



# The Sabbath RECORDER

*Inside:*

Vengeance  
is... Whose?

Voice from  
the backseat

June 2012

*News for and about Seventh Day Baptists*

**Case file:**

**PERSPECTIVE**

2012  
Youth  
Issue



## Who are Seventh Day Baptists?

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

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

### The seventh day

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

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After the retirement of Pastor Harold King, **SpringsLife SDB Church** in Colorado Springs, Colorado is searching for a new pastor. Colorado Springs is located at the base of the Rocky Mountains an hour south of Denver, where the sun shines over 301 days a year. Our low humidity climate makes for outdoor activities year round, plus several colleges and seminaries (and an international airport) are in our city. In 2011 we remodeled a building on our property into a 1,000-sq ft parsonage. The church consists of committed Christian Sabbath-keepers. Please contact Tim Rood, 303-319-8058. Website: [www.springslife.org](http://www.springslife.org).

The **Remembrance Seventh Day Baptist Church** in Fort Worth, Texas is also seeking a pastor. Anyone interested please call Gordon Lawton, Director of Pastoral Services, at the SDB Center: 608-752-5055.

**Seeking a  
Director of Emerging Media**  
(See page 19)

## 2012 General Conference

*(Registration forms in the May issue and on-line. Regis. discount ends June 30)*

**July 29 – August 4**

WV Wesleyan College  
Buckhannon, WV

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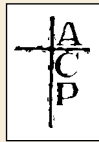


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# Features

## 2012 Youth Issue

*Conceived and Compiled by  
Rebecca Olson, Beacon Editor*

**Case File:**

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Berlin, N.Y., Seventh Day Baptist Church:**

Maddison Defelice, Katie Greene (p. 5)

Becca Olson (pp. 4, 6)

Kaitlyn Moon, Wyatt Greene (p. 9)

**And two adults:**

Ellen Olson (pp. 7-8)

Emily Olson (pp. 10-11)

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# Case File: PERSPECTIVE

*(Files and transitions compiled by Becca Olson)*



Seventh Day Baptists pride ourselves on our annual Conference. It is a week full of laughter, business, and reconnecting. It is a way for us to stay close to each other even as we are spread out around the globe.

However, there is one problem with our Conference, a disconnect between people that can be infinitely frustrating for both parties involved: The adults and the youth have a hard time communicating.

Maybe it's because of the adults with their dislike of our newfangled technology and urbane generation. Or maybe it's because of the youth with our "too good for you" attitude and need to have fun (and business meetings aren't exactly our definition of fun).

Blame aside, we have a real problem. But never fear! We are a team of youth recognizing our problem, and we are ready to talk. We'll tell you all about our perspective, and give you a look inside our scarily complicated teenage minds. We're going to let you know what it's like to be in our shoes, to be an SDB Youth.

Now, we know you all have been Youth before, and you've gone through what we are going through. Still, there's one important reason why we think that this is something you need to hear. It's all about the perspective, about "the Big Picture."

As Youth, we can't see a lot of that picture. We see a fuzzy dot that really doesn't tell us anything about our future and our purpose. That's why a lot of times things get out of whack for us. We often see whatever's happening right now as the most important thing that will happen, ever.

But as adults, you have an ability that we do not—the ability to put all the chaos into perspective. We're not trying to say that you can see the whole picture; only God can see that. But we are saying that you see a lot more of that picture than we do.

So we're going to remind you what it's like to have your life revolve around this very minute. We hope it's helpful. Hold on: it's going to be a bumpy ride. **SR**

By the Youth of Berlin, NY:  
 Rebecca Olson, Kaitlyn Moon, Wyatt Greene, Maddison Defelice, and Katie Greene (and two adults, Emily and Ellen Olson)



*Berlin kids making Christmas boxes for shut-ins.*

*Sixth grade. Middle school. You've got to remember what that felt like. It's a crazy thing, a transition from one world to another. All of a sudden, instead of one teacher, you've got nine. Kids change, and those who were your friends all through elementary school become your worst enemies, and your enemies become your friends.*

*Oh, and not to mention, last year you were one of the older kids. Now, you are the youngest, the shortest, and the most despised. (Come on, you can't tell me the seniors that walk down the hallway don't scare you even a little bit!)*

*Your world is tipped upside down in the mad rush of the middle school hallway, and everything has changed. So, while the youth are going through all that, can you blame them for being a little uncooperative at times?*

*Our sixth graders Maddison and Katie have written about this transition, from fifth to sixth grade, and what it means for their lives in the church. These girls have gone from "kid" to Youth.*

Going from Elementary to Youth has been a big step for me. I will never forget all the fun I had in the younger group. It was amazing and we got to put on plays and play a lot of games.

In the older group, we sometimes do that sort of thing, but not as often. However, we have gotten to cook and make food.

I learned a lot from my old Sabbath School and YF teachers. I am honored to have been in their classes. I learned a lot about God and I will pass it down to everyone at home and at school and anywhere I want to!

I don't care what anyone says, I believe in God. It has meant so much to me that I was accepted in my church. I am really grateful for that.

Maddison Defelice

This year I have moved from Elementary to Middle School Youth Fellowship.

There are many similarities and differences. This year I focus much more on *applying* what God says to my life, whereas last year I was told the story of Jesus Christ and its importance.

During Youth Fellowship, we train ourselves spiritually, but we also get active! Every Monday (at YF), our youth leaders choose a game that we get to play after the lesson.

Youth Fellowship has changed me in a lot of different ways. It has made me much closer to God.

Katie Greene

Elem. to Middle

PERSPECTIVE

# PERSPECTIVE

Jr. High to Sr. High

*Well, that's what it feels like to become a Youth.*

*It's pretty clear that both of these girls really love the experiences they've been having in YF. Like they said, becoming a Youth is exciting and fun, though it can get a little crazy at times.*

*The step from elementary school to middle school is actually a lot of fun. Sure, the lessons are longer and go more in-depth into the Bible. But that is actually a big relief for a sixth grader (at least it was for me), when you aren't hearing the same lesson week after week.*

*Plus, in middle school you get more freedom. Adults trust you more, so you don't always feel like you've got someone watching your every move.*

*But that's one transition. What about going from middle school to high school? I'm here to tell you exactly what that's like.*



*Becca Olson*

This past year, I went from being in the Junior High Youth Group to the High School Youth Group. It has been a really big step for me.

It's so different than anything we've ever done in the younger classes. We definitely go much more in-depth into the Bible. In the Middle School group, you learn a lot about the things God says about your life, but there is a certain depth lacking there. When you read the Bible as a middle schooler, it is all about what is actually written.

But in high school, we go in-between the lines. One thing that has been really interesting for me personally is how much impact Paul manages to pack into his letters. Everything he says implies something else, often leading to long tangents which keep us from finishing the scheduled lessons in time!

Though this step has been really difficult—and seems like a lot more work and a lot less fun—overall I've really enjoyed the step up.

Rebecca Olson



*Before the great Corn Maze challenge*

*Well, that's what taking it up a notch is like for a Youth.  
What about the youth leaders involved? They put up with so much  
that we give them, and why? Maybe it's because they love us.  
But I really do wonder what would drive someone to put up with a  
whole bunch of teenagers for an hour and a half... every week! Luckily,  
we've got a Youth Leader to remind us why.  
How did she remember? It's all thanks to an 8-year-old named Gabby.*

Several times this past year, the staff members of our youth group have questioned why we do what we do. Frustrations abound when you work with kids, whether in youth group or in Sabbath School class.

Some of the frustrations experienced by various members of our teaching staff in the past year included:

- Planning a retreat that was "begged for," with only six students actually attending.
- Planning retreats on a community-wide and/or Association-wide basis (after being asked to do so) with ZERO in attendance from the community or other Seventh Day Baptist churches.
- Asking churches for the dates they have free and planning a youth event on one of those dates—only to find out that the date is not available for their youth.
- One hour of planning each Sabbath morning to get papers copied and distributed to teachers for next week's lesson, in addition to the time it takes to plan your own lesson.
- Constant talking during youth fellowship lessons.
- Having students raise their hands and asking if the teacher is almost done.
- Struggling to plan activities ahead of time as young people won't commit. The explanation? They want to "leave their options open" to be able to participate in whatever is the best option when the time comes.
- Planning an activity that involves supervision and a car ride for the five people who responded, and having 10 show up! (Thank goodness for flexible spouses and really large cars.)
- Arriving at youth group early to prepare your lesson, only to discover the fellowship hall is not prepared and you are the only adult available to do that task.
- Cleaning up a snack area that looks like a food fight occurred rather than a snack for 10 middle schoolers.
- Playing outside with kids who complain that they wore the wrong shoes or did not bring a coat, despite telling them every week to be prepared.
- Having the same student show up consistently, yet not make any visible effort to participate or able to make a serious application regardless of the lesson.
- Inconsistency in support staff resulting in not knowing if you will have four assistants or none for a dozen elementary students.

