



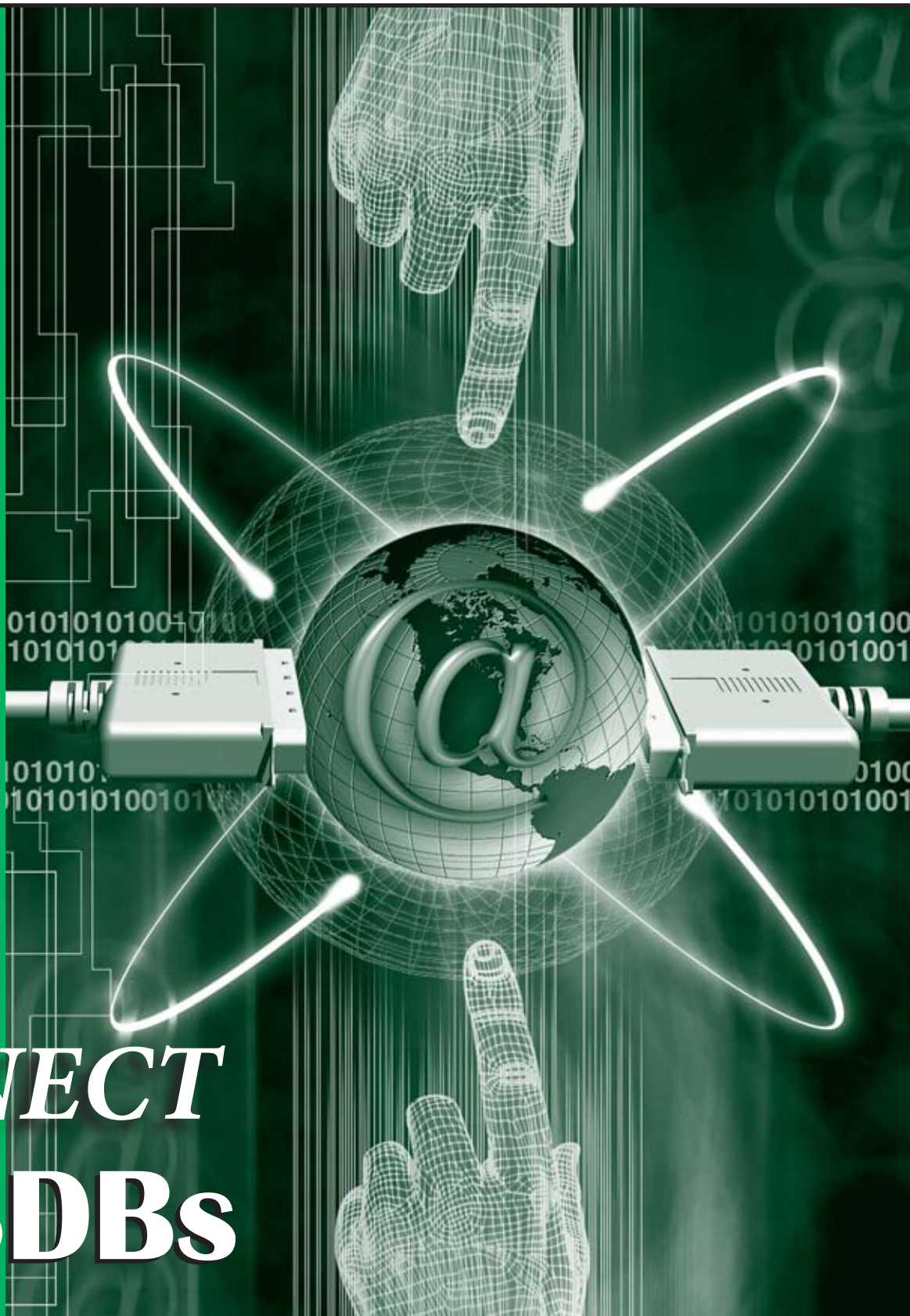
The Sabbath RECORDER

April 2012

News for and about Seventh Day Baptists

*Using
new
media
to*

**CONNECT
SDBs**





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

The **Central Washington SDB Church** in Yakima, Wash., is searching for a new pastor. Yakima is centrally located and nestled in the Eastern foothills of the Cascade Mountains.

We are 3.5 hours from Seattle or Portland, and 4 hours from Spokane. We average 300 days of sunshine a year!

Our new building at our new location is now waiting for a new pastor to help us share the joy of the Sabbath and the new blessings God has in store for us.

Contact Al Collier at:

(509) 469-9950

or youllseeme@hotmail.com
www.yakima7thdaybaptist.org

Costs for Conference 2012

WV Wesleyan, Buckhannon WV

July 29 – August 4

	<u>Full Week</u>	<u>Per Day</u>
Registration		
(early on-line)		
Adults	\$91.00	\$13.00
Child (4-12)	\$45.50	\$ 6.50
Registration (by mail)		
Adults	\$105.00	\$15.00
Child (4-12)	\$52.50	\$ 7.50
Dorm (A/C)		
Per adult	\$157.50	\$22.50
Per child (4-12)	\$ 70.00	\$10.00
Dorm (non-A/C)		
Per adult	\$122.50	\$17.50
Per child (4-12)	\$ 70.00	\$10.00
Meals (all 3)		
Adult	\$151.50	\$22.75
Child (7-12)	\$ 80.00	\$12.00
Meals (Lunch & Supper)		
Adult	\$109.50	\$16.75
Child (7-12)	\$ 59.00	\$ 9.00

Linens available for \$10 per set.

RV spots (20 on campus) and **Family**

Apartments (limited) registered on-line only.

Watch website www.seventhdaybaptist.org for when on-line registration begins. Paper forms in May SR.

Conference Travel!!

NEW THIS YEAR: There will be a **Pick-up FEE** for transportation between Charleston, W.Va. and Buckhannon.

The fee will be **\$35** one-way;
\$50 round-trip.



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Ⓔ = Editor's Circle members

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NEW

- Tools
- Media
- Committee

by Jeremiah Owen
Canyon Country, Calif.

“

The key to social media is sharing.

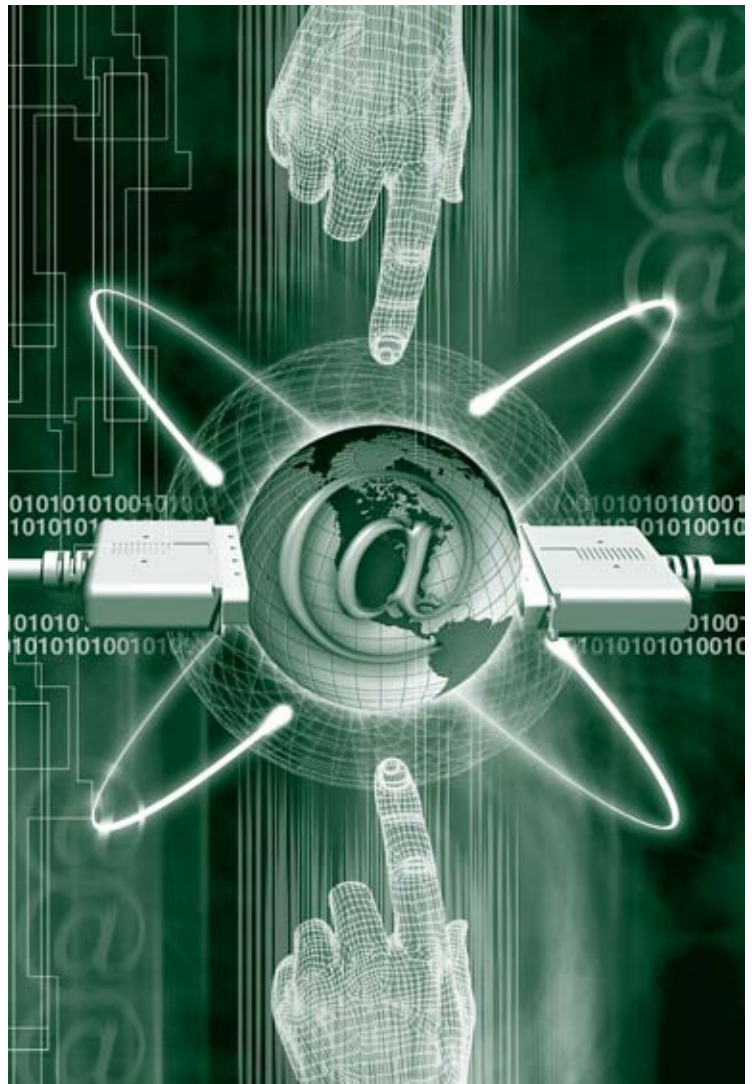
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Facebook. Twitter. YouTube.

These mash-ups of words have become *THE* destination for literally billions of people. Facebook alone has over 750 million members and a growth curve that resembles a hockey stick. Twitter has served as a keystone piece to change around the world, serving as a catalyst to the recent “Arab Spring.” YouTube is coming to replace many viewers’ televisions as a go-to place for entertainment.

What does this have to do with Seventh Day Baptists? With some of the new ideas and direction being developed, we believe a whole lot.

