



# The Sabbath RECORDER

December 2012

*News for and about Seventh Day Baptists*

*Cancer? In my throat?*

***“I will  
sing!!”***

---

**Plus:**

**No gas or heat?  
“God is enough”**  
*p. 23*

**The “Blame  
Game”** *p. 13*

**Lessons from  
a squirrel** *p. 19*



## Who are Seventh Day Baptists?

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

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

### The seventh day

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

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

## Opportunity at SDB Missionary Society

"Missions Coordinator"  
(based in Rhode Island)

**Purpose:** To assist the Executive Director in coordinating and communicating activities of SDB missions.  
*Full-Time Salary, Benefits, Permanent Position*

**Start Date:** Jan.– Mar. 2013  
(Must apply by 12/31/12)

**Requirements:** Qualifications include good communication skills, knowledge of Microsoft Office, attention to detail, and a passion for missions. Bookkeeping and strong organizational skills a plus. Rhode Island office-based position with some travel required.

**Job summary** available at [www.SDBMissions.org](http://www.SDBMissions.org)  
Send questions and resume/cover letter to [info@sdbmissions.org](mailto:info@sdbmissions.org)



Applications for SCSC team members and church projects have been posted on the Women's Board website. Please watch "How Do I Apply for SCSC?" at [sdbwomen.org/application-information](http://sdbwomen.org/application-information), then go to [sdbwomen.org/scsc-forms](http://sdbwomen.org/scsc-forms), 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, 2013. All church applications must be postmarked by January 31, 2013—NO Exceptions.

Please note: Students are limited to only two weeks of camp. Training dates are June 12–20. This will be a four-week on-site project, with General Conference as the fifth week of project with the PDs supervising if possible. See the website for further information. You may contact the SCSC Committee at the address above or at [SCSC@miltonsdb.org](mailto:SCSC@miltonsdb.org).



Establ. 1844

December 2012  
Volume 234, No. 12  
Whole No. 6,989

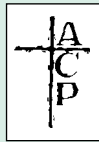


**A Seventh Day Baptist publication**  
**SabbathRecorder.org**

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

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

This is the 168th year of publication for *The Sabbath Recorder*. First issue published, June 13, 1844. Member of the Associated Church Press. The *Sabbath Recorder* does not necessarily endorse signed articles.



**Kevin Butler**  
Editor

editor@seventhdaybaptist.org

ⓔ = Editor's Circle members

**Contributing Editors**

Rob Appel, Clinton Brown, Andrew J. Camenga, Nathan Crowder, Katrina Goodrich, Barb Green, Nicholas Kersten, Gordon Lawton, Ralph Mackintosh, Seth Osborn, 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.

# Features

**“I will sing!!”** ..... 4  
by Dan Richards  
*While rehearsing for a play about a struggle with cancer, a sore throat turns into something all too real.*

**Learning to dance in the rain** ..... 7  
by Linda Lyke  
*A daughter has just enough time to do some Bible studies with her dying mother, and they both learn some eternal lessons.*

---

**2012 Feature Index** ..... 11

**2012 Department Index** ..... 26

# Departments

<b>Reflections</b> ..... 12 <i>Carols, colors and customs</i>	<b>Young Adults</b> ..... 19 <i>Lessons from a squirrel</i>
<b>Women’s Society</b> ..... 13 <i>The “Blame Game”</i>	<b>President’s Page</b> ..... 20 <i>God’s Footsteps in our lives</i>
<b>The Nick of Time</b> ..... 14 <i>Signs of life</i>	<b>Alliance In Ministry</b> ..... 21 <i>Looking forward with resolve</i>
<b>Center on Ministry</b> ..... 15 <i>Don Richards profile</i>	<b>Financial Faith</b> ..... 22 <i>The Phases of Retirement (Part 1)</i>
<b>Christian Education</b> ..... 16 <i>What it takes to be a great teacher</i>	<b>SDB news</b> ..... 23 <i>Appalachian Ladies Retreat</i>
<b>Focus on Missions</b> ..... 17 <i>Your ready-made Christmas gift list</i>	<b>Family flux</b> ..... 25
<b>The Beacon</b> ..... 18 <i>Rest assured—God has a plan</i>	<b>Kevin’s Korner</b> ..... 27 <i>Ignoring the warnings</i>

## Even with a rare cancer in my throat—



**“I will sing!!”**

*by Dan Richards  
Texarkana, Arkansas*

There I was with a beautiful wife, five fantastic children, and part of a great loving church. Life was so good. But then, as if overnight, my life was turned upside down.

In the past I had directed the youth and adult church choirs in Christmas pageants. It was a lot of fun letting my imagination loose and trying to get others to do the same. (Picture Pastor Mynor Soper in a gorilla suit.)

Over the years, I tried to make the pageants more and more challenging. I found that it made the program and rehearsals exciting for all involved. It was good to stretch ourselves.

For Christmas of 2002, we took a really big step of faith. We decided to present “Christmas Shoes.” The practices were going great and we had a big portion of our church involved in the production.

### **Better get this sore throat checked out**

Thanksgiving arrived and I had developed a sore throat. At the job site with my carpentry business, the plumbers needed to do their thing so I was going to be shut down for three or four hours. Now, I’m not one to go to the doctor very much and didn’t really want to go then. But with a couple of solos in the upcoming program, I decided to get a jump on this sore throat.

At the doctors that day, we found out that my left tonsil was swollen so big that it was half way across my throat. (That explains those squeaky notes.) The doctor put me on a week’s worth of heavy antibiotics to see if it would improve. It didn’t. So, off to the Ear, Nose & Throat specialist.

Knowing that a tonsillectomy might be coming, our Christmas program needed a backup plan,

just in case. The ENT doctor took a look down my throat and made that “Hmm...” sound that makes your mind wander to places you really don’t want to go. Her comment was, “This could be serious.”

Now I’ve always heard that a tonsillectomy for an adult was serious, but come on now—you cut it off and take it out. How serious can that be? Come on, it’s just a tonsil!

What came next was a total shock, one I don’t wish on anyone. “It looks like it might be cancer. I am going to get a CAT scan scheduled,” she said and left the room.

Needless to say, I was in shock. “*What did she say? Did I hear her right?*”

I am not too sure how I felt over the next few days. Unbelief... fear... anger... denial... The doctor said, “*MIGHT* be cancer, not that it *WAS* cancer.” That was what I kept telling myself. This was a bad dream and I just wanted to wake up.

### **A sad Christmas story becomes real**

It wasn’t until I told the cast for the church play about the possibilities, that it hit me. I can still feel the tears running down my face and see the tears in the eyes

---

***This was not “rehearsal” anymore.  
This was real and we all were going to  
have to examine our own lives and how much  
we trusted the Lord through this experience.***

of those there. It was just about more than I could take. What we had been working so hard on for the last couple of months, was now happening for real.

I had been telling them that with this program, we were going to have the audience laughing and then turn that laughter into tears, and then make them examine their own personal lives and their walk with the Lord. Now, it was no longer just a story on paper to be acted out; this was not “rehearsal” anymore. This was real and we all were going to have to examine our own lives and how much we trusted the Lord through this tough, real-life experience.

### **From roller coaster to rock-solid support**

As much as I hoped that it was not cancer, I knew it was. It wasn't an “Oh ye of little faith” thing, I just seemed to know that it was cancer. So on December 20th, when they did the tonsillectomy, I was not totally shocked when the results came back.

The next few months resembled a roller coaster ride of emotion. We would never have guessed that there could be so many ups and downs, or

so many twists and turns, trying to eject us from this ride that we were on. It seemed as though we were out of control and not really sure of who was in control.

After months of being poked and prodded and put through this test and that test, being run through this tube and that tube to get pictures of my “parts,” we were exhausted! And we hadn't started treatment yet or even knew what kind of cancer it was.

Finally we had a name: **Mantel Cell Lymphoma** was our new nemesis. (One of the rarest of the non-Hodgkins lymphomas.) At least we knew what it was called. Now, what kind of treatment would be required?

It was (and still is) so amazing to us how big the family of God became. This family of believers was always there, even before the cancer—our eyes were just not focused on them. Prayers and concern and encouragement came in from all over the country. Many of you prayed countless prayers and we *thank you so much*.

### **Everything pointed toward Houston**

It seemed as though every one of our friends in the medical field were all pointing to MD Anderson Cancer Center and a treatment system call-

ed Hyper CVAD. It was a treatment that was researched and started there at Anderson in Houston and was having some good results.

During our many prayers about what to do, I couldn't stop thinking of my cousin, Dr. Richard Wheeler. We needed to have some direction so we called him to get his advice. After researching it a few days, Richard called to tell us that MD Anderson looked like a very good option to take.

We decided to wait and see what our oncologist proposed to attack this monster inside of me. Her suggested treatment was (surprise, surprise) Hyper CVAD. Now... how do I ask her about going to MD Anderson to get this treatment? I appreciated all of her work and wanted her to know that. She had become more than just a doctor to us, she had become a friend.

### **How would she handle a second opinion?**

Our oncologist was a woman from India. At my next office visit, she seemed to sense that something was wrong and asked what was going on. She pulled a chair up and started asking me questions about my family. (We had just lost a cousin to cancer.)

