



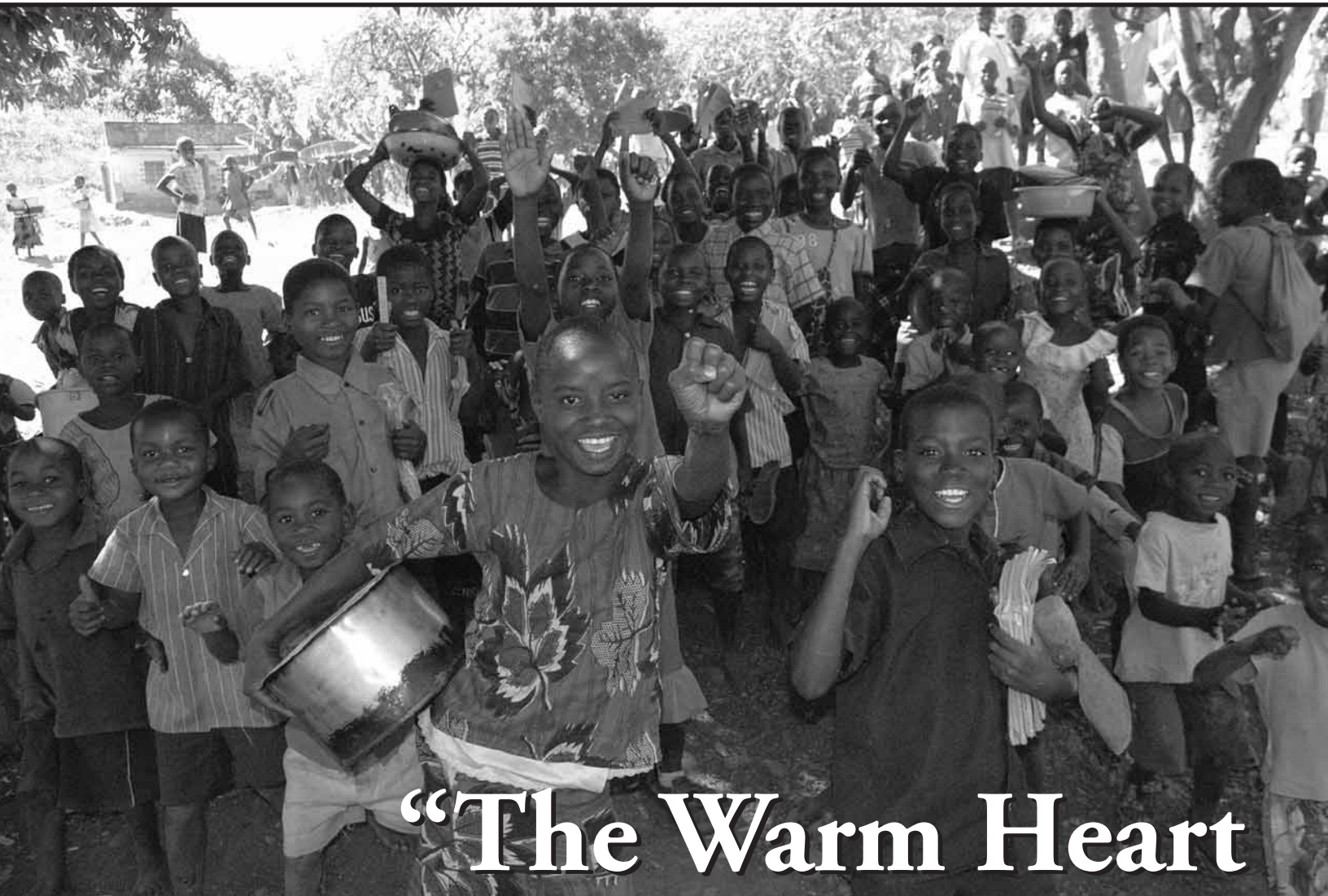
The Sabbath RECORDER

Inside:

A loving link to Ecuador
Trio's Excellent Adventure!

February 2012

News for and about Seventh Day Baptists



“The Warm Heart of Africa”

MOSHERS' MISSION TO MALAWI

(This is how they were greeted in Makapwa)



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



Women's Society Robe of Achievement 2012 Nominations

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)

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*



New Hymn Contest?

(see back cover)



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!



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Ⓔ = Editor's Circle members

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Welcome to “The Warm Heart of Africa”

Our mission to Malawi

by Craig Mosher
Berlin, NY

“The Warm Heart of Africa.” That’s the nickname given to Malawi—due not to the climate, but to the hospitality and friendliness visitors receive when they travel to this small landlocked country in central Africa.

When Alicia and I were asked if we would like to go to Malawi and work with the Central Africa Conference (CAC) of Seventh Day Baptists, we were excited, to say the least. We had been looking for ways to do an African mission trip for several months. But we expected

that it would take a couple of years to get finances and paperwork in order.

When Kirk Looper of the SDB Missionary Society contacted us in May and said we could go in September, we were blown away! After a few whirlwind months of school work, collecting all that we needed to go, and church visits for fundraising, we were on a plane to Africa. God certainly had His sovereign hand in all of our preparations.

Many thought that September was unlikely because of the short time to raise so much money. But

the Lord took care of all our needs and on September 3rd we boarded a plane for the adventure of our lives.

We arrived in the main commercial city of Blantyre, Malawi on September 5. Nedd Lozani, the CAC General Secretary and his wife, Alefa, greeted us warmly. After spending a couple days in the city getting supplies, we started our journey to Makapwa, the official headquarters of the CAC. Following an hour on the main road, we turned onto a dirt surface and had another hour’s drive through the sprawling, bright green region of Malawi’s tea plantations.

The second half of our trip was quite bumpy (as were many more of our trips during our stay). Most of Malawi’s SDB churches are in the rural areas, with many roads inaccessible during the rainy season.

Arriving safely at Makapwa Station we were given a tour of what would be our home for the next three months. We also saw the Makapwa

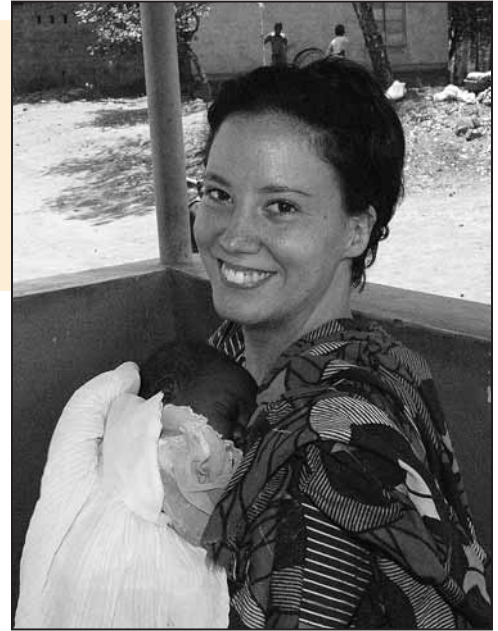


During their first week in Makapwa, the Moshers helped repaint the Makapwa SDB Station sign with Mr. Mataka (left), the Station Manager. [Inset: the sign before.]

Medical Center, one of five that the CAC operates throughout Malawi. After visiting the Makapwa SDB Church and the Primary School, we began meeting people including the Station Pastor, Pastor Harawa and the Station Manager, Mr. Mataka. He would be our main contact person for any needs we had.

Over the next three weeks, we attended pastors' meetings and

Alicia holds a 2-week-old baby at the Thomas Health Centre.



“ We had been looking to do an African mission trip. But we expected that it would take a couple of years to get finances in order. ”

Craig with the Bible College students and staff.



General Conference, where we met many members and were privileged to join the Makapwa Medical Choir. We even learned some songs in Chichewa, the language of Malawi. I was asked to preach at the pastors' meeting and during Conference. I spoke from Jeremiah on building up the Church.

After Conference, Alicia and I visited churches and some of the medical clinics. We also spent time getting to know our brothers and sisters in Christ at Makapwa. I was asked to play on the Makapwa Football (soccer) team, but lasted

only 10 minutes of my first game. From then on, I was only support staff, since I didn't contribute much to the team on the field!

Meanwhile, Alicia started work at the Clinic assisting in the maternity ward. She experienced her first delivery just a few days after starting, and went on to assist with several more births and pre- and post-natal clinics. After a few weeks, she also worked in the outpatient ward, where she was able to give injections and work with the nurses in general care.