At the 2011 Conference in Holland, Mich., the “New Media Committee” was formed. The committee consists of: Dustin Mackintosh (Denver, Colo.), Randy Kersten (Milton, Wis.), Leanna



Wethington (Grand Rapids, Mich.), Pat Cruzan (Shiloh, N.J.), and myself Jeremiah Owen (Los Angeles, Calif.). Our charge? To provide direction and ideas for using “new media” for the denomination and local churches.

The potential is incredible. For the first time in our existence, SDBs are able to reach out to millions of people and utilize the social aspect of communicating to help spread not only the Gospel message but to reach out as Seventh Day Baptists and make our voices be heard. As a committee we dove right into the work at hand!

We recognize that change can be scary, especially new technology that not everyone is comfortable with. The committee aims to take some of the “geek-speak” and make it something that our churches can wield in a confident fashion.

One of the unique things about Seventh Day Baptists is the enormous sense of family and community that we are a part of. In my own personal experience, I have found that I’m able to go to any Seventh Day Baptist church and feel like I am home. That’s an incredible feeling we want to make known far and wide.

Social media can—for the first time in history—remove key barriers (read: money) to make our voice heard. The first message from our

churches should obviously be to win people for Christ, regardless of what church they end up attending; but we hope to present ourselves as the best place to meet people’s needs for worship, feeding of the Word, and of course a little fellowship never hurt anyone.

One of the first pieces we felt needed to be addressed was to create an icon/symbol that serves



to reach the types of people who are taking such a huge part in the rise of social media: the 18- to 35-year-old crowd. The icon should be instantly recognizable, encompass our beliefs and create emotion.

While an easy thing to describe it’s another to convey. The process has many potential pitfalls, as design is something that is very subjective except in one case: when God is involved.

God’s hand was so evident during this process! Numerous times as the committee worked to develop the icon we found ourselves arriving at identical conclusions. In the final round of development, every single committee member (unbeknownst to one another as we kept responses “blind”) selected the same artwork from 10 available revisions! Truly only God could guide the selection for five people with different

aesthetic tastes, backgrounds and preferences to pick the exact same icon, color and design!

The goal of the icon was to blend elements from the current Seventh Day Baptist logo while making something distinct, modern, and timeless. The icon has an enormous amount of symbolism. You will see initially the cross; and layered on it, elements of the flame; and in the negative space a “7.” You also may see a narrow path as the

flame comes to the top part of the cross.

The colors of green and blue provide a natural feel. (*Editor’s note: Believe me, this black-and-white version does not do it justice! See the full-color version at seventhdaybaptist.org.)* The extra weighting on the word “Baptist” helps emphasize who we are, along with the use of the color blue which

cont. on page 11

Call2Action

SDB young adults are connecting on-line and there's room for more

*by Randy Kersten
Milton, Wisconsin*

What's the basic concept behind "ACallToAction"?

This uniquely SDB ministry is geared toward the young adult crowd, targeting ages 18-29. Our mission is to reach young adults with a community of believers around the nation.

We use new media outlets to connect with people where they are—whether that be college dorms, one-room apartments, or family homes. We achieve this in two distinct ways.

Organic New Media Conversation: An on-line Facebook group allows members to offer prayer requests, ask questions, post encouraging videos, and just share.

We use video presentations to answer questions submitted through email or our web page. Using Twitter, we tweet to each other about things going on in our lives and use social forms on our church website to connect with other members of our church community.

Monthly Web Meetings: Secondly, we have monthly on-line gatherings or live broadcasts. It's like a small leadership training session each month where a teacher

gives a talk about a topic for all of "web land" to see. It also gives us a chance to just hang out and discuss what's going on in our lives.

Members talk about what they see God doing, encourage each other to grow in understanding, and take care of one another in general. I have witnessed laughter, deep conversations, compassionate embraces, tears of joy, and, dare I say—line dancing!

How did the idea get started?

Young adults around the country have been on my case for several years to create a ministry that took into consideration their unique lifestyles. For several months I really toiled over what to do. I prayed and asked questions. I considered past personal experiences and met people on their level, then I prayed some more.

How could I find the time in my busy schedule to start a new ministry? How would I teach others concepts I was still learning myself? How could I unite a group of individuals from several locations?

Then it hit me—only like it hits someone deeply entrenched with computers and technology! This needed to be a web/on-line ministry, where people could connect no matter where they were.

How long has ACallToAction been going on?

We've been meeting this way for over a year. It's hard to believe it has been that long already. But young adults are a fast-moving group of people. One week they're in this location, and a few months later they're married and living in a different state.

The time has been good and I have learned from some mistakes. I've grown to understand more about how to improve the ministry and work weekly in thought or action to make it better.

Who is involved in the teaching?

Umm... *NOT IT!* Really, there are far better biblical teachers out there than I. Currently we have three teachers: Liz Green and Nick Kersten from Milton, and John Pethel from Atlanta. I have called many

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We use new media outlets to connect with people where they are—whether that be college dorms, one-room apartments, or family homes.

”

folks throughout the denomination to join us in this neat new media ministry. All were interested but only a few had the time to commit.

I am always looking for quality individuals who have a few hours a month and a dedication to being witnesses to the truth. The ministry gives teachers the ability to just teach. They do this by leading a lecture or answering difficult questions from members. Meanwhile I handle the administrative things; most teachers hate that part anyway.

Ministers and teachers of the Word have told me,



At one of the monthly web broadcasts.

“Give me an audience to preach and teach to, and I will do the rest.” So that's what we do in ACallToAction.

Where is your audience located?

Great question! Name the state and I bet we've had someone connect in from there. We have had participants from all over the place. From coast-to-coast young adults have been joining us. Many join us in person at our live broadcasting location, but many others connect in from around the state and country.

Does ACallToAction take special equipment or programs?

It doesn't really take any special equipment, unless you consider a web cam and a laptop “special.” It does take some working knowledge of web technologies and some other basic computer skills.

How can others join in?

It's easy. Our church website www.theconnectingchurch.org has a page dedicated to our young adult ministry. The upcoming meetings are listed there, pictures of past meetings and other information.

Need more details? Contact us at ACallToAction2011@gmail.com, request to join our Facebook group, or request more information from the Milton SDB Church. **SR**



acing the challenge of social media... *with success!*

by Pastor Steven James
Verona, N.Y.

Samples of the Verona church's Facebook presence.



After installing a satellite dish we connected to CCN (the Church Communication Network—no longer in existence). That afforded us the opportunity to bring in high quality teaching, workshops, and seminars via satellite not only for our church family but for our community. Lastly, we subscribed through our website to Sermon Connect to upload, or “podcast” the weekly sermons (the very thing that started this ball rolling).

In March of 2009, the “high tech/high touch” vision took another step, this time into the world of Facebook. After noticing “pages” for businesses on Facebook, I thought, *We can do that!* I imagined that Facebook would be a neat way to give our church and our whole denomination exposure by utilizing what pages provide: a wall to post updates, the ability to post photos and videos, the opportunity to promote events and, as an organization, to run ads on

About five years ago, one of our senior saints asked a question during a business meeting that has had a profound impact upon our church and has led to us having, we trust, a profound impact upon our “world.”

Pastor’s wife and deaconess Marie Smith had read a blurb in a “Church Around the World” bulletin insert that mentioned the term, “pod-casting.” She wanted to know what

it was and why we couldn’t do that to touch other lives.

This led our church to envision what and how we could use “high tech to bring God’s high touch.” With the help of a matching grant from the Memorial Board, we developed a website, implemented an audio-visual ministry with an AV booth in the back and a screen up front, and Song Show Plus as our multimedia tool.

Facebook to promote our page and all that's on it.

I have always felt that we as a church and as a denomination should look for ways to get into the mainstream of the flow of Christianity, instead of being a small, sometimes stagnant pond, off to the side. Facebook Pages was one way of doing so.

It was also my hope that it could give us a platform of exposure—not only among the evangelical Christian community, but among the Sabbatarian communities that exist on Facebook as well; most notably the Seventh Day Adventist community. I wanted to create a positive page that could touch their hearts with an upbeat and engaging feel. It would let them (and other Sabbatarians) know more than ever that Seventh Day Baptists are out there, that we love Jesus and His Sabbath, that we love others, and this is who we are.

Having grown now to over 7,200 “likes” (a term that means “friends” or “fans”) in the last three years, I think that we are succeeding in giving Seventh Day Baptists some good exposure. These “likes” represent individuals from all over the world made up of all ages, education levels, walks of life and interests.

Beyond giving us exposure, a page's success truly hinges upon **what it gives** to its friends. We have had the privilege of giving encouragement through inspirational quotes, articles, videos (music and otherwise), promoting events and engaging the page's fans through sharing prayer needs and praises.

We ask for their input on topics, and hold a weekly “Sabbath Shout-Out” where greetings and posting of Sabbath sunsets/sunrises from their locations takes place. Occasional contests have people

“like” a particular post which then “enters” their name in a drawing for a free DVD or CD. We even hosted a live chat with the director of “Reconciliation,” Chad Ahrendt, where people could ask questions of Chad live right on our page.

