



The Sabbath RECORDER

Inside:

By-laws pass
Furnace Faith!

September 2012

News for and about Seventh Day Baptists

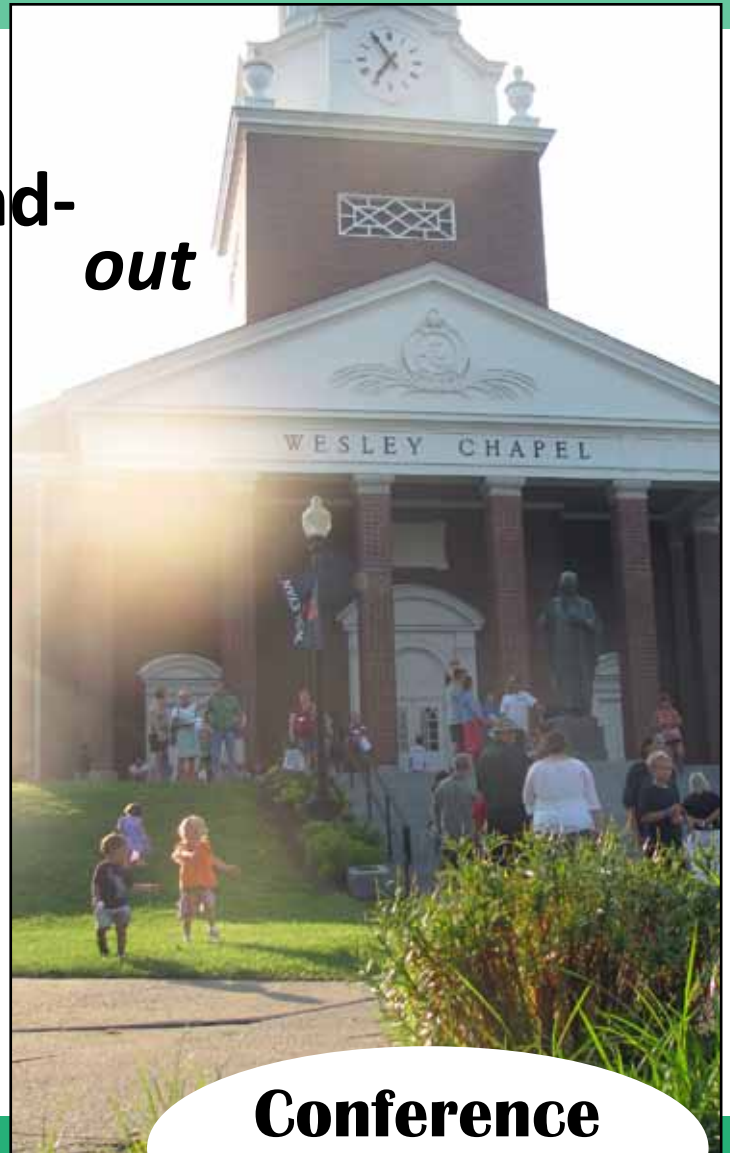
West Virginia was wonderful



Inside

-and-

out



**Conference
2012**



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 is 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



The **COSAR** (Committee on Support and Retirement) display at Conference focused on the Pastors Retirement Fund. We had sign-up forms so people could arrange for a monthly electronic funds transfer (EFT) to help with the expenses of this Fund.

We are closing in our Pastors Retirement Fund goal of raising an additional \$25,000 in 2012. We need another \$5,000. 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!

IN MEMORY OF DOROTHA SHETTEL,
THE SDB WOMEN'S SOCIETY ANNOUNCES
THE **DOROTHA SHETTEL FUND**.

THIS FUND WILL BE USED TO HELP SCSC AND STAINED GLASS STUDENTS WITH EXPENSES TO ATTEND PRECON, CONFERENCE, AND RETURN HOME. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP GET THIS FUND STARTED, PLEASE SEND DONATIONS TO: SDB WOMEN'S BOARD IN CARE OF THE SDB CENTER, PO BOX 1678 JANESVILLE WI 53547





Establ. 1844

September 2012
Volume 234, No. 9
Whole No. 6,986

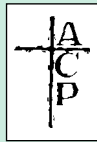


A Seventh Day Baptist publication
SabbathRecorder.org

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

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

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



Kevin Butler
Editor

editor@seventhdaybaptist.org

Ⓔ = Editor's Circle members

Contributing Editors

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

WRITERS: Please type manuscripts double spaced. Only manuscripts that include a stamped, addressed envelope can be returned. Unsolicited manuscripts are welcomed; however, they will be considered on a space available basis. No remuneration is given for any article that appears in this publication. Paid advertising is not accepted.

Features

- Are You Ready... to review Conference 2012?.....4**
by Kevin Butler
Decisions, numbers and elections from sessions in Buckhannon, WV.
- Now, what was I supposed to remember?6**
by Nadine Lawton
Are we able to remember the most important thing?
- “No Turning Back”8**
by Rebecca Olson
Youth PreCon looked at reasons why we can't turn back from God.
- 2012 Robe of Achievement9**
by Karen Payne
And the Robe goes to...
- Furnace Faith..... 10**
by Deirdre Camenga
Her physical battles mirrored some deep spiritual issues. Where is faith in a blazing furnace?

Cover photos by Angie Nicholson

Departments

- | | |
|--|--|
| Women's Society 13
<i>Of Love Gifts and student funds</i> | Focus on Missions 20
<i>To the river!</i> |
| Christian Education 14-15
<i>New Memory Verses</i> | Alliance In Ministry 21
<i>Why do we have Associations?</i> |
| The Nick of Time 16
<i>Read all about it!</i> | Financial Faith 22
<i>Past... Present... Future</i> |
| Center on Ministry 17
<i>Chuck Meathrell profile</i> | Young Adults 23
<i>Is silence always golden?</i> |
| Health & Fitness 18
<i>Stroke: Medical Emergency</i> | Local news 24
<i>Nortonville, KS</i> |
| Reflections 19
<i>God appears in yet another trial</i> | Family flux 25 |
| | Kevin's Korner 27
<i>A blur in Buckhannon</i> |



ARE YOU READY... to review Conference 2012?

by Kevin Butler

In the outgoing General Council's report, Council members affirmed their support for church planting; plan to stimulate discussions in local churches with a revamped "Invitation to Conversation" format; have implemented a Child Safety Policy for General Conference sessions; and are close to hiring a new Director of Emerging Media.

The proposed set of Conference's organizational By-laws were approved by a vote of 137 to 37, with 5 abstaining, well above the needed 2/3 margin. You can read all of the changes at our website, www.seventhdaybaptist.org (under Beliefs/History).

One of the biggest changes set forth in the new By-laws will be the new General Council. The former Council of 14 members included elected members-at-large, plus the paid executives, presidents of the Women's Society and Memorial Board, the Conference President and President-elect.

The new General Council is comprised of five elected members serving 5-year terms. The first roster of members has staggered terms, with each member eligible to be re-elected. Here's the new General Council:

Term ending 2013—

Dale Thorngate
(Salem, WV)

Term ending 2014—

Rod Noel
(Alfred Station, NY)

Term ending 2015—

Susan Fox
(Pataskala, OH)

Term ending 2016—

Dannette Montague
(Foothill, CA)

Term ending 2017—

John Pethtel
(Metro Atlanta, GA)

Conference executives will be accountable to the General Council



Andrew Camenga (l.) uses a calculator to determine if the vote for the new by-laws passed by a two-thirds margin. President John Pethtel awaits the results.

cil instead of their individual Boards which will take on more of an advisory role. Other details on Conference actions will appear in future issues.