After several weeks, Pastor Har-

awa came to me and told me that the Bible College would start the following week, and that I would be teaching five classes! Now, if you remember from our support letters and messages, I was preparing for a few months to teach one class on Church Polity. So when I was asked to teach Music, English, Acts, and Public Speaking, I was a little nervous. Actually, I was very nervous! But, with a lot of prayer and as much preparation as I could do (with no internet and limited

cont. next page

books), I started the following Monday. My three students turned out to be great young men who were really excited to learn!

While in Malawi, we grew so much and learned a great deal about the needs of the people. Throughout the three months of serving at the clinic and Bible College, we had the opportunity to visit many SDB churches, where I preached a total of eight times. This included preaching at Conference and at the funeral of one church member. We were also blessed to attend the Women's Conference in the capital of Lilongwe. That was a great time of fellowship.

Traveling to the northern region we visited churches there, and then spent a day relaxing on beautiful Lake Malawi. We also toured four of the five SDB medical clinics. One new mission God placed on our hearts was to identify needs at the clinics and churches that we visited. There are more needs than you can count. We, along with the Missionary Society, will be challenging churches in the near future to help fill some of the basic needs that the people of Malawi have.

Our mission trip to Malawi went far beyond anything that we had ever imagined. We were greatly blessed and grew in our faith above what we could have hoped. We were also challenged in many ways,

Meeting with the Board of the Central Africa Conference (l. to r.): the



Moshers; Nedd Lozani, General Secretary of the CAC; Pastor Harawa, President; and Pastor Nantika, Board member.

and God saw us through all of those challenges.

God even decided to use us in ways that we had never foreseen, including speaking Godly wisdom into a situation at the Conference that was causing division and really challenging the Conference Board and General Secretary. God was good in all those situations and put His Holy Spirit on us to speak the words He wanted people to hear.

Alicia and I want to thank all of you who supported us, both financially and, more importantly, through prayers. We were so encouraged

when we looked at the little calendar our pastor gave us that listed different people who were praying for us for each day we were in "The Warm Heart of Africa." We were truly blessed by this mission and thank God for the experience He gave us. **SR**

"Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen." (Ephesians 3:20-21)

The staff of the Makapwa Medical Centre.



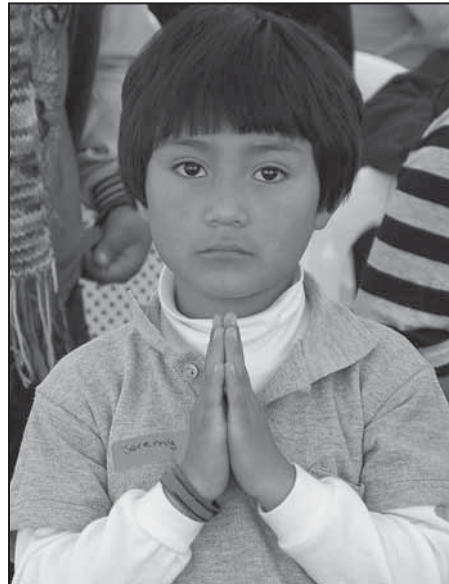
A loving link to Ecuador

by Dick Shepard
Houston, Texas

Five years ago, a family from Quito, Ecuador walked into our Sabbath morning worship at the Houston SDB Church. Little did we know the scope of God's plan.

Following the service, Pilar Coral called Pastor Nestor Pozo in Quito to tell him that she had found a U.S. church home that believed in the same things the Quito church believed. That began numerous visits between the two groups.

Pastor Nestor Pozo (a medical doctor) and his wife, Jacqui, visited Houston. They enjoyed the *Helping Hand* Bible study, the worship service and fellowship. At a dinner in Pilar's home that Sunday evening, Pastor Nestor asked if the *Helping Hand* quarterly study was available in Spanish. Finding that it was being translated, printed and distributed to several countries by our Arlington, Va., church, we arranged for copies to be sent to Ecuador.



A young worshiper in Ecuador

Since that initial start, the *Helping Hand* is now translated by Nestor's daughter Dr. Andrea Pozo, and printed by Luis Zubiria who owns "imprimax," a professional print shop. The graphics are done by Siltiva Rodriguez.

To simplify distribution, the Quito

church mails copies to churches in the U.S. (Arlington; Houston; White Cloud, Mich.; Columbus, Ohio; Ft Worth, Texas), Mexico, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Brazil, Chile, and Spain. The SDB Statement of Belief booklet has also been translated and printed with funding from a Memorial Fund grant.

In November 2007, I visited Quito to participate in the dedication of their beautiful, new church facilities—Iglesia del Evangelio Eterno. It was a spiritual uplift to be a part of that celebration. There were over 300 in attendance.

Two years later, a team of three college students—Christine Stillman, Linda Aguilera and Jennifer Leiva—traveled to Quito. Along with Dan Stillman from the Houston church, they spent two weeks assisting in a Bible School for the expanding number of children. Pastor Jim Barclift also shared with a weeklong series of messages on leadership with key church leaders.

cont. next page



Pastor Nestor and Jacqui Pozo



Linking hands across cultures: Dick Shepard (left) with some fellow worshipers and the translator.



Seven different Sabbathkeeping groups met for worship in Ecuador last fall.

In September 2011, my wife Mary and I traveled with Pastor Jim and Cindy Barclift to spend 10 days in the upper tributaries of the Amazon River jungle. The plan was to fly from an airfield at Shell, Ecuador, to a village near the Peruvian border to visit a developing outreach of the Quito church and deliver medical supplies.

The town of Shell is near where Nate Saint (founder of Mission Aviation Fellowship), Jim Elliott,

and three other missionaries were martyred in 1956. Since that time, MAF continues to assist missionaries in reaching the people of the Amazon region with the Gospel.

The 40-minute flight to a GPS location in the jungle close to Peru would take three weeks by foot and canoe. Arriving over the location, the clouds were hovering at tree-top level so we were forced to return to Shell without landing.

The next Sabbath we were

part of a worship gathering with seven Sabbath-keeping churches from Guayaquil, Riobamba, and other locations in Ecuador. The assembly was much like an Association meeting in the States. Pastor Jim brought a powerful message of revival that stirred the churches.

The warmth and hospitality of the Ecuadorian people is something everyone should experience. Their hunger to know and understand the Word of God is uplifting. *SR*



Houston's Pastor Jim Barclift (r.) with Andrea Pozo translating.



The children enjoyed their Bible class outside.

A trio's Excellent Adventure!

Leadership Training (and more) in Brazil

by Rob Appel
Executive Director

Back in April of 2010, just days after a trio of leadership trainers returned from Jamaica, I received an inquiry from Pastor Jonas Sommer of Brazil. He asked if I could come to his country and teach administration skills to the T.I.M.E. (Training In Ministry by Extension) students.

Now, Jonas had no idea that I had been in Jamaica. Jonas didn't know that the team of Pastors Andy Samuels, George Calhoun and I were doing this exact thing just the week before. Yet, here he was wondering if I would be willing to do such a thing in Brazil! God does work in mysterious ways... at least to us He does.

Jonas and I set the time of November 2011 for the seminars.



Pastor George Calhoun making a point during a seminar.



Pastor Andy Samuels confirming a word with translator Daisy.



Rob Appel (r.) teaching on leadership with translator Douglas.

This would be around the dates of a national celebration of Brazilian independence, giving people time away from their normal schedules. Since this date was over a year away, it allowed me time to put together the needed funding. With all the

money collected, I was then able to assemble the team and work on the curricula based on Brazil's culture.

The seminars

On November 9, 2011, Andy, George, and I set out for Curitiba—the first stop on our Excellent Adventure. In Curitiba, Pastor



Brazilian Pastors Paulo, Eli and Jonas.

Pastor Andy leading at the Curitiba seminar.

Jonas had 70 people signed up to participate in this three-day seminar. Seventy people showed up! In the northern part of Brazil, Jonas had 18 students signed up for the whole seminar, and on Sabbath morning we had over 80 in attendance!

Since Brazilians speak Portuguese, we had three interpreters—Pastor Jonas, Daisy Moitinho, and Douglas Machado—help us with the presentations. To Jonas, Daisy and Douglas, we say “Obrigato” (thank you).

Both seminars opened with us covering the skills that all leaders should know to be effective. They focused on a Christian leader’s character, how leaders must learn to earn respect, and why the church needs strong leadership.