For the next half hour, we didn't talk of cancer at all. We talked about my family and she shared some about her family over in India and what life there was like. Those 30 minutes were key for me. It made me realize once again that I wasn't

the only one in this. It was a battle for all of us to fight together and I needed to do everything that I could to beat this thing. I found a new friend.

This made it harder yet to ask her for a second opinion. But I did. "I know from my research that this treatment system was developed at MD Anderson. Would I be wise to go there?"

My new friend sat in a chair and lowered her head. I was sure that I had hurt her feelings. Then she looked straight into my eyes and said, "If anyone in my family ever came down with this, Anderson is the first place I would want them to go. I'll start the process."

At that, she left the room. She didn't wait for a response from me. She couldn't wait to get the ball

rolling. It is was like she wanted me to ask that question and was relieved when I did.

### **Huge concern lifted, then... the phone call**

The treatment would involve both chemotherapy and radiation. I had heard horror stories about people getting radiation around their neck area and being so burned by it that they could never swallow again.

**This does not sound good.** How do I say it politely? This *concerned* me.

To show how great our God is, He had already taken care of this concern. Two weeks prior to this, my oncologist had taken a weekend seminar on topics including (wait for it...) the Hyper CAVD treatment system. They were recommending that radiation be removed from this treatment because it was doing more damage than good for this type of cancer. **Praise the Lord!!**

The appointment at Anderson was made. We had all of the test results and all of the pictures taken and in hand, ready for our appointment on Tuesday. On Friday while I was getting things in order to go to Houston, I got a phone call.

"Is a Mr. Daniel E. Richards there?"

"Yes, you are talking to him."

"This is [so-and-so] from MD Anderson in Houston."

"Yes, how are you doing?"

"Fine, thank you. You have an appointment at 8:00 Tuesday morning here."

"That's right."

"When you come in Tuesday morning you need to bring us \$11,500."

"Say *WHAT?*"

"When you come here Tuesday morning, you need to bring in \$11,500."

"For *WHAT??*"

"In order for us to see you, we need to have \$11,500 up front."

"And if I *CAN'T?*"

"We can't see you."

"Well... I can't do that. I guess that I'll just die here."

I hung up. LORD, *WHY??* We were so encouraged and it looked as though You had worked everything out and now this?!! \$11,500! REALLY??

### **Did God not care?**

So, this is what depression feels like. We knew of the cancer back in December and now it was the middle of April and nothing was being done. To top it all off, I felt as though all of the prayers, all of the "My life is in the Lord's Hands"

*cont. on page 9*



***After months of being poked and prodded and put through this test and that test, being run through this tube and that tube to get pictures, we were exhausted!***

# Learning to dance in the rain

by Linda Lyke  
Milton, Wisconsin

My mother had surgery back in April to remove a large abdominal tumor. The tests revealed cancer, a very aggressive rare sarcoma.

She recovered quickly and we were somewhat hopeful that all of the cancer was removed. The plan was to do scans every three months to see if it came back.

On July 19, tests showed that the cancer had already spread to her spine, liver and many other areas of her body. Her oncologist hoped she would see two more Christmases.



## Getting into the Bible

Around that time, I started e-mailing Mom different Bible verses every day, to keep her focused where she should be—in His Word. Whenever God put a topic or verse in my head, I wrote it down to e-mail my mother. The topics included healing, Jesus as our salvation, hope, spirituality, courage and God’s plans for us.

Each time I went to her house in Milwaukee, we held a Bible study to read and discuss those verses. Although she and I did not always agree on theology, she did see the benefit of reading the Bible. I got my firm foundation in faith from my parents, but my mother had never spent much time in the Bible. For the first time in her life, she was reading the Word regularly and understanding it. What a blessing that was. The Bible was living and active to her!

Believe me, I am no biblical scholar, and I have much to learn as a relative newbie. 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 explains how I felt: *When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God’s power.*

At the end of one of our Bible times, Mom added to one of our prayers, “Thank You, God, that I am learning so much about You through

my daughter.” God is so good that He can work through me regardless of what I lack.

## Turning to God

Mom was unsure if she should have chemotherapy to treat this very rare sarcoma. We turned to God at each step, and He kept telling us “No.” When she had finally given in to pressure and decided that she would start chemo, they discovered she had a urinary tract infection, which prevented her from starting the treatment. By the time the infection cleared, her condition was to the point that there was no benefit in putting her body through the agony of chemo. God kept confirming what she had felt all along, that she should not have this treatment.

My son, daughter and my husband sometimes came with me to my mother’s house to share in our Bible studies together. In one of these sessions, she again said something that made me rejoice. She could see how speaking to the Lord from your heart is good, as rote memory prayers can make your mind wander. As a Catholic, she had spent a lot of time over the years saying rote prayers.

At an appointment with her oncologist in early September, Mom courageously asked how much time he thought she had left now. He thought long and hard and said, “Two months or less.” Only God really knows how much time anyone has, but at that moment we

---

knew the immediacy of the situation and the aggressiveness of the cancer. God placed on my heart that I needed to prepare her for heaven. As King Jehoshaphat exclaimed as he faced a vast army: “*We do not know what to do but our eyes are on You.*”

### Looking forward

Mom and I had the blessing in her last month to read a book describing a biblical vision of heaven. In discussing it, she said in her great wisdom, “It’s funny, all the pain and sorrow in this world and we don’t want to leave it. Why are we so reluctant?”

As the cancer took over, she quietly accepted what this disease robbed her of and courageously looked forward to what lay ahead, knowing that Christ said in the Gospel of John: “*I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he dies, shall live.*” A few weeks before her passing, I asked, “Mom, when you get to heaven and see Dad, what will you do?” She replied, “Give him a hug and a kiss.” I added, “But what will you say to Dad?” She said with a chuckle, “We made it!”

All six of us children took turns caregiving our mother in her home along with the assistance of a hospice. It was a privilege for all of us to hold vigil at Mom’s side, to give

back a small fraction of what she and Dad sacrificed in raising us. On September 22, Mom called a family meeting where she made it clear that she wanted to go to a local in-patient hospice. We were surprised because my father had died at home and we thought Mom would also prefer that.

By the grace of God, there was an opening and she was admitted within a few days. What a courageous decision for her to make, to leave her home of 49 years, the home her husband had built.

All of us children were able to take turns staying overnight with Mom so she would not be alone. When a person is in the midst of a crisis, I believe their true personality is revealed. Mom shined bright, showing us gentleness and humor, even when she could barely communicate.

### The bittersweet blessings

Mom took her last breath on the evening of October 1. As bittersweet as it was, it was a relief to see her lifted into the arms of our loving Savior Jesus. The race marked out for my mom ended up being a sprint rather than a marathon. I was thankful God took Mom quickly so she did not have to linger, but we had her long enough to give proper good-byes and have closure.

I gained so many blessings through this difficult situation. It gave me great compassion for those who do not believe in Jesus as our Savior, who died on the cross for our sins so we could have eternal life. In the depths of grief, when I sometimes thought I’d be swallowed up by it, I reminded myself of the reason for my hope and God pulled me out.

I also found that I need a better balance of being among believers and unbelievers. Since I was spending so much time among unbelievers, I missed my friends of faith and realized how much that was needed. I am thankful for my church family, my friends, and my Mom’s church who lifted us up in prayer. We need others to carry us in prayer when it’s too difficult to even think, let alone pray.

### Learning to dance

As Sherrilyn Kenyon once said, life is not finding shelter in the storm; it’s about learning to dance in the rain. When Mom was in kindergarten, her teacher asked if anybody wanted to dance. Mom wrote that some of the kids—“including shy me”—got up and twirled and spun around. The teacher said Mom was the best dancer. “Unbelievable!” she wrote years later. “My dancing skills went downhill from there.”

All of us who loved Mom are left here on earth, learning to dance in the rain. Meanwhile, Mom and Dad are dancing perfectly, “cutting a rug” in heaven. I picture them twirling across the floor, not missing a beat. I am comforted in knowing I will see them again someday in Heaven. **SR**

---

*Linda Lyke is a member of the Milton, Wis., SDB Church. This was excerpted from her article in the church newsletter, “Get Connected.”*

For those branching out beyond Facebook, here are some other ways to connect with SDBs:

**Pinterest:** [www.pinterest.com/7thDayBaptists](http://www.pinterest.com/7thDayBaptists)

**Twitter:** [www.twitter.com/7thDayBaptists](http://www.twitter.com/7thDayBaptists)

**Google+:** [gplus.to/7thDayBaptists](http://gplus.to/7thDayBaptists)

**Tumblr:** [7thdaybaptists.tumblr.com](http://7thdaybaptists.tumblr.com)

**Vimeo:** [vimeo.com/7thdaybaptists](http://vimeo.com/7thdaybaptists)

Oh yeah, and we’re still on **Facebook** at

[www.facebook.com/7thDayBaptists](http://www.facebook.com/7thDayBaptists)



---

## **“I will sing!!”** *continued from page 6*

had—do I dare say it?—been a waste of time. I felt scared... all alone... and not even God seemed to care.

Through all of this time I had continued to play the guitar and lead worship. Leading the congregation in praise and worship songs gave me a time in my week to get the focus off of my circumstances and focus on more pleasant things.

