and playing ring games made for a wonderful, fun-filled evening.

As the saying goes, "Every good thing must come to an end." That was Monday for all of us; time to go home. After breakfast, we had to make sure everything was in order. Beginning our cleaning in the dorms, we moved to the camp grounds, then to the kitchen until inspection was passed. Finally, the bus came.

Some of us (namely me) boarded reluctantly as others got on quickly while expressing their disgust of the bothersome bugs. The journey back home seemed long as I watched some fall asleep and others counted their bug bites. I thought about the goodness of God and how He had truly blessed us with the beauty of nature, the warmth of love felt from fellowshiping together, and the joy of a new life in Him. *SR*

Is he looking at the building because...

- a. It is about to fall over?
- b. I know what a "lean to" is... but the whole house?
- c. Is the house holding up the bike, or the other way around?
- d. He needs your help but is not sure how to ask?

Please contact Pastor Dave Taylor or the SDB Missionary Society about the Brazil Parsonage Proposal.
sdbtaylor@verizon.net or
director@sdbmissions.org.



New member

Little Rock, AR
Jeffrey Monroe, Pastor
Joined after testimony
Elsie L. Dodson

Births

Parker.—A son, Samuel Robert, was born to Brandon and Kelly (Freed) Parker of Thornton, CO on November 25, 2011.

Van Horn.—A daughter, Ava Faith, was born to Christopher and Veronica (Borman) Van Horn of Columbus, OH on December 7, 2011.

The **Paint Rock, Alabama, SDB Church** is looking for a new pastor. Pastor John Bevis has recently retired after faithfully nurturing our flock for the past 26 years.

Paint Rock is a little town on U.S. Highway 72, situated between the beautiful mountains of the Appalachian foothills. Huntsville, an easy 15-minute drive, is a pleasant city with a broad cultural mix. Thanks to NASA and the Missile Defense Agency, there are numerous technology-driven businesses and a geographically diverse population. There are also three universities in Huntsville, and some smaller community colleges in the area.

Our congregation is looking forward to the blessings God has for our future. Please contact Steve Butler (256) 723-4675, smbutler@nehp.net or Jane Montgomery (256) 772-9487.

Obituary

Betty J. Snyder, 88, of Milton, Wis., passed away peacefully at home among family on November 30, 2011.

She was born in Lawrence, Kansas on March 26, 1923, the daughter of Paul and Vida (Phillips) Cannady, Sr.

Betty attended Kansas University and the University of Arkansas. She was employed by the Dodge County Community Mental Health Center in Juneau, Wis. She moved from the Beaver Dam, Wis., area in the mid-1990s and was a member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church in Milton. Betty was happiest when in the company of her family. Her family always said she was the world's best listener, and will miss her laughter, beautiful singing, Boogie Woogie piano playing and her love.

She is survived by her six children: Hank Snyder of Waupun, Wis., Sally Schultz of Janesville, Wis., Margaret Quandt of Beaver Dam, Barbara Spreen of Hempstead, Texas, Kathy Snyder of Janesville, and Paul Snyder of Milton; 14 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; and a sister, Genova Brister of Arkansas City, Kan.

Betty was preceded in death by a brother, Paul Cannady Jr.; three infant grandchildren; and one infant great-granddaughter.

A memorial service was held on December 4, 2011, at the SDB Church in Milton, with Rev. George Calhoun officiating. Burial of her cremains will take place in Kansas. **SR**

Dear SR friends,
You may e-mail your family/church news to editor@seventhdaybaptist.org. Or you can "friend" us on Facebook at "Sabbath Recorder" and be in touch that way. Thanks!

Death Notices

Gordon C. Kilts, 85, of Queensbury, NY died on October 26, 2011.

Lillian F. Poling, 77, of Huntsville, AL died on December 5, 2011.



Women's Society Robe of Achievement 2012 Nominations

The Robe of Achievement Committee of the 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

containing 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, 2012**, but there is no need to wait until the last minute to submit your nomination. The committee will gladly accept them any time. If you nominated someone before and they were not chosen, please resubmit your nomination.

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

Wednesdays for Fasting and Prayer

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

In 2010 General Conference passed an important recommendation. Responding to the continuing interest and passion in church planting throughout the denomination, delegates made their desire known that each Wednesday should be a day of fasting and prayer to seek God's guidance in this matter.