The second part of our seminar was based on the way that Jesus taught leadership. We used the book *The Master Plan of Evangelism* by Dr. Robert E. Coleman. First published in 1963, it is just as pertinent today as the day it was written. Dr. Coleman uses examples of Selection, Association, Consecration, Impartation, Demonstration, Delegation, Supervision, and Reproduction, to explain the ways that Jesus taught leadership techniques to the Apostles.

George, Andy and I demonstrated through our actions, personal stories, encouraging words, and hands-on training, just what the attendees were to take from these lessons. We had time in large group instruction to hear from all the participants. Then we took time in small groups to learn from each other what we personally need to do in order to train the next generation of leaders.

The seminars were fabulous!

Much of this was because the participants came willing to apply what they learned in order to become better leaders today, to effectively pass on what they learned to those in their churches. And if the seminars were fabulous, then the church visits were *EXCELLENT!*

Church visits in Curitiba

On the evening of November 12th, the team was asked to go to different churches around Curitiba and bring the message. George went to the First SDB Church of Curitiba, Andy went to the Bocaiuva SDB Church, and I went to the Second SDB Church of Curitiba.

Although we never compared notes on what we would be preaching about, we all had a common theme: “Ministering in God’s power to accept your brother and sister in Christ, and getting rid of the garbage in your life that hinders you from being used by God in a mighty and powerful way.” We didn’t realize that we were “on the same page” until the following week when we heard each other’s message while at the churches up north.

Flying from Curitiba to Natal on the evening of the 14th, we arrived at 3:00 in the morning! We were tired and went right to sleep.

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Friends for life!



Worshipping at the João Pessoa SDB Church.

Let's build a new parsonage!

by Rob Appel
Executive Director

In the January *SR* (p. 24) there was a picture of a man standing near a building with the caption, "Is he looking at the building because..."

The man is Pastor Sidnei and he serves the SDB Church in Canoinhas, Brazil. I met him last year and I can tell you that he is a man of strong faith with a heart for evangelism.

Pastor Sidnei has taken small churches and grown them. The church he serves started with nine faithful people and now has an average attendance of 130! And just look at the children in the picture!



Pastor Sidnei broadcasts a radio show every Sunday evening that proclaims the Gospel of Salvation through Jesus Christ. They have planted a branch church in the neighborhood west of Canoinhas. Their church cooperates with other ministries and they collaborate with an institution that helps drug addicts recover.

Over the last three years the Canoinhas Church has raised up new pastors. Five of them are currently serving SDB churches, and nine more are in the Brazilian T.I.M.E. program administered by Jonas Sommer. Because of the training of Pastor Sidnei, there is a noticeable characteristic in these pastors—their strong passion for evangelism.

However, with all these great ministries, there is an area where Pastor Sidnei could use our help. It is the parsonage he lives in. None of us would ever choose to live in those conditions.

The current parsonage was built in 1992, using wood from an old house. It is now in a terrible condition and literally falling in. It offers risks to the people living there. The state of the house is

critical and there is no alternative but to demolish it and build another one.

HERE IS WHERE YOU CAN HELP

We would like to partner with the Brazilian SDB Conference and help build Pastor Sidnei a new parsonage. Even with a large membership they cannot support this endeavor alone. They do not have those kinds of funds.

The focus of this project is to build a 3-bedroom house at a cost of about \$61,000 US. The first stage would be for the church people to set the foundation, construct the walls, and build the roof.

A second stage would be scheduled so people from North America would come to Brazil for two weeks to assist in: laying floors; plastering; painting; electrical and water installation. We would stay at the church and all meals would be supplied. During the day we would work together, and every night we would perform mission activities at the church and its branches.

You may send your donation (marked "Brazil Parsonage") to the SDB Missionary Society, 19 Hillside Ave., Ashaway RI 02804. Or you may donate at the website: www.sdbmissions.org. For more information please call 401-596-4326, or e-mail, director@sdbmissions.org. **SR**



Notice the severe lean to the left, and the rotted wood outside (inset, upper right).

The next morning we found ourselves at a villa on the ocean! Pastor Eli had rented this place for us for two nights. All five of us stayed there—Andy, George, Jonas, Douglas and I—in a three-room villa on beds, couches and the floor. We loved it!

The churches in the North

The evening of the 15th, Pastor George spoke at the Natal SDB Church. He spoke of “Ministering in God’s Power.” George asked for those who needed prayer to come forward and most did. Due to the language barrier we didn’t know what the people needed specifically, so the Holy Spirit led us in what to pray for them. We placed our hand on their head, or arm, our neck and we let the Spirit direct us.

This happened the next night in João Pessoa, and Thursday night in Bayeux, with Andy and Rob preaching the same type of message with Gideon and John 14 being the background for the sermons.

Each night people came forward for healing, and each night the Holy Spirit touched souls and changed lives. I had never done an altar call before, and everyone who was there came forward. People were prayed for and the Holy Spirit was welcomed in and accepted by those needing healing.

At the end of each night we were physically exhausted. We were tired and hungry. And the dinner was always *after* each of these services. We ate and then got to bed after midnight. It was a *GREAT* feeling! Being “used up” by God in this way was exhilarating!

St. John’s River Fish

Next we had an eight-hour bus ride from João Pessoa to São João do Rio do Peixe (translated as “St. John’s River Fish”—let’s just call it St. John). This was on Friday the



Part of the school audience at São João do Rio do Peixe.

18th, with 13 people in the van! And to top it off, Pastor George was to give an evangelistic speech to students at a school that evening—a public school. Try that in America!

George prayed and fasted all day so the Holy Spirit could direct him in what to say. There were over 300 people in attendance. Besides the 9- to 14-year-old students, their parents, grandparents, siblings and others were there too!

Curitiba has a population of 2.5 million. Natal is over 1.5 million. João Pessoa is close to a million,

and Bayeux is a suburb of over 100,000. So arriving at St. John was a bit of a change because it is a city of under 18,000 people.

Situated near the equator, it is very hot in St. John, all the time! On Saturday evening it was still in the mid 90s. Pastor Eli (a different Pastor Eli than mentioned before) had the streets around the church blocked off. He had a big flatbed truck pull up next to the building and placed the pulpit and band instruments on it.

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A big flatbed truck held the band and the pulpit at the church revival. A wind of change was about to blow in.





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

Living for God's Glory

by Miriam Lawton Berg
 Thornton, CO

Recently I took a course called "Perspectives on the World Christian Movement." I was delighted to find that its purpose is my passion: to help give people a broader vision and deeper understanding of God's work in and desires for the world so that they may live their lives with strategic significance, purpose, passion, and hope.

With this goal in mind, the first few lessons focus on the Biblical story of God, the earth, and the peoples. Instead of looking at the Bible as a book full of disjointed stories or merely a book of good moral lessons, the course presents the Bible as one overarching story whose main character, purpose, and end is God. I love this viewpoint because it enables me to take the focus off of myself, and put it where it really belongs: on God.

My favorite lesson in the course, "The Story of His Glory," helps to flesh out this concept. One of the key articles is of the same name and written by Steven Hawthorne. In it, he explains that God reveals His glory to all nations in order to re-

ceive glory from all nations through worship. A short look at Scripture will reveal this goal/purpose as a constant theme throughout:

- Abraham:** God blessed Abraham in order that all the peoples on earth would be blessed through him (Genesis 12:2-3).
- The Exodus:** God stated that the purpose for freeing the Hebrews from slavery was "that I might show you my power and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth" (Exodus 9:13, 16).
- The Conquest:** God pardoned Israel for their unfaithfulness in order that His name would be honored among the Egyptians and the Canaanites (Num. 14). He then established the purity of worship to Himself (Joshua 23:6-8).
- The Temple:** In his prayer of dedication for the temple, Solomon realized that "men will hear of [God's] great name" (1 Kings 8:42).
- The Exile:** Ezekiel prophesied that God would bring the Israelites back from exile, "for the sake of [His] holy name" (Ezekiel 36: 22-36).
- Christ:** When Jesus overturned the tables in the Temple he quoted

the prophet Isaiah, explaining that God's desire was that the Temple "be called a house of prayer for all nations" (Mark. 11:15-17).

- Revelation:** John's vision of heaven clearly shows that "a great multitude... from every nation, tribe, people, and language [will be] standing before the throne" crying out and worshiping God (Revelation 7:9-10).

These are only a few examples. However, a more thorough search of Scripture will confirm that God's desire is to be glorified above everything among all peoples. This understanding of Scripture compels me to ask the questions, "How will God be most glorified in my life... my church... my community... all nations??" and "What part should I play?"