We hope to see you next year in Colorado, July 28 to August 3, at the University of Colorado—Colorado Springs. Let's move "Forward in His Footsteps." **SR**

*Many Thanks go out to the hard-working
and servant-hearted Host Committee!
Y'all were wild and wonderful!!*

“Are You Ready?”
at West Virginia Wesleyan College
Buckhannon, WV
July 29–August 4, 2012
President John Pethtel

Statistics

- 628 registered guests
- 262 delegates representing 53 churches
- 59 ministers/pastors present
- 6 official visitors
- 6 students preparing for ministry
- 75 at Associated Conferences plus 16 in the nursery
- 23 at Youth Pre-Con, directed by Paul Andries with 5 staff
- 27 at Young Adult, directed by Steve Graffius with 4 staff
- President-elect: Steven James, Verona, NY
- Council on Ministry: Kenneth Chroniger, Robert Van Horn
- Faith and Order: Andrew Samuels, Nathanael Lawton
- Committee on Support and Retirement: Mark Lewis
- Tract and Communication Council: Levi Bond, Renee Sanford
- Memorial Fund Trustees: James Goodrich, Erin Inabnit, Myron McPherson
- Christian Social Action and Disaster Relief: Paula Reynolds

Elections

- President 2012-2013: Ralph Mackintosh, Foothill, CA



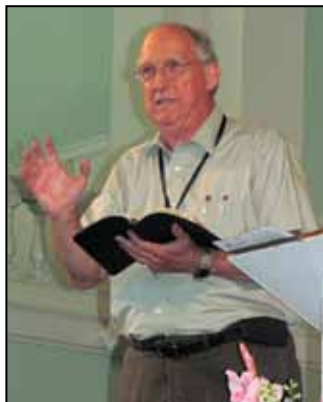
President John and Tabatha Pethtel enjoyed a special reception on Sunday night. Great job Mr. Prez!



This year's SCSCers and Stained Glass members sang on Tuesday morning during the Women's Board presentation.



Guest speakers included Brian Croft...



...and Howard Bixby.



Tellers tabulated votes to form a new Nominations Committee after more names were presented on the floor of Conference.

Now, what was I supposed to remember?

by Nadine Lawton
From the Conference Crier



Librarian-Historian Nick Kersten preached on Monday evening.

As a thunderstorm hurried us into Wesley Chapel on Monday evening, Allie Rudawski started us off with a testimony about her experience in SCSC. Her love for the Lord kept bubbling over in giggles!

SDB Librarian-Historian Nick Kersten presented the evening's message, "Are You Ready to Remember?" *Oh, look lightning! Now where was I?* Oh yes, I remember!

Nick told us how he had gone to a seminar about working with troubled youth. The leader said that before the age of 9 or 10, we see our lives in snapshots. During adolescence, our mind tries to put those snapshots into a story. The narration of that story becomes your viewpoint of the world, either positively or negatively. And how you remember dictates how you behave.

Paul gave instructions in how to behave in Romans 15:1-13. He first said that we have an obligation to bear with one another. We are not to force our beliefs of the secondary issues on our brothers and sisters. We are to follow Christ's example and please others before we please ourselves.

Secondly, we are to receive ev-

eryone the way Christ received us. We should do more than tolerate each other. Nick reiterated Steve Graffius' illustration from Sunday night, of Christ being our chalk line. However, Nick said that this chalk line is not just for our physical lifetime, but throughout history and into eternity.

As we live, we build our history, and how we behave embodies what God has done in our lives. Are you ready to remember what God has done in your life? Sin has caused us to be broken which makes us remember the wrong things. Or we remember the right things wrongly.

Nick gave some examples of how we do this. One was a map near his office door when he started working for the Historical Society at the SDB Center. The map showed churches two ways. Red pins represented all the active churches. The more numerous blue pins were the churches that were no longer meeting. Many visitors would look at that and decide that the denomination was dying. That would be looking at it wrongly.

Many people of the church may no longer be meeting there because they have moved. They had

completed their ministry there and had moved to another location.

Numbers for the year 1900 said there were 10,000 Seventh Day Baptists. More recent numbers show only 6,000. If you think that the denomination is dying, you would be thinking wrongly! Nick reminded us that the number in 1900 was a worldwide number. The more recent number is just the Conference of Seventh Day Baptists USA and Canada.

Our seminarian/librarian/historian ultimately stressed that we need to remember THE MOST IMPORTANT thing. And that MOST IMPORTANT THING is what Jesus Christ has done in your life.

God sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins and that through Him we can have eternal life. There is hope and healing even if you don't remember to keep the main thing THE MOST IMPORTANT thing. God will receive glory when His people remember to keep the main thing THE MOST IMPORTANT thing!

So remember that any disagreements you have with others about theological or doctrinal issues are *not* the main thing. Any heated discussions on the Conference floor are *not* the main thing and we need to do more than "tolerate" each other during and after the business meetings.

Are you and I ready to remember that GOD and the example He set for us by what He has done through JESUS CHRIST is THE MOST IMPORTANT THING? SR

Sabbath afternoon Recognitions



An excited Melissa Noel accepts the Scripture Memory Bowl for the Alfred Station, NY church.



Pastor Ed Sutton of the Salemville (Bell), PA church picks up the Crystal Apple for Teacher of the Year Robert "Bud" Claycomb Jr.



COM's Gordon Lawton (l.) gives Scott Smith his certificate of accreditation as a Seventh Day Baptist minister.



Janet Butler (r.) helps place the Robe of Achievement on Marjorie Jacob.

And the kids kept singing!



“No Turning Back”

A report on Youth PreCon

*by Rebecca Olson
From the Conference Crier*

This year I attended my first Youth PreCon. It was an amazing experience.

Pastor Paul Andries served as director, and the theme was “No Turning Back.” Throughout the week, we talked about all the reasons why we can’t turn back from God. He is too big and great to ever turn away.

We also discussed the consequences of turning back—talking about Lot’s wife and how she turned back to her city and was transformed into a pillar of salt!

We considered the way that Peter returned to fishing soon after Jesus’ death and resurrection, and how that turned out. First, since he was a leader among the disciples, all the others turned back with him. Also, the whole fishing venture was a complete failure—until Jesus came!

It is foolishness to turn away from God because if we are not aligned with His perfect will, we are setting ourselves up to fail. God is big and powerful, beyond our wildest dreams. His power was clearly displayed to us at PreCon outside of the lessons as well. Abigail Noel and I plan to give testimonies tonight in which we’ll talk about how He performed miracles at PreCon and completely transformed our lives. *[SR Editor’s note: They were awesome testimonies!]*

Our God performs miracles even today, and I sure want to see more. It is for this reason, along with many others, that I’m not turning away from my God. **Are you? SR**



Customers at the Cover 2 Cover store received Biblical answers to their challenging problems. (Youth PreCon skit on Tuesday night.)



Those who went to Youth PreCon also sang at Conference.



One of the afternoon youth activities on the WWWC campus.

2012 Women's Board Robe of Achievement

*Presented at Conference
by Karen Payne
Robe of Achievement Comm.*

It is with great pleasure that we award the Robe of Achievement for 2012 to **Marjorie Jacob**. Margie is a committed Christian and willing to be of service wherever she is needed.

Marjorie Fern Severance was born to Leonard Ozora Severance and Fern Mildred Maxson Severance on October 7, 1934, in Battle Creek, Michigan. She met her husband-to-be, James Glen Jacob, while attending Athens (Mich.) Agricultural High School. She was a member of the Glee Club and taught tap dancing after school. Marrying Jim in 1951, she became an army wife for three years before they settled in Pomona Park, Fla. As a child she attended the Battle Creek Seventh Day Baptist Church. She was baptized and joined the Daytona Beach SDB Church.

She and her husband had five children: Janice Ann (1953), John Maxson (1954), Marian Ruth (1957), Mark Henry (1960), and Matthew Worth (1963). In the words of one of our SDB pastor's wives, "This lady's children came to Christ through her leading and mothering, becoming active in church life."

Matthew shared the following about his mom:

As the fifth of five children, I had the fortune of having my parents' undivided attention during my later teen years. We joked with each other, we cried together, and, of course, we argued at times. Through it all, I never doubted the love of my mother.

Mom thought it was important to take the family to Conference. I remember many long driving trips to New York, Michigan, West Virginia, and Arkansas. It was so



Karen Payne (r.) presented the Robe and plaque to Marjorie Jacob at Conference in West Virginia.

important to her that she even let my brother drive some of the way.

Gail Price at the Palatka SDB Church told a story about childhood drug problems in her generation: how they were drug to church, to family reunions, and to community events. Well, my mom was the source of my "drug" problems. I didn't understand everything then, but now I understand that she was teaching us the love for our Savior, our brothers and sisters, and our neighbors.