I am certain that everyone who works with youth has experienced at least some of these problems and frustrations, and probably more. That's one reason there is frequent turnover in Sabbath School and youth group leaders.

*cont. next page*

*cont'd...* It takes a lot of time and effort to prepare, and due to the age of the students, your efforts are rarely appreciated. Oftentimes it takes years before a young person you work with grows up and becomes a mature Christian. More often, that young person disappears at high school or college when the world becomes far more interesting than church.

Yet, we continue to plan excellent activities and classes for kids and youth knowing that it is what God calls us to; knowing that we are planting seeds. We remember that while we plant and water, God ultimately brings forth fruit.

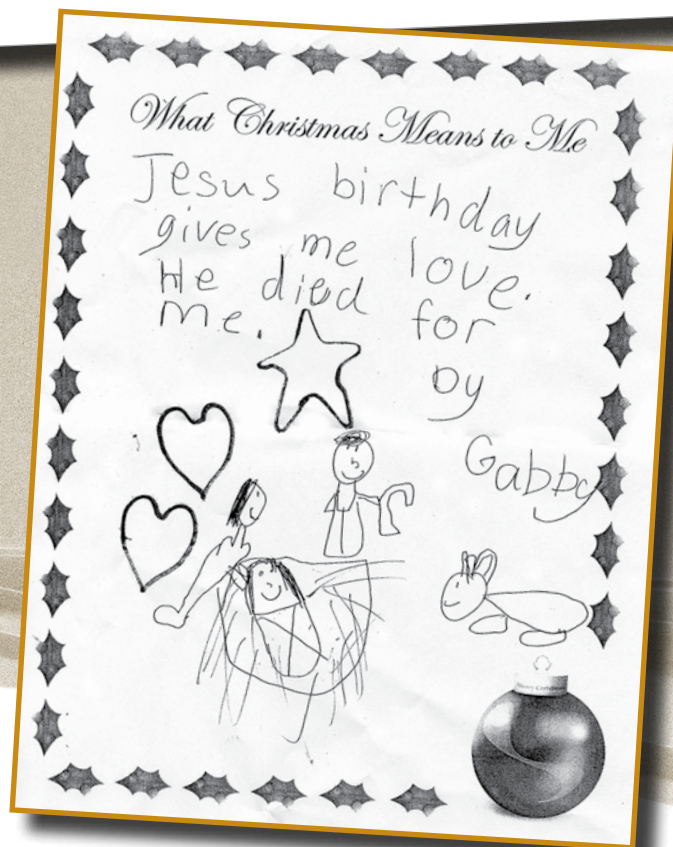
Occasionally God allows us a glimpse of that fruit as an encouragement to continue. In some cases it might be a really excellent retreat that might not have been as intimate or as effective if more than six had attended, or a wonderful nighttime adventure through the corn maze despite the chaos of organizing last-minute rides.

Sometimes we are allowed a more in-depth glance into the heart of those we are teaching. Those are the moments that make every bit of effort and frustration worthwhile.

At the end of November, we hosted an activity at church that involved Christmas boxes for shut-ins. One exercise involved completing a paper with the title, "What Christmas means to me" to include in the boxes. One of our second graders made a beautiful picture with Mary, Joseph, Jesus, and a donkey. She then wrote, "Jesus' birthday gives me love. He died for me."

That is the singular reason why we work with young people and do the things we do. Thanks for the reminder, Gabby.

Ellen Olson





Now that kind of thing can get everyone excited! It makes you feel great to know that you're reaching someone. I get that.

I hope all the youth leaders out there know that they are reaching us. It's hard to believe sometimes, because I'll admit that we can get a little mean and nasty. However, everything you do for us means a lot. Keep trying, and we'll try a little harder to acknowledge your efforts.

Here are some of our favorite things about our youth leaders. We love you all!

There are many qualities that I admire in youth leaders. Some of these include being relatable, charismatic, and responsible.

One of my favorite youth leaders is Diane Gentner. Diane is a great youth leader for many reasons. I look up to Diane because I know she is trustworthy and reliable. She's not only one of my youth leaders, but she's one of my friends and I know I can go to her if I ever need anything. I can trust her with anything.

Also, Dianne is very relatable. When she teaches God's Word, she connects it to her own experiences in life and helps me to fully understand the point in a lesson.

Another reason why Diane is a good youth leader is that while she has a serious side, she also has a more laid-back, funny side. She's a good youth leader because she knows how to teach us the lesson to benefit our knowledge of God's Word, and knows how to get the point across by being relatable and funny.

Diane is personable, trustworthy, and respectful. She has many qualities that I like my youth leader to possess. I know that with her as one of my leaders, I will learn more about God's Word and about life in general.

Kaitlyn Moon



*Fun at the Ice Cream Social*

My favorite youth leader is Kevin Bonesteel. He is my favorite leader because he lets us play fun games and he is very funny.

Kevin comes to Youth Fellowship and to all the other youth activities. He always does everything to the best of his ability.

I also look up to him because he has a very strong relationship with God. I have spent a lot of time with Kevin and he has taught me a lot. He has taught me everything from how to throw a frisbee to how to work the computer at church.

Kevin has helped me a lot and has had a positive impact on my life.

Wyatt Greene

Favorite Leaders

PERSPECTIVE

## PERSPECTIVE

### Becoming a Leader

*I hope our words have encouraged all you youth leaders out there. I know how hard it can be to step up to lead, especially when the people you're leading seem less than motivated.*

*Even as young people, we have to lead, and it's not always fun. I'm sure you all know that, but I'm going to let my sister tell you about it, anyway.*

In high school, I was the typical busy teenager. I had cross-country, cheer-leading, drama, orchestra, chorus, band, student council, and a role as class secretary. In my church, I was head usher, youth representative to the advisory board, and in charge of planning things like childcare for church events.

I also sang in the church's praise band, which I loved. Then, the summer before my senior year, Dave Stall went to Rhode Island to pastor the First Seventh Day Baptist Church of Hopkinton. He was the leader of our praise band.

We had another guitarist and a pianist, and I figured people who played instruments would shuffle around until we got our sound back. I never thought I would be part of the shuffle.

About six weeks before he left, Dave told me he was going to give me guitar lessons. I thought he was nuts! (Sorry, Dave.) There was no way I could learn how to hold my own on the guitar in six weeks! But he was right. I did.

So now, not only was I the leader of several things in the church, I was helping to lead music instrumentally.

A few months later, Carl Greene, the praise band's pianist and worship leader, announced that he was headed to the First Seventh Day Baptist Church of Hebron in Coudersport, Pennsylvania. Once again, I figured that there would be a small shift and I would continue to do what I was doing.

Boy, was I wrong. Carl brought in another guitarist and moved me to the role of leader even before he left! It was a hard transition for me to make. I mean, what place did I, a then-17-year-old girl, have in telling people 5 to 40 years older than me what to do?

It took a lot of configuration, but eventually I got the hang of it. It's still an adventure every week, but I've learned to enjoy it.

Being the leader of an important group in my church has become very meaningful to me. I've learned a lot, and I now know where I fit as an adult in my church.

Although it is a tough thing to adjust to, I encourage all youth who have the opportunity to become a leader within their church to do it. It is a really good experience (it's pretty impressive on a resume...) and it could help you to find your niche in your church!

Emily Olson



*I want us to end this Youth Issue as we began it. First was the transition from “kid” to Youth, now the transition from Youth to Young Adult.*

Last year at Conference, I was a youth—by one stupid month (I’m not bitter). Even though I was out of high school and headed to college in a couple of weeks, I wasn’t 18, so I was stuck in kind of an awkward limbo.

Becoming a young adult isn’t easy. Most of the time, you have friends that are youth and friends that are young adults, and it’s hard to choose which one you want to be. Part of you wants to go to the business meetings and look important, and part of you wants to run around the pool with the 5-year-olds and pretend you aren’t growing up.