That Sabbath I didn't feel much like leading worship or even being in church. But I knew that I had that responsibility to the church and to my Lord, so I went ahead and put a smile on my face and did it, even though I didn't feel like it.

### **Why this song?**

One of the things I've learned over my 25 years of leading worship is that part of leading is also depending on my emotions and what is going on in my life. It is in our emotions that we become honest with ourselves and our Lord through our worship.

The first song I chose was Don Moen's song, **“I Will Sing”**—

Lord You seem so far away, a  
million miles or more it feels  
today  
And though I haven't lost my faith  
I must confess right now, that it's  
hard for me to pray  
But I don't know what to say, and  
I don't know where to start  
But as You give the grace, with  
all that's in my heart

*I will sing, I will praise, even in  
my darkest hour, through the  
darkness and the pain.*

*I will sing, I will praise, Lift my  
hands to honor You, because  
Your Word is true, I will sing*

Lord it's hard for me to see, all  
the thoughts and plans You have  
for me  
But I will put my trust in You,  
knowing that You died to set  
me free  
But I don't know what to say, and  
I don't know where to start  
But as You give grace, with all  
that's in my heart

*I WILL SING!*

### **Peace.**

Right there in church, worshiping and singing from my heart, something happened to me. As we finished the first verse, I had a peace come over me that I could not (or cannot) explain. No language can adequately explain peace that comes from our Heavenly Father. All of a sudden, I knew beyond a shadow of a doubt that God had not closed His eyes or His ears to me. He knew exactly what was going on and He was holding me in His hand all of this time, waiting for me to simply trust Him in what was ahead.

On Monday we got together with our oncologist and told her what had happened with MD Anderson. She was not “a happy camper.” Two days later, we were checking into the Baylor Hospital in Dallas.

(I should say here that MD Anderson is a fantastic hospital for cancer treatment. It wasn't necessarily their fault; it apparently was an insurance thing. But most importantly, God knew I had put my trust in that hospital and their doctors for a cure, when what I *really* needed was to put my trust in Him.)



### **Hooked up like Pinocchio**

Five kinds of chemo, 24 hours a day, six days straight. I-V lines in both arms and in my chest, the humming of four I-V pumps every minute of the day and night was now the daily routine. Books, magazines and television got “old” real quick. I had Dawn bring up my guitar but that was difficult to play with all of the I-V tubes running everywhere. (I thought of Pinocchio and now knew why he wanted to get loose from all of those strings.)

Having visitors and my family around me was a highlight for my day. Having them there made it easier for me to be strong and positive myself.

The toughest times were at night when no one was there and the only sound was the humming of the pumps and the nurses coming in the room. (Why do they have to weigh you at 3:00 in the morning?) It was at night while I was alone that the devil tried his hardest to distract and discourage me.

### **Another song**

I believe it was the fourth night, I was trying not to feel sorry for

*cont. next page*

myself (and not doing a very good job of it) when I picked up my guitar and started to play and sing my prayers to the Lord. All of a sudden there was a chord sequence, a melody and words that, well... they were *just there*, and that song became my reminder of what God asked of me then and still does today.

You took the shame of the cross,  
You took the nails for the lost  
You took the hate and the scorn,  
so that I might be reborn  
You took the spear in your side,  
for me Jesus  
You took the death for me,  
so that I might be free  
To know who You are and  
to hear You say—

“Welcome home my child.”

I give my life back to You, that’s  
all You ask me to do  
I give my heart and my soul,  
to be completely Yours alone  
I lift my eyes up to You, my dear Jesus  
To see the things that You  
do for me Jesus  
Just to be, where You are,  
and to hear You say—  
“Welcome home my child.”

### Home, sweet home

After day six, they let us escape and go home from the hospital for two weeks of recovery. It was a rainy evening and a chilly spring wind was blowing. By this time the chemo had taken hold of me and I was feeling miserable but glad to be going home. (My wife had better not wake me up at 3:00 in the morning to weigh me.)

Our big old house was such a welcome sight. It felt so good to recline in my own chair. The sound of footsteps on the hardwood floors and even the squeaks were relaxing to hear, even the banging of pots and pans as Dawn and the girls fixed supper. All of the sounds that used to be so annoying to me were now

precious memories, treasured up in my mind for all time.

We were supposed to do this routine six times. Six days on chemo in the hospital, two weeks at home for recovery so that we could go through it all over again. With each round of treatment, I was feeling worse and it was getting harder to recover. I began to wonder if I could make it through six rounds.

The oncologist decided to take another test after the third round to see if the rest of the treatments would be necessary. The good results back meant that it was “good news.” The torture was over. Now recovery!!!!

### He doesn’t ask us to understand

I don’t know why I recovered from this dreaded disease, not just this time but three more times. I have known so many people who have not survived, and I just don’t understand. God doesn’t ask me to understand, but to simply trust Him and be faithful to Him and His calling for me.

While this is my story, it isn’t unique. Many of you know exactly what I have been talking about—not about the cancer, but about tough times that seem to be overwhelming.

I had cancer. Other health issues are just as serious. Some folks are drowning under financial pressure. Some are experiencing overwhelming relationship problems.

All of these stresses of life are real and serious. We become confused, wondering why. We hurt and can’t seem to find the answers that

we need. We pray and pray and pray over them and just can’t seem to hear God or see Him moving.

### Our mission: To encourage others

I am not some super-Christian, but this much I know from experience. When I am focused just on my problems, I cannot see any solutions. When I release myself to praising and serving my Master, *no matter what is going on around me*, trusting Him and His love for me, I experience His peace. “I WILL SING, I WILL PRAISE HIM!” “I GIVE MY LIFE BACK TO YOU, THAT’S ALL YOU ASK ME TO DO.”

I have made it my goal not to simply be positive with my situation, but to focus on those around me and try to encourage them any way that I can. It’s really not hard to take the focus off of yourself and put it someone else, especially when you are lifting them up in prayer.

Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-11. Paul can explain this so much better than I can. Our experiences are not just for us but also for the encouragement and teaching of the rest of the body of believers, and those straddling the fence between carnal and spiritual.

As we lift up and encourage those around us, we will also be lifted up and encouraged. And (most importantly) God will be lifted up, and He will be the one to receive all of the glory, honor, and praise. **SR**



Dan Richards  
with three of his  
many grandchildren.

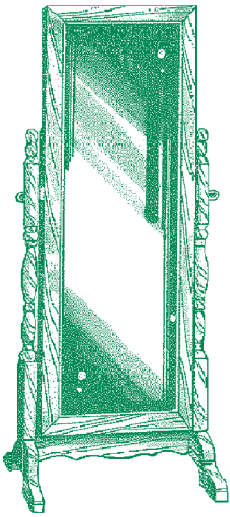
# SR Feature Index for 2012

(Department Index, page 26)

2012 Robe of Achievement (Karen Payne).....	Sept	Let's build a new parsonage! (Rob Appel) .....	Feb
2012 Thanksgiving Art Contest.....	Nov	Music and ministry (Lance Greene).....	Oct
Adding lyrics to a painful song (Karen McPherson Wilkerson).....	Jan	New Tools, Media, Committee (Jeremiah Owen) .....	Apr
A loving link to Ecuador (Dick Shepard) .....	Feb	"No Turning Back" (Rebecca Olson) .....	Sept
A lucky find? (Kevin Butler).....	Jan	Now, what was I supposed to remember? (Nadine Lawton).....	Sept
Amazing! (Ken Soergel) .....	Jan	ON FIRE—to save others from the fire (Patty Petersen) .....	Oct
And the winner is... [Hymn contest].....	May	Our foundation is in the Word (Ruth Burdick) .....	Mar
And more entries... [Hymn contest].....	May	Pastor Ken goes to Washington (Kenneth Chroniger).....	Oct
Are You Ready... to review Conference 2012? (Kevin Butler).....	Sept	Planting churches that last (Dave Harvey) .....	J/A
A trio's Excellent Adventure! (Rob Appel) .....	Feb	Reflections on Thankfulness (Megan Malcolm) .....	Nov
Awakened by music (Kevin Butler).....	May	Seven Reasons to Plant Churches (J.D. Payne).....	J/A
Call 2 Action (Randy Kersten).....	Apr	Thankful for the changes (Kevin Butler).....	Jan
Case File: PERSPECTIVE [Youth Issue] (Rebecca Olson) .....	Jun	Thanksgiving with Jesus (Leon Maltby) .....	Nov
Church is more than just a once-a-week thing (Stephen Lawson).....	Oct	Tributes to Nedd Lozani.....	J/A
Conference Registration forms .....	May	Understanding what God has said (Paul Manuel) .....	Mar
Facing the challenge of social media, with success! (Steven James).....	Apr	Watching God do His work (Sydney Palmer).....	Oct
Five myths about Church Planting (George Lawson) .....	J/A	Welcome to "The Warm Heart of Africa" (Craig Mosher).....	Feb
From alterations to exaltations! (Cheri Appel) .....	Apr	Why study the Bible? (Liz Green) .....	Mar
Furnace Faith (Deirdre Camenga) .....	Sept	You've gotta check out this new magazine! (Kevin Butler) .....	Jan
"I will sing!!" (Dan Richards) .....	Dec		
Learning to dance in the rain (Linda Lyke).....	Dec		
Lessons learned (Logan LaGesse) .....	Oct		

## Local News and Events for 2012

Appalachian Assn Women .....	Dec	Philadelphia, PA .....	Jun
Bloomington, MN.....	Oct	Portland, OR.....	May
Central, MD .....	J/A	Shiloh, NJ .....	Mar, Jun
Cottage Church, Jamaica.....	Mar	St. Albans, NY.....	Feb
Ft. Lauderdale, FL .....	Feb	Texarkana, AR .....	May
New York City, NY.....	Jan	West Palm Beach, FL.....	Jun
Nortonville, KS .....	Sept		



# 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*

---

## Carols, colors and customs

My favorite holiday has always been Christmas.