This woman's Christ-like walk has been a guiding force not only in the lives of her family and friends but also in the life of her community, local church, and denomination. Very active in the Grange, she has encouraged young people with their involvement in special projects. Margie not only worked for various professionals in town (eye doctor,

accountant, and attorneys), but was a substitute teacher and worked as the Pomona Park town clerk for 28 years.

At church, she serves on the diaconate and audited the church financial records with her husband for many years. She is a valued member of the church's Pastoral Committee and also served on the denominational Christian Social Action Committee.

In the most recent decade of her life, Margie accepted the all-encompassing task of President of the SDB Women's Board. She took this role seriously and her contagious sense of humor and confidence in her coworkers inspired them to do their best. As Women's Board President, she represented SDBs on the executive committee of North American Baptist Women's Union. In this capacity, she and her husband travelled beyond the borders of our own nation—to Jamaica, England, and Canada—to be involved in work that would impact lives around the world. In the process, lasting friendships were formed with other Christian women, the influence of which is still evident today.

The gifts that the Holy Spirit has given to Margie have multiplied as she has encouraged others to use their gifts as well. To once again quote her youngest son, "If you know her well, you know how loving she is and how she goes out of her way to help others. I really appreciate the time she gives to those (myself included), who need a friend. Years of professional therapy: \$45/hour; Time with my mom: absolutely priceless." **SR**

Furnace Faith

by Deirdre Camenga
Milton, Wis.

My physical battle between health and disease mirrored deep spiritual issues. This was a war for the allegiance of my soul/spirit.

June 2012

“You’ve had a very busy year.” This is NOT the comment anyone would want to hear when visiting yet another oncologist. I could do nothing but nod my head in sad agreement. But, I’m getting ahead of myself.

My saga—or first flames—really began in January with an innocent, routine chest x-ray. I needed medical clearance by my primary care physician (PCP) in order to have a much-desired surgery.

Imagine my surprise when my PCP’s nurse called me before 8:00 the next morning to ask if I was feeling well. “I feel fine,” I told her.

Some funky looking spots popped up on my x-ray and I needed a CAT scan that evening. Sadly, my PCP denied my medical clearance. My February 9th surgery was postponed. *Sigh.* Little did I realize the not-so-merry ride on which I was about to embark.

Two different radiologists diagnosed my CAT scan spots as pneumonia. What followed was a round of antibiotics, another chest x-ray, another round of antibiotics, and another CAT scan. My ugly blotches remained unchanged.

Meanwhile, I still felt fine. I continued my morning swims and jogs. Because of my family history, I was thinking cancer. I voiced this to my friends, family and medical professionals. They “poo-pooed” my concerns. I’d been ready to jump

to a biopsy after the first round of ineffective antibiotics.

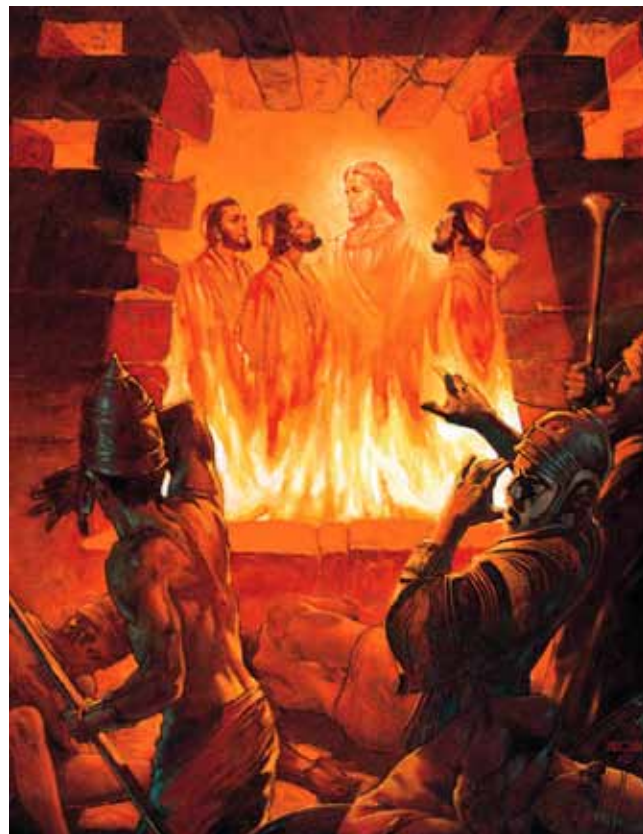
Two months later, in March, I finally saw a pulmonologist. Even though my pulmonary function tests were 125% of normal, he scheduled a bronchoscopy for the following week.

Foreshadows in the dark

The day before my bronchoscopy I was on my elliptical in our basement. I was just about to read a passage in *The Message* when the power went out.

It gets really really dark in our basement. No lights. No outside light. Nothing. Just the absence of light. Just dark. Just, well, scary. After 30 seconds, the power came back on. My panic fled. Very odd, though. We rarely lose power. We live in a neighborhood with underground power lines.

I didn’t think much of it, continued exercising and read my passage. 2 Corinthians 6:14-15 says, “Don’t become partners with those who reject God. How can you make a partnership out of right and wrong?



That’s not partnership; that’s war. IS LIGHT BEST FRIENDS WITH DARK? Does Christ go strolling with the Devil? DO TRUST AND MISTRUST HOLD HANDS?”

Foreshadowing. I think God used the power outage at just the right time to communicate some important truths—ones I’d need to cling to as I headed into my biopsy and truths I would need in the months to come. My physical battle between health and disease mirrored deep spiritual issues. This was a war for the allegiance of my soul/spirit. Would I give in to my very dark emotions of fear, panic and worry? The division was clear: dark/light,

mistrust/trust, Satan/Jesus. What side would I choose?

Three weeks later, I was still waiting for my biopsy results. *Ugh!* I confided with a friend that I had this overwhelming sense I had cancer and I wondered if it was God's way of preparing me.

She said, "You are aligning yourself with Satan." I could hardly believe her comment! What ensued was a most distressing conversation. She basically told me that God never says "no" to healing and to think I have cancer is agreeing with the devil. I asked her, then, why my brother Doug died of cancer even though many prayed for his healing.

"I don't have all the answers," she said, "but God doesn't say no. He wants us all healthy, healed and whole this side of heaven."

“

When I thought my 'furnace' was plenty hot, the flames got even hotter. Eric lost his job due to company downsizing.

”

In her mind, if God never said no to healing and I did have cancer in spite of the many prayers offered up on my behalf, then I was obviously out of God's favor and His plan. Let's add the heaping flames of guilt and shame onto my already weary heart and soul! *Sheesh!* I e-mailed my friend and told her I couldn't discuss this issue with her anymore.

Flames get hotter

The last week of March I still had no results, in spite of count-

less hounding phone calls. A lung pathology specialist at UW Hospital in Madison was taking his sweet time with all of my slides and samples, or so it felt.

When I thought my "furnace" was plenty hot, the flames got even hotter. Eric lost his job due to company downsizing. Not only would Eric's income stop after three weeks, but so would our health insurance. Thankfully, I could pick up coverage through my employer, but it would mean switching to an entirely different health system.

In addition to starting all over with meeting deductibles and maximum out-of-pocket expenses, I would need to find a new PCP, surgeon, pulmonologist and eventually a new oncologist. Because five days later I got the diagnosis I'd been expecting, I have a non-Hodgkin's B Cell Lymphoma with two left lung tumor sizes of 6 and 6.5 centimeters.

A PET scan in April showed the tumor hadn't spread beyond my lungs. Because this type of cancer is slow growing, my new but soon-to-be old oncologist granted medical clearance for my surgery. A week after my April 18th surgery, I had a bone marrow biopsy. (Since January I've had every orifice invaded and a couple more made for good measure.)

The cancer is treatable, but not curable. I started experiencing shortness of breath, a symptom of my lymphoma. At eight weeks post-op, I started chemotherapy. There's a 60-70% chance the chemotherapy will be effective, but the cancer will come back, unless God intervenes. I will need maintenance chemotherapy and future treatments, possibly with stronger and more toxic chemicals as the cancer cells develop a resistance to my present chemo drug.