With this understanding, I will strive to live my life passionately; that is, as Steven Hawthorne puts it, with my heart "set free to pursue that which is truly worthy. Those who set their hearts on what is most worthy—the glory of God—live with joy-filled abandon. Their hearts are both seized and satisfied with the ambition for Jesus to be ardently worshiped. That love comes to dominate and integrate all other desires so that they live in the freedom of single-minded purpose."

So let our lives be. Amen. **SR**

"Perspectives on the World Christian Movement" is a non-denominational course created by the US Center for World Mission that looks at the biblical, historical, cultural, and strategic aspects of God's work in and desires for the world. The 15-week course is hosted by churches in cities across the country and may be taken for various levels of credit ranging from audit to post-graduate credit. For more information, visit www.perspectives.org.

Miriam Berg lives in Thornton, Colo., with her husband Matt and son Elijah. She is currently a stay-at-home mom.



P.R.O.P.— It certainly bears repeating

by Morgan Shepard

“Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.” (1 Timothy 5:17 ESV)

Not one to belabor a point for fear of annoying, I need to repeat myself. Back in the July-August issue I highlighted retired pastors and spouses who had served SDB churches and the denomination dating back to the 1940s. These faithful servants represent:

- A Combined 350 Years of Service**
- An Average of 32 Years of Service**
- An Average Age of 87 (not getting younger)**
- Median Age of 88**
- An Average Monthly Pension of \$700**

The Pastor’s Retirement Offering Project (“PROP”) was established in 1979 to fund the original retirement plan administered by the General Conference. PROP also provides disability insurance for current qualifying pastors and denominational employees.

That’s the past. Here’s what the future holds for 2012:

2012 PROP / Retirement Income Statement

[numbers updated from 2011]

Beginning Balance	\$ 20,000
Income	
Endowments	20,000
Church / Individual Gifts	10,300
2012 Conference Services Gift	6,000
Total Cash Available	56,300
Expenses	
Pensions	92,500
Disability Insurance	13,000
Total Expenses	105,500
Over / (Under)	\$ (49,200)

For 2012 that doesn’t seem like a lot, and you’re right—it isn’t. Here is how we can meet that 2012 deficit:

2012 PROP / Retirement Deficit

Listed Members (4,200)	\$ 12 / Year
Avg. Attendance (2,800)	\$ 18 / Year
Churches / Fellowships (90)	\$ 547 / Year

But the need will get bigger in 2013 since *all* the reserves will be gone. In 2013 the deficit is projected at \$75,000!

If you’ve given to PROP in the past, *THANK YOU* for your gift. If any of these pastors touched your life, would you please consider helping now? Your gift now and into the future will help ensure we can continue to honor their service.

There are seven pastors (with four spouses) and four surviving spouses who receive a pension from PROP. They have been, and continue to be, faithful servants to SDBs. We need to continue to be faithful to them. **SR**

Pastors

- Leroy C. Bass (Marjorie)
- C. Rex Burdick (Joyce)
- Leland E. Davis
- David C. Pearson (Bettie)
- Donald E. Richards
- Victor W. Skaggs
- Edgar F. Wheeler (Xenia Lee)

Other Retirees

- Joyce L. Conrod
- William McCallister
- Doris Van Horn
- Cynthia J. Brissey



(Retired)
Pastor Profile
Pastor Profile

Name: Leland Eugene Davis

Birthdate and place:

September 22, 1920 Jackson Center, Ohio

Family:

Married Gertrude B. Dickinson on March 4, 1945
(Gertrude passed in 2002)

Children: Kenneth, Ronald, Mary Sue
17 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren (2 more
on the way)

Education:

Jackson Center HS (valedictorian, FFA leader)
Salem (WV) College 1942-1943
Bethany (WV) College (pre-chaplain
training) 1943-1944
Yale Seminary 1944-1945 (Chaplain Training)
Faith Theological Seminary,
Wilmington, DE 1946-1947

Ministry Experience (55 years):

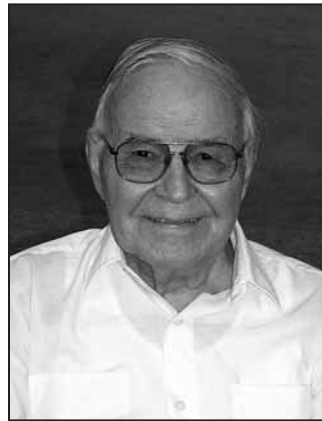
Chaplain Cadet US Navy 1943-45

Seventh Day Baptist Churches

Battle Creek, MI (assistant summer 1947)
Indianapolis, IN 1947-48
Boulder, CO 1949-53 (ordained 10/8/49)
Battle Creek, MI 1954-61
Schenectady, NY 1966-69
Los Angeles, CA 1969-76
Washington, DC 1976-86
Lake Elsinore, CA 1987- 2006
(Assistant Pastor some of these years)

SDB Boards and Agencies

Missionary to Guyana 1962-66
Commission 1974-77
Ad Hoc Committee 1976
SDB Rep to Baptist Joint Committee 1977-83
General Council 1983-85
Conference President 1984



Non-Ministry Experience:

Farming after high school and before college.

Favorite Authors:

Warren W. Wiersbe, John MacArthur

Retirement locations:

Lake Elsinore, CA (1987 - 2006)
Hemet, CA (2006 - 09)
Anderson, IN (2010 - Present)

Help PROP us above the water line!

The Committee on Support and Retirement will be announcing a new capital campaign for the old PROP (Pastor's Retirement Offering Project) plan. More details of the need are on the opposite page.

Contributions now and to the new campaign will enable us to continue providing retirement checks to the 11 remaining in the old retirement structure. Pastor Leland Davis is a senior member of this group.



Relearning a simple task

I don't remember when I first learned to tie my own shoes. Having watched babies over the last few years, I doubt that I was born with that ability.

However, I do remember learning to tie my shoes again.

Relearning how to tie my shoes started when I read an article that explained the difference between a granny knot and a reef knot. The granny knot was described as unbalanced, prone to slip, and sloppy. The reef knot was described as balanced, neat, and self-tightening.

Since tying shoes was a skill I thought I had mastered years ago, the article didn't concern me much. However, curiosity pushed me to look. I scooted back from the desk, stared down at my feet, and discovered that one shoe had the reef knot. The other had the now unseemly granny knot.

The article prescribed corrections to shoe-tying technique, corrections that should guarantee production of the reef knot. I read these instructions and decided to make sure that I followed them.

Over the next few days, I self-consciously glanced down and was chagrined to find that as often as not, at least one of my shoes was proudly displaying granny knots. This was a frustrating discovery. Having read about the difference between the knots and having read instructions to make sure that my granny-knot-



“*We should allow others to help us figure out how to do things better.*”

shoe-tying days were over, it seemed my shoes should always have the better knot. I kept the work up—each time I bent down to tie a shoe, I had the instructions running through my head. Yet, the results were not consistent.

After a week or so, the granny knot was still showing up. So, I tracked down the initial article, followed the reference trail, and ended up at a website called “Ian’s Shoelace Site.” Here I learned a lot more about tying shoelaces and finally discovered why I wasn’t getting consistent results with my knots.

However, there was something else that caught my eye: “The World’s

Fastest Shoelace Knot.” The author described this knot, had step-by-step illustrations of the knot-in-progress, and even a video. As the father of a child who will soon have to learn to tie her own shoes, I thought, “Shouldn’t I rediscover what it’s like to learn to tie shoes from scratch?”

So, I started working to learn this knot. After a week of tying my shoe as often as I could, I had the new technique down pat. It’s fast and produces consistent results.

So, at the age of 41, I learned to tie my shoes again! This happened because somebody wrote an article that made me see how my shoe tying was not producing good knots. Someone else provided guidance that I could follow for making good knots. Then, I worked to make a deeply ingrained habit change. And the habit did change.

Tying shoes is not a big thing. That’s probably why I could write so freely about making the change from bad to good. But this change does illustrate a part of what God wants us to be as brothers and sisters in Christ.

We are to let others help us see when our behaviors and habits are not producing good results. We should allow them to help us figure out how to do things better. Then, we are to get to work and—always understanding that God is at work in us both to will and to act—make the changes happen. **SR**



FOCUS on Missions

The need is great, but God is Greater

by Clinton R. Brown

At a recent Sabbath fellowship dinner, a Christian brother and I were talking about the overwhelming spiritual and physical needs we face in the world (if we only have the courage to look). I shared that this was made particularly evident to me during a mission trip my wife, Beth, and I took to the Philippines.