As I've "matured," the excitement of receiving Christmas presents has been replaced with the excitement of *giving* gifts. I still enjoy many of the secular aspects of that holiday, but my appreciation of its religious significance has grown as I've grown.

I look forward to the candlelight service at the Milton SDB Church every Christmas Eve. I even enjoy attending Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve with my Catholic-raised second husband, appreciating the more "formal" service because of my Lutheran upbringing.

One of my favorite aspects of the holiday is Christmas carols. *Not* singing carols on a weekly or even a monthly basis makes them all the more special when Christmastime rolls around.

Recently, I investigated why certain colors—especially **green**, **red**, and **gold**—are traditionally associated with Christmas. Why do we emphasize these colors and what do they represent?

All three of these colors come from western/northern European traditions where Christmas is celebrated in the middle of winter, when it's dark and cold outside.

**GREEN:** Evergreen plants—like holly, ivy, and mistletoe—have been used for thousands of years to decorate and brighten buildings during long,

dark winters. They also reminded people that spring would come, and that winter wouldn't last forever.

The Romans exchanged evergreen branches during January as a sign of good luck, and the ancient Egyptians brought palm branches into their houses during mid-winter festivals.

In many parts of Europe during the Middle Ages, actors performed "Paradise plays," often on Christmas Eve. These thespians told Bible stories to people who couldn't read. The "Paradise Tree" in the Garden of Eden in these plays was normally a pine tree with red apples tied to it. Today, the most common use of green at Christmas involves Christmas trees.

**RED:** As mentioned above, placing apples on the Paradise Tree was an early use of red at Christmas, representing the fall of Adam. Red is also the color of holly berries, which reminded people of the blood of Jesus when He died on the cross. Red is also the color of a Catholic Bishop's robe, which would have been worn by St. Nicholas. Eventually, red also became the color of Santa's clothes.

**GOLD:** This is the color of the sun and light, both very important during dark winter months. It's also the color of fire that people needed to huddle around to keep warm. In addition, gold was the present that one of the Magi gave to the Baby Jesus. It's also traditionally the color



used to represent the star the Three Wise Men followed to Bethlehem. The color silver is sometimes used instead of—or along with—gold, but gold is a much "warmer" color.

While looking into the origin of Christmas colors, I ran across an interesting article about mince pie. Did you know that, like Christmas pudding, mince pies were originally filled with meat, such as lamb, rather than the dried fruit mix used today? The pies were first made in an oval shape to represent the manger the infant Jesus slept in, and the top of the pie represented His swaddling clothes. Now the pies are normally round and eaten hot or cold.

A custom from the Middle Ages said that if you eat a mince pie every day from Christmas to Twelfth Night [January 6th], you'll have happiness for the next 12 months. (And probably gain 12 pounds!)

Nowadays on Christmas Eve, children in England often leave out mince pies for Father Christmas, along with brandy or some similar drink. You can just "leave out" mince pies from my holiday menu, thank you! **SR**



Women's Society page by Katrina Goodrich  
www.sdbwomen.org

## The “Blame Game”

Working with children can be an interesting and challenging adventure, especially when their behavior isn't in an acceptable range. I find it especially entertaining when they attempt to talk their way out of receiving consequences for their actions.

Usually this talk revolves around why they really shouldn't be in trouble even though they broke the rules. The one I hear most often is a variation of “It wasn't my fault; so-and-so made me do it.” My reaction to these kinds of excuses tends to be one of skepticism, accompanied by a sarcastic remark like, “Oh really? So they tied you up and forced you to take that action?”

Perhaps that isn't the best way to deal with it, but no matter how true it may be that someone else began the chain of events that led to the poor behavior, they still had the opportunity to say, “No.”

The more that I notice the penchant kids have for playing the “Blame Game,” the more I see this problem in myself. I'm very good at pulling the blame out and passing it around when the world doesn't go my way. It always seems to be “someone else's fault” when things go wrong—be it another person, the devil, or even God.

Avoiding taking ownership of my actions seems to come as naturally



as breathing. It's just so much easier to pin the responsibility on someone else, instead of admitting that I messed up. Unfortunately, when we say things like, “I didn't get that promotion because my boss doesn't like me” or, “My child gets that undesirable trait from my spouse” we are only making excuses, refusing to take responsibility for ourselves. I wonder where the kids get it from.

Why is blame such an issue? Because like it or not, we are addicted to sin and the Blame Game is a way to try and hide that. Most rehab programs begin with Step One: “Admit you have a problem.” They start this way because unless a person realizes they have a problem they aren't going to fix it.

If we refuse to own up to our actions by blaming others, we won't

ever get to the point where we can get help for our sin addiction, and we won't admit we have a problem. If we don't get help for our sins then we spend eternity separated from God. Playing the Blame Game puts us on a slippery slope.

Look at Adam and Eve. They sinned. They did the very thing that God expressly told them not to and then laid the blame on each other, the serpent, and even God.

For their transgressions they were kicked out of the Garden of Eden and lost their close communion with God. This first recorded sin was quickly followed by the first round of the blame game. Coincidence? I highly doubt it.

Adam and Eve not only had a problem but they tried to hide it from an omniscient God, and then refused to take responsibility for their actions. Ever wonder what would have happened if they had just owned up to their sin?

Thousands of years later, we are still dealing with the same issues. There is one huge difference though: Jesus. He came to earth and showed us how to take responsibility in a poignant way.

Jesus “owned” all of our sin on the cross. He lived and died to take the responsibility of our sin onto himself that if we let him transform us, we won't have to suffer eternal separation from the Father. Jesus demonstrated complete ownership over our sins so we could recognize our need and stop playing the blame game. May we learn from him how to take ownership of our action and identity in Christ. **SR**



## Signs of life

*[The LORD] asked me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” I said, “Sovereign LORD, you alone know.” – (Ezekiel 37:3)*

In completing the research requests that form the core of the Society’s work, I frequently find myself thumbing through Conference Yearbooks. As I search, I sometimes get sidetracked.

In the last few months, I’ve been drawn to the lists of churches that were included in yearly Conference reports. Because there was no standard way of determining what constituted a “Conference church” for much of our existence since 1802, congregations of various kinds (including some that would not currently qualify for Conference membership) are included in those lists. Some are churches with long histories, others are short-lived. Other groups seem to be listed for many years after they have ceased meeting.

The question this raises: How do you distinguish a “live” congregation from a “dead” one? It’s clear that simply being listed in the Conference directory isn’t the best measure of whether a church is alive or not!

While considering several of these groups from our past, as well as reflecting on the Scriptures, it is clear to me that only God really knows if a congregation is spiritually alive or spiritually dead. In the same token, it does seem as though there are some basic questions we could ask which might give us an indication.

### **Question 1: Does the group show minimal signs of life?**

When paramedics arrive to someone who is unresponsive, they check for signs of life: a pulse, breathing, etc.

It is much the same for churches. If they continue to have regular meetings of one kind or another, that would be a minimal sign of life.

### **Question 2: Does the group desire nourishment?**

Searching out and eating food is a sign of life. In the midst of illness, doctors are often concerned about a

suppressed appetite. After medical procedures, physicians watch carefully to see how their patients eat, and how their appetites are.

Again, this is analogous to church life. If the congregation desires to study God’s Word, worship God and fellowship together, there is a good chance that the church is alive. Dead things don’t eat—unless they’re zombies!

### **Question 3: Do the parts move? Is there activity?**

In the average human body, parts move to respond to stimuli and to achieve functions necessary to life. 1 Corinthians 13 is clear that in the same way, church bodies have assigned tasks that must also be completed.

Healthy churches do what they are commanded to do by Scripture, and led and empowered by the Holy Spirit to do. In this sense, it is the Holy Spirit which animates the body of Christ. (It’s important to note that “injured” and “dead” are in this case two very different things! Pain is also a sign of life!)

### **Question 4: Is the group handling family building/sustaining functions?**

Living things desire to reproduce and raise up offspring. Even individuals who do not ultimately have these desires fulfilled still encounter them.

It is the responsibility of congregations to disciple and raise up godly offspring. While we know that new birth in Christ is solely a work of God, we also know that believers and churches are called to witness to the truth of Christ and take care of those who are new in the faith. In other words, living churches have a responsibility and desire to reproduce.