Meanwhile, I continue to work as

much as I can in spite of the chemo's side effects. Eric is entering into his fourth month of unemployment. He spends 8-10 hours a day, every day, job hunting. I cannot support us on my salary alone. Unemployment benefits run out in September. Medical bills mount. I am very expensive this year.

What about faith?

So where has my faith been in all of this? I'd like to say that it hasn't been challenged; that I've gleefully sailed through life on easy street because I know that God is in control and He "works all things for good to those who love Him." I'd like to tell you that I've not "held hands with darkness" at all.

But, I'd be lying. In truth this has been one of the hardest challenges we have faced. In my mind I know God is large and in charge and will equip us to deal with the hand we are dealt. My emotions, doubts and fears, however, have been colossal. I remember the passage in Luke 22:31-32 when Jesus says, "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."

I feel like my family is in a sifter—no, more like a grinder. My emotions of despair and discouragement along with sheer physical fatigue have been off the charts. I also have lots of fears. What if the chemotherapy doesn't work? Yes, I'll go home to glory, but I'd rather stick around on earth for a while.

I don't want to leave my girls without a mom or their children grandma-less. The voice of Meepie, my dear, departed mom, echoes in my mind, "I don't want a second wife coming in and carrying off all my stuff."

I watched my dear brother waste

away to cancer. I don't want to die like that. Maybe we are going through all of this so God can show me how self-focused I am. My primary concerns aren't to stick around longer so I can "lead others to Christ," as good and lofty a goal as that is. My primary concerns deal with not wanting to leave my family or die a slow, lingering, painful death.

Doubts and fears

What if Eric doesn't get another engineering job? What if we lose our house? What if I get so sick with either the cancer or the treatment I can't work and we lose all our income?

Eric is such a wonderful man and so good in his profession. Why doesn't God secure a job for him? Will we have to move? Will we have to live apart for a year so Tacy, our senior, can finish high school in Milton?

Why has God singled us out for this "sifting"? Have we so displeased Him with our lives? I don't understand God's ways, His purpose or His plan. And quite frankly, I detest our current circumstances! Like Habakkuk I plead, "Oh LORD, how long shall I cry for help and you will not hear?" (Hab. 1:2) Oswald Chambers said, "One of the greatest stresses is waiting for God." I would agree.

I wonder if Simon Peter had similar doubts and fears. Why was he being singled out to be 'sifted'? Was God so displeased with him? What would happen to him if he admitted he knew Jesus? Would he be handed over to the Romans, too? Maybe he wasn't ready to leave his family either.

I think Peter was also confused and disillusioned. His whole world, like ours, was turned upside-down.

“*I know God is large and in charge and will equip us to deal with the hand we are dealt. My doubts and fears, however, have been colossal.*”

He thought he had *found the Messiah*, for crying out loud! He thought Jesus was the answer to centuries of prophecies and then his hope was carried off to prison. Perhaps it was the stress of waiting for God that drove him to deny Jesus.

In the short term, Peter denied Jesus. Does that mean his faith failed?

What is faith anyway? Is it some sort of "name it, claim it" mystical belief that **God will do** what we want Him to do? Peter learned that's not what faith is. Peter's "turning back" faith meant a deliberate choice backed up by actions.

Following a close, personal encounter with Jesus, he acknowledged and preached Jesus and the message of salvation to hundreds if not thousands. His faith meant he was willing to place himself under God's authority and accept whatever path God chose for him, even though it meant a painful death. God didn't wrap Peter's life up in a tidy package with a sweet little comfortable bow, but He was obviously with Peter and used Peter's life to bring masses to Himself. I benefit now from the faith he exhibited centuries ago.

Other furnace friends

What does faith mean for me? I am reminded of yet another passage, this one in Daniel 3:16-18. "Shadrach,

Meshach and Abednego replied to the king, 'O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and He will rescue us from your hand, O king. **But even if He does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.**'"

I see two key elements of faith here. One: Confidence in God's ability to rescue. Two: Commitment to remain true to God even if God didn't rescue.

I wonder if this faith-filled trio was afraid. I wonder if they questioned why they were being singled out. I wonder if they thought, "*So this is our reward for worshiping God. God, why are You allowing this? Have we displeased you?*"

Scripture doesn't say what they thought or felt, only what they said and did. But they shared my humanity. Maybe their knees quaked as they were thrown into the furnace that King Nebuchadnezzar angrily stoked seven times hotter than usual. Doubts or weak knees, though, didn't define their faith. Their actions did. They entrusted themselves to the One who could save, whether He chose to or not. Their faith did not fail. As a result, they enjoyed fellowship with God in their furnace.

Who holds my hands?

So, I ask again, where has my faith been in my blazing furnace? Am I holding hands with mistrust? Actually, I'm learning to divorce my faith from my emotions, doubts and fears.

My faith is an active choice, much like the faithful ones just mentioned.

cont. on p. 26



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

Of Love Gifts and student funds

*You still have until Sept. 30
to contribute to the Love Gift!!*

The SDB Women's Society was formed to come alongside the different ministries of the General Conference and support them.

One of the key ways that we help others is to give financial support. We want you to be aware of two ways that the Women's Society is currently focused on giving to others.

Every year, the SDB Women's Society collects a Love Gift that is distributed according to the interests of the Women's Interest Committee of the SDB Conference. This year, the Love Gift will be distributed as follows:

Orphans of Uganda	\$600
Dawn and Dan Richards	\$500
Deirdre & Eric Camenga	\$500
Brazil Mission Trip (Liz Green, Renee Sanford)	\$250
Joanna & Chris Bond	\$250
Linda and Mark Bentz	\$250
Alefa Lozani	\$200
Medical exam gloves for clinics in Malawi	\$200
TOTAL	\$2,750

The remainder will be divided in thirds for these overseas projects, as Missionary Society sees the need:

- 1/3 to women's groups to start businesses
- 1/3 for teachers of women to travel
- 1/3 for roofs for schools, churches or orphanages

At Conference, **\$2,308 was given** toward the Love Gift. Donations to this year's Love Gift may be sent until **September 30, 2012** to: Margot Harris, Women's Board Treasurer, c/o SDB Center, P.O. Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547. **SR**



Women's Board President Althea Rood (l.) and treasurer Margot Harris count the generous Love Gift at Conference in West Virginia.

This year at General Conference in West Virginia, the Women's Board established the "**Dorotha Shettel Fund**" to assist SCSC/ Stained Glass students with Pre-Con, Conference and post-Conference travel expenses.

Many SCSC students have faced difficulty in meeting the costs of Pre-Con and Conference, even though they offer significant leadership training opportunities. The Women's Interest Committee has recommended that we continue the 'Stepping out in Faith' fundraiser this next year with funds raised designated for this new fund. Look for more details about the fund and fundraiser in a few months!

Scripture Memory

Conference Theme:

Youth/Adult

October

How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! I gain understanding from your precepts; therefore I hate every wrong path. Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path. (Psalm 119:103-105)

November

My feet have closely followed his steps; I have kept to his way without turning aside. I have not departed from the commands of his lips; I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my daily bread. (Job 23:11-12)

December

My steps have held to your paths; my feet have not stumbled. I call on you, my God, for you will answer me; turn your ear to me and hear my prayer. (Psalm 17:5-6).

January

Teach me, Lord, the way of your decrees, that I may follow it to the end. Give me understanding, so that I may keep your law and obey it with all my heart. Direct me in the path of your commands, for there I find delight. (Psalm 119:33-35).

February

I instruct you in the way of wisdom and lead you along straight paths. When you walk, your steps will not be hampered; when you run, you will not stumble. (Proverbs 4:11-12)

March

This is what the Lord says: "Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls." (Jeremiah 6:16a)

April

You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence. (Acts 2:28)

May

The path of the righteous is level; you, the Upright One, make the way of the righteous smooth. Yes, Lord, walking in the way of your laws, we wait for you; your name and renown are the desire of our hearts. (Isaiah 26:7-8)

June

He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. (John 10:3b-4)

— or —

Psalm 119:33-44

The 2012–13 Scripture Memory program is based on the theme chosen by Conference President Ralph Mackintosh of the Foothill Community SDB Church (Montrose, CA): "**Forward In His Footsteps.**"

Families can work together to memorize these verses—each age group memorizes part or all of the same verses.