Of the many things to be learned in having a fruitful Facebook page, here are the biggest to keep in mind:

Encounter

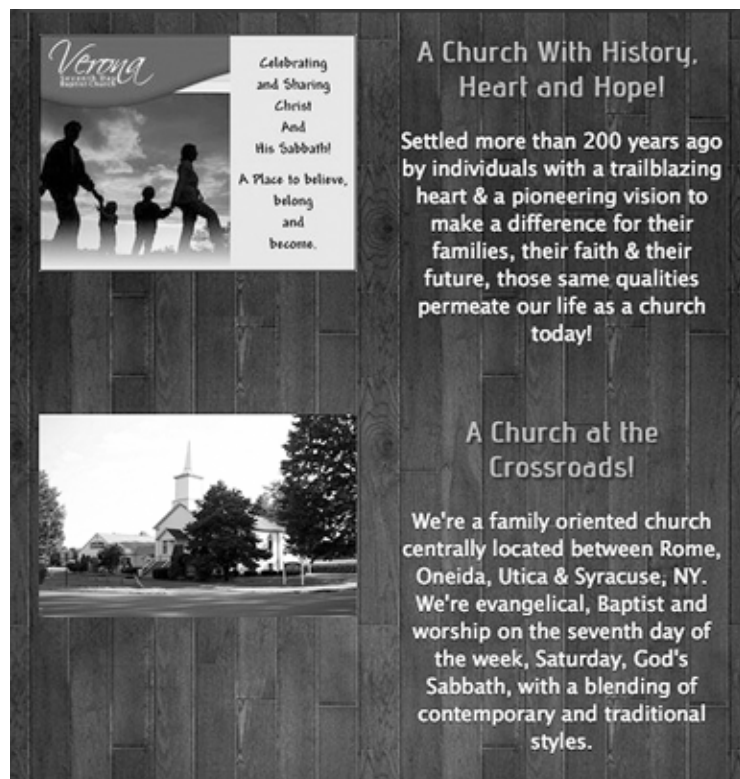
Rather than people coming to your page for the first time and being greeted with your wall, you want them to be greeted with your “welcome.” At the time of this writing, Facebook pages could be set up with what was called a “landing page”—something that you could develop or have developed for you

by businesses like Lujue, Pagemodo, etc., for minimal cost. This would be the “first impression” for those new to your page. A wall is made up of posts, but a landing page could be much more attention-getting. It could lead the page's visitors to want to know more about you and what you “offer.”

Starting on March 30th, 2012, Facebook will require all pages to go over to the “Timeline” style, and so landing pages will be moot. But, because the Timeline page affords opportunities for a great banner at the top and other “new” dynamics, the need for making a great “first impression” has never been more important.

You only have a few seconds when a person first sees your page, so you want that first encounter to be a good one.

cont. next page...



Verona
BAPTIST CHURCH

Celebrating
and Sharing
Christ
And
His Sabbath!
A Place to believe,
belong
and
become.

A Church With History,
Heart and Hope!

Settled more than 200 years ago
by individuals with a trailblazing
heart & a pioneering vision to
make a difference for their
families, their faith & their
future, those same qualities
permeate our life as a church
today!

A Church at the
Crossroads!

We're a family oriented church
centrally located between Rome,
Oneida, Utica & Syracuse, NY.
We're evangelical, Baptist and
worship on the seventh day of
the week, Saturday, God's
Sabbath, with a blending of
contemporary and traditional
styles.



acing the challenge, *cont. from p. 9*

Encouragement

Once in the door, I have done my best to ensure that those who “like” our page are encouraged with inspiration and information. Quotes, articles, videos and more are regularly posted throughout the day that I hope will bless those who’ve “liked” our page.

I post these while sitting in my study directly in front of my computer or from my cell phone since much of what I post has been sent to me via the ministries and Christian leaders I follow on Twitter. I simply click a key or two on my phone and they are posted right to the church page.

Engagement

This and encouragement are HUGE! While the page is “yours,” what you post should really be for and about your “friends”—those who have liked your page. To engage our friends, I will often ask questions with the posts, or invite them to “like” and “share” the post, which causes that post to spread further to their friends.

I will ask people to post prayer needs or praises, and, as mentioned above, the weekly “Sabbath Shout-Out” is pretty popular with greetings coming from all over the world as well as sunset/sunrise pictures. Involving your page’s people with your posts, by having them post things about and from themselves—and by getting involved with them by responding to their comments—makes the page exciting.

Exposure

While “word of mouth” is how you ultimately want your page to spread so others find out about you and your church (by clicking “share” and by them clicking “like” on your various posts), advertising is a major factor at the beginning. Facebook provides incredibly detailed demographics that help you to target your audience as to what you want to promote—whether your page itself, or something linked to your page such as an event.

You can target by interests, age, location, keywords, gender—you name it. While there is a cost to run ads, you control how much to spend and how long to run them. Ads are a way to get people into the “door” of your page, where you then want to go back to the first three “E” steps mentioned above.

Effort

To run a page such as we have takes a time commitment of perhaps 30 minutes a day total. It’s sometimes more, but not usually, and if you have a commitment of talent (others who grasp the page’s vision and can do the above four “E”s with ease), then less time from just one person is needed. Perhaps even greater things can be done as a result of having more than one person.

Education

Since March of 2009, I have learned from various social media “gurus” and “businesses” how to make our page the best tool it can be. From Facebook’s own teaching materials, to social media gurus like Amy Porterfield and Chad Gleaves, to Facebook social media pages (like FBInfluence, Get 10K Fans and Get Your Church Fan Page), I have gleaned the things that fit us as a church entity and the fruit—greater exposure and engagement—shows.

Perhaps a workshop on all this can be done at Conference at some point, because one article on Facebook pages isn’t enough. It’s an exciting and ever-changing media and one worth the effort to effectively engage, evangelize, equip and encourage your “world.”

I have been asked numerous times, both on our page and on Twitter (another “high tech/high touch” social media opportunity), about our beliefs, our background and our beginnings. Many who never knew about SDBs, about our Savior and about His Sabbath now do as a result of our page. Your church can have a similar, if not an even greater impact with God’s blessing upon these basic points. **SR**

For
more
help:

www.facebook.com/business
www.facebook.com/marketing
www.facebook.com/GetYourChurchFanPage
www.facebook.com/AmyPorterfield
www.facebook.com/Get10000Fans
www.facebook.com/ProjectInfluence

New media committee, *cont. from p. 5*

is indicative of water.

The committee presented the artwork to both the CLT and General Council at the mid-year meetings and the response was overwhelmingly in favor of adopting the new icon for use in new media ventures.

The new icon is only one piece (albeit an important one) of the mission of the New Media Committee. Some of the other accomplishments in the committee's time together have been: acquisition of Seventh Day Baptist-related domain names and selection of social media names. The official Seventh Day Baptist social media name will be "7thDayBaptists." Example: www.facebook.com/7thDayBaptists.

We want to provide people with a consistent name that they can trust to be an accurate source of information, and make it easy to find us whether it's on Facebook, Twitter or YouTube.

There are many initiatives that we are only beginning to work on. We will be launching our first three Seventh Day Baptist social sites: Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. We need everyone's help in making the launch successful, as the key to social media is *sharing*. We encourage you to share the stories we post with your friends and family.

On Facebook you can do this by clicking "Share" and posting it to

R U Streaming?

Check out
coltonchurch.com
and alfredstationsdb.org
Any more out there??

“

Making the Seventh Day Baptist name more visible will only help all the churches as we seek to grow and minister in each of our communities.

”

your wall, on Twitter by Retweeting, and on YouTube by "Giving a Thumbs Up." These methods of sharing are key to reaching the unsaved, and non-SDB people will be exposed to our message.

Where will the content come from? Well, we will be establishing an official e-mail address where people may submit news, stories and important events to have them put on the social media sites. We will also put out calls for media appropriate for posting on YouTube.

In addition to improving our social media presence, another initiative is to assist our local churches with their own websites. For this issue the committee is working to develop a turn-key solution to aid churches that would like help in having a modern, easy to manage website.

We will be developing several templates for churches to pick from, and have a sign-up list for churches to request a site be set up with the template of their choice. Along with the site setup, we will provide training materials on how to post items to the site, allowing churches to manage their own website once it has been "built."

The committee is excited about being able to help churches get

up to speed with their websites in a way that may not be possible if a particular church doesn't have someone with the tech savvy to start one. So often people new to the area will seek out a church's website for information, and it truly is the first impression many people get of our churches. We absolutely want to put our best face forward.

There are many, many other initiatives the committee is working on as well, including: looking at possible changes to the SeventhDayBaptist.org site, creating an official Seventh Day Baptist podcast, developing an iOS (iPhone, iPad, iPod)/Android app, as well as establishing an official Seventh Day Baptist e-mail newsletter. All of these items we believe will help increase our visibility and make us better connected as a community of believers.