We knew there were people who were physically poor in the world—Christ had said they would always be among us. But as we saw community after community of people living in poverty with little or no hope of bettering their lot for themselves or their children, it became a personal and growing burden. At that time, I allowed a discouragement to begin to creep in as I considered how these were just a few of the billions of people living unhealthy, hungry lives.

I understood why so many people turn a blind eye to those in need. It becomes disheartening when you consider how enormous the need is. Even if I devoted the rest of my life to helping, I could not imagine making a significant difference to the overall picture.

Studying God's Word and Godly counsel brought to light these three things that would shape my outlook on poverty:

- 1. I am not responsible for the larger scheme of things.** I am only responsible for what God permits me to affect with my life. Admittedly, I have a Great God and if it is His will, I could change the lives of limitless people, but *how much* change is not my burden. Mine is only to follow as He makes His will evident in my life. That is not a small responsibility, but it is one that keeps in mind “Who is the Potter?” and “who is the clay?” (*Rom. 9:21*)
- 2. The blessings outweigh the need.** Though there are vast numbers of poverty-stricken people—both physically and spiritually—there are probably enough blessings already available in the Church to answer their needs. It is only a matter of God's people taking seriously what He considers essential to pure religion and allowing the Holy Spirit to lead our lives in sharing those blessings. (*Jam. 1:27*)
- 3. God has a limitless warehouse.** We know that even if it seemed there was not enough to complete

the objectives God set before us, we know that the God we serve is the One Who can take two fish and five loaves and in faithful hands feed five thousand. (*Matt. 14:13-21*)

The Missionary Society office regularly gets requests from sister Conferences for aid. Often it is simply for funds to support a ministry need. I know among our Conferences we have more than enough wealth to help them financially, even when times are hard. Sometimes, however, they ask for things that require help with specific training or skills. Here I suspect we have also been blessed and just need to allow ourselves to share those as well.

Several examples of skills called for by various Conferences have come in even since I have taken office:

- Brazil will soon need carpentry assistance as they build a new parsonage for one of their pastors. Carpentry, electrical, plumbing, and architecture help are a common need in our own Conference in starting or expanding churches, as well.
- Malawi has a Bible college that needs educated pastors to come and teach the future SDB leadership in Africa.
- Uganda, Burundi, and other African Conferences need health care workers and teachers to commit to working with their populations of HIV/AIDS orphans.
- In several nations SDB Conferences need assistance in learning sustainable agriculture for their environment. This can also be a “fruitful” outreach ministry for local congregations depending on their access to growing space.

These are but a few of the places and needs where the talents are available, but possibly not shared. Pray with me that I keep a watchful eye for the Holy Spirit to apply the blessings He has given us to the places where they are needed.

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) **SR**



the BEACON

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

February 2012

Cheering through the losses

by Rebecca Olson
Berlin, N.Y.



This year, I've followed in my sister's footsteps once again and become a cheerleader. It's been a great opportunity, and all the squad members are good friends.

As a very small team (only nine people), we are able to be a more close-knit group than some of the previous Berlin squads. Seven of us are new to the team, so it's been a learning experience.

Overall, I've really enjoyed my many misadventures with a group of girls I might never have become friends with if not for cheer. I think we have also learned a lot of important things.

One thing we've had to learn is how to be "cheerful" all the time. Our cheer coach is constantly yelling at us to smile. We've learned how to be happy no matter what. That means that we have to be happy when the boys win and when they lose. That might be one of the most important lessons learned.

At our first game, we were all very excited. As the game progressed, the boys started to lose by more and more points. It proved to be a lot less fun to cheer for our team when they were losing. However, we kept our spirits up, and managed to get the whole crowd cheering along with us—even though the boys were

down by nearly 30 points. I think we are all a little proud of our effort.

Since that first game, the boys have won only one game. Still, we cheer with just as much excitement when they lose as when they win. This reminds me of a line from the movie "Facing the Giants," when Coach Taylor is talking to his team. He says, "If we win, we praise Him. And if we lose, we praise Him. Either way, we've got to honor Him with our actions and our attitudes."

This applies to our own lives, too. If things go right, we have to give all the glory to God. And if things go wrong, we have to praise Him as well. As 1 Thessalonians 5:18 says, "In everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

We have to praise God when things don't go our way, because we know that it fits into His perfect

plan. This is a really hard thing to learn, and even harder to put into practice. No one wants to be thankful for the bad things.

The "giving thanks" part, however, is a lot easier when you remember we need to be joyful, too. If you have joy in the midst of your trials, it's much easier to be thankful. Like thankfulness, being joyful can seem nearly impossible. In order to have that joy, we have to understand why God wants us to have it. In James 1:2-5, it says that trials test our faith, producing patience, so that we will be perfected. But if anyone needs wisdom, then he should ask God, and God will give it to him.

Aren't patience, wisdom, and perfection three things that we should be striving for as a Christian? While they seem nearly impossible to attain, God's Word tells us that we get all three of those things by pushing through our hardships.

To get through the tough times, we need to first rely on God. Then we should remain joyful so we don't get distracted by how hard life as a Christian can be. Even though it's still a struggle to find joy in the trials of life, it becomes easier as you remember that persevering will ultimately lead to perfection, and a life with God. **SR**

My favorite compass

by Dorothy Noel
Corning, N.Y.

This summer for my 20th birthday I received a compass. It wasn't a GPS for my nonexistent car, nor a map of my favorite city. It was an old-fashioned hunting compass.

My compass came with instructions on how to use it to find your way, and I read some of them. What struck me was that in order to use it properly you have to start with a point of reference. You can't get lost and *then* ask the compass to get you out of the woods—you have to know where you started from, or at least the direction you came from.

Now why would a 20-year-old woman want a compass? There are lots of reasons actually. First, my home in western New York has a large portion of forest. I love wandering in it, but I've become lost on numerous occasions. I always find my way back home, but not without a bit of consternation on my part. The hope is my compass will be able to point me home, because I know what direction the house is from the forest.

Plus my compass is orange. My favorite color. EVER. It reminds me of what I like, of who I am, and of how I identify myself. Orange is also a happy color; it keeps me running, and reminds me to look on the bright side.

A compass is a huge part of my favorite movie, "Pocahontas." If you don't know, the compass is known as



the "spinning arrow" in the Disney tale. Pocahontas has a dream that the arrow is pointing her down a path, but she doesn't know which one it is.

Her pet raccoon winds up taking the compass from John Smith and

gives it to her when she doesn't know what to do. She sees the arrow spinning and realizes her path is pointing to John Smith. She then saves his life.

I don't think I'll be saving lives anytime soon, but it is a reminder that I need to follow the path I'm on, to continually look for a new direction and to pursue my dreams.

Putting all this together, the compass is a symbol and a reminder of God's constant presence in my life. I can't look to Him only when I'm lost, because I need Him from the beginning of my journey too. Even though I can usually find my way out of bad situations on my own, it's much easier when I know what direction I'm headed, and when I'm willing to look to my compass and follow God's plan.

He's my favorite. I love Him and He's the one who allows me to feel and think and live. God's given me dreams and hopes, and I must continually pursue them looking to Him as my guide. **SR**

Denominational Dateline

February 2012

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

March

- 3 Washington, DC Church—*Rob Appel*
- 3 SDB Christian, Falls Church, VA—*Appel*
- 3 Verona, NY Church—*Camenga*
- 5 BJC, Washington, DC—*Appel*

- 6-9 BWA and NABF, Falls Church, VA—*Appel*
- 10 Central Maryland Church—*Appel*
- 17-18 Nortonville, KS Church—*Gordon Lawton*
- 18 Missionary Society Annual Meeting, Ashaway, RI—*Clint Brown*

April

- 21-22 Memorial Fund meeting, SDB Center—*Morgan Shepard, Appel*
- 29 Women's Board meeting, Tomah, WI—*Althea Rood*



The President's Page
by John Pethtel

Buckhannon, WV July 29–Aug. 4, 2012

Are you ready to forgive?

But you are a God ready to forgive, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and did not forsake them. (Nehemiah 9:17b)

When I read this verse, I picture a parent watching a child who is about to make a mistake, but the parent lets the child make it anyway. Then I see the parent use that mistake not as an opportunity to punish the child but as a teaching moment to correct in love and to show that there is no expectation of perfection. There is, instead, a transmission of grace and mercy.