Each participating church should submit a list of those who have completed the program to the Board of Christian Education Office. The deadline for submission is **June 30, 2013**. Certificates for those who memorize all verses will be distributed at the 2013 General Conference.

Copyright information for verses: THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Verses: 2012-2013

“Forward in His Footsteps”

Junior

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path. (Psalm 119:105)

My feet have closely followed his steps; I have kept to his way without turning aside. (Job 23:11)

My steps have held to your paths; my feet have not stumbled. (Psalm 17:5)

Direct me in the path of your commands, for there I find delight. (Psalm 119:35)

I instruct you in the way of wisdom and lead you along straight paths. (Proverbs 4:11)

Ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls. (Jeremiah 6:16b)

You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence. (Acts 2:28)

The path of the righteous is level; you, the Upright One, make the way of the righteous smooth. (Isaiah 26:7)

He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. (John 10:3b)

Primary

Your word is a lamp for my feet. (Psalm 119:105a)

My feet have closely followed his steps. (Job 23:11a)

My steps have held to your paths. (Psalm 17:5a)

Direct me in the path of your commands. (Psalm 119:35a)

I... lead you along straight paths. (Proverbs 4:11b)

Ask where the good way is. (Jeremiah 6:16b)

You have made known to me the paths of life. (Acts 2:28a)

The path of the righteous is level. (Isaiah 26:7a)

He calls his own sheep by name. (John 10:3b)

— or —

Psalm 119:33-44



Read all about it!

New revised volume is ready

The SDB Historical Society is proud to announce that the revised and updated second edition of Don A. Sanford's *A Choosing People* has been published by Mercer University Press.

A Choosing People, originally printed by Broadman Press in 1992, chronicles the history of SDBs from our genesis in England in the 1650s to a worldwide movement which spans six continents—quite a journey for 393 pages! The first copies of the new volume were sold at General Conference, where they arrived “hot off the press” shortly before the sessions began.

At Conference, the Society celebrated the completion of this important project at our Board report to the delegates and through recognizing Donna (Sanford) Bond during Sabbath afternoon's awards presentation. Donna worked with her father to make the revisions for the second edition, and the manuscript presented to the publisher was prepared by the joint effort of Donna and her father. We are grateful for her work!

With the successful publication of the book, one substantial portion of the Society's work for the past several years has been completed. But as is the case with all things historical, the closing of one chapter simply signals the beginning of another. The Society's attentions



A grateful historian, Nick Kersten (left), thanks Donna Sanford Bond for her work on revising her father's book, A Choosing People.

now turn towards securing the widest possible audience for the book in the coming weeks and months. To achieve this, we need your help. **There are three important ways you can help spread the story of Seventh Day Baptists into the larger world with this book.**

First, you can purchase a copy of *A Choosing People* yourself! Copies are for sale from both the General Conference website (www.seventhdaybaptist.org) and the Historical Society's newly redesigned website (www.sdbhistory.org). Copies cost \$35 + postage. Historical Society members save 10% on the cost of the book.

Second, you can promote the book with your local library or historical society, especially if you live in a community with significant SDB influence.

Finally, you can donate a copy to an appropriate location—a local,

college or seminary library. A letter from you to your alma mater, along with a copy of *A Choosing People*, can greatly increase the visibility of Seventh Day Baptists! Please prayerfully consider purchasing a copy for this strategic purpose.

The Society is anxious to sell copies of the new book as quickly as possible in an effort to secure additional printings. So if you are someone who hopes to purchase one “someday,” please make someday today! Your purchase can help us to assure an even wider audience!

The Society is grateful for the support of individual Seventh Day Baptists as we worked this project, as well as the support of the SDB Memorial Fund's trustees as we concluded the first and most important stage of this project. Your continued support is still necessary to see all our goals for this new edition achieved! **SR**



Seminarian Profile

Seminarian Profile



Name: Charles Richard “Chuck” Meathrell
Birthdate and place: October 12, 1984
Clarksburg, WV

Family:

Wife: Jessica Marie (formerly Talerico)
Son: Davis Richard
Parents: Bo and Peggy Meathrell,
Salem, WV

Education:

Liberty High School, Clarksburg, WV
Salem (WV) International University
Columbia (SC) International Seminary
(Schoolwork done in August 2012. I plan to
attend the December graduation ceremony)

Ministry experience:

Preaching opportunities in Salem SDB Church
SCSC (Battle Creek, MI)
Preached regularly at Middle Island, WV
SDB Church for several years
Preached and led classes/seminars at local
churches, especially Park Street Baptist
Church (SC) where I did my internship
for a year

Other employment:

Various jobs with developmentally disabled
Published a Christian novel in 2008
Teaching preschool (3-year-olds) since 2010

Favorite Bible passage:

Jeremiah 29:11

Favorite author:

At the moment it's Reggie McNeal.

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

Probably give it away. Who knows?

A great answer to prayer was:

Our son. He is the joy of my life.

A project I'm excited about:

Being a servant-leader in my family and my church.
It is amazing that God has called me to lead people
to Jesus and to instruct believers.

My vision for SDBs:

I think that it's time for Seventh Day Baptists to be
uncomfortable. We need to stretch ourselves and
do those things which we might not like, but will
grow our denomination by conversion and (far more
importantly) expand the Kingdom of God. Pastor
Scott Smith said it best during his Bible study at
Conference: “You shouldn't be able to swing a dead
cat without hitting a Seventh Day Baptist church!”
SDBs are a special group with a lot to contribute.
Let's do that. *SR*

Please see inside the front cover for
updated info on the Pastors Retirement
Fund, sponsored by COSAR.



Stroke: A Medical Emergency

by Barb Green, Parish Nurse
Milton, Wis.

Stroke is the fourth leading cause of death in the United States, killing over 133,000 each year. Those who don't die may have serious, long-term adult disability. Approximately 795,000 strokes will occur this year, one every 40 seconds. A life is taken every four minutes.

Stroke—also known as a brain attack—is an emergency. It cuts off vital blood flow and oxygen to the brain. The two types of strokes are ischemic and hemorrhagic. An ischemic stroke occurs when arteries are blocked by blood clots or by the gradual build-up of plaque and other fatty deposits. About 87% of all strokes are ischemic. Hemorrhagic stroke occurs when a blood vessel in the brain breaks leaking blood into the brain. Although hemorrhagic strokes account for only 13% of all strokes, they are responsible nearly a third of all stroke deaths.

The prevalence of transient ischemic attacks (TIAs, or “mini strokes”) increases with age. Up to 40 percent of all people who suffer a TIA will go on to experience a stroke. Symptoms may include: sudden weakness; numbness or paralysis in your face, arm or leg, typically on one side of your body; slurred or garbled speech or difficulty understanding others; sudden blindness or double vision; dizziness or loss of balance or coordination. Although TIAs usually last only a few minutes with most

symptoms disappearing within an hour, they all need to be evaluated by a physician.

Stroke can happen to anyone at any time, regardless of race, sex or age. The estimated direct and indirect cost of stroke in the U.S. in 2010 was \$73.7 billion.

Two million brain cells die every minute during stroke, increasing the risk of permanent brain damage, disability or death. Recognizing symptoms and acting “FAST” to get medical attention can save a life and limit disability. The following test will help you remember the warning signs of stroke:

F= FACE. Ask the person to smile. Does one side of the face droop?

A= ARMS. Ask the person to raise both arms. Does one arm drift downward?

S= SPEECH. Ask the person to repeat a simple sentence. Does the speech sound slurred or strange?

T= TIME. If you observe any of these signs (independently or together) call 911 immediately.

Risk factors beyond your control include being over age 55, being female, being African-American, and having a family history of stroke. Although everyone needs to learn how to prevent a stroke, it is essential for those with these risk factors to learn about the lifestyle and medical changes that can be made to prevent one.

Medical risk factors that can be controlled and managed with the

help of your doctor include: previous stroke, previous episode of TIA (or mini stroke), high cholesterol, high blood pressure, heart disease, atrial fibrillation and carotid artery disease.