Becoming the editor of the *Conference Crier* made the transition a little easier; my job distracted me from having to make really tough decisions. I noticed a lot of my close friends struggling with the choice though. It’s really hard to forget the bowling, swimming, and movie nights and go to business meetings. But being a young adult can be fun. If you listen hard enough, some of those meetings are actually interesting.

Finding something to do is definitely helpful, and it gives you an “in” into the adult world of Conference. Although the transition is tough, it becomes a starting point for your new life as an adult.

Emily Olson

*Well, we’ve taken you through our messy journey from being a kid all the way to being a young adult—and all the craziness in between. I hope that maybe you understand us better, and I know that stepping into your shoes and watching how we act has let me understand you better.*

*That’s pretty much all I have to say, except for one really, really big thing: “Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.” (1 Timothy 4:12)*

**Becca Olson, Beacon Editor**  
and editor of this Youth section



**Emily Olson**

Youth to Young Adult

**PERSPECTIVE**



# 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*

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## First cruise recalls old verses

This past April, I took my first-ever cruise, accompanied by my husband, Fred; teenage stepdaughter, Natalie; and daughter, Jennifer.

When I think of the crystal clear water of the Caribbean, with its mind-boggling shades of blue, I can't help but think of the Creation story:

"And God said, 'Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear.' ...and the gathered waters he called 'seas.' And God saw that it was good" (Genesis 1:9-10, NIV).

As our vessel, the Monarch of the Seas, sailed from Port Canaveral, Fla., to Nassau, the abundance of shipboard food continually amazed me. The kitchen staff produced 16,000 meals a day, offering fabulous breakfast and luncheon buffets as well as various other meal and snack venues. (I'm convinced Fred personally emptied the soft serve ice cream machine at least twice.)

The buffets' decorative touches were breathtaking: "Sculptured" watermelons, tropical birds made of carved carrots, frogs and turtles fashioned from bread, vegetable "flowers," etc. One outdoor evening buffet featured two ice sculptures.

Recalling those mouthwatering, eye-pleasing images, Genesis 9:3 flashes through my mind: "I have given them [every moving thing that lives] to you for food, just as I have given you grain and vegetables" (NLT).

At 8:30 every evening, we sat down to a delightful dinner as a headwaiter, assistant waiter, and main waiter hovered over us like mother hens. One even placed a napkin on each lap, bringing to mind the concept of servanthood: "...he that waits on his master shall be honored" (Proverbs 27:18, AKJV). "...be servants one to another" (Galatians 5:13 ASV).

From Nassau, we journeyed to Royal Caribbean's private island, CocoCay. Jennifer and Natalie interacted with trained dolphins and snorkeled, spotting a starfish, stingray, a large conch shell, and schools of brilliantly colored fish.

"And God said, 'Let the water teem with living creatures...'" (Gen. 1:20, NIV). "Others went out on the sea in ships... They saw the works of the Lord, his wonderful deeds in the deep" (Psalm 107:23-24, NIV).

Prior to flying to Orlando, my daughter said, "Mom, please don't use this trip for any of your column fodder." (I write a weekly humor column for the *Milton, Wis., Courier*.) "What happens in the Bahamas stays in the Bahamas!" she exclaimed.

Jen's plea was like commanding rain not to be wet. Then Jennifer added a warning: "Remember, Mom, you can't swim, and I'll know where the lifejackets are."

Recalling that conversation, the Fifth and Sixth Commandments immediately come to mind: "Honor your father and your mother" and "Thou shalt not kill."



Each day during the cruise, I wore about five lifejackets while walking on the ship's decks, giving me some peace of mind. (Obviously, I avoided becoming shark food since I returned home to write this.)

Prior to our voyage, Jennifer bragged about not sunburning. "I tan very easily," she asserted. "Because of my olive complexion, I don't have to worry a lot about burning."

During our cruise, the UV Index was very high. "...and the sunlight will be seven times brighter" (Isaiah 30:26, NIV).

Jen—in a moment of cruise cluelessness, a.k.a. lotion lunacy—made the mistake of "borrowing" suntan oil instead of high SPF sunscreen from a fellow cruiser. She later admitted that action was stupid, like "rubbing Crisco on my skin."

I was even more blunt: "Jennifer, that was like basting a turkey with butter."

Jen ended up looking like a lobster with her flaming-red arms, chest, and face. "I saw a light... brighter than the sun, blazing around me..." (Acts 26:12).

Oops... That was just my very sunburned, "should-have-known-better" daughter. **SR**



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

## The voice from the backseat

by Kristin Camenga

*“These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.” (Deuteronomy 6:6-7)*

One morning as I was driving to work, a voice from the backseat yelled “JESUS! JESUS!” To say the least, I was surprised by the loud exclamations of my 3-1/2-year-old daughter, Elisa.

When I asked why she was yelling, she wanted to know if Jesus ever talked to us. “Yes, of course!” I replied, and then the hard conversation started. How does one explain to a 3-year-old how Jesus talks to us? I did my best to explain, but did she understand?

This last year has been marked with similar conversations that have challenged my ability to communicate the basic tenets of Christianity. We have discussed whether God has hands. No, God is a spirit (which she heard as “experiment”), but Jesus was God and He did have a body.

We have talked a lot about heaven as a place we go when we die if we trust in Jesus. On passing a horse and buggy, I was asked whether there are cars in heaven or if we will all drive horses and buggies. (We decided that God may have an even better way for us to get around—and Elisa preferred rockets.)

Even as I've thanked God that I

have a daughter who raises spiritual questions, I've struggled to answer. As I have tried to explain simply the deep truths of Christianity to a little child, I have marveled at these ideas in a new way for myself. Really, does it make sense to you that God would become a man? Does it make sense



Elisa  
Camenga

that God can be a spirit, everywhere at the same time, and yet Jesus was God and a man who had a body? In a new way, I have learned more deeply the need for faith.

And yet, as Elisa and I talk while we drive, or sit at the dinner table, or as she wakes up scared at night, I know that she is slowly developing her own faith in these truths. She is surrounded with people who love God and work to share God with her—not just me or her dad, but her babysitter, teachers at preschool, and our church family.

On the way home from church last month, we had a “Bible songs” CD playing and the voice from the backseat spoke: “The next song is about Jesus dying on the cross and

coming alive again and taking away our sins.”

This concise version of the Gospel was followed by the question, “Has Jesus taken away my sins?” As Elisa replied to my questions that “Yes,” she believed that Jesus loved her and died for her; “Yes,” she had asked Him to come into her heart and take away her sins; and “Yes,” she tried to follow Jesus and do what He wanted her to, my own heart leapt for joy. Yes, Elisa, Jesus has taken away your sins!

I'm sure to face many more questions that will cause me to struggle for words. Certainly her relationship with God needs to grow stronger and more personal. But as the voice from the backseat speaks, I know that the first baby steps of faith have been taken. I praise God for the daily opportunities to speak faith into Elisa's life and pray for the wisdom to recognize and make the most of each one!

What opportunities do you have to speak faith into the life of a child, a youth or an adult? What relationships has God given you as a parent, family member, or neighbor to share God's love in small, daily ways? **SR**

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*Kristin Camenga is a member of the First SDB Church of Genesee in Little Genesee, N.Y. She and her husband Andrew delight in (and are regularly challenged by) their daughter Elisa and look forward to the arrival of their second child in October.*



## Relationally Engineered Part 4: A (Dis)Organizational Chart?

In 2007, Gordon Lawton (our Director of Pastoral Services) asked me to teach a class session during the Summer Institute on SDB Polity. The session focused on the formation of our General Conference and the changes that followed in the Conference's structure.

As part of the lesson, I prepared a grid which compared each of the Conference's Boards and Agencies across eight categories, including how they reported to the Conference and how their leadership was selected. I was unsure of how the grid would turn out when I began; I simply prepared it because I thought distilling the information into a single source would be valuable.

When I completed my work, I was faced with an astonishing reality: **none** of the General Conference's Boards and Agencies relates to the General Conference the same way.

The interpretation of this fact proved difficult. Certainly no one would have purposely designed an organization whose component agencies functioned in this way, would they?

I tried to formulate explanations for this state of affairs. I tried to prove from the information that the structures were based on cultural models of their times. I tried to prove that strong personalities were involved, and that individuals shaped the process. I considered theological factors which might have been involved. For a time, I gave up and just assumed it was a chaotic system.

There is truth in various degrees in each of these hypotheses. Many factors along the way caused the (dis?)organizational chart to look the way it does.