Applying these four questions has proven helpful in trying to understand what’s happening at different points in the lives of some of our historic congregations, but may have applications beyond history. As we think about our congregations as Seventh Day Baptists, we need to evaluate our vitality and pray that God will continue to breathe life into us and make us ready for His work in the world. **SR**



# Retired Pastor Profile

## Retired Pastor Profile



**Name:** Donald E. Richards

**Birthdate and place:** June 5, 1925 Montrose, Colo.

Pastor Coon from Boulder would try to visit folks 300 miles away in Montrose once a year. Pastor Don shared during a recent testimony: "In the spring of 1934 when I was 9 years old I went forward during an old-fashioned revival meeting [at the Independent Calvary Baptist Church] and accepted Jesus as my personal Savior. That spring I was baptized by immersion in a nearby lake after the ice had melted."

### Family:

Married: Edna Ruth Randolph on May 29, 1942 in Lost Creek, WV.

Children: Daniel, Timothy, Elizabeth and Doneta. Edna Ruth died in 1980.

Married: Shirley Maxine Boyd on September 19, 1982 in Salemville, PA. Shirley died in 1985.

Married: Geraldine Moyers-Cox on September 3, 1989, in Ritchie Co., WV. Gerry died in 2003.

### Education:

1943 Riverside Polytechnic High School, CA

1950 AA from Riverside Junior College, CA

1952 BA from Salem College, WV

1957 BDiv Alfred Univ. School of Theology, NY

1978 Certificate in Pastoral Counseling, Princeton Theological School, NJ

### Ministry Experience:

#### SDB Churches

Riverside, CA (Summer Asst 1952)

Battle Creek, MI (Summer Asst 1953)

Alfred, NY (Asst Pastor 1952-55)

Berea, WV (1955-60); Middle Island, WV (1955-60)

Dodge Center, MN (1960-65); Verona, NY (1966-70)

Marlboro, NJ (1970-82); Waterford, CT (1983-86)

Middle Island, WV (1990-2005 half-time)

### SDB Boards and Agencies

Board of Christian Education (1952-55)

American Sabbath Tract Society (1970-82)

SDB Missionary Society (1982-87)

### Other

Riverside County Christian Endeavor Union (1946-50)

Hospital Chaplain coordinator, Bridgeton, NJ (1974-79)

Board member: Faith Farm, male drug addict rehab (1977-82)

FISH –Telephone crisis line, Bridgeton, NJ (1977-82)

Manager of Camp Joy, Berea, WV (1986-90)

### **Non-Ministry Experience:**

US Army Combat MP Battalion, radio operator (1943-46)

MP Town Patrol, Chicago, IL (1946)

### **Favorite Author:**

G. Campbell Morgan

### **Retirement Locations:**

Middle Island, WV

Milton, WI

Please give toward the **Pastor's Retirement Fund** to support those who gave so much.

Call 608-752-5055



## What it takes to be a great teacher

The 2012 Sabbath School Teacher of the Year is Robert “Bud” Claycomb, a member of the Bell SDB Church of Salemville, Pa. As this year’s recipient of the Crystal Apple, Mr. Claycomb’s name was announced at the awards ceremony at General Conference in Buckhannon, W.Va., and the Crystal Apple was presented at his home church.

What does it take to be a great teacher and be recognized as the Sabbath School teacher of the year? It takes love, dedication, a desire to change lives, and a willingness to push to see those changes take place.

A great teacher loves God. The foundation of their teaching begins with a personal response to God’s Gospel of Grace by hearing His word, repenting, and trusting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Each day is marked by remembering God’s love and choosing to respond with love for Him.

As you might expect, this love for God can’t be hidden. Those who watch the teacher can recognize a life focused on living for God.

This love for God flows naturally into a love for God’s Word. Some will describe this love as a passion to know what He says, to understand what He means, and to live out the will He expresses for us to hear, for us to read.

This love for God’s Word is contagious. The teacher—excited about new discoveries in what many perceive as the “same old, same old”—helps others see and hear either for



the first time or again. The great teacher doesn’t simply rely on the contagiousness of this passion; the teacher seeks ways to make His Word enrapturing for students.

Knowing God’s love moves the teacher to love God’s students. Whether those students are children or adults, the teacher sees them as they are: people God loves. Because of God’s love for them, the teacher’s love is strengthened and fights to love even those who are hard to love: the hostile and the indifferent.

This love for God’s students is seen most clearly in dedication to the ministry God has called teachers to perform. The teacher knows student’s names, prays for their lives, and works to find ways to make every student know they’ve been seen and loved. Each lesson is studied, pondered, planned, delivered, and evaluated. Every opportunity to teach is taken and when circumstances prevent personal presence, the teacher makes sure that someone else is around to care for and teach the students.

A great teacher desires to see lives change. God’s love for His students pushes the teacher to view Sabbath School as so much more than an hour with a captive audience. The Sabbath School class is an opportunity to help students come face to face with the power and call of God—a life changing experience.

While all sorts of things may get in the way of that happening, the Sabbath School teacher remembers the call of God to “spur one another on to love and good deeds,” and will push and prod and poke and challenge students to drink deeply of God’s Word and let His Word make them change.

That begins to paint a picture of what it takes to be a great Sabbath School Teacher.

If you have great teachers in your midst, let them know that you see God working in their lives. Say it in passing. Write a note. Celebrate it with the church. Do something to encourage the teachers among you.

A Sabbath School Teacher of the Year needs one more thing: a church that notices and does something about that noticing. Each Teacher of the Year is nominated by the local church. Several months from now we’ll send reminders about the Crystal Apple Award and nomination forms to the churches of the Conference. For now, watch your teachers and encourage them in the ministry God has given them in your midst. **SR**





# FOCUS on Missions

## Your ready-made Christmas gift list

by Clinton R. Brown  
sdbmissions.org

Please consider discussing with your family if you can add some of these items to your Christmas gift list this year. We have Seventh Day Baptist families around the world who are hoping for a brother's help to better share the Gospel or minister in Christ's name to those in their community.



### Emergency Relief Funds (Global)

- #1 – Life-saving **Food** (Suggested Gift: \$35)
- #2 – Emergency **Medicine** (Suggested Gift: \$60)
- #3 – Clean **Water** for a family (Suggested Gift: \$15)
- #4 – Emergency **Relief Supplies** urgent need (Suggested Gift: \$45)



### Children's Ministries (in Africa)

- #5 – **Shoes and Clothing** in Uganda (Suggested Gift: \$25)
- #6 – Provide **Loving Care** for an orphan's urgent need (Suggested Gift: \$35)
- #7 – Buy **Seeds** for an orphanage garden in Uganda (Suggested Gift: \$25)
- #8 – Life-saving **Mosquito Nets** (Suggested Gift: \$10)



### Gifts Under \$15 (Global)

- #9 – **Hot Meals** (Suggested Gift: \$7)
- #10 – **Basketballs** for Young Adult Ministry (Suggested Gift: \$8)
- #11 – Shipping **Blankets** urgent need (Suggested Gift: \$6)
- #12 – Missionary Society **Membership** for a friend (Suggested Gift: \$10)



### Evangelism and Discipleship (Africa)

- #13 – Evangelist/Pastor **training Bibles** in Kenya (Suggested Gift: \$25)
- #14 – **Bikes** for the mission field in DRC (Suggested Gift: \$110 / Share the Cost: \$11)
- #15 – Shipping **Christian Literature** urgent need in S. Sudan (Suggested Gift: \$15)



### Construction Projects (Global)

- #16 – Freshwater **Wells** urgent need (Suggested Gift: \$400 / Share the Cost: \$40)
- #17 – **Metal roof** on a constructed church (Suggested Gift \$1,200 / Share the Cost: \$15/sheet)
- #18 – **Lumber Mill Saw** for church/ministry building (Suggested Gift: \$3,000 / Share the Cost: \$30)
- #19 – Build a **Church** for struggling congregation (Suggested Gift: \$8,000 / Share the Cost: \$75)
- #20 – Build a **House** for low-income pastor's family (Suggested Gift: \$6,500 / Share the Cost: \$75)
- #21 – Train up a local Malawi **Doctor** (Suggested Gift: \$8,000 / Share the Cost: \$100)

It is a high priority for us that we partner with the local congregations and that they invest in the ministries that we undertake. We seek accountability of funds used in each related project and each is to be specifically for a Seventh Day Baptist ministry. If you send the gift in the name of someone else, upon your

request we can contact that person with a thank you letter letting them know how their gift was put to use.

I hope that you will prayerfully consider how the blessings you have received this year may be intended to bring joy through your sharing in our ministry. **SR**

Contributions for Gifts can be sent to:  
**SDB Missions**  
 19 Hillside Ave., Ashaway RI 02804  
 or give on-line at  
[www.SDBMISSIONS.org](http://www.SDBMISSIONS.org)



Your Brother in Christ,

Clinton R. Brown, Executive Director  
Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society



# the BEACON

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

December 2012

## Rest assured— God has a plan

by Seth Osborn  
Boulder, Colo.

“The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory forever and ever. Amen.” 2 Timothy 4:18 isn’t the only place in the Bible that talks about God’s amazing power to save us. Check out Isaiah 26:4, Zephaniah 3:17, and Psalm 18:3 if you need some more reassurance.