We strongly identify with the thought that a "rising tide lifts all ships." By making the Seventh Day Baptist name more visible, accessible and heard will only help *all* the churches as we seek to grow and minister in each of our individual communities. The committee covets your prayers and we look forward to sharing the exciting developments in the coming months. **SR**



Reflections

by Leanne Lippincott-Wuerthele

"Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face."—1 Cor. 13:12

Retired—and busier than ever!

Many verses in the Bible deal with the subject of work.

"All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty" (*Proverbs 14:23, NIV*).

"The sluggard's craving will be the death of him, because his hands refuse to work" (*Proverbs 21:25, NIV*).

"Whoever works his land will have plenty of bread, but he who follows worthless pursuits will have plenty of poverty" (*Proverbs 28:19, ESV*).

In 2008, I retired after working at the SDB Center for almost 26 years. I miss the work, but I miss the day-to-day contact with my coworkers even more. (In some ways, it's like I never left, since I dream—at least twice a week—that I'm still working there!)

Now I feel qualified to offer this piece of advice to others contemplating retirement: Don't retire unless you have enough time to do it.

Long before my last paycheck, retired friends would tell me, "I'm busier than ever."

Yeah, right, I thought sarcastically. They're "busy" vegging on the couch in front of the TV eating bon-bons.

Four years into my retirement, I now realize how truthful my friends' claims were. More than once, I've popped into the Center and exclaimed to my former boss, Kevin Butler, Editor Extraordinaire, "I need to come back to work to rest up!"

Nowadays, my kitchen calendar is so covered with notations that it looks like the battle plan for the Normandy invasion. On one Thursday back in February, I had four appointments and made three round-trip "journeys" from Janesville into Milton.

I recently typed "retirement quotes" into my computer and came up with some interesting—and entertaining—viewpoints regarding retirement.

Some people view it in a profoundly **negative** light.

Author Ernest Hemingway wrote, "Retirement is the ugliest word in the language." Spanish cellist Pablo Casals, who lived to be almost 97 and never did retire, proclaimed, "To retire is to die." The late millionaire Malcolm Forbes contended, "Retirement kills more people than hard work ever did."

Others, such as comedy writer Gene Perret, view retirement through the lens of **humor**:

"When you retire, you switch bosses—from the one who hired you to the one who married you."

"Retirement: when you return from work one day and say, 'Hi, Honey, I'm home—forever.'"

"Retirement means no pressure, no stress, no heartache... unless you play golf."

Here are some **more observations** regarding retirement:

"When a man retires and time is no longer a matter of urgent importance, his colleagues generally

present him with a watch."—R.C. Sherriff

"In retirement, I look for days off from my days off."—Mason Cooley

"The trouble with retirement is that you never get a day off."—Abe Lemons

"Retirement at 65 is ridiculous. When I was 65, I still had pimples."—George Burns

"A retired husband is often a wife's full-time job."—Ella Harris

That well-known writer, **Author Unknown**, also has views on retirement:

"Retirement is waking up in the morning with nothing to do and by bedtime having done only half of it."

"When you stop lying about your age and start lying around the house, you know you are retired."

Being an avid fisherwoman, I especially like this Author Unknown quote: "Fishing Yesterday, Fishing Today, Fishing Tomorrow. I must be retired."

Author Unknown even has some advice for retirees: "In your retirement years never drink coffee at lunch; it will keep you awake in the afternoon."

One of my favorite retirement quotes comes from the late engineer and educator, Arthur E. Morgan: "Preparation for old age should begin not later than one's teens. A life that is empty of purpose until 65 will not suddenly become filled on retirement."

That's a lot to ponder for those sitting around, eating bonbons. **SR**



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

Stops, Starts & Steps

by Althea Rood
 Dodge Center, Minn.

“The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, and He delights in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; for the Lord upholds him with His hand.” (Psalm 37:23-24)

God has a wonderful way of bringing His words to life! In September, I started Bible Study Fellowship again. Our teaching leader encouraged us to set a goal for growth for the year. My goal for my busy life was to spend more time listening to the Lord. Little did I know at the time how God would answer my prayer!

In early November, I began to have difficulty with an ulcerated shin. I saw the doctor and followed his instructions for nearly a month until the wound became larger and the pain became unbearable.

Soon after Thanksgiving, I visited the Mayo Wound Center. It was a sobering experience. I was told that it would take four to six months to heal, and that I would need to elevate my legs over my heart for about 90 minutes per day. God had gotten my attention!

I was now under doctor's orders to spend some “quiet time” each day. I remember telling the doctor, “I will cooperate but I know Someone who can speed up the healing.”

Three weeks later the doctor said, “It's starting to look a lot better... it looks like healthy raw hamburger

rather than dead skin.” I wasn't very excited by the description, but I was encouraged by her analysis that healing was taking place.

During the month, I gained a new appreciation for my husband, Dale. I was quite dependent on him to care for my wound and to accomplish household tasks. His service to me was a wonderful example of how God has created us to serve one another and to be thankful! It was also a good reminder of how God has designed us to be interdependent rather than independent.

Over Christmas, we traveled by car more than 2,500 miles. The weather was wonderful for traveling but I was apprehensive. Would I be able to endure long days in the car without having my feet up? A few weeks earlier, I had struggled to travel 2-4 hours at a time.

God's timing was incredible. Each day I found new strength and less pain. By the end of our return journey, I realized that I was experiencing no pain during travel.

After New Year's, I had the joy of teaching without pain! How I celebrated that freedom. I still “guarded” my 90 minutes per day—trying to cooperate with God in the healing process. Three weeks later, I was dismissed by the Wound Center.

My wound was healed in 7-8 weeks and I had been reminded of some valuable lessons:

- Gratitude needs to be expressed! I am so grateful for my husband and his loving service.

- God's timing is perfect! After my last doctor's appointment, my schedule at school changed so that I no longer had a mid-day break to elevate my feet. I find myself filled with gratitude to God for his timing.
- “Chill time with God” enables me to accomplish just as much in less time.
- God loves to heal! He can speed up the healing process.

I would paraphrase the Scripture in a new way: “The stops, starts, and steps of a good woman are ordered by the Lord.” I am so grateful that God continues to answer my prayer to learn to listen to Him better. **SR**



Althea is the SDB Women's Society President and wife of Dale Rood (retired pastor). Her passion is teaching and mentoring. She is a high school math teacher, Sabbath School teacher, Huntington Learning Center tutor, organist, and pianist. She has two children, Kristin (Camenga) and Jeff. Her two grandchildren, Donovan and Elisa, are her pride and joy.



Relationally Engineered

Part 2: Associational relationships

When the SDB General Conference was formed in 1802, it was really the embodiment of a relational expectation that had long existed among Seventh Day Baptists, and still exists today.

When we're asked about who we are as a people, many use the language of "family" to describe what makes us different. We self-identify as a deeply relational people. People in other SDB congregations are *not* strangers, even if we have never met; they are our "extended family."

Aspects of this relational mindset go back to the beginning of our movement. In the 1670s and 1680s, letters were being written between those in England and those in the American colonies. This ongoing correspondence and relationship was important enough that Francis Bampfield, pastor of the Pinner's Hall church in London, made a proposal (which was not ultimately adopted) that a formal association be created which included churches on both sides of the Atlantic.

In 1705, the Piscataway, New Jersey, congregation was welcomed into fellowship by the Newport, Rhode Island, congregation for its yearly meeting, though the churches were separated by many miles! The cooperative associations created by Seventh Day Baptists have long served as the relational component of our shared work for Christ's Kingdom.

By the time the General Conference was officially formed in 1802, the relationships between churches were already assumed. But the official founding represented a new commitment among the congregations. The opportunity to work in association gave the local members opportunities to do together as an "extended family" things they could not do in their smaller "nuclear families."

In the early years of the Conference, issues of mission, identity and relationship were all discussed, leading to a greater unified work in the local churches—despite differences of opinion on some of the particulars. By the middle part of the 1800s, SDBs were "on mission" in meaningful ways, especially on the American frontier.

As Seventh Day Baptists spread west across America, it became more difficult to cooperate meaningfully in the larger geographic association known as the General Conference. So, smaller geographic Associations sprang up to handle regional issues and to promote fellowship and cooperative work. These Associations have worked together on everything from evangelism (including church planting) to building projects to camping programs.

By the end of the 1800s, Seventh Day Baptists had become a global people, with congregations on four continents. As this global consciousness increased, so did the desire for meaningful relationships with SDBs in other nations, and the SDB World Federation was born in the 1960s. In the creation of this global Association, SDBs reached the logical end of their own values: meaningful worldwide relationships in cooperative ministry.

The Associational principle had given us a way to realize our relational values in the largest possible sense. The extended family now resides on six continents! None of this would've been possible without robust application of the Associational principle.

The basis for the associational relationship is a mutual concern and willingness to cooperate. This is lived out through a purposed laying aside of independence for the greater good of the entire family. When it functions as intended, this model provides profound strengths—strengths we claim to this day. When it malfunctions and concern for the extended family wanes, it reflects a failure to live up to our relational ideals, as well as a failure to achieve our shared work in Christ's kingdom.