In the first installment of this series, I suggested that one of the easiest ways to start an argument is to ask people how something got to be the way it is. In no place is that more evident than with the structure and function of our General Conference. It is not my

intention to suggest a final answer to which history attests, because it is clear to me now that the factors that led us to our current structure are manifest, complex, and interrelated.

The reality is that we are relationally engineered: our structure reflects our relationships in a given time or place in our history. As a result, there is no single "Baptist" or "Seventh Day Baptist" organizational structure or model. It has always been, and will always be, a work in progress.

There has been much discussion over the past several years about our structure as a Conference, our efficiency, and our success at achieving God's mission for us in this time and this place. This discussion is valuable, and needs to happen regularly to keep us accountable for our shared work as an extended family.

But if the discussion becomes uncharitable debate, we can assume that part of the difficulty is a trust deficit in the relationships which comprise our Conference. To say it another way: if we, as members of the SDB family, can't have a meaningful discussion about the way the family is achieving its work, the problem isn't with the structure—the problem is with the relationships in the family.

In continuously changing times, SDBs have always managed to love and trust one another. This love and trust has always unified our work, whatever the structure. The challenge for SDBs in the years to come is how we will continue to build deeper relationships in a growing family while also achieving our work in a way that is timely, culturally comprehensible, and theologically appropriate.

All things change, and we too are changing. The question is not, "Will we change?" but, "What will we change into?" We have the responsibility as a confederated body to prayerfully purpose to become what God wants us to be, both structurally and relationally. May we live up to our responsibilities as a family in *THIS* time and place. **SR**

“

*Love and trust  
has always unified  
our work, whatever  
the structure.*

”



# Seminarian Profile

## Seminarian Profile



**Name:** Nicholas J. Kersten

**Birthdate and place:**

November 18, 1979 Janesville, WI

**Family:**

Wife: Brittany, married 7/22/06

Daughter: Sophia Faith, 16 months

**Education:**

Craig High School, Janesville, WI (graduated 1998)

University of Wisconsin-Whitewater (BSE, 2003)

Denver (CO) Seminary, 2003-2006

Trinity Evangelical Divinity School,

(Deerfield, IL) 2007-present

(I expect to graduate in December 2013,

after 10 *long* years!)

**Ministry experience:**

SCSC—North Loup, NE 1998

Summer Pastor—New Auburn, WI 2000

Small Group Leader—Campus Crusade 2001-2002

Summer Intern—Milton, WI 2004

Youth (and sometimes Young Adult) Worker—

Milton, WI 1998-2003, 2005-2007, 2009-present

Camp/Retreat Counselor (Camp Director/  
Staff/Pastor) 1996-present

Librarian-Historian—SDB Historical Society,

June 2005-present

Pastoral Intern—Milton, WI, January 2012-present

**Non-ministry experience:**

Music store employee (1998-2003)

**Favorite Bible passages:**

Isaiah 58, Jeremiah 1, Luke 4, John 9

**Favorite authors:**

This is hard—I was an English major! C.S. Lewis, Bernard Cornwell, Ernest Hemingway, Tim Keller, Malcolm Gladwell, J.R.R. Tolkien.

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

Put it in the bank to pay off student loans when I finish seminary!

**A great answer to prayer was:**

My wife.

**A project I'm excited about:**

The work of the Historical Society. (I've never been accused of being too subdued!)

**My vision for SDBs:**

That we leverage our considerable historical legacy and present strengths: deep relational ministry, love of the arts (especially music), and our deep love for God in our time. Many of the seekers in our world are looking for the very things we already are—we don't have to change who we are, we just have to overcome fear and inertia and demonstrate courage and faith to be ourselves more publicly! **SR**

### **Women's Board Tuition Fund**

Ladies, have you ever wanted to attend a retreat, Christian conference or seminar, but your budget just wouldn't stretch that far? There's help!

If you are the wife of an SDB pastor or ministerial student, a female SDB ministerial student, a female pursuing a Christian Education career or a female SDB denominational employee you may be eligible for a once-a-year stipend not to exceed \$200. Requested courses, seminars, workshops, etc. must be approved by the Women's Board. In addition a report is due upon completion of the event attended.

To obtain an application and read the guidelines go to the Women's Board website [www.sdbwomen.org](http://www.sdbwomen.org) and select "Tuition Fund."



## Remembering *that* retreat

When I finally realized that my friend was telling me to stop, I saw the shadowy shape of a man, heavy flashlight in hand, badge on chest, and distinctive hat on head.

It became clear that we had drawn the attention of the Westerly (R.I.) police and there would be consequences for getting ourselves noticed. The officer escorted us to his car, and said something into his radio. The next thing I noticed was my Mom, tapping on the police car window, asking—no, commanding—as only a Mom can in situations like this: “What are you doing with my son?”

Of all the memories I have of youth retreats in Eastern Association, that is one of the clearest. Lest you draw the wrong conclusion, the circumstances were benign. A friend and I were wrestling for fun, just to burn off some extra energy during free time at the retreat.

Someone who lived across the street from the church had seen what looked like a prolonged fight and did what a neighbor should do—called the police. The officer showed up shortly after that and “broke up” the fight. He then requested that the two wrestlers get in the back seat of his car. He radioed the home office, calmed my Mom down, and then turned his attention to the two of us.

After ascertaining that we came from “rural south Jersey,” he gave us a short lecture about how we should behave differently in a city than we do at home. Then, he let us go.

I learned quite a bit that night. I learned that I needed to think more



about whether a given activity was appropriate in a given setting. I learned that at least some cop cars did not have handles on the inside of the back door. I learned that, although their actions might be somewhat embarrassing at times, it’s good to have parents who will get to the root of issues and work to clarify problems in high stress situations.

I also learned other things that weekend. The theme for the retreat was prayer. Our leader walked us through the A.C.T.S. of prayer (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication), and gave us opportunities to practice. While I’d probably heard the information before and may have even “practiced” it, that was the weekend where it finally clicked.

Throughout my teenage years, the churches in Eastern Association made sure that youth retreats were scheduled on a regular basis. All of the retreats were fun, some of them taught things I was primed to learn, and a few of the retreats were moments God used to cause me to hear Him much more clearly.

Dozens of people across a handful of churches were convinced that

they had found a way to encourage youth to follow our Savior. They were committed to the goal and devoted resources to plan events, transport kids, teach lessons, supervise recreation, communicate, find funds, and pray for the Spirit of God to grab us.

Each person was an agent of Godly change. They were responding to God’s call to make disciples and found ways to make sure that youth would gather, listen, be challenged, and have opportunity to respond.

You are called to be an agent of Godly change. You are called to think about the people God has put in your life, and to think about how you can be used by God to push toward love and good deeds.

He may give you the chance to say a kind word at the right moment, to gently point toward a way to serve, to firmly help someone see sin, or to simply sit down and read the Bible with another. He may bless you with the opportunity to speak the Gospel at the moment a heart is ready to break for God.

I encourage you to pray that God will show you how to be His agent, a citizen in His kingdom.

From time to time as I travel, someone who was at *that* retreat will ask, “Do you remember the time the police picked you up?” I do. And strangely enough, I remember it fondly. Not because of the cop—that was unsettling. But I remember my friends, those who are my age and those who arranged their lives so we had the chance to become better at following Jesus. **SR**





## FOCUS on Missions

# One step further

by Clinton R. Brown

I find it interesting that illustrations from J.R.R. Tolkien's writings cropped up in two lectures of the *Perspectives* course in missions that I have been taking. Tolkien is not a great modern missionary theologian, but a contemporary of C.S. Lewis and Christian author of the fantasy epic *The Lord of the Rings*.

Tolkien's allegories are often not as direct as Lewis', but his tale is fraught with allusions to biblical truths, reflecting on what Tolkien and Lewis considered the greatest story of all time—the story of the spiritual battle for the hearts of men to God's glory.

**...the greatest tale has still not ended, and we are a part of it.**

The missions example that writer Chris Mitchell pointed out referred to our part in THE story. At one point in *The Lord of the Rings*, a little Hobbit adventurer, Sam, discovers that a vial of light held by his companion, Frodo, is part of their ancient history.

The "star-glass" given to help them on their quest was linked to a legendary story of warriors that quested in the cause for right, thousands of years before. When Sam realizes that they were now part of the epic story he exclaims, "Don't the greatest tales never end?"

For ourselves, we should realize that the stories we read in the Book of Acts continue on in the spreading of the Gospel—all through the ages—up to whatever chapter we are in. It is an awesome and humbling realization that the greatest tale has still not ended, and we are a part of it.