If you ask God for help, He won’t always do what you want Him to do in the moment, but He will do what helps fulfill His plan for you. (Remember Jeremiah 29:11.) Even when God gives us exactly what we need, it won’t always be immediately obvious that it was from Him.

I don’t know if any of you saw the movie “The Pursuit of Happiness,” but it has a great story that goes something like this:

One day, somebody was drowning in deep water. A man on a boat



came by and asked, “Do you need any help?” He said, “No thank you, God will save me.” So the man on the boat left. A few minutes later, another man on a boat came by. He asked, “Do you need any help?” The drowning man again replied, “No thank you, God will save me,” so this boat also left. A while later, the man drowned. When he went to heaven he asked God, “Why didn’t You save me?” God answered, “Didn’t you see the two boats I sent?”

I realize this is just a joke, but I feel it has a great message behind it. God is very trustworthy—He is the most trustworthy being anyone will ever know. You can ask Him for help in everything, big or small, and trust that He’ll make everything work out in the end.

In 2007, I started my sixth-grade year at Nevin Platt Middle School. While most of the kids already had a group of friends from elementary school, I had left all of mine behind in a different state.

At the time, I wasn’t very happy about moving from Wisconsin to Colorado. I was shy (and still am with people I don’t know very well), so I thought it would be a while until I made new friends.


God helped me to work up the courage to talk to people, though, and I ended up making friends early on in the school year. Honest-

ly, I can’t imagine how my life would be right now if my family had stayed in Wisconsin, but I’m very happy that we moved here.

William Cowper wrote the hymn “God Moves in a Mysterious Way.” In my experience, He also moves in a subtle way. Proverbs 16:33, Lamentations 3:37, and Ephesians 1:11 tell us that God is in control of everything. As a result of this, there are plenty of miracles that happen to you every day that you probably don’t even blink an eye at. (No, they’re not as big as walking on water or returning from the dead, but they’re miracles nevertheless.)

For example, how many times have you tripped only to catch yourself, barely evading the pain of a bigger fall? Maybe I’m the only one, but even if I could remember how many times that happened, I don’t think I could thank God for each instance.

God doesn’t just help us in big, flashy ways. Sometimes He helps us in ways we might consider to be small—“coincidence,” even. Coincidences don’t exist. God has planned out everything from the beginning to the end, and nothing has ever strayed or will ever stray from that plan.

God won’t always be obvious about how He’s working in your life, but you can rest assured that He is. 

# Lessons from a Squirrel

by Daniel Lovelace  
Dallas, Ga.



I saw a squirrel outside my window when I was praying this morning. He ran across the road, and stood on the edge of it, just looking into our yard. I wondered if he'd run back.

I also noticed he had an acorn in his mouth from the neighbor's yard he just came from. He hopped onto one of our small tree's low branches and continued to stare into our yard for the next few minutes. I expected him to keep climbing, transfer a few trees over, and leap the gap over our driveway into a tree, into the woods.

Then I realized he was watching for our cats, who are constantly on the lookout for a small animal to chase or kill. Eventually he cautiously climbed down, stopping momentarily to watch carefully for any threats as he walked to a spot he picked out to bury his acorn.

He started digging, but his sensitive ears picked up on some disturbance, and he ran to hide on the side of a tree trunk. It was my brother, out walking in the front yard, probably unaware he even scared him. The squirrel took off up the tree, into two nearby trees, and catapulted himself through the air into the woods, all while keeping the nut securely in his mouth.

It was a neat thing to watch. But through it, I felt God reminded me: May I be on the lookout for my own sin and temptation as much as—and more—than that squirrel. All the while, might I hold steadfast to what I know is true, and be faithful to my King and Savior, Christ Jesus.

Might I be humble before Him, realizing I can't do this myself. There are times I simply fail to pay attention to what I know I should. There are times I disregard the importance and value of a relationship with Jesus—an incomparably valuable gift I've been given. When I lean on my own strength in a hardship, disregarding God's, my strength is crushed under the pressure.

Regardless of how able I think I am in a situation, I need His strength for all things (John 15:5). In all those situations, may I readily and immediately turn to Him, and pour out my needs and concerns before Him, because He does love me, He does care, and He is mighty and able to strengthen me in my weakness.

"Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen."

(1 Peter 5:6-11 ESV) **SR**



Colorado Springs, CO

July 28–Aug. 3, 2013



### **The President's Page**

by Ralph Mackintosh

## God's Footsteps in our lives

Someone told me long ago that every sermon or speech needs an interesting story. Somehow, a parable or life illustration helps us relate to the message in a personal way that all the abstract logic or verbiage can't accomplish.

One such illustration comes from the biography of the well-known 19<sup>th</sup> century poet, Elizabeth Barrett Browning. Her early days were filled with sickness and disability until love came into her despondent life at a rather late age. A suitor, Robert Browning (five years her junior), brought a new sense of purpose, joy, and even rallied her health.

She wrote a series of love poems dedicated to Browning called *Sonnets from the Portuguese* written in 1850 and probably given that title because of a pet name he called her. We are all familiar with the opening lines of the 43<sup>rd</sup> sonnet of that collection, "How do I love thee? Let me count the ways..."

However, I want to point out another line from that same group of poems written for her husband-to-be. She shared about her new and unexpected love: "The face of all the world is changing, I think, since first I heard the footsteps of thy soul."

As we seek to move **Forward in His Footsteps** this year I am

reminded that before I can move forward I have to look backward at why I'm even on this journey. To paraphrase Elizabeth Barrett Browning, it's because the face of my world has been changed when I first heard *HIS* footsteps in my soul. It's because of the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives that we can even understand that there is

**The face of my world  
changed when I first heard  
HIS footsteps in my soul.**

a journey to be attempted, a path available to be followed, and a Shepherd ready to guide us.

It's because of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross that a way was made possible for us to come into relationship with Him and know God's will. It's because the Father reached out in love, letting his Son create footsteps on this earth, that we have an example of perfection in following God's plan.

Our course of human history was dramatically changed by the death and resurrection of Christ, and our personal worlds were dramatically changed when He entered our hearts and changed the direction of our footsteps.

I am confident that many of you have already completed Step #1 of the homework assignment for this Conference year by reading Blackaby's book *Experiencing God*. As a reminder, the next phase is to spend time in prayer seeking God's will and looking around you for the ways God is already at work in your church and your community.

Where is God's perfect plan already in motion and where can you and your church join Him in His work? In the process of moving **Forward in His Footsteps** we want to be centered in God's will, so the action of seeking through prayer is a vital component before we start boldly stepping out.

**Last Chance Deadline:** In January I'm going to start writing about plans for Conference 2013 in Colorado Springs and why you shouldn't miss it.

If you haven't started the homework assignment yet, there is still time to get a copy of *Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing the Will of God* by contacting me before January 1. A copy will be sent to you free of charge as long as you promise to read it and then pass it on. My e-mail is [ralph.mackintosh@hoag.org](mailto:ralph.mackintosh@hoag.org) or contact me on my cell phone at (949) 394-7651. **SR**



by Executive Director  
Rob Appel

## Looking forward with resolve

Last month, I wrote about the community known as Seventh Day Baptists getting along with each other. This is in spite of differences we might have. I believe we can show the world that we can get along and “Together We Can!” Together we can have the determination to serve and look forward with resolve!

In September I took a spiritual retreat up at Camp Paul Hummel in Boulder, Colorado. On the first day, I wondered how God was going to speak to me this time. God speaks to us in many different ways! It is sometimes through His Word, a gentle whisper, pictures in your mind, a roadblock, a sermon, a Bible study, or simply another person telling you something that clarifies a situation.

Well, God chose to speak to me through Oswald Chambers’ daily devotional, *My Utmost for His Highest*. An old copy was in the lodge and I picked it up on the morning of day two. (I have a copy of this at my home in Wisconsin; my good friend Pastor Rod Henry gave it to me at least 15 years ago. But I hadn’t used it in years as a devotional.)

So how could God speak to me in the mountains in Colorado, through devotions I had done before? Good question! The answer is in the “dog ears.”

There were only 12 pages that were dog-eared in this copy. That is 12 out of over 190 pages. Now, I don’t know the odds of this happening, but that was exactly the sign I was looking for! I had gone into this retreat asking God the question, “What next?” What was next for Seventh Day Baptists, and what did God want for us? Plus, how was God going to use me, and what was the message that He wanted me to share with you?

I have the privilege to talk to each of you through this page 11 times a year. I have covered topics from church updates, to challenges, to meddling, and even challenged you to tithe. But I was looking for something different

for the year 2013, and that was one of the things that I had also been praying about. Two things: the *SR* writings, and what was next for Seventh Day Baptists? God answered them both in one fell swoop as I stumbled upon an old book that I could have easily ignored, especially since I had studied with it before!