When our Associations atrophy it reflects our own relational failures. The causes for such failures could be referred to (in the language of family) as pouting, throwing a tantrum, immaturity or jealousy. There is no place for such things in our Father's Kingdom.

Whatever our differences, we must continue to cooperate together in God's purposes for us as a global people on our shared mission. **SR**



Seminarian Profile

Seminarian Profile



Name: Owen F. Lynch Jr.

Birthdate and place:

May 20, 1969 Birmingham, England

Family:

Wife: Heather Condison, married 8/29/93

Children: Josiah 16, Jordan 14, Jalyssa 9

Education:

Golden Hillock Comprehensive (High School)

Joseph Chamberlin College 1985-1989

D'Montford Univ. 1991-1992 (1st year toward

BS in Software Engineering)

(The above were all in England)

DeVry (Canada) 1994-1996 Diploma, Computer

Information Systems

Tyndale University Seminary, Toronto 2007-present

(Aiming to graduate with an MDiv

before September 2014)

Favorite Hymn:

"Great is Thy Faithfulness"

Classic Book:

The Christian in Complete Armour by William Gurnall

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

Visit my parents in England, and sponsor a well digging (Water for Life Ministries).

A great answer to prayer was:

Removing financial obstacles and granting me favor with my managers so that I could attend seminary.

A project I'm excited about:

Leadership Education and Development (L.E.A.D.) is a personal project in the beginning stages of development that will seek to encourage, empower and mentor young men for leadership in ministry. My passion is for the truth of the Word of God to be preached, lives transformed, and the Great Commission performed, resulting in an unprecedented church planting movement, looking forward to the day when there will be multiple SDB churches in Toronto. My prayer is that God will raise up a new generation who will operate in the power of the Holy Spirit to lift up the name of Jesus and bring glory to our Heavenly Father. **SR**

Ministry experience:

Young adult/adult Sabbath School teacher

Men's Fellowship president

Past Moderator, Alleghany Association

Non-ministry experience:

Board member for RGV non-profit homes

Work full-time for Verizon Canada

Hobbies:

I like all things techie, basketball and music; I also play the alto sax and keyboard when I get a chance.

Favorite Bible passage:

"...God is faithful and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it." (1 Cor 10:13b ESV)



Pre-Con is valuable!

Working with friends at car washes, sub sales, spaghetti dinners. Saving money. Planning the trip. Knowing that people in my home church wanted us to get to Pre-Con.

Looking back, I continue to appreciate all the effort that went into making sure that youth had the money and transportation needed to make it to the annual Pre-Con.

Pre-Con was valuable for me. I got to know people from across the country, people I still count as friends.

I learned more about Scripture. I heard parts of God's call on my life that I didn't hear at other times of the year. I understood more about what makes Seventh Day Baptists who we are.

I had lots of fun. I experienced different campgrounds. I had time to listen to leaders who dedicated part of their summer to making Pre-Con happen. I was challenged to be faithful to God's call.

Pre-Con is valuable. Pre-Con is fun. Pre-Con gives our youth a perfect opportunity to get to know other Seventh Day Baptists who are their age.

Pre-Con provides a break from the routine and simultaneously introduces new ways of looking at the world, new ideas for ministry, and may help create new dreams of providing leadership among Seventh Day Baptists.

Pre-Con helps makes Seventh Day Baptists stronger.

Pre-Con by the Numbers (since 1975)

Cumulative Attendance:	2,834
Cumulative Attendance (last 10 years):	719
Largest attendance (youth & young adult, in 2002):	121

So, are you helping youth and young adults get to Pre-Con? Here are some ideas about ways to help:

1. Provide Encouragement:

Ask the youth you know, "Are you going to Pre-Con?"

2. Provide Know-how:

Help them plan. Help them find answers to: "How much will it cost?" "Will someone bring me by car?" "Do I need a bus or airline ticket?" "How can I save that much money?"

3. Provide Energy and Endurance:

Help them raise funds. Some churches have a long history of doing this. They are filled with people who know that putting physical effort toward a goal can make success that much sweeter.

4. Provide Money to one:

Give a scholarship. In May, the Board of Christian Education will distribute information about how to provide a scholarship to an individual attending Pre-Con. (<http://EducatingChristians.org/Pre-Con>)

5. Provide Money to many:

Invest in Pre-Con. Every year, a portion of the Board of Christian Education budget underwrites part of the cost of Pre-Con. This helps keep prices for Pre-Con lower than they would be otherwise. Your designated donation to Pre-Con will do the same thing.

Pre-Con is valuable. You can help youth and young adults in your church recognize that value. **SR**



FOCUS on Missions

To boldly go...

by Clinton R. Brown

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.” (Matthew 28:19)

I found myself in a conversation recently about pop culture, fiction books and movies. Our discussion ranged from sparkly vampires to plucky hobbits.

This took me back to my youth where, I suppose like many in our society, fanciful tales like these provided a safe retreat from the challenges and discomforts of being a teenager. I remembered particularly enjoying the science fiction exploits of space-faring explorers. I would not exactly categorize myself as a “trekkie,” though I did end up watching a good portion of the *Star Trek* movies and television series, so some may argue otherwise.

This is not to endorse *Star Trek*. True to the series’ creator, Gene Roddenberry, much of the worldview expressed from the characters and situations has a decidedly secular humanist slant. Also, if you were to devote yourself to seeing every *Star Trek* TV episode and their related feature films, you could expect to distract yourself for more than 550 hours. To put that in perspective, without repeating an episode you would dedicate more time than many bright students spend in lecture and study over two years to earn an associate’s degree.

However, one thing was prevalent in the intrepid crews of the various starships; a wholesome, attractive quality that we would do well to incorporate into our own lives. They were committed to

“
**Imagine if we put
our faith into action
and went where we
believe God would
have us go.**

”

what they believed in to the extent that they were willing to leave the comforts and safety of home, and even risk their lives to be part of exploring the unknowns of space.

Imagine if we put our faith into action and went where we believe God would have us go to fulfill the mission to which we are called.

These fictional explorers remind me of some true-life Christian pioneers. Two early missionaries, St. Columbanus and St. Columba (500-650 AD), come to mind as they left their homes and loved ones to preach the Gospel. Their perilous missions brought the light of Jesus to barbarian “civilizations” in western Europe as the Dark Ages descended, following the fall of Rome.

This *peregrinatio*—a self-imposed exile typically with no expectation of returning—was also evident in early waves of missionaries to the African coast. With disease and certain death awaiting them, some packed their belongings in coffins because statistics told them that their life expectancy on the continent was less than two years.



For me, I now see that part of the lure of *Star Trek* may be an element of what I am really called to do all along. As Starfleet has its counterfeit mandate to “boldly go, seeking new life and civilizations where no man has gone before,” God has called me to be strong and courageous and go unto the *ethnos*, people groups, where the Good News about the Kingdom has not been preached. (See Joshua 1:9, Matthew 28:19, and Luke 4:43.)

You see, I believe Christ is making a new creature of me, like He does with each follower. I believe that He is equipping and strengthening me to fulfill His purposes and be part of His quest to redeem men to a right relationship through and to Him.

The enemy is clever and hopes I will direct my attention and God-given talents toward make-believe imitations of what I am called to do. Instead, how wonderful can it be to participate in the real and greatest trek of them all—the adventure of letting the Creator of the universe set your course, and boldly follow where He leads? **SR**



the BEACON

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

April 2012

The battle rages: Gossip vs. Grace

by Rebecca Olson
Berlin, N.Y.

Becoming a high schooler has changed a lot of things that I do after school. One big change is that instead of performing just one musical during Drama Club, there are two performances.

This year, we're putting on a play based on Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing." I was very excited to participate, because freshmen can get bigger roles in the smaller play. I really wanted the part of Hero, but since it was one of the main characters, I decided to try out for something that I would be more likely to get.

After auditioning for a smaller role, I anxiously awaited the first practice. That day, as I scanned the list of parts, I saw that most freshmen had gotten small roles with only a few lines. But I had gotten the part of Hero—a really big deal for me. I was totally pumped.

The next day, I walked into school and met one of my friends from Drama at her locker. She turned to me, shot me an evil glare, and slammed her locker, walking away. I wasn't sure if it was about my getting the part, but I had suspicions that the day wouldn't be going so great.

Sure enough, almost every time I saw a member of the Drama Club in the hall, I got a mean look. Later on, another one of my friends told me

she'd heard people talking about how I didn't deserve the part, and then I heard how one junior had quit the play because a freshman had gotten a bigger role than her.

Needless to say, I was upset. I didn't understand why people had to be so mean. I didn't give myself the part, so if they really had to make a big deal of it, wasn't it my teacher they should be annoyed at?

I'm happy to say that it all worked out in the end. My friend apologized, and it has been going much better. I'm feeling more like I'm part of the group, and less like I'm unwanted. As we progressed through the practices, the gossip died down a lot. However, it gave me a good opportunity to write about gossip.

What does the Bible say about gossip? I always figured it said that gossip is bad, but I never really bothered to find out exactly. Turns out, the Bible says a lot more than that.