A few weeks later, Hobbits made it into another lecture. This speaker

focused on the place in the story (early in their quest) where Sam halts at a certain spot as they walk through a cornfield. In the movie version Sam pauses and explains, "If I take one more step it will be the farthest away from home I've ever been."

I believe that kind of hesitation is felt by most of us when we get to the edge of our comfort zone in our walk to follow Jesus. God wants us to live abundant lives. He calls us to go one step further from the safe or worldly desires of our hearts and into an adventure—a life away from the mapped areas, navigated with the Holy Spirit as the compass, always pointing us to the true north of the will of God.

Many Seventh Day Baptists are at a life crossroads, sticking their toe across that line. Others have already planted a foot squarely on the other side. Some are college students, graduating and looking to "map" out their life and careers.

Before we settle into an already-mapped area, we should ask a question like: Could the Western world live for at least a season without one more Christian counselor, or one more business administrator, or one more art teacher, if it means my life would be part of bringing one unreached people group into a relevant understanding of God?

It seems to me that there is only a small difference between the flawed people who do not do anything substantial for Jesus with their lives,



*"Our lives should be navigated with the Holy Spirit as the compass, always pointing us to the true north of the will of God."*

and the flawed people who do great things for God's glory. That small difference is a **willingness** to take that one step further from "home" than ever before... and the next... and the next—until we not only realize we are a part of, but truly live out God's role for us in the Greatest Story Ever.

*For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. (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

June 2012

## Mission: Get Driven!

by Rebecca Olson  
Berlin, N.Y.

This is my mission statement for the Youth: **Get Driven!** I hope some of you are reading this, because it's a really important message that I'm hoping to get across.

Youth, you can go ahead and flip through the feature section of the *Recorder*. It looks like a lot of work, doesn't it? Well, it was.

It was a lot of writing, but that really wasn't the hard part. It was also a lot of editing, but that wasn't the hard part, either. You know what the hard part was? Getting people to do the work!

Before I came up with this concept, I texted and e-mailed quite a few people, asking them if they would please write an article for me. I also made an announcement in my church at least three times, and even put a little notice in one of my Beacon articles asking for people to write! I had gotten so frustrated, I was about ready to throw the towel in and write the whole Youth Issue myself.

I already write the Beacon every month. I'll admit, that's not really a problem for me. I like to write. Still, it would be so nice to see an article in my inbox even once.

So why did I have such a problem getting people to help me out? I'm honestly not sure. I juggle just



as much as you do, between doing my homework, studying for tests and midterms, writing papers, practicing my oboe, getting my chores done, keeping my room clean, going to Cheer practice, going to Drama practice, and so much more. So I really do get it.

I'm sure you're all working just as hard as I am. But I still find time to sit down and get the Beacon written every month. I still manage to go out of my way every once in a while to help out someone else. Is it really that hard to stop for just a minute and think of others?

I'm not saying to blow off all the work you have to do. I'm only asking that you remember that other people work hard too, and they could probably use some help. If this is how hectic it is to be a high schooler, I don't even want to know what it's like to be an adult!

Imagine, suddenly you've got work to do, a boss to please, a house to clean, a family to manage... it seems like just as much—if not more—work than we do as Youth. Honestly, if we all made an effort and helped someone else out, life would be a lot easier for everyone.

I'm really not saying that we need to put everyone else's work before our own, or stop everything that we're doing

to make sure someone else gets something done. I'm just saying that we ought to keep an eye out for things we can do to help others.

Personally, the stereotypes older folks put on our generation bother me. I don't like it when people assume that I'm going to "sit around and be lazy" all day just because of things they've heard about my generation. But, looking at the trouble I've had getting Youth to do any work, I have to say I don't blame adults for believing these stereotypes.

I really hope that what I have to say might have an impact on even one Youth. I hope that you might start to pay attention to the work others do, and try to make a real effort to help people out with that work. I promise you, when you do step up to the plate, it's rewarding to see how gratefully surprised people are at your efforts. **SR**

# Vengeance is... Whose?

by Cheyane Blevins  
Milton, Wis.

Holocaust survivor Corrie ten Boom once wrote, “Freedom is not the right to do what we want, but the power to do what we ought.”

In mid-March, while researching the life of this incredible woman for a school project, I was absolutely floored by her actions of forgiveness and love toward her Nazi oppressors. Suffice it to say her story inspired me to re-evaluate the things I complain about, and remember to look for God in everything around me.

Of course, the day that this was freshest in my mind had to include a bit of a “test” to remind me of how reality can elicit certain responses in spite of my idealism and good intentions.

I was behind the wheel and on my way to grab a few things before heading south to Judson University to record with Stained Glass. The fun weekend ahead of me put me in an extremely good mood, to say the least.

While coming up on a busy intersection I saw an elderly gentleman riding his bicycle across the street. This caused my 21-year-old female heart to melt!

No sooner had I driven successfully across the intersection, two teenage boys in the bed of a red pickup in front of me began to direct loud derogatory comments at the old man. Of course, this greatly—and rightly—angered me, but my thoughts were far from innocent or submissive to God’s reminder that vengeance is His.

My brain—overflowing with righteous indignation and a temper all a-roil—began to contrive of how


I could “accidentally” ram into the bumper of the truck and cause the passengers no small amount of consternation. Thank God, after about 30 seconds of scheming, I realized the action would cause *me* a lot more trouble than it would cause for them.

First of all, it would be my fault for “following too closely”; I would no longer have a good driver discount, and my rates would go sky-high. Second, my ’99 Ford Taurus, V6 though it may be, is designed to *absorb* shock rather than dole it out. (Plus the truck had a metal bumper.) Third, I *really* needed to get down to Judson in a timely manner. The odds were just stacked against my righteous cause...

And then I realized what I was doing. *Wow, girl. So much for Corrie’s inspiration*, I muttered inwardly, disgruntled and a bit discouraged.

Rather than letting me stew in guilt until my fingers got all pruny, however, God nudged me to pray for the boys who were still in front of me. I managed with some difficulty. I’m glad the Holy Spirit translates.

With that admonishment, though, He reminded me that He’s not finished with me yet, and that at the foot of the cross, we’re all the same.

No doubt that reminder will continue to come up for the rest of my time this side of heaven. But rather than letting it get me down (that I’m not perfect), this is meant to *free* me to live in Christ’s power to do what I ought. While forgiving rude teenage boys may be a miniscule step compared to forgiving Nazis following the horror of a concentration camp, it is a small victory and an important step nonetheless. 

## Director of Emerging Media

The SDB Conference is looking for a **Director of Emerging Media**. This part-time position will be responsible for development across multiple platforms of media, like Facebook and Twitter, and also up-and-coming platforms. The Director will form and implement strategies and partnerships to position Seventh Day Baptists into emerging technologies, markets, and content distribution platforms.

A qualified candidate should have a Bachelor’s degree in Business, Marketing, or a related field.

For complete details on the job description, please e-mail the Executive Director, Rob Appel, at [robappel@seventhdaybaptist.org](mailto:robappel@seventhdaybaptist.org). Your request will be kept confidential.



Buckhannon, WV July 29–Aug. 4, 2012



*The President's Page*  
by John Pethtel

## Are you ready for the wedding?

*“Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready.” (Revelation 19:7 ESV)*

The Jewish wedding ceremony took place in three parts, with each part symbolizing a much greater wedding.

It began with the **etrothal** period, which was preceded by intense bargaining between the fathers of the bride and the groom. The price was generally very steep, even sacrificial. The price Jesus paid for His bride was also very steep. It was not silver or gold, but His own precious blood.

As Christian churches, we have put our trust in that blood and we are betrothed. In the days of Jesus, this part of the ceremony symbolized a permanent commitment. It is the same with our church's relationship with Jesus. We have been purchased with a price and committed to Him alone.

In the next part, the groom went away in order to **add a room** to his father's house. It usually took about a year but the actual time was determined by the father. It was the

father who decided when things were **READY**.

In John 14, Jesus said, “In my Father's house are many rooms, if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.” Jesus will return to bring His bride to the place that He has been preparing when His father says it's **READY**.

During the time this room was being built, the bride would be **preparing herself and her gown** for the wedding day. This process involved a lot of patience and intricate detail. As the bride of Christ, the Church anticipates the great marriage feast when Jesus returns. As our churches clothe themselves in and for Christ, we realize our sanctification and anticipation in what we will become. Rather than fine linen, the Church's wedding gown is made of faithfulness to His mission and readiness for His return.