God is ready to forgive us when we disobey Him and fall short of His calling for us and our churches. He is gracious and merciful in the way He corrects us and places us back into His community. He is aware that sinners sin and is slow to get angry with them. His great love bides the anger.

Unfortunately, as imperfect people, we sometimes do not model the readiness of our God to forgive. We are not *READY* to go forward with our calling from God because we are trapped with the grudges of the past.

Have you thought about what grudges you aren't ready to forgive—the ones that come burning to mind when you are reminded of a particular event or person? As a follower of our Lord Jesus, have you modeled the grace and mercy He has displayed to those who have sinned against you? (If you haven't forgiven, then it will be hard.)

Are you slow to anger when mistakes are made? Is your love steadfast for His people, or is it conditional and held hostage by what you want to have happen?

Thankfully, God does not forsake us when we make mistakes. He lovingly corrects us and brings us back into a right relationship through the work of God the Holy Spirit and His holy people, the Church. Because He uses us to build His Kingdom (from the inside out), this is why it's important for the Church to model the forgiveness, grace, mercy, and love of our Savior.

ARE YOU READY to ask for forgiveness from God and from those you have sinned against? Confess and repent. *ARE YOU READY* to forgive those who are indebted to you or have transgressed against you?

If you have done these two things, *ARE YOU READY* to show His holy people (the Church) grace, mercy, and love? In modeling this forgiveness, *ARE YOU READY* to be the Church to each other inside the body and to the world outside the body?

It's time to start thinking about your plans for the summer. Our annual Conference program this year is lining up to be very exciting. We will have seven messages from some great speakers flowing from our Conference theme, *ARE YOU READY?* and challenge our churches to get ready for what God will do through them.

There will be five Bible Study sessions taking us through the book of 1 Thessalonians. Of course, there will also be some meal meetings, fellowship times, a few banquets, singing, prayer, and ice cream.

There is still time to offer input into our yearly meeting. Please feel free to contact me by **phone** (304-629-9823), **e-mail** (john.j.pethtel@gmail.com), **Twitter** (@jjpethtel), or **Facebook** (facebook.com/jjpethtel).

On behalf of myself, our Conference executives, our Boards and Agencies, and our Conference Host Committee, we want to invite you to join the *ARE YOU READY?* conversation at West Virginia Wesleyan College in Buckhannon, WV from July 29–August 4, 2012. **SR**



by Executive Director
Rob Appel

Ready to flip the switch?

In this issue of the *Recorder* I have shared an article about a recent mission trip several of us made to Brazil (see page 9). We initially went to do a seminar on Leadership and Administration Skills. That's what 88 students were to take away from our being in their country. But that's not what we North Americans came away with.

In the 11 nights we were there, we conducted nine worship services. Pastor George Calhoun preached at four locations, Pastor Andy Samuels preached at three churches, and I spoke at two. Although we never conferred about what we were going to speak on, we all had a common theme: "Getting rid of the garbage in your life that hinders you from being used by God."

Every night we asked those who needed prayer to come forward. Most of the people did and at one location *everyone* did! With the language barrier, we couldn't ask about the specific need but the Holy Spirit let us know many times what to pray for. This happened night after night.

In Luke chapter 8 we read of the woman who touched the edge of Jesus' cloak in a way that he felt some of the power leave him (see Luke 8:43-48).

At the end of each night Andy, George, and I were physically exhausted. We were tired and hungry. It was a GREAT feeling! Being used



up by God was exhilarating! Each night people were willing to come forward for healing, and each night the Holy Spirit touched souls and changed lives.

I can't help but think about a story from Max Lucado that tells of a lady who had a small house on Ireland's seashore at the turn of the 20th century. The lady was wealthy but frugal, so the people who lived nearby were shocked to learn that she decided to be among the first to have electricity installed.

Several weeks after she received the power in her home, a meter reader appeared at the door and asked if her electricity was working well because the meter showed very little usage. She assured him it was by saying, "Each evening when the

sun sets, I turn on my lights just long enough to light my candles, and then I turn them off."

The woman's home was tapped into the power but did not use it. Her house was connected but not changed. Don't we sometimes make the same mistake? Don't we claim to be connected, but our hearts are untouched and unaffected?

Basically we trust Christ for His salvation, but resist His transformation. Oh, we occasionally flip the switch when it suits us, but most of the time we settle for low light and not seeing well. This is not only true for individuals but it is also true for churches.

Let me ask a question. Do we merely want to live in the shadows of our past? Of the "what might have been"? Is that what God wants for us? NO! God has so much more for us Seventh Day Baptists! But, it requires us to surrender. To surrender to whatever it requires us to—past difficulties, past conflicts between one another, past dreams and plans, and past victories.

I believe that God has a future for us as Seventh Day Baptists. I also think that He wants us to know what it is. But, are we prepared to hear it, to accept it, and then do it? We won't be until we find our acceptance, our security, and our significance in God and God alone.

What are you going to do? **SR**



Charles Domingo Pioneer African SDB

by Dr. Ron Davis, guest writer

Do we see history through the tinted glasses of our culture? My view of Seventh Day Baptist history focused on England and America. Famous SDBs to me were the Stennetts, Wards, and Jennings Randolph. SDBs in China started with American missionaries, some Davises. Work in Africa began in 1898 with Englishman Joseph Booth, advocate of “Africa for the African.”

The SDB in Lamin Sanneh’s groundbreaking book, *Disciples of All Nations* (Oxford, 2008) is **Charles Domingo**. Domingo has been examined in other scholarly works, starting in 1958.

Who is Charles Domingo and why is he studied? A mission trip to Malawi in 2009, with two stops at Chancellor College, shed some light for me.

Charles Domingo, born in Mozambique, was brought to Malawi as a child. He became a protégé of Dr. Laws at Livingstonia, and studied at Lovedale in South Africa. In 1887 he became the first African certificated teacher in Malawi, teaching for six years at Overtoun. According to W.P. Livingstone, he was “an Ideal Teacher, he maintained order and discipline, yet contrived to keep the pupils bright and happy.”

He also completed theology at Livingstonia in 1900. He was an able preacher and elder, licensed in 1902. Livingstonia ordained no Africans until 1914.

He left the Presbyterians in 1907, was baptized by John Chilembwe (a Baptist), and became a Seventh Day Baptist about 1909. He shepherded 180 baptized believers at nine Ngoni stations around Mzimba. Domingo organized schools and, though supplies and funds were meager, stressed self-sufficiency. Education, he knew, was needed for Africans to progress. By 1912 SDBs numbered several thousand.

Domingo led SDBs from 1910 until 1916. There were almost insurmountable hardships. His wife Sarah and two children had to move in 1911 in

search of food. American SDB support was cut after a visit and critical report by Moore and Wilcox in 1912. There were doctrinal, disciplinary, and financial problems encumbering the churches.

SDBs lost jobs at the European estates for refusing to work on Sabbath, thus they could not pay the hut tax. They were arrested, imprisoned, thrashed, and sentenced to hard labor. Yet Domingo could write, “Still God alone

is able to help us on and pass through such difficulties until in the name of Christ we conquer.”

Domingo corresponded with Joseph Booth in Capetown. Booth had been deported to South Africa a decade earlier for advocating independence for Africans by 1920. Domingo welcomed the independent SDB missionary Walter Cockerill in 1914 and had him preach. Both men were later deported, though not involved in the 1915 native

uprising led by Chilembwe.

Domingo returned to Mzimba from Mozambique in 1919 and worked a government job into the 1930s.

Along with Booth, Domingo was editor of the African *Sabbath Recorder*, his writing sometimes appearing in SDB publications in the United States. Scholarly books have highlighted Domingo’s advocacy of African equality and liberty and his role in stirring the spirit of African independence, which finally culminated in independence for many African countries in the 1960s.

He was a critic of compartmentalized, hypocritical “Christiandom.” His faith was holistic, integrating theology and life.

John McCracken wrote in *Politics and Christianity in Malawi 1875-1940* (Cambridge, 1977) that Domingo’s belief was “grounded on the authority of the Bible, and started from the premise that all races are equal.”

“What is the difference between a black man and a white man? Are we not of the same blood, and all from Adam?” – Charles Domingo. **SR**

“
*Are we not
of the same blood,
and all
from Adam?*
”



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*

Bloom where you're planted

But watch what you're pickin'

Last month, I mentioned how I've been planting more perennials on our double-lot property every year. Lately, I've discovered many other interesting quotes regarding flowers. Here are some of them:

"Flowers may beckon towards us, but they speak toward heaven and God."
—Henry Ward Beecher

"Earth laughs in flowers."