Ephesians 4:29 reads, "Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who

hear" (ESV). The Bible doesn't just go against gossip, it goes against any corrupting talk—whether it be lies, insults, or petty arguments. It goes on to tell us that we should only say something if it's going to build others up and give grace to the people around us. It goes back to that old saying, "If you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all."

We need to constantly make an effort to check ourselves, to stop and think about what we are about to say. Will it give grace to the person it's directed towards? Is it building someone up or tearing them down? We need to remember to ask ourselves those questions whenever we speak.

As a high school girl, gossip is of course something I struggle with. But it goes beyond age and gender. Gossip is something nearly everyone struggles with, really.

It's so easy to say something petty and mean, and it seems like it won't hurt anyone—as long as they don't find out. But even though I didn't know exactly what might have been said about me, just knowing people were talking was enough to upset me.

I'm going to make an effort to memorize Ephes. 4:29 and stop to think before I speak from now on. I hope you will, too, especially if you—like me—struggle with gossip. **SR**



Honest to God? (in prayer)

by Jonathan Lawson
Moreno Valley, Calif.



Have you ever prayed to God and felt as if you were just going through the motions? Has it almost felt like a recital of something you've heard before?

I know that it's happened to me before. I have come to God and felt I couldn't talk to Him. At times I've felt my frustration has distanced me from God. I have at times felt abandoned or lost.

During these times I catch myself praying with no sincerity because I can't explain to God how I feel betrayed or abandoned by Him.

While there's something to be said about respecting and fearing God, I challenge you to be honest with Him at the same time. I spent much of this last semester trying to make sure I

prayed the prayers I was supposed to pray. Since I've been trying to pray more honestly, I began to realize that I was holding back so much from God before.

There is biblical evidence of praying to God honestly while maintaining that reverence. One of the perfect places to look for honest and sincere prayers is in the book of Psalms. Psalm 88 begins:

"O LORD, the God of my salvation, I have cried out by day and in the night before You. Let my prayer come before You; Incline Your ear to my cry!"

I encourage you to read the entire chapter and see how sincere the psalmist is with God. It is hard to miss his honesty. He tells God that his acquaintances

have left him, and he also feels that God has rejected him.

It's encouraging for me to see this prayer in the light of holding back from saying certain things to the Lord. It shows that even when we feel we are at our lowest, God wants to hear from us. He wants to hear what's on our hearts regardless of what that is.

God's love for us goes beyond what we can fathom. It is truly indescribable. He loves us so much that He wants us to be honest with Him, even if that's explaining how we feel lost. When Jesus ascended into heaven he gave us the gift of The Great Comforter. The Holy Spirit is meant to comfort us when we feel weak and lost, or abandoned and downcast. He is here for us

regardless of what we feel. He is here to love, encourage, and—as described in His name—comfort.

Another biblical example of honesty with reverence is in Luke 22. Jesus is praying at the Garden of Gethsemane. Starting in verse 42 it says:

"Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done." Now an angel from heaven appeared to Him, strengthening Him. And being in agony He was praying very fervently; and His sweat became like drops of blood, falling down upon the ground" (NASB).

Jesus was being completely honest with the Father at this point, asking Him to change His plan—which Jesus would have known He wouldn't do. He still was being honest. Jesus was praying from the heart.

Notice at the end he says, "Yet not My will, but Yours be done." He is praying with honesty, but he also understands the reverence and fear of God. He understands that while his heart is telling him to run from the excruciating pain he is about to face, his overall goal is to follow the Father.

Jesus is the perfect example of what we should strive to be. We can be honest with God. We can come to Him and lay our hearts out before Him, knowing He hears us.

I believe that God wants to hear from us with a sincere heart. Using the psalmist and Jesus as examples, let's pray crying our heart out to God while having reverence for what our Creator can do. Let's accept the comfort The Great Comforter has to offer. Jesus never called us to a life of ease, but that doesn't mean God wants things to be more difficult for us than they need to be. **SR**



The President's Page
by John Pethtel

Buckhannon, WV July 29–Aug. 4, 2012

Are you ready for the victory?

“The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but the victory belongs to the LORD.” (Proverbs 21:31)

Has everybody had enough of “Tebowing” in Denver, or the “Linsanity” going on in New York?

In case you aren’t aware, these are two recent sports sensations caused by Christian athletes publicly discussing their faith in the media. The two talented young men, Tim Tebow and Jeremy Lin, have regularly sought to refocus credit for their performance and team’s victories (and losses) toward our God.

Now, God is bigger than the outcomes of sports contests, but He is also worthy of the glory given to athletes who breathe because He says so.

Abraham Lincoln was quoted as saying, “Without God I cannot succeed. With God I cannot fail.” What can our verse from Proverbs, or this quote from Lincoln, or the example of Tebow and Lin teach us?

God expects us to be READY for the victories He will provide for us and our churches.

We shouldn’t be surprised that when we pray for growth and plan for growth and get READY for

growth that God will provide growth! Even now God is preparing people who will encounter members of your church in the community, or attend an outreach event, or come to your worship service. What will you give them when they get there? *ARE YOU READY* for the victory God will provide for His Kingdom through your church?

God wants us to obey even when victory doesn’t seem likely.

If you already know the results that your labor will produce, then you are working under your own power and not in God’s. If your church can achieve results without God having to be involved, then what you are doing is not faith. *ARE YOU READY* to have the faith to move forward in His will when it doesn’t seem humanly possible that the outcome will be victory?

Victory belongs to the Lord!

To keep me from becoming prideful in ministry, a pastor friend once explained to me, “If something good happens in your church, praise God who brought the victory! If something bad happens in your church, what did you do?” *ARE*

YOU READY to give God all the credit for what is going on in your church and your life?

There can be no victory against God and there can be no victory without God. Victory in God’s name is not measured out in human standards (opinion, polls, votes) but in spiritual standards (growth in grace, love, mercy). Just as in battle, the warrior prepares his vehicle—horse, tank, plane—expecting victory in the service of his country, so should we prepare His vehicle—the Church—expecting victory in the service of His Kingdom.

At Conference we will be challenging our churches to get ready for what God will do through them with the theme, “*ARE YOU READY?*” We will study through the book of 1 Thessalonians in our morning sessions and use the gathered worship times to discuss themes like Realization, Remembrance, Repentance, Revitalization, (Spiritual) Reproduction, His Return, and Rest. We plan to have week-long courses on missions and evangelism. Of course, there will be the fantastic fellowship times and other activities that we have grown to love during that week.

Our emphasis on church planting and revitalization during this year’s session will include some specific teaching on how to revitalize your church and get it to participate in church planting. If that’s an area of ministry that you are being called to explore or have questions about, please contact the Center office, the Missionary Society, or myself so we can pray for you and include you in these discussions.

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



by Executive Director
Rob Appel

Have we really advanced?

Aren't computers just the greatest? And they haven't been around that long.

Considered by most to be the first programmable and fully automatic computing machine, Konrad Zuse's Z3 computer was launched in 1941. Today's palm-sized cellular phones have more computer power than those early monstrous machines that took up half the size of an average home. A small smart-phone does more than the original 1982 PC's that weighed as much as an anchor. (And that's all they are good for today—an anchor!)

The question we need to ask ourselves is, "With all this technology of the past century, are we better off?" I know some days I'm not so sure.

First of all, the terminology has certainly changed. Today's third graders don't know what a basic phone is when they see it. Their name for what we called a phone is a "cell." They'll say, "Have you seen my cell?" or "My cell dropped the call." Do you remember how TV's "Beverly Hillbillies" called the billiard cues "pot-passers"? The Clampetts thought they were for moving hot vittles around the "fancy eating table" (the pool table).

The same could be confused with technology terms used today. Take the word "software" for instance. If you suffered from "Rip Van Winkle"

syndrome, you would most likely think that *software* was a piece of clothing you wore, not computer programs and data. And let's not even start talking about binary code: 1011010110101101000! LOL

When you are surfing the "net" or "web," it doesn't mean you're trying to catch butterflies or admire the work of a friendly spider. Why would you want to surf on something that isn't water or snow anyway? And when you're doing this web surfing, you use a "mouse" or "pad" to maneuver on the "net"! What?

There are so many innovative technology thingies that we use today that didn't even exist 20 years ago: iPods, iPads, HD programming, DVR, apps, networking, and wireless internet, to name a few. Add the items that didn't exist 50 years ago and it's even more astonishing! Things like home computers, the Internet, e-mail, GPS, PDAs, cell phones, ATMs, Podcasting, Internet banking, microwave ovens, and much more.

So, with all this advancement, where has this technology really taken us? I sometimes think that it has made us less interactive with people face-to-face and more interactive with a machine, into which we place human-like tendencies.

By this I mean we interact with the machine just like we would interact with the person if that per-


son was right there in front of us. Often when I am in an airport, out in a restaurant, or even at an event, what I observe is many people not interacting with each other, but rather engaged with their "toy" of choice. There are people around them, and they just ignore them.

Which leads me to this question: "How are we to spread the Gospel message, when we are not talking verbally to the people who need to hear it?"