Lifestyle risk factors include smoking, being overweight and drinking too much alcohol. These can be controlled by quitting smoking, exercising regularly, watching what and how much you eat, and limiting alcohol consumption. **SR**

Prevention guidelines for stroke include:

- know your blood pressure (have it checked yearly)
- ask your doctor about atrial fibrillation (an abnormal heart-beat that can increase stroke risk by 500 percent)
- don't smoke
- don't drink alcohol or limit to no more than 2 drinks/day
- know your cholesterol level (total cholesterol should be no more than 200)
- control diabetes (take your medications and keep your weight down)
- exercise at least 5 times weekly
- eat a diet low in calories, salt, fats and cholesterol
- eat five servings of fruits and vegetables daily
- treat circulation problems
- remember to act FAST at the first warning sign of stroke.

(facts taken from
www.stroke.org)



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

God appears in yet another trial

During my time on this planet, a trio of brief, four-word statements have changed my life.

When I was 38 years old, the announcement was, "Your husband is dead."

At age 54 I heard, "You have breast cancer."

This past May, about a month prior to my 67th birthday, the declaration was, "You need brain surgery."

Gradually, I've come to view myself as a survivor. That's not to say I'm some type of "super woman," brimming with bottomless courage, bubbling over with positive thoughts, and generating admiration and inspiration in a world overflowing with sorrow and sickness.

I'm simply like everyone else. I enjoy the good things of life, but I'm not immune from the "bad things." Even as a Christian, I don't have any special protection from life's problems.

In John 16, verse 33, Jesus said, "In this world you will have trouble." James 1:2 talks about encountering "various trials." 1 Peter 4:12 tells us not to be "surprised at the fiery ordeal among you."

But, as Christians, we're also told to "take heart! I [Jesus] have overcome the world." We're also told to rejoice in hope, persevere in tribulation, and be devoted to prayer (Romans 12:12).

The Bible says that we should not only accept the challenges and



A birthday to remember. Leanne recovering from surgery with her granddaughters.

troubles of life, but to actually embrace them: "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds..." (James 1:2, NIV).

When I learned I needed surgery for a potentially fatal brain aneurysm, I didn't jump for joy, but God filled me with an amazing sense of peace.

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid" (John 14:27).

Originally, my surgery was scheduled for June 6th, then delayed for almost two weeks. During those difficult days of waiting, God constantly reassured me He was with me every step of the way. Sometimes He caressed my worried brow with a feather-like touch; other times, it was more like a hammer to the head to get my attention.

"Hey, silly—stop worrying! I told you I'm with you, and I keep my promises!"

A sister-in-law in Wyoming sent me a book of devotions by Sarah Young entitled, "Jesus Calling." To my astonishment, each day's writing related to *exactly* what I was dealing with at the moment.

The day before my surgery, the devotion said, "Relax and know that I am God with you. ...Laughter lightens your load and lifts your heart into heavenly places. ...I rejoice when you trust Me enough to enjoy your life lightheartedly."

As I entered the operating room the next morning, a note I had pinned to my hospital gown read, "Dear Dr. Sturm: Please be sure to put any loose screws and marbles back into my brain before you finish my surgery. Gratefully, Leanne."

During my eight-day hospital stay, I handed out either colorful marbles or shiny silver screws to each of my visitors.

The devotion for the morning of my surgery read, "If you trust that My plans are *to prosper you and not to harm you*, you can relax and enjoy the present moment."

Surrounded by many of my family members, Pastors Herb Saunders and George Calhoun arrived at the hospital early enough to pray with all of us. It was a special time, surrounded by special people. I can't say I actually "enjoyed" the moment, but I was amazingly relaxed and at peace.

"And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:7). **SR**



FOCUS on Missions

To the river!

by Clinton R. Brown
sdbmissions.org

Returning from General Conference this year I felt relieved and reassured by all the support and positive feedback about what we have been trying to accomplish at the Missionary Society. God remains our greatest source for encouragement and provision, but knowing so many people are praying for the work and willing to be involved is reassuring.

While at Conference in Buckhannon, W.Va., I visited the nearby Middle Fork River with some of my family. At the river I encountered a good Bible truth illustration I felt I should keep in mind and share.

I had made my way to the top of some low falls where some of the young adult Pre-Con students were congregated. In turn, they stepped into the current and allowed the river to take them over the falls and into the river below.

It involved a degree of risk, but several had taken the plunge without serious injury so everyone wanted to ride the “natural water slide.” I had ridden it by accident and returned to the top to lend a hand to any who were apprehensive about going.

One typically bold young lady found herself timid at the prospect of walking into the swift moving water. Her question was, “How do I know when to go down the falls?” This was the only reasonable answer I could

give her: When it’s time to go, the river will take you. All she had to do was step into the current and the river would do the rest.

Likewise, I thought, we have an all-powerful God on a mission to share Jesus’ love with the lost of the world. If we are willing to step out and join Him, we can become involved in a flow of the Spirit that cannot be stopped by even the gates of Hell (*see Matt 16:18*).

Mere mortals, economics, and physical barriers should hold no terror for us if we are seeking the will of our Lord, following His lead, and confident that as the battles rage on, the war is already won.

All too often, I want to control each step of everything I do. I will not move in a direction unless I can firmly plant my foot and see the safety of the next place

along the path. I need to learn to consistently tread where I know He tells me to tread and submit to the Holy Spirit to empowering, equipping, and directing my actions to His glory.

I encourage you also to take that step where God is leading, and the adventure—like that waterfall—will find you.

“Show me Thy ways, O LORD; teach me Thy paths. Lead me in Thy truth and teach me, for Thou art the God of my salvation; on Thee do I wait all the day.” (Psalm 25:4-5) SR

“
*Step into the
current,
and the river
will do the rest.*
”



*Swimming in the Middle Fork River at
Audra State Park, W.Va.*



by Executive Director
Rob Appel

Why do we have Associations?

We have 10 Associations among our Seventh Day Baptist churches in North America. Many have been around for a long time, some are fairly new, some have split off of other groups, but all seem to be asking a similar question:

Why do we have an Association and what is its purpose?

I have visited all 10 Associations. While there are some similarities, most are different in the way they “associate” with each other. For instance, the South Atlantic Association—one of the fairly new ones—really is more like a family reunion. The people are excited about coming to see each other. They have a Bible Bowl for the young ones, afternoon presentations, and they even have interest committees along with their business meeting *that is well attended*.

On the other hand, the North Central Association is struggling with their identity and purpose. Attendance is down and some say they see no reason to continue with this gathering.

Many reasons exist why a relationship like our Associations may fall short. But the most common causes are plain and simple: a lack of promotion of the gathering and a lack of mission focus. There are other contributing factors as well. Let’s look at them.

Failure to communicate

There doesn’t seem to be a well-communicated reason why we have Associations today. Some would say they exist simply because “they were there when we got here.” They are not sure of their purpose, but they still meet. Some would tell you that with Facebook, they feel they have been in touch and communicating all along. So, why have a formal gathering like Association?

Resisting Change

What are the key reasons for doing what we are doing? What would give your Association new life? The chairman of Intel, Andy Grove, said, “Breakthroughs come from an instinctive judgment of what your customers might want, if they knew to think about it.” Let’s ask the tough questions!

Lack of Mission Focus

For a great Associational relationship, there must be a good understanding between the people and the purpose of the gathering.

- What do we believe? What is our **Mission** and why?
- Whom do we serve? What is our **Strategy**?
- What do we do? What is our **Campaign** and how are we going to carry it out?

Every small group must have a purpose. For Associations, this pur-

pose should be written and developed by the whole group, then reviewed periodically for reinforcement. One way this can be done is to ask the Association to explain its purpose when new churches or people come into the gathering. Once a purpose is developed, the Association can agree on specific activities, testing them to ensure that they are consistent and support the purpose.

Who’s Minding the Store?

Without the connection an Association can quickly go adrift. Association boards sometimes get mired in the tactical aspects of the organization. This is unfortunately at the neglect of the mission.

Burned Out Attendees

Let’s face it, we are all very busy these days! “*We don’t need more to do! Adding one more thing to the agenda is one thing too much!*” Sound familiar? That’s why there needs to be a compelling reason to gather. People are just too busy to put out effort into what they would deem as “unnecessary.”