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Flowers seem intended for the solace of ordinary humanity."

—John Ruskin

"I'd rather have roses on my table than diamonds on my neck."

—Emma Goldman

"We can complain because rose bushes have thorns, or rejoice because thorn bushes have roses."

—Abraham Lincoln

Sometimes, people hold conflicting views of flowers. Antonio Porchia declared, "Flowers are without hope. Because hope is tomorrow and flowers have no tomorrow." But Lady Bird Johnson asserted, "Where flowers bloom, so does hope."

People are also at odds when it comes to the "pick or not-to-pick" question.

The "non-pickers" include Edna St. Vincent Millay ("I will be the gladdest thing under the sun! I will touch a hundred flowers and not pick one.") and William Allingham ("Pluck not the wayside flower; it



is the traveler's dower.")

Another "non-picker," Edward Abbey wrote, "For myself I hold no preferences among flowers, so long as they are wild, free, spontaneous. Bricks to all greenhouses! Black thumb and cutworm to the potted plant!"

"Pickers" include Anne Scott-James, who wrote, "To pick a flower is so much more satisfying than just observing it, or photographing it... So in later years, I have grown in my garden as many flowers as possible for children to pick."

Jacques Deval observed, "God loved the flowers and invented soil. Man loved the flowers and invented vases."

The word "soul" is frequently mentioned in regard to flowers:

"If you've never been thrilled to the very edges of your soul by a flower in spring bloom, maybe your soul has never been in bloom."

—Terri Guillemets

But, once again, there are conflicting viewpoints:

Henry Beecher wrote, "Flowers are the sweetest things God ever made, and forgot to put a soul into." But Gerard de Nerval believes, "Every flower is a soul blossoming in nature."

The Washington Post once observed, "Why do people give each other flowers? To celebrate various important occasions, they're killing living creatures? Why restrict it to plants? 'Sweetheart, let's make up. Have this deceased squirrel.'"

I smiled at the Henry L. Menchen notion that, "A cynic is a man who, when he smells flowers, looks around for a coffin."

That idea apparently was rattling around in George Burns' brain when he quipped, "At my age, flowers scare me."

These delightful rhyming lines were penned by Peter Newell: "Of what are you afraid, my child?" inquired the kindly teacher. 'Oh, sir! The flowers, they are wild,' replied the timid creature."

Finally, I'd like to share a quote to which I added a gender twist:

"A woman should never plant a garden larger than *her husband* can take care of."

Amen! **SR**

A year of blessing at Agape

by Jacinta Sterling

The Agape SDB Church of Christ (in Queens, N.Y.) was extremely blessed in 2011, especially during the last half of the year. In August a two-week crusade was well received, leaving us all with a sense of a closer relationship with our Savior. From that crusade we had a few people give their lives to the Lord and some recommitted themselves to Him. Baptismal classes are preparing candidates for baptism.

On November 5, 2011 we celebrated our 10th anniversary with worship and thanks to God for taking us thus far. A concert, with a packed church, closed the evening.

November 26, we had our annual prayer breakfast and Thanksgiving service—truly a blessing!

On December 10, we received seven new members into the fellowship by testimony. Also, there was an award ceremony. The children and young people were challenged to know the books of the Bible and to recite them in order from Genesis to Revelation. We were extremely proud of Damian Hepburn, a 7-year-old, who missed only three Old Testament books. He got third place. All the contestants were given trophies and certificates.

We had our first caroling service out in front of the church on December 24 and gave gifts to community members who received them gladly.

We took the opportunity to remind people that Jesus is the reason for the season and to wish them Merry Christmas. This was done to counteract the growing trend of being politically correct by wishing people “Happy Holidays.”

On December 31, we continued our tradition of all-night prayer to prepare us spiritually for the new year. **SR**



Agape Church members sang in front of the church and handed out gifts to neighbors, wishing them a “Merry Christmas.”



Prayers answered in Florida

by Sylvia Capodilupo

For a number of years, the SDB Church of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., had been praying for a full-time pastor.

Finally, with Pastor Andrew Samuels’ help, Pastor Norman Fearon from Jamaica was identified and approached. After all the necessary deliberations, Pastor Fearon and his family joined us on December 27, 2010 to serve the Fort Lauderdale flock.

On February 26, 2011 he was officially installed at our church. Participating in the services were Bro. Rob Appel, Executive Director

of the SDB Conference; Pastor Gordon Lawton, SDB Director of Pastoral Services; Pastor Wray Winborne, SDB Church of Daytona Beach, Fla.; and Pastor Andrew Samuels and Associate Pastor Dalmon Murphy of the Miami SDB Church. Deaconess Jasmine Lynch from the West Palm Beach, Fla., SDB Church welcomed the family to the South Atlantic Association.

Pastor Fearon has been working and praying hard for development of the group. We promised to support him in the vision and direction that

God has given him for this vineyard in Fort Lauderdale, and we look forward to working with him in the long-term. May God bless him and his family richly. Congratulations on his first year and we pray there will be many more. **SR**

Correction

In last month’s issue, Georgia Fairclough was identified as a member of the Agape SDB Church in St. Albans, N.Y. She is a member at the New York City SDB Church.

New members

Daytona Beach, FL
Wray Winborne, pastor
Joined by letter

George Anderson, Maria Anderson, Brenda Harris, Ashley Johnson, Dorothy Lippincott, Susan Elizabeth Wilson

Joined after testimony

Lois Gordon, Charles Molyneaux, Cathryn Molyneaux

Hebron, PA
Carl Greene, pastor
Joined by letter

Carl Greene, Cindy Greene, Alicia Graham, Emily Kandel

Joined after baptism

Rebecca Kenyon, Josiah Kenyon, Shayna Graham

Joined after testimony

Jason Amidon

New York City, NY
Ericessen Cooper, pastor
Joined after baptism

Jibreel Cooper, Maya Fairclough, Jemila Fairclough, Ashley Green, Dilward Martin

Joined after testimony

Sonia Colley, Donah Green, Astley Green, Joan Small, Tigana Wilson

Pataskala, OH
Robert Van Horn, pastor
Joined after testimony

PhiAnh (Phil) Luong, Raymond Peterson, Betty Pierce

Marriage

Patterson – Van Horn. James Eli Patterson and Marissa Lee Van Horn were united in marriage on July 16, 2011 at Harvest Community Christian Church in Pickerington, OH. Pastor Robert Van Horn (father of the bride) officiated.

Obituaries

May.—Dr. Lewis H.V. “Pete” May, 82, passed away on October 4, 2011 in Arcadia, Calif.

He was born on November 20, 1928 in Salem, W.Va., the son of Homer and Florene May. After finishing at Salem College, Pete graduated from Jefferson Medical College (Philadelphia) and married Nancy Jane Carskadon in Clarksburg, W.Va., the very next day, June 9, 1953. Pete served



as a flight surgeon in the U.S. Air Force in Texas from 1954 to 1956. After his residency in Sacramento, Calif., the family moved to Temple City, Calif., in 1957. Dr. May set up his general practice that would be in that area for 51 years. He also served as Chief of Staff for the Methodist Hospital in Arcadia, and was a board member for the Arcadia School District from 1971-83.

Pete was active at the Riverside, Calif., SDB Church as president, member of the Advisory Council, Sabbath School teacher, and as a physician for Pacific Pines Camp. He was President of the SDB General Conference in 1967, then served part-time as Executive Secretary of the Conference from 1999 to 2004, working as an ambassador to the churches. He also helped represent the USA and Canada Conference at the SDB World Federation sessions in Brazil in 2003.

Always active, Pete loved flowers, old cars, traveling, his paraplane, playing bridge and basketball, and certainly loved his church and family.

Dr. May is survived by his wife, Nancy, and their four sons: Charles

of Fort Collins, Colo., Cass of Long Beach, Calif., Mathew of LaVerne, Calif., and Pete of Napa, Calif. Seven grandchildren also survive him.

A memorial service was held on October 22, 2011 at the Riverside SDB Church with Rev. Gabe Bejjani officiating. Burial will be in the spring.

Poling.—Lillian Francis Slagle Poling, 77, died on December 5, 2011 at her home in Huntsville, Ala.

Lillian was born October 7, 1934, in Cadillac, Mich., the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Steve Birdwell. She is survived by one son, Franklin; a granddaughter, Heather Reid; and one brother, Floyd Birdwell.