! Let me TILII. YSK a statement on a MB @ the fact that Jesus LYA, is NATO! (Translation: *I have a comment. Let me tell It Like It Is. You Should Know a statement on a Message Board about the fact that Jesus Loves You All, is No Action, Talk Only!*)

Even with all this technology—and we should use it—we still can't beat that face-to-face interaction. Seeing someone's reaction to a personal testimony is so much more effective, as well as affective, and helps us know what the next step is in their spiritual growth and education.

So take advantage of the newest technology out there. Don't be afraid to try something that's new and innovative. But remember that some things are still better the old way... with a twist. If all else fails, just ask WWJD? (What Would Jesus Do?)

YIC (Yours In Christ) 



The cost of owning a church building

by Morgan Shepard

“For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it?” (Luke 14:28 ESV)

Last month I asked, “How much is college worth?” This got me to thinking about how much other things cost. Being involved in construction management for so many years my next question was, “How much does a building cost?”

Initially most of us think of simply the cost of constructing or purchasing a building. But that’s just the beginning. A church also needs to consider the cost of operating a building over time. This is called the “Life Cycle Cost”—the cost to build, operate, and then dispose of the building. (*How do you dispose of a church building?*)

In the August 2011 edition of “Church Executive” magazine, Tim Cool discussed this in his article “What is the *real* cost of ownership?” Along with the initial construction costs, Cool addressed the costs of maintaining the building and the effects of inflation over the life of the structure.


For illustration purposes (*see chart*) let’s consider a church that wants to build a 6,000 square foot church. (We will exclude the cost of the land.) The costs of operation are based on industry averages using the building square footage. I’ve checked these costs against several churches in the General Conference and the averages are pretty close.

If you consider the costs of ownership over 40 years, the construction is only 37% of the total cost. The remaining operation costs constitute 63%! If you look at how much giving is needed over 40 years you get a real sense of what a building costs. We haven’t

		% of Total Ownership Costs (40 Years)
Cost of Construction		
Square Feet (SF) of Building	6,000	
Cost / SF (\$125 / SF) (Excludes land)	\$ 750,000	18.8%
Construction Partner Fee (9%)	67,500	1.7%
Design Fee (7%)	52,500	1.3%
	\$ 870,000	21.8%
Cost of Money (Interest on Loan) (\$750,000 @ 4.5% fixed over 30 years)	618,050	15.5%
Total Cost of Construction	\$ 1,488,050	37.4%
Cost of Operation / Capital Repairs (40 Year Life Cycle)		
\$6.50 / SF (Industry Average)	39,000	
Cost of Operating over 40 years	1,560,000	39.2%
Inflation @ 1.5% Per Year	936,000	
Total Cost of Operation / Capital Repairs	\$ 2,496,000	62.6%
Total Cost of Ownership over 40 Years	\$ 3,984,050	
Avg. Annual Giving Needed to Support the Building (Including construction)	\$ 99,601	
Avg. Annual Giving Needed to Support for 40 Years (Not Including construction)	\$ 62,400	

even factored in the ministries or paying a pastor.

Where does our stewardship need to be focused? While many may think a brick-and-mortar building “makes” a church, it really doesn’t. A church is the covenant members ministering to their local community.

I’m not saying a building isn’t important. God may be calling your church to have its own facility and He will certainly give you what you need to accomplish His vision for your local church. When we follow that vision we need to consider the **whole cost**, otherwise we may not finish the vision. 

*From the Committee on
Support and Retirement*



SDB PASTOR'S RETIREMENT FUND

SUPPORTING THOSE WHO GAVE SO MUCH

In the late 1970s, the SDB General Conference realized that its retirement plan for pastors and denominational workers was seriously underfunded. The problem was addressed by creating a new plan and keeping the old plan for those already retired or within 10 years of retirement.

The underfunding of the old plan was addressed by a goal to raise \$500,000 in a decade. This number was determined by the actuarial guesses of the time. That effort was called the Pastors Retirement Offering Project (PROP).

The half-million-dollar goal was reached in the decade through the generous and sacrificial giving of many. It provided a large buffer amount on which COSAR has been drawing all these years. The number of recipients has been going down. In 2005 there were 35 people on this old plan; currently there are 11. No new recipients have been admitted to this old plan for over a decade, and no new persons will be admitted.

The actuaries in the late 1970s gave their best guess as to how many years the Lord would give the average person. Praise the Lord, they guessed low. God has given long life to these servants who gave so much.

The money raised by PROP is all gone and we still have an obligation to provide promised amounts for the remaining people and their surviving spouses. Yes, there is some income from permanent funds that provide some dollars each year, but we will need much more annually for the next six to ten years.

COSAR (the denomination's Committee on Support and Retirement) has put in place a two-pronged plan. We will seek to raise funds through contributions and a loan.

Considering the current needs for giving in all areas of Seventh Day Baptist ministry, we do not think it right to ask for more than \$25,000 extra per year. We have approached the Memorial Fund asking for a loan to cover the overage in this next period of time with the plan to pay it back from the income on investments when it is no longer needed for these retirees.

These funds are committed for Ministers Retirement, and so in the distant future when the loan is fully paid there may be a little help for retired ministers then. However we encourage all to plan now for the time when you are unable to earn an income.

To RAISE the \$25,000 goal we need:

**5 persons giving \$5,000 or
10 persons giving \$2,500 or
25 persons giving \$1,000 or
42 persons giving \$50 per
month or
50 persons giving \$500 for
the year or
70 persons giving \$1 per day
for the entire year, or
84 persons giving \$25 per
month or
105 persons giving \$20 per
month or
208 persons giving \$10 per
month or
a combination of the above.**

Where in this list has God given you a vision and heart to help? We may not all be able to give a large one-time or annual gift, but we might be able to give a regular smaller amount.

As an encouragement, COSAR wants you to know that those who sit on the COSAR board have pledged a total of \$6,000 for this first year. Come join us as we seek to continue the ministries to which we have been called, and also give to those who have given so much. **SR**

*Send your tax-deductible gifts to the SDB Center (address on p. 3) or call to arrange a monthly automatic gift.
Make your check payable to **COSAR**, with "Pastor's Retirement Fund" in the memo line. Thank you so very much!*

From alterations to exaltations!

by Cheri Appel
Milton, Wis.

Note from Cheri: Scanning the familiar faces of the Dodge Center congregation (my mother's home SDB church in Minnesota), I was pleasantly surprised to see Marjo and Dan Greene in attendance. It made me want to hear their testimony. Later at the family reunion, Marjo shared her journey.

“
Marjo could physically feel her past sin leaving her body. She knew that God was close to her.”



Marjo Greene

For over five years, Marjo and Dan Greene owned and ran a Quality Sewing store in Rochester, Minn. Marjo had gone from an enthusiastic, novice seamstress, to a knowledgeable entrepreneur in the fabrics and sewing machine business. The only drawback was the constant hours they had to put in to keep this enterprise a success.

A few years ago, the store closed and Marjo found herself working for Textile Care Services. She and Dan were able to have more time for family and what they needed to do in *life* rather than work. One Sabbath morning in October of 2009, Marjo looked at Dan and asked, “Do you want to go to church?” “Yeah,” he replied, “Let’s get ready and go.” It was as if he had been sitting back waiting for this question.

Having been raised to attend church on Sundays, and not talking about God or Jesus on the days in between, Marjo remembers her mother’s words: “We don’t wear our Christianity on our sleeves.”

From that very first Sabbath when she walked into the Dodge Center

Seventh Day Baptist Church, Marjo could tell the worship was “real”—not just a “duty” that the congregation was fulfilling. She soaked in the church’s “family feeling” as the people welcomed her. Hearing that first sermon, she was touched by the Holy Spirit. Marjo knew He was speaking directly to her heart.

As Marjo and Dan continued to attend each Sabbath, she realized that the Lord was “hitting home” with every message. She enjoyed Pastor Dale Rood’s style of speaking and teaching directly from the Bible. It always seemed to be about issues current and relevant in her life.

After running a business, running a laundering machine didn’t require a lot of “brainpower,” so Marjo found herself with time to think. She began to use her time to pray. At one point, Dan was unemployed and she was visiting with God about His Plans for that provision. Marjo asked the Lord for guidance on how to deal with this need. She believed that He would provide and that He always has a plan for us.

During this spiritual conversation, she realized that she had never requested that the Lord take away her sins. So she stopped and asked for forgiveness right then and there. Marjo could physically feel her past sin leaving her body, the weightlessness very real as the burden left her shoulders. At that moment, she knew that God was close to her and loved her.

Marjo speaks of an abundant Christian life. She knows now that it doesn’t matter what happens in this earthly life—whether “good or bad.”

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New members

Bay Area, CA
Steven Crouch, pastor
Joined by testimony
Nick Martinez
Joined by baptism
Natalie Martinez

Obituaries

Kilts.—Gordon C. Kilts, 85, of Queensbury, N.Y., passed away October 26, 2011 at the Glens Falls (N.Y.) Hospital. Gordon was born in Schenectady, N.Y., on May 28, 1926, the son of Carlos Gordon and Helen (Cunningham) Kilts.