The third and final part of the marriage was the actual **wedding and feast**. It celebrated the eternal union of bride and groom. This is

what the Church is looking forward to upon Christ's second coming—a continual and eternal celebration of Him and those who abide in Him.

So while He is preparing a place for us, He is also yearning to sanctify us and make us Holy. Let us prepare ourselves for Him in faithfulness, commitment, and practice! **ARE YOU READY?**

When we gather every week in our churches, we get to celebrate a little (yet imperfect) foretaste of what our celebration in eternity will look like. This summer at our Conference session we get to celebrate—with a larger crowd—the goodness that Christ is doing in and through us until He returns for us.

I encourage you all to register for Conference to be challenged, refreshed, and encouraged to serve the Kingdom with more vigor, with a renewed purpose, and with a new perspective.

Our morning Bible studies—led by Matt Berg, Scott Smith, Ericessen Cooper, Matt Olson, and David Fox—will take us through the book of 1 Thessalonians. Our evening and Sabbath worship speakers—Steve Graffius, Nick Kersten, Dave Stall, John Pethtel, Steve Osborn, and special guests Brian Croft and Dr. Howard Bixby—will inspire, convict, motivate, encourage, and edify you.

We plan on having week-long courses on missions and evangelism, led by Patty Petersen and Miriam Berg. Of course, there will be the fantastic fellowship times and other activities that we have grown to love during that week.

We 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

## The Law of the Pendulum

Ken Davis wrote this in his book, *How To Speak To Youth—and Keep Them Awake at the Same Time*:

In college a student was asked to prepare a lesson to teach his speech class. He was to be graded on creativity and the ability to drive home a point in a memorable way.

The title of his talk was, “The Law of the Pendulum.” He spent 20 minutes carefully teaching the physical principle that governs a swinging pendulum: A pendulum can never return to a point higher than the point from which it was released.

Because of friction and gravity, when the pendulum returns, it will fall short of its original release point. Each time it swings it makes less and less of an arc, until finally it is at rest. This point of rest is called the state of equilibrium, where all forces acting on the pendulum are equal.

The student attached a three-foot string to a child’s toy top and secured it to the top the blackboard with a thumbtack. He pulled the top to one side and made a mark on the blackboard where he let it go. Each time it swung back he made a new mark. It took less than a minute for the top to complete its swinging and come to rest. When he finished the demonstration, the markings on the blackboard proved the law of the pendulum.

The student then asked how



many people in the room believed the law of the pendulum was true. All of his classmates raised their hands and so did the teacher. The teacher started to walk to the front of the room thinking the class was over. In reality it had only begun.

Hanging from the steel beams in the middle of the room was a large, crude but functional pendulum made from 250 pounds of metal weights tied to four strands of 500 pound test parachute cord. The student invited the instructor to climb up on a table and sit in a chair with the back of his head against a cement wall.

Then the student brought the 250 pounds of metal up to the teacher’s nose. Holding the huge pendulum just a fraction of an inch from the teacher’s face, the student once again explained the law of the pendulum he had applauded only moments before. “If the law of the pendulum is true,

then when I release this mass of metal, it will swing across the room and return short of the release point. Your nose will be in no danger.”

The student looked his teacher in the eye and asked, “Sir, do you believe this law is true?” There was a long pause. Huge beads of sweat formed on his upper lip and then weakly he nodded and whispered, “Yes.”

The student released the pendulum. It made a swishing sound as it arced across the room. At the far end of its swing, it paused momentarily and started back. The student later testified that he had never seen a man move so fast in his entire life as the teacher literally dove from the table.

It was easy for this teacher to believe in the law of the pendulum when it was just a theory. But when his life literally depended on the law of the pendulum, he showed that his belief was only theoretical and not real.

How easy it is for us to believe in God’s sufficiency in church on Sabbath morning or in a Bible study. But in the real world, where our lives are on the line, when we are around our friends, co-workers and classmates, too many of us demonstrate that our belief was only theoretical.

God alone is sufficient! Let’s believe this fact and act in a way that is not simply theoretical! **SR**



# All I Really Need to Know...

by Morgan Shepard

*“Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.” (Proverbs 22:6 ESV)*

Robert Fulghum wrote *All I Really Need To Know I Learned in Kindergarten* in 1988. Through various essays, the book explains how we can be better adults by applying the lessons we learned as children.

While I don't remember much of what I learned in kindergarten, the lessons my parents taught me have stayed with me all these years. So what did your parents teach you about money?

There are all kinds of resources on the internet espousing to teach us about money. Bob Lotich at Christian Personal Finance ([www.christianpf.com](http://www.christianpf.com)) penned the article “5 Bible verses about money every Christian should know.” The author admits the list is not exhaustive but merely scratches the surface of his understanding. I think it is a good start.

•**Philippians 4:19** – *“And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.” (ESV)*

Are you trusting your employer or the government to provide for your needs? Their resources are very limited. While your life may “appear” to be meager at times, your reward is bigger than you can imagine.

•**Malachi 3:10** – *“Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.” (ESV)*

God will meet our needs. What we get comes from God so we need to honor God by giving back a tenth. Pretty simple. Try it and see what happens.

•**1 Timothy 6:10** – *“For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.” (ESV)*


It's not the money but the love of it that gets us into trouble. Pursuing money purely for money's sake is not the answer. Pursue God's will for your life and He will take care of the rest.

•**Acts 20:35** – *“In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” (ESV)*

Here's that giving thing again. You know that it's not just money you can give. You can also give your time, talents, prayers, etc.

•**Proverbs 22:7** – *“The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is the slave of the lender.” (ESV)*

If you borrow, who do you work for? The credit card company, the bank or the car company? Remember, God gives us what we need so why are you looking elsewhere?

There is a lot more to learn about money in the Bible. Do your own research. It will take an entire lifetime. The key is to trust God. Remember, His resources are unlimited. 



**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.

# Thirteen Score and 15 years ago...

by Bill Probasco

The Shiloh, New Jersey, SDB Church celebrated a milestone in March 2012—our 275<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Search for what to call a 275<sup>th</sup> anniversary and you'll find suggestions like "way too long to be married," but no real answers. That's why the church took time to reflect on its nearly three centuries of serving the Borough of Shiloh and its neighboring area.

Church Historian Elizabeth Bidwell and her willing team (Arah Mae Sheppard, Elsa Scull, RuthAnn Davis, and Pastor Don Chroniger) arranged displays, organized participants, and prepared a memorable day for all.

During the Sabbath morning service, the Sanctuary Choir shared numbers from the old SDB hymnbook "We Glorify Thy Name." Pastor Chroniger preached on covenant relationships, and connecting with God and one another.

One highlight of the service was when Pastor Don "introduced" the original 18 signers of our 9 Articles of Faith to the congregation. Eighteen parishioners, dressed in period clothing, came forward to reenact the signing. Owen Probasco participated without leaving Daytona Beach as he read a poem during a prerecorded video segment.

Bill Probasco shared a presentation highlighting our church history:

- the **Funny** – our first three pastors were all named "Jonathan Davis," the next one was "John Davis"!
- the **Serious** – the 1934 fire that nearly destroyed the church
- the **Macabre** – one pastor asked to be buried beneath the pulpit where he preached – and was!
- the **Perplexing** – a motion highlighting the evils of tobacco, alcohol, and opium failed to pass in 1905

- the **Puritanical**– Office of 5 Overseers is formed in the 1820s to note "unworthy living" and report it at the next business meeting

Following the service, attendees looked through old church directories, photo albums, and newspaper clippings.

Some watched a DVD of our 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, or admired many artifacts from our past. We were blessed by our many friends from neighboring churches and sister SDB congregations who travelled to join us.

The chicken pot pie dinner brought back many memories of the 100-year-old tradition of having such dinners every Memorial Day and Labor Day. This tradition only ended in the 1990s. During the dinner, Elsa Scull took a roll call of those present: raise your hand if you "grew up in the church"; "married into the church"; "ever attended Jersey Oaks Camp"; "were married by (fill in several pastors' names)";



Some of the "original signers" of the Shiloh Covenant.

etc. The festivities wrapped up with a traditional hymnsing in the evening. Frank Mulford and Julia Coleman presented solos to the delight of those in attendance.