Each Wednesday will focus on:

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

Let's unify in prayer. Allow the Lord to direct you to commit 15 minutes of your day to prayer. Let's pray from 6:00 am Eastern time to 6:00 pm Pacific time for a renewed vision for our denomination in national missions! To God be the glory!



KEVIN'S

ORNER

Is this real life?

The call came from one of Vivian's daughters. "My sister Shirley just phoned to say that Mom passed away."

Vivian had been in painful suffering for weeks. This was a relief for her and the family.

Shirley is a Registered Nurse. The professional in Shirley had been describing her Mom's condition in somewhat clinical and third-person terms. Vivian's hallucinations and confused state showed us that she wasn't the vibrant woman she once was. She wasn't the "real" Vivian.

After visiting Vivian here in Wisconsin, another sibling had to return to Florida but was on the phone at the appropriate moment. Shirley, knowing the signs of a body giving out, had called Butch to let him say goodbye. She put the phone up to their Mom's ear, and as Butch mustered up "I love you, Mom," Vivian let out a gentle moan and breathed her last.

It was a peaceful and surreal home-going. When we talked about it, the "nurse" in Shirley was replaced by the "daughter."

This was her Mom. This became real. The tears finally came.

That same evening, our son Jackson was surfing the channels on TV and we got hooked on a "Narnia" movie.

Prince Caspian, a human, awakens to see that he is in the home of a dwarf and a talking badger. He soon discovers that the land is also inhabited by minotaurs, centaurs, other talking animals and dancing trees.

Was this real life?

You might be thinking of a home video that went "viral" on the internet. It captures a young boy trying to shake off the effects of drugs following a dental visit. He is clearly not succeeding.

After "seeing" some strange visions, he asks quite sincerely, "Is this real life??"

Believers are called to live by faith, not just by sight or by what we *think* is "real." Things might not always be what they look like.

Think about the whole crucifixion of our Savior. The Jews and the Romans thought that they were killing a man. They thought that when they were done with Jesus, *He* would be done.

They thought that the nails and the cross would end it. They thought that the spear would certainly finish the job. They thought that the stone in front of the tomb was heavy enough to keep Him buried forever.

It all looked so real to those who watched. The cross was real, to those who saw Christ become a corpse. The crown of thorns was real. The blood was real. The last breath and the last words were real. The nails were real hard, and the spear was real sharp.

Jesus was real dead.

But on the third day, that real stone was not covering the entrance any more. The real burial cloths were lying there with no body. The women brought real ointments to anoint a corpse, but Jesus was gone.

One more thing was real: the Resurrection!

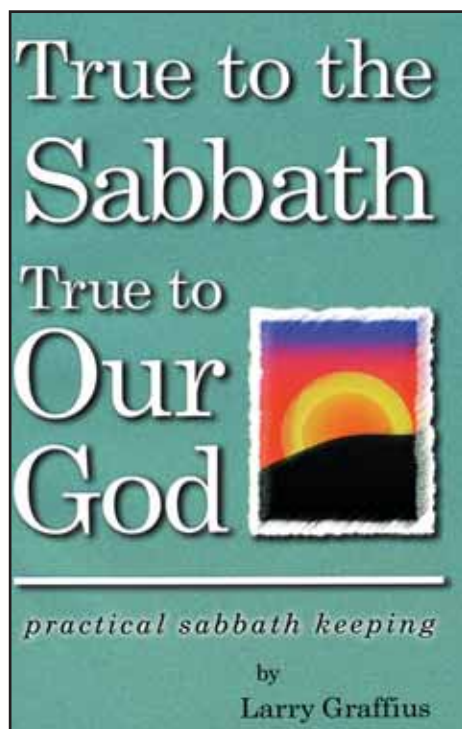


If I am ever threatened in a life-or-death situation and asked if I am prepared to die, I hope I have the wits and strength to recite one of the first Bible passages I memorized:

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself up for me" (Galatians 2:20).

THAT is real life.





**Why is Sabbath keeping
a significant principle
for believers?**

**What does it mean to
keep the Sabbath
Holy?**

**How do we practice
Sabbath keeping
today?**

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