So here I was on September 27, 2012, in the Rocky Mountains, in the lodge at Camp Paul Hummel, led to a meager bookshelf filled mostly with Bibles in all shapes, covers, and versions. And instead of them, I pick up an old copy of *My Utmost For His Highest*! I opened it to one of the 12 dog-eared pages, **dated September 27**, and I read the title, **The “Go” of Renunciation**. It said:

*As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.” Our Lord’s attitude toward this man was one of severe discouragement, “for He knew what was in man” (John 2:25). We would have said, “I can’t imagine why He lost the opportunity of winning that man! Imagine being so cold to him and turning him away so discouraged!”*  
**Never apologize for your Lord.** *The words of the Lord hurt and offend until there is nothing left to be hurt or offended. Jesus Christ had no tenderness whatsoever toward anything that was ultimately going to ruin a person in his service to God. Our Lord’s answers were not based on some whim or impulsive thought, but on the knowledge of “what was in man.” If the Spirit of God brings to your mind a word of the Lord that hurts you, you can be sure that there is something in you that He wants to hurt to the point of its death. SR*

Next Month:

***The Determination to Serve***



# The Phases of Retirement

## (Part 1)

Compiled by Morgan Shepard

Although many Americans now plan for a retirement up to 20 years, yours may last much longer.

Rather than thinking of retirement as the final stage of life, a more realistic approach may be to view it as a progression of phases, such as early, middle and late. This involves taking a fresh look at expenses and income.

### Need for flexible planning

Traditionally, retirees were advised to project income needs over the length of time of retirement, add on an annual adjustment for inflation, and then identify any potential income shortfall. But the planning required might not be that linear. Some retirees' expenses (other than healthcare) may decrease over time.

So, many retirees may need more income early in their retirement than later. That's why it's critical not just to determine a sustainable withdrawal rate at the outset of retirement, but also to periodically evaluate that withdrawal rate.

Or consider another trend. The desire to remain active means many people are continuing to work part-time or starting new businesses in retirement. Some psychologists and gerontologists believe that many people don't really want to retire, but instead want to reinvent themselves through a mixture of work

and leisure. As a result, more older men and women may be inclined to jump back into the workforce, and possibly enjoy the most productive years of their lives.

### Early years: Income and tax decisions

Adding employment earnings to your retirement "paycheck" requires careful planning, because it may impact other sources of retirement income or bump you into a higher tax bracket.

For example, retirees who collect Social Security before the year of their full retirement age will see their benefits cut \$1 for every \$2 earned above \$14,640. Also, depending on adjusted gross income, you might have to pay taxes on up to 85% of benefits, according to the Social Security Administration.

The need to potentially stretch out income over a longer period than previous generations also means that some people may not want to tap Social Security when they're first eligible.


Consider that for each year you delay taking Social Security beyond your full retirement age until age 70, you'll receive a benefit increase of 6 to 8%, depending on your age. One caveat: If you do decide to delay collecting Social Security, you may want to sign up for Medicare at age 65 to avoid possibly paying more for medical insurance later.

Also, plan ahead as to how you will pay for healthcare costs not covered by Medicare as you age.

Remember that Medicare does not pay for ongoing long-term care or assisted living, and that qualifying for Medicaid requires spending down your assets.

If you have accumulated assets in qualified employer-sponsored retirement plans, now may be the time to decide whether to roll that money into a tax-deferred IRA, which could make managing your investments easier.

A tax and financial pro can help you decide which accounts to tap first at this point in your post-retirement planning—a situation that could significantly affect your financial situation.

Finally, don't overlook any pension assets in which you may be vested, especially if you changed employers over the course of your career. Pensions can supply you with regular income for life. Annuities may also play a role in helping you generate steady income.\* 

### Next: The Middle and Later Years

*\*Withdrawals from annuities before age 59-1/2 are taxed as ordinary income, and may be subject to a 10% federal penalty tax. The insurance company may also have its own set of surrender charges for withdrawals taken during the initial years of the contract.*

*This material is for general information and not intended to provide specific advice or recommendations for any individual.*

## These women learn that— “God is Enough”

by Becky Van Horn  
Pataskala, Ohio

Did you know that God is enough? The women of the Appalachian Association held their 2012 Women’s Retreat the last weekend of September at Camp JOY in Berea, West Virginia.

Twenty-five women found their way to the rural campground from Tennessee, Alabama, South Carolina, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia to enjoy an awesome weekend of fellowship with one another and to learn that “God Is Enough.”

The ladies from the Shepherd’s Fold Ministries in Upper East Tennessee were our hostesses for the weekend. Brenda Rankhorn wrote a series of four lessons entitled “God Is Enough.”



*SDB women from seven different states attended the fall retreat at Camp JOY in West Virginia.*

“  
**We learned of  
God’s Sufficiency—  
as our joy, our rock and  
strength, our deliverer  
and much more.**”

”



*Just some of the many titles and functions of God that filled several chalkboards at the retreat.*

Filling the blackboard with some of the innumerable names of God, we read many scriptures about who God is. We saw that He was enough for the people we read about in the Bible; people like Job, the widow of Zarephath, Elijah, the people of Israel, and us!

We learned of God’s Sufficiency—as our joy, our rock and strength, our deliverer and much more. We

also need an Attitude Adjustment—“transforming our minds” (Rom. 12:2) and asking Him to open our eyes. We then inquired of the Lord, “Where am I not giving You total control in my life?” and prayed

that He would change us.

Finally, Go Tell Everybody! Be alert and aware of opportunities to share with others what God has done in your life and how Jesus has made

*cont. next page*



*The ladies did a little training on dry ground before (right) hitting the water.*



the difference for you. We need to learn to lay aside the things that keep us from doing what God wants us to do.

Unfortunately (or, providentially) a practical lesson occurred over the weekend to prove that God was our “Enough”: the natural gas at the camp kept going off, meaning no hot water for showers and no stove to cook on. But we “made do” with two microwaves and definitely didn’t go hungry! (It was probably less work in the long run, and that’s what a retreat is all about.)

We made the best of all that came our way and had a great time! By the way, the gas was back on Sunday morning and we were rewarded with a hot breakfast.

Sabbath evening arrived with a beautiful clear sky and a full moon as we shared our campfire, ate s’mores and sang songs. The ladies were really good fire builders.

We always enjoy our retreat times. We have done this for many years and always mark our calendars a year in advance for our time away (where cell phones don’t even work) at Camp JOY. **SR**

---

## Upcoming Center on Ministry events

*by Gordon Lawton*

“Seeing with God’s Eyes” is the theme for the **2013 Pastors Conference**, April 23-27, in Shiloh, N.J. On Tuesday the 23rd (travel day), the opening session will begin at 7:00 p.m., preceded by a light supper at 5:30.

Our theme will focus on seeing the people and ministry to which God has called us. This will include finding and encouraging new leaders (Reaching out, Discipling, Mentoring, etc.) as well as the Biblical basis for these activities.

Conference President Ralph Mackintosh will be with us Friday afternoon and bring the message in Shiloh on Sabbath morning. He has promised to “astound and amaze” us at the end of the Sabbath as we share a meal and say thanks to our hosts.

Register on-line at the COM website, [www.sdbministry.org](http://www.sdbministry.org), where you can pay with PayPal, cash or check. If you are unable to register on-line or choose not to do so, send an e-mail ([com@sdbministry.org](mailto:com@sdbministry.org)) and a registration form will be sent to you.

The SDB Center on Ministry announces that registration for the **2013 Summer Institute in SDB Polity** has been posted at [www.sdbministry.org](http://www.sdbministry.org). At the website, click to go to the description of the course, and click once again to open the registration form. Deadline to register is **January 20, 2013**.

The online portion of the class will begin February 3, 2013 and in-person sessions at the SDB Center in Wisconsin will be June 2-7. (Yes, that is only Sunday to Friday, but we begin at 3:00 pm on Sunday, and meet 8:30 am–9:00 pm, M-Th. If all is completed, students can leave at noon on Friday.)

The last two years we had the week session in August, but a June timeframe—just after the completion of the online portion—provides better continuity.

SDB seminary and T.I.M.E. students as well as Seventh Day Baptist pastors are encouraged to take this course. **SR**



## New members

### **Bradenton, FL**

*Michael Spearl, pastor*

Joined after baptism

Serena Bennett

Joined by transfer

Ernest Bee and Voni Bee

Chuck Harrington

### **Lost Creek, WV**

*John Mark Camenga, Pastor*

Joined by transfer

John Mark and Cathy Camenga

Joined after baptism

Michaela and Faith Facemire

### **Portland, OR**

*Jerry Vaught, pastor*

Joined after testimony

Terry Humphrys

## Births

**Anderson.** —A son, Troy James,

was born to Victor and Angela

Anderson of Dania, FL, on

January 21, 2012.

**Leonard.** —A son, Zane Michael,

was born to Daniel and Bridget

(Lawrence) Leonard of Lost

Creek, WV, on August 28, 2012.

**Camenga.** —A daughter, Annika

Joy, was born to Andrew and

Kristin (Rood) Camenga of Bel-

mont, NY, on October 17, 2012.

Please send us your church  
and family news to:

[editor@seventhday](mailto:editor@seventhday)

[baptist.org](http://baptist.org)

or to "Sabbath Recorder"

on Facebook

(or mailing address page 3)

## Marriages

**Wright – Mattox.** Ryan Michael Wright and Sara Lynn Mattox were united in marriage on September 30, 2012 at the Milton, WI, SDB Church. Pastor George Calhoun officiated.

## Obituaries

**Cruzans.**—Dale Cruzan, 63, and his wife, Carol (Fowler) Cruzan, 60, of White Cloud, Mich., passed away on October 12, 2012 following injuries received in an automobile accident.