Some might wonder why people celebrate an anniversary. When you realize that the church in Shiloh predates the nation, one begins to realize just what an accomplishment that is. In this day and age, we're bombarded with constant change and little consistency in life. Isn't it a comfort that we have a Father Who is always there and churches that continue to share His love with their neighbors year after year? That has the sound of a marriage that's still going strong after all these years! **SR**

## Philly welcomes new deacons

On Sabbath, April 21, 2012 the Philadelphia (Pa.) Seventh Day Baptist Church held an ordination service to welcome William H. Brooks and Janet E. Brooks to the church's Diaconate.

The congregation was blessed to have the following guests in attendance: Pastor Andrew Samuels, of the Miami (Fla.) SDB Church, led the Act of Ordination; Pastor Llewellyn West, from Faith SDB Church (Bronx, N.Y.), gave the charge to the candidates; Pastor Ericessen Cooper, of the New York City SDB Church, gave the charge to the church. Pastor Andrew J. Camenga spoke on behalf of the SDB Board of Christian Education. **SR**

# Tri-County worship begins in Florida!

## *Includes pulpit and music exchanges*

by Jasmine Lynch

It began as the pastor gave his annual report, stating his desire to see the Florida SDB churches in Miami, Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach working closer together in the future. Little did Pastor Alcott Lynch know that his congregation in West Palm Beach was hoping and praying for the pastors to get such a vision.

The members at the business meeting voiced all kinds of interesting benefits they envisioned from such a working relationship, and encouraged Pastor Lynch to take the initiative to have it done. Members could see each pastor serving as a mentor to each other; they could discuss problems encountered and help each other in solving these problems; they could see them meeting for breakfast or lunch and socializing; they could pray for each other, and even exchange pulpits. The possibilities could only be beneficial to pastors and church members.

Subsequently, the three pastors—Andrew Samuels, Norman Fearon and Alcott Lynch—agreed to start improving the relationships among their churches by proposing three worship services this year. The April 28 worship would be held in West Palm Beach; Fort Lauderdale would host one on August 11; and we would be in Miami on December 8. The preaching and music would come from the non-hosting churches.

Each church agreed to accept the scheduled proposal. So, on Sabbath, April 28, the West Palm Beach Church was honored and blessed to host the first Tri-County Worship Service.

The service was more than anyone could have imagined. Every seat in the house was taken—in the sanctuary, office, fellowship hall, and extra seats were placed in the kitchen to accommodate everyone. The music of the Miami Praise Team (though squeezed into a tiny space) was superb, spiritually uplifting and

each song was expertly delivered by the team as a ministry to all.

Pastor Fearon from the Fort Lauderdale Church delivered a dynamic and timely message, “Unity in diversity—How?” With much passion, clarity, and spirit it was impossible for those in attendance not to do some soul searching. What an inspirational message! Considering that God loves diversity and made so many different things for our enjoyment (and everything works together in unity), it behooves us to get with God’s plan and work together.

The evening would not be complete without refreshments. The host church provided a variety of seasonal fruits, vegetables, sandwiches, bun and cheese, cake and punch—all outside in the beautiful weather of the Palm Beaches.

If you are in the area, be sure to join us for our next Tri-County Worship Service and experience a little taste of Heaven on earth. **SR**

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## Long Term Disability insurance

Since 1986 the Committee on Support and Retirement (COSAR) has provided Long Term Disability Insurance for full-time SDB pastors and SDB agency employees to cover those who are disabled due to sickness or injury. If there is also workman’s compensation coverage it will be the primary insurance.

Pastors / agency workers who work 30 or more hours a week for the church or agency are covered if their compensation package details are submitted to COSAR. When there are changes, please send them in so claims will be based on the most current income figures. There is a 90-day waiting period before benefits begin.

The monthly payout will be 60% of reported applicable income, but no more than \$3,000 per month. Payments will go to age 65 or a little longer for those that become disabled after age 60. Other disability insurance payments will reduce the amount to come from this insurance.

This coverage has been very helpful for the few who have needed it. Three have used it since 1986. It has served as a needed bridge between the time of disability and the time when Social Security Disability is approved and implemented.

This insurance costs about \$11,000 a year for the 34 persons covered. In the near future it might become a challenge for COSAR to find the funds for these monthly premiums. **SR**

Don’t forget the **Pastor’s Retirement Fund** goal of raising an additional \$25,000 in 2012. Just over \$11,080 has been raised through April. Would you be a monthly giver? Send your tax-deductible gifts to the SDB Center (*address on p. 3*) or call to arrange an automatic gift. Make your check payable to **COSAR**, with “Pastor’s Retirement Fund” in the memo line. Thank you so much!



# Obituaries

**Saeger.**—Mary Frances Saeger, 94, passed away on February 5, 2012 at the Wellsville (N.Y.) Manor Care Center.

Mary Fran was born on October 9, 1917 in Amity, N.Y., the only child of Marion and Fannie (Holmes) Saunders. She lived on the family farm until she was 9. She attended Belmont Public School and later Scio Public School until moving to Alfred, N.Y., and attending Alfred Public School, graduating in 1936. She graduated from Geneseo (N.Y.) State Normal School in 1939.

On June 23, 1956 (in Alfred Station, N.Y.) she married Russell Saeger of Syracuse, where they lived until 1981 when they returned to Alfred Station. He predeceased her on June 21, 1991.

Mary Frances taught school at Merrick & Elmwood Elementary School in Syracuse from 1956 until her retirement in 1972. Previously she taught in Olean and Scio, N.Y.

## Birth

**Berg.**—A daughter, Sophia Glee, was born to Matthew and Miriam (Lawton) Berg of Thornton, CO on May 4, 2012.

## New members

**Alfred Station, NY**  
*Kenneth Chroniger, pastor*  
Joined after testimony  
Amy Morris

**Little Genesee, NY**  
*Kevin Palmiter, pastor*  
Joined after testimony  
Charles Deichmann

After retirement, Mary Frances was an active volunteer, serving in the Onondaga County Office of the Aging, working as a Fairmount Library assistant. She and her husband were named “Volunteers of the Year” by the Allegany County Elderly in Wellsville. She also enjoyed reading, writing and working on genealogical research. She was very active in the Alfred Station Seventh Day Baptist Church, where she was a member since 1929.

She is survived by a daughter, Sharlene Quintilone of Buffalo; two grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and several cousins.

A memorial service was held on February 19, 2012 at the Alfred Station Seventh Day Baptist Church, with the Revs. Kenneth Chroniger and Patricia Bancroft (chaplain of St. James Mercy Hospital) officiating. A private burial service was held at Alfred Rural Cemetery.

**Thorngate.**—Helen Caroline McFarland Thorngate, 90, died on March 22, 2012 in Monterey, Calif.

Helen was born in Saxton’s River, Vt., on June 18, 1921. Because she was so like a little bird, her father gave her the nickname “Tweet” that stuck with her all her life. She grew up in East Aurora, N.Y.

In 1939 she went to Milton (Wis.) College, earning a degree in English and meeting George “Briar” Thorngate. They were married June 25, 1944. During her time at Milton, Tweet was an active member of the Milton SDB Church.

While Briar was in the navy, she (with the first of their five daughters) made the long ocean voyage to China. The family lived in Shanghai where Tweet taught English at the SDB Mission School. After a stay in the Buffalo, N.Y., area (where three girls

were born) they ultimately moved to California to set up a medical practice in Monterey in 1952. For the next 25 years as long as the Monterey SDB Fellowship was in existence she was an active contributor.

When her family was mostly grown she returned to teaching in Special Ed. She volunteered as a docent at the Monterey Museum of Art and with the Museum on Wheels for many years. Tweet was known as a gracious hostess, a willing worker, and cheerful community member. As a loyal wife, a loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, she brought beauty, curiosity and kindness into the lives of her family.

Preceding her in death was her husband. She is survived by her daughters Linda Cruzan, Miriam Wilson, Nancy Thorngate, Phyliss Conlan, and Annrae Dreizus; eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. A gathering in Tweet’s memory took place on April 6, 2012 in Monterey.

**Bond.**—Ernest F. Bond, 94, passed away March 25, 2012 at the Country Club Retirement campus in Mount Vernon, Ohio.

He was born on August 11, 1917 in Salem, W.Va., to Orrville B. and Lucille (Davis) Bond. After Mason-town High School, Ernest graduated from Salem (W.Va.) College with a BS degree. In 1941 he received his Master’s degree in Vocational Agriculture Education from West Virginia University.