Some of our Associations are doing great! However, if your Association is struggling with identity, purpose, or mission, then please ask the hard questions that will be needed to get your Association back on track. **SR**



Past... Present... Future

by Morgan Shepard

*“...forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”
(Philippians 3:13-14 ESV)*

This year’s Memorial Fund presentation at Conference focused on the past, present and future. We looked at how churches from our past did not die, but the people moved on following God’s leading; how pastors and leaders affected our lives; how missionaries spread the Gospel to China, Jamaica, the Philippines, Africa, South America and here at home. But more importantly we looked at our future and what we are doing today to follow God’s leading.


Highlights from the presentation include:

- In 2011 the Memorial Fund provided over \$1.66 million in grants, scholarships, and income distribution to honor the past, support the present, and prepare for the future.
- Through scholarships and endowments from K. Duane Hurley, Lois Wells, Orville and Lucille Bond, Henry W. Stillman, and others, the Memorial Fund provides scholarships for education, music and leadership development. Specifically the Memorial Fund is partnering with the SDB Women’s Society and Summer Service Christian Corps (SCSC) for Spiritual Leadership Development scholarships. Countless SDBs have benefited from the training as they become leaders.
- The Memorial Fund has also partnered with Council on Ministry (COM) to support current seminary students through matching grants. Another partnership

with COM is through the Ministerial Staff Development grants to assist churches in training lay leaders and developing new ministries for their communities.

- Through endowments provided by Hobart & Bessie Ayers, Eugenia L. Babcock, and George & Lurana B. Crosley (to name a few), the Memorial Fund provides income and grants to assist the SDB General Conference and its allied Boards and Societies. The Memorial Fund is also funding the use of new on-line meeting technology that will enable more “face to face” meetings through the web at a fraction of the cost of travel.
- The Memorial Fund has loaned out over \$5.3 million to help SDB churches purchase, build or renovate their facilities as they reach out to their communities.

Is your church looking to start a new ministry or reach out with a new evangelism effort? Are there lay leaders you are looking to train? Is someone in your church hearing the call for missions?

Ask the Memorial Fund board how they can partner with your church to make your vision come alive. 

**2012 Conference Offering:
Over \$15,740
Thank You for your support!**

**2013 General Conference
Consolidated Budget:
\$1,317,814**

Is silence always golden?

by Christopher Davis
Marlboro, N.J.



I had a slight problem. You see, I had dented the truck.

It's not completely my vehicle (as my father will quickly tell you), and I had just put quite the mark on it. Weighted trailers can do surprisingly quick work with a nice slab of steel.

In any case, the large dent with a corresponding line of scratches all down the side of the tailgate was quite the issue.

How did I act when faced with this issue? I completely dropped it. I mentioned it to no one, hoping that if it happened to be noticed, it would be a few years down the line. As long as I didn't have to deal with it now, I was content. My father would just not know about it.

However, that lack of knowledge lasted for about 48 hours. I was in the basement, so as soon as I heard loud footsteps across the ceiling, I knew that I was in for it. Turns out it's a bit hard to hide a large white gash on a black vehicle...

You can imagine my surprise when the basement door opened and I heard a calm question: "What happened to my truck?" As I stut-tered out the answer, he listened, shut the door and walked away.

Needless to say, I was a bit shocked. That was all?

Later at the dinner table, he simply stated that he knew it was an accident, and that all I needed to

do was speak up and say what happened. (Though it better not happen again if I can help it.)

In many ways, our heavenly Father is much the same. We all sin. We all fall short of His glory. Still, we need to repent for what we have done. God already knows of our actions, yet we need to recognize what we have done and ask for His forgiveness. It is important to note that this includes doing our best not to repeat our sin; we often forget that. Hiding our shortcomings will do us no good. They will only harm us in the long run.

I am reminded of Psalm 32. "When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. Then I acknowledged

my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the LORD' and you forgave the guilt of my sin." (Vv. 3-5)

When we keep our sinful actions to ourselves, we hurt ourselves in the process. What we perceive as "keeping our secrets intact" may actually be what is holding us back from our relationship with Christ. He alone has the power to cleanse us from our unrighteousness, and holding back from Him brings only shame and hesitance.

When we find ourselves falling back into the sin, we can rely on our significant others, family, friends, and our church. Of course, God is always an aid as well, as long as we allow Him in our lives.

We all have an issue that we try and hold back. The question is, what is that gaining us? **SR**

70 years of service... so far

by Jean Jorgensen

1942 was an eventful year for Charles Wheeler: he turned age 23, accepted responsibility as the treasurer of the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Nortonville, Kan., and, on June 20th married his sweetheart, Reba Kenyon.

Now 70 years later at age 93, he has continuously been our church treasurer and has celebrated his 70th anniversary of marriage with Reba. Charles also became a Deacon of the church in 1945 and has carried that responsibility since then. He accepted the additional role of being a Trustee three decades ago and has faithfully mowed the lawn all these years. In the 1950s he was our Sabbath School Superintendent.

Over the years he has willingly given service by assisting many building projects and property maintenance: heating the church first with wood, then coal, oil, gas and now electricity; adding sanctuary ceiling fans; building a new steeple;



Reba and Charles Wheeler

adding a kitchen to the parsonage; renovating the church basement and kitchen; insulating the church; and was instrumental in placing a marker-rock where the pioneers held the first SDB Service in Kansas on October 5, 1857.

Throughout these many years, the Nortonville Church has respected and honored his dedication.

Charles grew up on a farm north of town (on Seventh Day Lane) with three brothers, Merlin, Edgar and Edwin. He was baptized in Stranger Creek (near Cummings/Pardee, KS) by Pastor Lester G. Osborn.

He and Reba lived on the farm until they moved to town in 1968. He farmed and hauled milk for a career. When he was age 85, Charles wrote a book of his life for his family, titled: "This is it!" Yet, he keeps going strong. **SR**

Editor's note: Unfortunately, soon after the Wheelers celebrated their 70 years of marriage and service, Charles was stricken with some serious medical problems. Just after he and Reba settled into the nursing home, Jean says that Charles asked his son, Sam, to go to the house and get his treasurer books for the church because there were some bills needing to be paid.

Death Notices

Gordon L. Sanford, 89, of Little Genesee, NY, died on June 25, 2012.

Carol (Kagarise) Guyer, 89, of Salemville, PA, died on July 11, 2012.

Marriages

Kirby – Bruce. Timothy Ryan Kirby and Tracy Lynn Bruce were united in marriage on July 14, 2012 at Cedar Hills United Church of Christ in Portland, OR. Rev. Jerry G. Vaught officiated.

Births

Duran.—A daughter, Andrea Belle, was born to John and Melody (Vaught) Duran of Portland, OR, on July 2, 2011.

Bond.—A son, Nathaniel Allen, was born to Christopher and Joanna (Halter) Bond of Stow Creek Township, NJ, on July 23, 2012.

Bruce.—A daughter, Amelia Johanna, was born to Robert "BJ" and Abigail (Vaught) Bruce Jr. of Portland, OR, on August 6, 2012.

Notice all the **Page Sponsorships** in this issue?

Until the end of the year, you may sponsor a page for only \$100 (instead of \$125), and become an "Editor's Circle" member (which includes a page sponsorship) for \$150 instead of \$165. Sign up today at editor@seventhdaybaptist.org.

Obituaries

Greene.—Irene (Brownell) Greene, 91, of Berlin, N.Y., passed away on July 13, 2012 at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation at Hoosick Falls, N.Y.

Born March 29, 1921 in Groveside, N.Y., she was the daughter of Elmer E. and Sadie (Lebarron) Brownell. She was the loving wife of Arlie L. Greene, whom she married on March 2, 1946 in Groveside, N.Y. A 1939 graduate of Hoosick Falls High School, Irene was a devoted housewife, caring for her family. She was actively involved in the family farm.

Irene was the librarian at the Berlin Town Library for 26 years and an active member of the Berlin Seventh Day Baptist Church. Her joy was serving God, her family, her church family and her community.

Survivors include her husband of 66 years Arlie, her children Althea Rood, Paul Greene and Wesley Greene; one brother, Wesley Brownell; eight grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren, along with many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by siblings Clark Brownell, Pauline Swart, Gordon Brownell and Jessie Stuart. A memorial service was held on August 7, 2012 in the Berlin SDB Church with Rev. Matthew Olson officiating.