Lillian was in fellowship at the Paint Rock, Ala., SDB Church. Funeral services were held on December 9, 2011 at the Berryhill Funeral Home in Huntsville with Pastor John Bevis officiating. Interment was in Huntsville Memory Gardens. *SR*

Death Notice

Raymond A. Westbrook, 98, of DeLand, FL died on September 29, 2011.

Pastoral Changes

Scott Hausrath to

North Loup, NE

Clyde Thompson

Interim Pastor at

Paint Rock, AL

Nick Kersten

Pastoral Intern at

Milton, WI

Pastor Andy addressed a crowd of over 200 that night. Many people were standing for the whole service because they ran out of chairs. Pastor George and I were standing and praying for the crowd while the sermon was going on, and when Andy finished the sermon about 20 people came forward. Pastor Eli then spoke to the crowd while the 20 were being prayed for. While he was talking, another 140 people came to the front.

Pastor George, Pastor Eli from Natal, Pastor Paulo, and I were making our way through the crowd praying for the people. George was asked to pray for the husband of a lady who approached him. As he prayed, George was convicted of this man's wandering and feeling of helplessness. George prayed for those weaknesses to leave and that the man be restored to God.

Pastor Paulo grabbed me and asked me to pray for a man—not anything specific, just pray! When I was done Pastor Paulo had another man lined up for prayer. This went on for a while. And then it happened!

The Wind of change

The whole day had been hot and sweltering, with not even a slight breeze to break the oppressive heat. But while we prayed there on Saturday night, in that crowd of over 160 people in front of the make-shift stage, a wind with a temperature of at least 20 degrees cooler swept over the crowd. Less than a minute later, a second one. And then it was quiet and sweltering again.

And yet, we felt refreshed! The atmosphere around us had changed. The people's faces took on a look of loving smiles, happiness, joy, and calm. Those who could not speak the same language were "conversing" silently through the Holy Spirit. It

So tell me what happened last night...



was so amazing it's hard to describe. I was standing in a crowd and communicating with them without speaking!

Getting back to the lady who wanted George to pray for her husband. The next morning she came with a translator to tell George of the change in her husband and to thank George for praying. Her husband had re-committed his life to God.

George responded, "He had a feeling of helplessness and had stepped away from God and felt ashamed." She asked, "How did you know?" George simply replied, "The Holy Spirit told me."

Then the husband showed up with a whole new appearance to his face and character!

The people

The Brazilians that we met were

outstanding people of God. They were willing to be available and used by the Lord wherever and whenever they were needed. We never once witnessed an attitude that wasn't gracious and hospitable.

They were smiling, happy, easy-going, loving and encouraging to each other. There was openness and a willingness to go the extra mile for another person, even if they just met!

What we learned, and what you need to take away from this

If we can learn to "get out of the way," God can do so much in us and through us. I pray that you can all have an experience like this, if you haven't already. Because you can!

—Learn to come under God's authority.

—Learn to follow the Holy Spirit's leading.

—Learn to be used by God!

We aren't sure where God is sending us next, what road He will lead us down. But we can truly say this was an Excellent Adventure filled with changed lives and stronger leaders.

Brazil, you will always be in our hearts! **SR**



These young people came to learn and grow in Christ.

K E V I N ' S

O R N E R

Everyday grace, or, Don't tempt me!

"...Offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to Him as instruments of righteousness. For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace." (Romans 6:13b-14)

I've heard that the concept of God's wonderful grace permeates the New Testament as salt permeates the ocean. But "grace" might also be one of the least understood truths in the Bible.

That old acrostic using the word 'GRACE' only skims the surface:
"God's Riches At Christ's Expense."

J.H. Jowett once said, "Grace is the energy of the divine affection, rolling in plenteousness toward the shores of human need."

A more recent definition digs deeper: "Grace is the spontaneous love and boundless mercy of God, freely expressed toward those who are entirely undeserving." Sounds like we need it, and sure don't deserve it.

Since grace comes from God, it's an inexhaustible supply. But He doesn't dump it on us all at once! Just as we can handle only so much air, water, and food at one time, the Lord allows us to tap into His reservoir of grace each day. And we certainly need it in times of temptation!

A temptation is basically an enticement to sin. We tend to give in to it all too frequently. But have you noticed that when we indulge in that temptation and sin, it never really makes us happy in the long run?

Pastor John Piper says that sin "gets its power by persuading me to believe that I will be more happy if I follow it. The power of all temptation is the prospect that it will make me happier."

Whatever our sin might be, we need to confess it to God and ask Him for forgiveness. 1 John 1:9 says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

That is grace! Through His grace, God will enable us to overcome those future temptations and have victory in our Christian walk.

God's fountain of grace also flows in times of trouble.

A guy from Tucson, Ariz., sent this in to the *Reader's Digest*:

"While my wife and I were shopping at a mall kiosk, a shapely young woman in a short, form-fitting dress strolled by. My eyes followed her.

"Without looking up from the item she was examining, my wife asked, 'Was that worth the trouble you're in now?'"

As Jesus said in John 16:33, we should expect trouble to come our way sooner or later because it's part of our human experience.

Since the Lord knows all about our troubles, He wants to help us through them. He says to us in Psalm 50:15— "Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me."

Even with these precious promises, do you ever feel like you just don't know why some troubles come upon you?

On the old "Hee Haw" TV show, Doc Campbell is greeted by a patient who says that he broke his arm in two places.

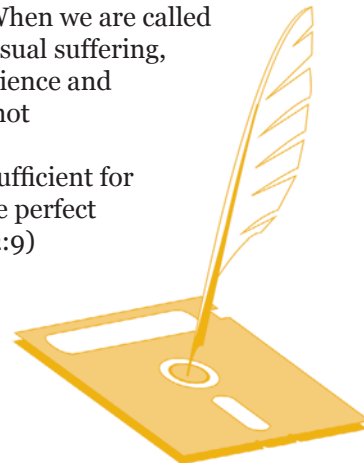
The Doc replies, "Well, *stay out* of them places!!"

He actually might be on to something. We can't keep putting ourselves in the face of temptation and not be affected. Maybe we should take the good doctor's advice and "stay out of them places!!"

God's wondrous grace is sufficient to sustain us in all of our troubles. When we are called upon to endure some unusual suffering, He gives us peace and patience and power that the world cannot understand.

He says, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." (2 Corin. 12:9)

Allow God's grace to get the job done for you, every day.



2012 Sabbath Hymn and Chorus Contest

What's this about?

We are looking for new and original Sabbath hymns or choruses for Seventh Day Baptists. Sharing of the best entries will coincide with this year's Sabbath Renewal celebration in May.

The Contest

Your song must:

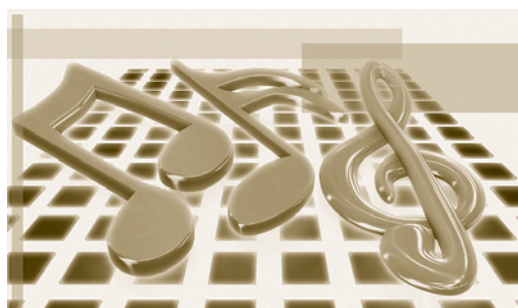
- Be new and previously unpublished
- Pertain to the Sabbath (God's giving it, its benefits and blessings, His grace and love behind it. Let's praise *the Lord* through this, not just the Sabbath.)

The song will be judged on:

- Singability
- Biblically correct
- Understandable to laypeople
- Glorifying to God
(Rhyming scheme helpful)

Contest Entrants

- Composer/author names or faces will not be revealed to the judges. (So, we're not looking for perfect audio or flashy videos—yet.)
- Those who enter must be current members of an SDB church.
- Teamwork is allowed.
- Each entrant agrees to grant permission to have the hymn/chorus printed in the May 2012 *Sabbath Recorder*. The *Recorder* will ensure copyright protection with the © symbol.



Categories

Depending on the response, entries may be divided into categories:

- “Words Only” (matching existing hymn or praise chorus tune; please, no secular tunes)
- “Hymn words and original music”
- “Chorus words and original music”

Deadline

Hymn or Chorus entry must be received by **March 15, 2012**.

How to enter

All: Send your song words to editor@seventhdaybaptist.org

Audio files can be Windows Media or mp3
If you plan to send a video (up to 2GB), e-mail us and we will link you to the upload server.

Or mail your entries (paper, CD, DVD) to SDB Center, Sabbath Hymn Contest, PO Box 1678, Janesville WI 53547.

Prizes

We're still working on the prize package, but the winner can expect at least one Apple product (and we don't mean cider...)