Dale was born on June 13, 1949 in Grant, Mich., to Donald and Shirley (Davis) Cruzan and graduated from White Cloud High School in 1967. Dale then joined the United States Army where he served during the Vietnam War.

Carol was born on February 24, 1952 in Grant to Harold and Lois (Berndt) Fowler and graduated from White Cloud High School in 1970. Dale and Carol were married on March 18, 1972 in White Cloud.

Dale worked at NARCO in White Cloud for over 30 years in the maintenance department. Carol had been a para-pro at the White Cloud Public Schools for over 30 years until her retirement, and then part-time at the White Cloud Area Library.

Dale and Carol were active members of the White Cloud Seventh Day Baptist Church, both serving as deacons and trustees. Dale was president of the Men's Fellowship and chairman of the Teen Center Board; Carol was a member of the Women's Circle.

The Cruzans enjoyed camping, working with the class reunion committees at White Cloud school, playing softball, farming together, volunteering at sporting events in White Cloud, and were lifelong volunteers in the community. They especially treasured their family and were proud grandparents.

Dale and Carol are survived by their sons, Todd and Troy, both of White Cloud; and five grandsons.

Dale is also survived by his father, Don Cruzan of White Cloud; his brother, Sam Cruzan of White Cloud; his sister, Janis May of Walker; several aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and cousins

including special cousins, Ed and Cathy Cruzan, Duane and Luann Cruzan, and Cheryl and Mark Weatherford. Dale was preceded in death by his mother, Shirley Cruzan.

Carol is also survived by her mother, Lois Chapin of White Cloud; four sisters, Alice Carson of Hesperia, Linda Holmes of Fremont, Margie Smith of New Hudson, and Lori Stencil of Tennessee; her brother, Ronald Fowler of White Cloud; many aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews. Carol was preceded in death by her father, Harold Fowler, and by her step-father, Lee Chapin.

Needing a larger venue, a memorial service was held at the White Cloud United Methodist Church on October 17, 2012 with Rev. Bernie Wethington officiating. Interment was at the White Cloud Cemetery following a brief family gathering at the Seventh Day Baptist Church. **SR**

# SR Department Index for 2012

(Feature and Local News  
Index, page 11)

	<b><u>The Nick of Time</u></b>	<b><u>Center on Ministry</u></b>	<b><u>Financial Faith</u></b>
Jan	A “mindset” for publishing	So you say you need a pastor	The heartbeat of giving
Feb	Charles Domingo: Pioneer SDB	Leland Davis profile	P.R.O.P. bears repeating
Mar	Relationally Engineered (Part 1)	T.I.M.E. continues	The cost of knowledge
Apr	Relationally Engineered (Part 2)	Owen Lynch Jr. profile	Cost of owning church building
May	Relationally Engineered (Part 3)	Continuing Ed for pastors	The Cost of Conference
Jun	Relationally Engineered (Part 4)	Nick Kersten profile	All I really need to know...
J/A	Show your love of history!	Pastor Appreciation any time	Must be seen to be believed?
Sep	Read all about it!	Chuck Meathrell profile	Past... Present... Future
Oct	The Future of the Past	C. Rex Burdick profile	Stewardship, Tolkien and ukulele
Nov	Virtual digging	Carl Greene profile	Tolkien and ukulele: the sequel
Dec	Signs of life	Don Richards profile	Phases of Retirement (Part 1)
	<b><u>Women’s Page</u></b>	<b><u>Focus on Missions</u></b>	<b><u>Reflections</u></b>
Jan	Stepping out in faith	Am I ready to serve?	Not the brightest bulb
Feb	Living for God’s glory	Need is great, God is greater	Bloom where you’re planted
Mar	Why my kids are 19 months apart	The Great Omission	As the world/ankle turns
Apr	Stops, Starts & Steps	To boldly go...	Retired, and busier than ever
May	SCSC and Stained Glass	God made time for us	Be careful what you dance for
Jun	The voice from the backseat	One step further	First cruise recalls old verses
J/A	Seeking for God’s pattern	African leaders summon disciplers	Twain still speaks today
Sep	Of Love Gifts and student funds	To the river!	God appears in another trial
Oct	Welcome home veterans (SCSC)	Africa lesson #1: Time	A scalpel and a hammer
Nov	The sacrifices of thanksgiving	Truly giving thanks	Frustrated with foxhole faith
Dec	The “Blame Game”	Ready-made Christmas list	Carols, colors and customs
	<b><u>Christian Education</u></b>	<b><u>Alliance in Ministry</u></b>	<b><u>Kevin’s Korner</u></b>
Jan	This is the ENDS	Endurance takes encouragement	Is this real life?
Feb	Relearning a simple task	Ready to flip the switch?	Everyday grace, or, Don’t tempt me
Mar	Directors serve to Educate	Bible Basics: 101	Choosing the right path
Apr	Pre-Con is valuable!	Have we really advanced?	What’s that beeping sound?
May	Pre-Con forms	Music calms the savage SDB	Sabbath praise in rhyme
Jun	Remembering <i>that</i> retreat	Law of the Pendulum	I guess I’m still Mr. Greenway
J/A	Store and share your lessons	But wait... there’s MORE!	How about a weekend off?
Sep	Memory verses 2012-13	Why do we have Associations?	A blur in Buckhannon
Oct	Memorization participants	Conformed? Transformed!	Legacy that’s out of this world
Nov	Growing your faith	Can’t we all just get along?	SR Committee looks ahead
Dec	To be a great teacher	Looking forward with resolve	Ignoring the warnings

# KEVIN'S

## ORNER

### Ignoring the warnings

In October, Hurricane Sandy was dubbed “Frankenstorm” or “Superstorm” due to some severe weather events happening simultaneously. After pummeling the Caribbean islands, the hurricane hit the eastern coast of the United States, but certainly not without warning.

Buildings were boarded up ahead of time and sandbags got filled and stacked. Residents in specific areas were evacuated (or at least told to do so). Hundreds of schools and businesses in Sandy’s predicted path cancelled their activities to be safe.

Unfortunately, many of those boarded-up buildings and sandbag walls were destroyed, unable to withstand the powerful wind and waves. Yet other people and structures that expected the worst survived untouched.

Superstorm Sandy was very tough—and expensive and deadly—for some, and turned out to be a “big nothing” for others. I was glad for those who heeded the warnings and sorry for those who didn’t.

At the end of October, staff members here at the SDB Center received a “Media Advisory.” We were given a day’s warning about an emergency exercise drill to “test response procedures in the unlikely event of a pipeline incident” on a certain company’s pipeline system.

The advisory predicted fictionalized reports of a pipeline rupture, including “hearing a loud sound of escaping natural gas.” Times of the exercise were listed.

As part of the drill, emergency responders would come to the staged scenario.

So why were we alerted to all of this? The location of the event would take place just down the street from us in a now-closed movie theater parking lot!

Their media release continued: “You are receiving

this advisory to let you know that if you hear reports of emergency vehicles converging near the former movie theater, they are part of the drill. You may also receive reports from individuals who monitor police, fire and emergency response radio scanners. Although communications over public airwaves will make it clear that the broadcast is part of a drill, it is still possible that the public may be alarmed.”

On the day of the drill, I happened to notice a few extra vehicles in the abandoned parking lot, but my work day continued as usual. I asked a few of my co-workers if they noticed anything out of the ordinary. Nothing.

Here’s something else about the scenario. Right across the street from us (and right next to the vacant parking lot) sits Janesville Fire Station #5. We see and hear big fire engines and emergency vehicles every day.

It made me wonder: Have we become so accustomed to the sirens and flashing lights that they are mostly ignored? Have our senses been dulled to the warning signs?

Jesus is coming back. His return will not be an isolated event in a vacant parking lot or a small section of one country, but one that will affect the whole world. The Bible provides plenty of warnings in 1 Thessalonians 4, 1 Corinthians 15, and other places. Matthew 24 points to the warning signs of “wars and rumors of war,” major weather disturbances, the appearance of “deceivers” who claim to follow Jesus, and that the love of many would “grow cold.”

Now is not the time to ignore the signs, nor is it the time for phony commitments or to simply set up fictionalized scenarios.

Now is the time to commit yourself to Jesus with your words and to follow Him with your actions. Please encourage each other with these warnings.



## Help us spread the Good News!

Since 1844, the American Sabbath Tract Society/Council has published *The Sabbath Recorder*, sharing news for and about our Seventh Day Baptist churches. Your year-end, tax deductible gift will help keep us connected.

## Thank You!

*Editor Kevin Butler*



And it's your last chance  
for reduced Page Sponsor rates!  
Send those \$100 sponsor gifts  
by 12/31/12

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

- Enclosed is my GIFT for *The SR*  
 \$165    **\$100**    \$50    \$30    \_\_\_\_\_  
will sponsor a page

**Sponsor info:** \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

- Please CHANGE my address to:  
 Please REMOVE my name from the mailing list

**Please send form to: *The Sabbath Recorder, PO Box 1678, Janesville WI 53547-1678***  
**Or, go to *www.seventhdaybaptist.org* and make your donation through PayPal. Thanks!**