He was a guidance counselor with the Queensbury school system for 30 years, retiring in 1987. Loved and respected by family and friends, Gordon was a man of compassion and integrity. His life was focused on serving his God and caring for his family. He enjoyed gardening, woodworking, camping, traveling, photography, working with stained glass and participating in many sports activities.

Gordon was an active member in the Seventh Day Baptist denomination. He was a charter member of the Schenectady Seventh Day Baptist Church which he helped construct. He was a deacon, moderator, Sabbath School teacher and did some preaching. He later joined the Berlin, N.Y., Seventh Day Baptist Church where he continued as deacon and adult Sabbath School teacher.

He served as president of Lewis Camp for a number of years and volunteered as a camp counselor. After his retirement Gordon worked with the Senior Saints on numerous projects at various SDB churches and camps across the country.

Gordon was on the executive board of the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society from 1995-2011 and for several years served as president of the Society. He also served on their field development team and helped with many of the projects. Gordon also served as a member of the SDB Board of Christian Education for several years.

During his last visit to the Berlin Church, Gordon gave a moving testimony regarding the

many ways God had blessed him. Gordon testified to the truth that our convictions matter, and how we live our lives flows from those convictions. Although some would have found Gordon's Sabbath observance "strict," he kept it joyfully, using the day given to him to glorify God by setting aside that day for family, friends, and study. Gordon was devoted to the Sabbath because he was devoted to God.

He married Beverly Cook in 1958, who survives. Other survivors include a son, Karl Gordon Kilts of Coxsackie, N.Y., and daughter Karyn Ann Kilts of Hudson Falls, N.Y.; four grandchildren; and a sister, Virginia Swartz of Ballston Lake, N.Y. He was predeceased by a sister, Caroline Lindermuth.

A funeral service was held on October 31, 2011 at the Maynard D. Baker Funeral Home in Queensbury. Interment will be at Slate Hill Cemetery in Ames, N.Y.

Davis.—Jean B. Davis, 83, of Bradenton, Fla., joined her Savior Jesus Christ in heaven on February 8, 2012. She was born



Jean B. Davis
1928 –
2012

in Lost Creek, W.Va., on October 1, 1928 to Frank and Stella (Van Horn) Bailey.

The granddaughter of a dedicated Seventh Day Baptist minister, Her-

bert C. Van Horn, Jean was raised in her grandparents' home. Her appreciation of the wider church family flourished when, at the age of 15, she worked at the denomination's Recorder Press in Plainfield, N.J., where her grandfather had taken on the work of editor of *The Sabbath Recorder*. (This monthly periodical for and about Seventh Day Baptists has been in production since 1844, has world-wide circulation, and is now produced in Janesville, Wis.)

Marrying her childhood classmate from Sabbath School, Ken Davis, she supported him when he received the call to become a minister. Faithfully serving five churches with her pastor-husband since 1961, Jean's loving support as wife, mother, counselor, teacher and friend has been emulated by other pastors' wives. Her listening ear and tender heart have soothed not only family and friends, but also those who seem to have no family or friends. She not only listened but responded with practical help when she could.

Jean and Ken opened their home several times to help young people find their way. Jean gladly shared her musical gifts by singing for church and community as well as accompanying several choirs on piano or organ, playing faithfully in recent years for her Bradenton SDB Church family who will miss her very much. This past Thanksgiving, while visiting the Daytona Beach

cont. next page

Birth

Vining.— A son, Caleb Jeffrey, was born to Brian and Anna (Cruzan) Vining of White Cloud, MI on January 30, 2012.

SDB Church, she was asked to play, and she received a standing ovation for the inspiring five-hymn medley she courageously pieced together under the guidance of the Holy Spirit practically at the last minute. During the winter months, for many years, she played for the non-denominational church at Winter-set RV Resort in Palmetto, Fla.

She remained active not only as organist, but also as a deaconess and Sabbath School Superintendent in her church. Devotedly loyal to her husband, she remained at his side taking on increased responsibility in the church as his health declined. Until the Lord took her Home, Jean supported her church's new

pastor Michael Spearl, helping him plan worship music and proctoring his exams as he pursued his ministerial studies. Jean was surprised and humbled when the SDB General Conference in USA and Canada honored her in 2008 with the Women's Society Robe of Achievement for her years of service.

She is survived by her five children: Susan Bond of Palmetto; Deborah Giles of Battle Creek, Mich.; Kenneth Davis of Lancaster, Pa.; Paul Davis of Salem, W.Va.; and Janice Noel of East Leroy, Mich.; 19 grandchildren, and 45 great-grandchildren. Jean was preceded in death by her husband and by her daughter Sally. A memorial service

will be held in Salem, W.Va., in August following the annual Conference of Seventh Day Baptists. **SR**

Death Notices

Dolores Jean Albion, 91, of Kalamazoo, MI, died on February 10, 2012.

A. Ruth Bennett, 86, of Battle Creek, MI, died on February 19, 2012.

From alterations to exaltations, *cont. from p. 24*

God is in control and everything happens for a reason. He will take care of her and, because she loves Him, the outcome will be for good. He will wipe away any tears.

In the early summer, Marjo decided to be baptized. While in the baptismal waters, Pastor Dale asked

three questions that Marjo was able to answer in confidence.

"Have you accepted Jesus as your Lord?" "Yes, of course!"

"Have you renounced the devil?" "Yes."

"Will you always keep Jesus as your Savior?" "Yes."

That profession of faith, in front of family and friends was an awesome experience for Marjo.

Coming out of the baptismary waters, Marjo admitted that she had to restrain herself from jumping up and down and giving a loud, "Woo Hoo!!" That was a new beginning for her on June 4, 2010 at 7:15 in the evening. Marjo describes the day her sins left her and her baptism as two of the most awesome events she has ever experienced.

Marjo told Pastor Dale that her new goal in life was to "know the Bible better than her cell phone." She referred to an e-mail that talked about communication with God. "We keep our cell phones near to us—in our purse, pocket or hand

most all the time. If we leave it lying on the kitchen counter, we go back to get it. We are constantly checking it, using it to talk to the ones we are closest to, and keeping up-to-date by the minute, using the information from it to make our next decisions." Marjo believes that this is what we should be doing in our relationship with God and His Word.

Today, Marjo and Dan are members of the Dodge Center SDB church. They are active in Adult Sabbath School and Bible study. Marjo happily reports that Dan has taken on the role of spiritual leader in their home. They spend time in prayer and reading the Bible daily both together and individually.

And by the way, God did provide a job. Dan became a semi truck driver. While driving the long hours, he finds time to talk to God and thank Him for His many blessings. Dan is very grateful for all the safe miles the Lord has provided as well as the wonderful new changes in their spiritual lives. **SR**

**The SDB
Historical Society's
2012 Annual Meeting
will be held at the
SDB Center,
3120 Kennedy Rd,
Janesville, WI at 2:00 pm
on May 20, 2012.
All interested Seventh
Day Baptists are
invited to attend.**

KEVIN'S

ORNER

What's that beeping sound?

Our house here in Wisconsin is over 40 years old. We've lived in it for just over half of its existence, so that means we've had to replace some things. Like the roof and the windows, the furnace, a door or two—and a few big appliances.

We tried to hang onto those trusty old workhorses as long as we could, but they finally gave out. Getting used to the sounds of their replacements—the different hum of their motors and strange alert tones—took awhile. I thought, *What's that?* as the new fridge started

beeping politely if we left the door open too long. Then I wondered, *Is that someone's cell phone?* as the new dryer alerted us with a multi-note tune that the clothes were dry.

Warnings, alerts or reminders. They're on our watches, phones, laptops and tablets. Those are good things. But I noticed that once we got used to the new warnings or alerts, the less important we thought they were. *Yeah, yeah—I'll get around to it when I'm good and ready!*

But there's one loud and painful alert you don't ever care to hear: a smoke detector. When that jarring noise goes off, there's a real problem and you'd better move quickly to check it out. Lives could be at stake.

In the spiritual realm, someone has said that *guilt* is the "smoke detector" that God has put inside us. Think about that as you read these verses from Romans 8—

"Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.

The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God. You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you" (vv. 5-9a).

As the years and incidents of life go by, we may get those gentle warning beeps when we sin—the little white lies, neglecting to follow through on a promise, the lapses into gluttony and greed.

We feel that twinge of guilt (that little beep). But if there are no hard consequences, we can start to justify the action by thinking, "Oh, I know it's wrong but *everybody* is doing it," or, "That's not *half* as bad as what that other guy just did."

The little beep goes off and life goes on.

That is, until the internal *smoke alarm* jars us awake from our spiritual slumber. "Busted!" Instead of heeding those smaller twinges of guilt and correcting course, now everybody has heard the big alarm go off and there's nowhere to hide. How do we win this battle for the heart and mind?

Romans 8 continues—

"For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship" (vv. 13-15).

May the Spirit truly lead us as we live as sons and daughters of the King.





Important Memo:

167 Years and counting!!

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

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

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

GRACE AND PEACE,

Kevin



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