Cutsforth.—Corrine A. Cutsforth, 67, of Janesville, Wis., died July 4, 2012, at her home.

Corrine was born on November 24, 1944 in the Town of Sampson, Wis., to the late Alvin and Iola (Loofboro) Ling. On December 21, 1963, she married Richard Cutsforth at the Seventh Day Baptist Church in New Auburn, Wis. Corrine was a member of three Seventh Day Baptist churches, her last membership in Milton, Wis.

She was also a member of the Genealogical Society of Baron and

Rock Counties, held the position of treasurer at the Albion SDB Church, worked for Meals On Wheels and the Milton Food Pantry, and was always busy working at her church—sewing or knitting, and baking, especially her “Cookies at Christmas.” She worked for a number of years at Jerome Foods.

Corrine is survived by her husband, Richard Cutsforth of Janesville; two children, Brian Cutsforth of Libby, Mont., and Melissa Howard of Milton; three grandchildren; two sisters, Rena Gravunder and Wanda Cutsforth, both of New Auburn; and many close friends. Memorial services were held on August 17, 2012 at the Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church with Rev. George Calhoun officiating.

Kenyon.—Elwin A. Kenyon Jr., 92, passed away peacefully on August 9, 2012, at his home in Charlestown, R.I.

Elwin was born on November 9, 1919 in Pawcatuck, Conn., the son of Elwin and Martha (Rasmusen) Kenyon.

Mr. Kenyon was a member of the Westerly (R.I.) High School class of 1938. He proudly served his country during World War II in the United States Army and was stationed in Okinawa, Japan. He worked for the Cottrell Company/Harris Graphics for 43 years.

Elwin was a member and Deacon Emeritus of the Pawcatuck Seventh Day Baptist Church in Westerly. He also served on the Board of Managers of the SDB Missionary Society for a number of years.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 67 years, Ellen (Rathbun) Kenyon; his son, Karl Kenyon; and his sister, Ruth (Kenyon) Mosena.

Elwin is survived by his daughter, Kathleen (Kenyon) Hughes of

Pawcatuck, Conn., and daughter-in-law Patricia (Lindsley) Kenyon, of Charlestown, R.I.; four grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

A funeral service was held at the Buckler-Johnston Funeral Home, Westerly, on August 13, 2012, with Revs. Russell Arnold and David Stall officiating. **SR**

* * * * *

New members

Berlin, NY

Matthew Olson, pastor

Joined after baptism

Bryan DiMiccio

Suzanne Freeman

Lauren Michaels

Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Norman Fearon, pastor

Joined after baptism

Sebaston Barrett

Omar Brown

Dwayne Fuller

Tonie Fung-Chung

Joined by testimony

Stacy Rose

Portland, OR*

Jerry Vaught, pastor

Joined by testimony

Deborah Wheat

Katelyn Blake

Pearl Fox

Gloria Sherwood-Wiley

David Wiley

Joined by letter

Levi Bond

**Due to some long-lost e-mails, some of these folks have been members for a while, but we wanted to get them in the SR!*

Furnace Faith, *cont. from p. 12*

It's a deliberate entrusting of me and my family to the God Who is able to heal and provide a job for Eric, whether He chooses to or not. It's a willingness to say, "Even if God does not wrap my life up in a pretty little package with a sweet, comfortable bow, yet I trust Him."

If memory serves me right, many of the Faith Hall-of-Famers listed in Hebrews 11 had anything but pretty little packaged lives tied up with sweet, comfortable bows. Faith is not mustering up a belief that God will heal me this side of heaven and provide a job for Eric. I think that is presumption.

Faith is trusting in God's character. It's placing my life under His authority and saying, like my furnace friends, "Even if He does not, I will not bow down to another or believe Satan's taunts that God is careless in His care of us."

I can also say that like my furnace friends, God is with me in my raging incinerator. It is sweet furnace fellowship with Him that keeps me from being consumed. He has encouraged me over and over through His Word. His Spirit reminds me I am His daughter and even though none of this feels good, my loving God is in it and knows what He is doing.

He has mobilized His people to demonstrate tangible evidence of His care: meals, cash, gift cards for gas and food, medical care and piano lessons for Tacy, and a prayer quilt. One precious saint in our congregation offered to cover Elizabeth's tuition in the fall so she could stay in school. Then there's my precious group of prayer sisters, my fellow Jesus-girls. They don't pat my hand and spout off Christianese

“*God is with me in my raging incinerator. It is sweet furnace fellowship with Him that keeps me from being consumed.*”

”



platitudes. They cry with me, pray for me and let me spew out my ugly emotions, doubts and fears.

Faith vs. feelings

God hasn't changed any of our circumstances. I still have an incurable cancer. Eric still has no job. I am exhausted and short of breath all the time. I have mammoth hot flashes, headaches and insomnia, thanks to the chemotherapy. I go to work. I come home. I collapse. I have energy for little else.

I have no clue why this has hit us all at once and even if I did, it wouldn't cool the flames. I have moments of despair and discouragement. God doesn't heap guilt and shame on me because of that. He doesn't tire of hearing about how tired I am of feeling tired. He knows that my faith and my feelings **are not** the same thing.

As Oswald Chambers puts it, "Faith is deliberate confidence in the character of God whose ways you may not understand at the time." When I place my confidence, my trust, in God's loving and wise character, my doubts, fears and questions fade into background noise rather than the primary melody.

I am also confident Jesus is doing for me what he did for Peter. I imagine He's interceding, asking God that I would have an unflatter-

ing, deliberate confidence in His loving, and faithful character in spite of what I feel at any given moment. That, I believe, is unflinching faith. **SR**

p.s. I needed to write this while still in the furnace. I think a lot of testimonies are written after the fact—when God has miraculously worked everything out for good. It's always a lot more fun and encouraging writing about hindsight faith. But I think the Faith Hall-of-Famers didn't demonstrate hindsight faith. They exhibited furnace faith.

p.s. #2 On my second chemotherapy visit, I had a discussion with my nurse about Eric's unemployment. Her son is also a mechanical engineer and works for a company in nearby Whitewater. I came home and told Eric about the company. After an online search of the company, he learned they had posted two engineering positions two days earlier. He filled out an application and submitted it online. That same afternoon, the company called him to schedule a phone interview. A phone interview, an in-person four-hour interview, and three weeks later he is no longer unemployed. Whitewater is an easy 30-minute commute from our home. Thank you Jesus!

KEVIN'S

ORNER

A blur in Buckhannon

For me, the historic 200th session of Conference (and my historic 31st consecutive) was a total blur. After a slow decline of several months, my Dad passed away rather suddenly right before CLT and General Council members were to meet for pre-Conference sessions on the West Virginia Wesleyan campus. With his funeral in upstate New York on Tuesday, I missed all but the last gathering of the Council before Conference delegates started arriving on campus that weekend.

It marked the first time I had missed a Coordinating Leadership Team or General Council meeting in 24 years. Both groups said that they completed their agenda in record time. Coincidence?

Actually they claimed that they were able to finish up early because of the vote expected to take place on Tuesday during Conference. Delegates would decide to replace the 14-member General Council structure with a new 5-member Council (*see p. 4*). The full effects of those changes remain to be seen.

I've written about some of the Conference actions in this issue's first feature, and thought I'd use the remainder of my page and back cover to share some visual memories of what took place—as far as I remember! Special thanks go out to my volunteer photographers Benny Uhlich, Bill Fick and Angie Nicholson. Hope to see many of you next year in Colorado! **SR**



Pool closed—fountain open!



The 2006 Robe of Achievement recipient, Ruth Rogers, gets interviewed at the Women's Banquet.



The Youth Interests Committee awaits the reading of their report.



John Wesley waves goodbye as the crowd heads to lunch.



*Basketball game over—
time for the Youth Rally Song!*



*Jackson Butler (l.) headed up the
worship team each night.*



*Jim Skaggs with the second reading
of the proposed by-laws.*



*John Pethtel (l.) passed the gavel to
new President Ralph Mackintosh.*



Sabbath morning in Wesley Chapel.