On February 24, 1939 he married Helen V. Kennedy at her parent’s home in Lost Creek, W.Va. In 1943 he started teaching Vocational Agriculture at Lost Creek High School. During World War II he received a deferment to stay at home to teach farmers how to repair and fabricate

*cont. next page*

## Obituaries, *cont. from p. 25*

parts for broken farm equipment (there were no parts or materials available during the war years). He also served on the local level as a Civil Defense warden during the War, letting people know if any light from inside the house was visible on the outside.

In 1954 Ernest moved his family to a small dairy and chicken farm in Jane Lew, W.Va. He also left the teaching profession to begin a 35-year career in agricultural related sales. He began with Lederle Laboratories, which later became American Cyanamid Co. and is now part of Pfizer Corp. In 1963 he was transferred to Ohio where he spent the rest of his life working in agricultural sales and serving actively in his church and as a Berkshire Township trustee. One of the highlights of his sales career was a three-week trip to China in the early 1970s with a group of farmers and state agricultural officials.

In 1976 he and Helen were an important part of starting the First Seventh Day Baptist Church of Columbus where he was a charter member. He served in many capacities in the church including President, Deacon, and Sabbath School teacher. He loved music and he and Helen would often share their gift of singing duets.

He served the Seventh Day Baptist denomination on the national level as President of General Conference, Recording Secretary (for over 20 years), serving on General Council, the SDB Memorial Board, and on a variety of committees.

He was preceded in death on January 29, 2010 by his wife of over 70 years, Helen; and three brothers, Robert, Thomas, and infant Richard.

He is survived by his four children, Karen Rogers of Jane Lew, Doris Kennedy of Mount Vernon, Richard Bond of Palmetto, Fla., and Rebecca

Van Horn, Centerburg, Ohio; and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He is also survived by one brother, Leland Bond of Woodbury, Pa.; two sisters-in-law, Leola Bond and Wilda Kennedy; and many nieces and nephews.

Services were held at the Amos-Carvelli Funeral Home in Nutter Fort, W.Va., on March 29, 2012 with Rev. Robert Van Horn officiating. Ernest was buried alongside his wife at the Brick Church Cemetery in Lost Creek. **SR**

### Death Notice

**Philip F. Burrows, 85,** of East Moline, IL, died on May 15, 2012.

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## Conference Camping Options

### **Audra State Park**

(Barbour County, WV)  
30-40 minutes from campus  
67 Sites; No Hookups; \$20  
304-457-1162  
[Audrasp@wv.gov](mailto:Audrasp@wv.gov)  
[www.audrastatepark.com](http://www.audrastatepark.com)

### **WV Wesleyan campus**

20 sites available; electric only  
Showers available in dorm  
\$10 per night  
Use Conference on-line registration at [seventhdaybaptist.org](http://seventhdaybaptist.org)

### **Zickafoose Mobile Home Park**

5 minutes from campus  
Full Hookup  
2 people, \$20 per night  
Each add'l person, \$4 per night  
Dump Station (non-campers) \$5  
Water Tank fill-up \$5  
304-472-3646

### **Broken Wheel Campground**

(Weston, WV)  
20 minutes from campus  
Water & 30-amp service  
4 persons, \$27

Dump Station available  
Honey Wagon \$10  
304-269-6097  
[email@CAMPBWC.com](mailto:email@CAMPBWC.com)

### **Stonewall Resort**

(Roanoke, WV)  
30-40 minutes from campus  
Six 50-amp sites;  
34 30-amp sites  
Full Hookup:  
Su-W \$39/nt.; Th-Sa \$42/nt.  
Seniors 10% off  
304-269-7400  
[stonewallinfo@benchmarkmanagement.com](mailto:stonewallinfo@benchmarkmanagement.com)

# KEVIN'S

## ORNER

### I guess I'm still Mr. Greenway (and that's okay)

A little while ago I wrote about a neighborhood gentleman from my childhood. Old Mr. Greenway lived across the street and two doors down. He would sit on a lawn chair just outside of his garage and watch us kids zoom by on our bikes.

On summer evenings, Mr. Greenway brought out his old transistor radio and if the signal was strong enough he'd listen to baseball games. I caught the "baseball bug" pretty early on, so I'd steer my bike into his driveway and listen along with him.

More and more seasons swept by like a rushing river and life became too busy for me to visit my old friend.

Well, 40-some years later, I live across a different street and two doors down from Dalton. Last time, I described him as a cross between Timmy on "Lassie" and Dennis the Menace—a mischievous lad with a heart of gold.

After school ended last spring, Dalton and some pals stopped by to shoot some baskets and celebrate their surviving the year of classes. It was fun to see them so happy.

Early the next morning, I felt envious of those kids as I readied to go to work as usual. Leaving the kitchen and walking toward the rising garage door, my eyes caught the bottom part of a bicycle parked outside on the driveway. I thought, *One of those silly neighbor kids left his bike here all night.* As the door continued to lift, there was the silly kid sitting on his bike. Dalton! He wanted to say good morning before I left for work! He was up early and bored already... on the very first day of summer vacation.

Another year has zipped by. Dalton once again eagerly shoveled some snow from our driveway (not much during our very mild winter) and helped clear away a huge branch that tore away from one of our big maples during a strong wind.

I couldn't help but notice how our little buddy is growing up. He's a bit taller, his voice a bit lower, but he still likes to stop by.

Janet was at a meeting one chilly evening in early May, so I dragged out the lawn chair and placed it on our small cement slab of a front stoop. I had no more gotten situated with my hot cocoa, headphones on and tuned into a baseball game, when Dalton came jogging right toward me. Okay, the game could wait.

He was pretty excited about his latest toy: a dirt bike, as in off-road motorcycle. We've seen him riding it slowly around their yard with a helmet. ("It's all about safety," he says.) But he really loves heading outside of town to speed around on a friend's farm. Of course he tried to convince me that it would save him a lot of time and effort if he could just ride it behind our house in our bigger and flatter yard. I thought for about a split-second: "No way, man! It's all about the lawn."

He shared about his latest 4-H project (refurbishing an old snow blower) and I showed him a new app for his iPod so he could listen to some country stations—his preference, not mine.

A few nights later we saw his parents sprucing up their yard and decided to walk up the hill to see how they were doing. We gushed on Dalton and they appreciated it, knowing that—like any kid—he's more inspired to help the neighbors than he's apt to help at home. And—like any good parents—they're concerned with his choice of friends and activities.

Then the Mom shared how Dalton had lost his grandfather and was missing that "older" male influence. Looking at me she said, "I think that's why he likes to visit with you."

Now, I may be a grandpa to some toddlers and a newborn—but to a teenager?? Getting over that initial twinge of pain, I accepted that role. Truth is, Dalton and I are learning from each other and it just might help keep me "young."

But I still won't let him ride his dirt bike on our back lawn.



## Calling all artists, ages 4 to 12!

### Enter the Sabbath Recorder Thanksgiving Cover Contest



Do you like to draw? We need you!  
Young Seventh Day Baptist artists  
are asked to draw a picture (freehand)  
about THANKSGIVING, or the reasons  
we celebrate the holiday.

The overall winner's drawing  
will appear on the cover of the  
November 2012 *Sabbath Recorder*.

Other winners, by age category (4-6, 7-9, 10-12),  
will appear inside the same issue.



#### The artwork needs to be:

- Original and unassisted (except for encouragement).
- Crayon, marking pens, paints, or pencil drawings are accepted. Computer-generated artwork or coloring book prints will not be accepted.
- All artwork is to be drawn on 8-1/2 x 11-inch white paper.
- Entries need to be vertical and should not be matted or mounted.
- Do not include a child's name or other information on the artwork. The words "Thanksgiving" or "Thanks" may appear in the artwork.
- Entries need to be submitted through a child's Sabbath School teacher.
- On a separate piece of paper **print** the following information and attach it to the back of the artwork:
  - Name of the child
  - Age of the child
  - Name of the church they attend
  - Name and telephone number of the Sabbath School teacher submitting the artwork.

#### Mail your entry to:

The SDB Center  
PO Box 1678  
Janesville WI 53547

**Deadline:** *All entries need to be postmarked no later than September 10, 2012.* They may be submitted any time prior to that date.

Please put your entry in a large enough envelope

so that there are no creases in the artwork. Adding a heavier piece of paper or cardboard will help. Then write "Please do not bend or fold" on the outside of the envelope.

If you have any questions, contact us at [editor@seventhdaybaptist.org](mailto:editor@seventhdaybaptist.org) or call (608) 752-5055.

*Note to Sabbath School teachers:* Please help promote this contest.