



# The Sabbath RECORDER

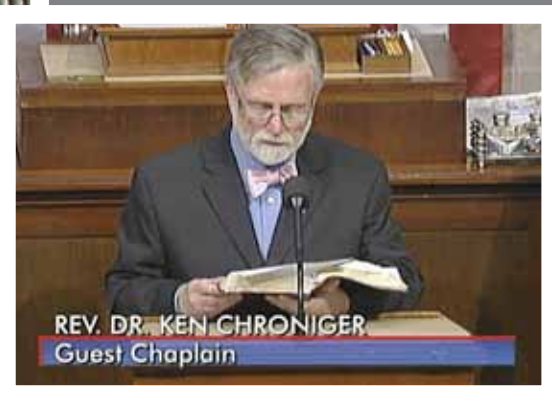
*Inside:*

Conformed?  
Transformed!

A scalpel  
and a hammer

October 2012

*News for and about Seventh Day Baptists*



## PASTOR KEN GOES TO WASHINGTON

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*Plus, What I did on my  
“summer vacation” p. 4*



## Who are Seventh Day Baptists?

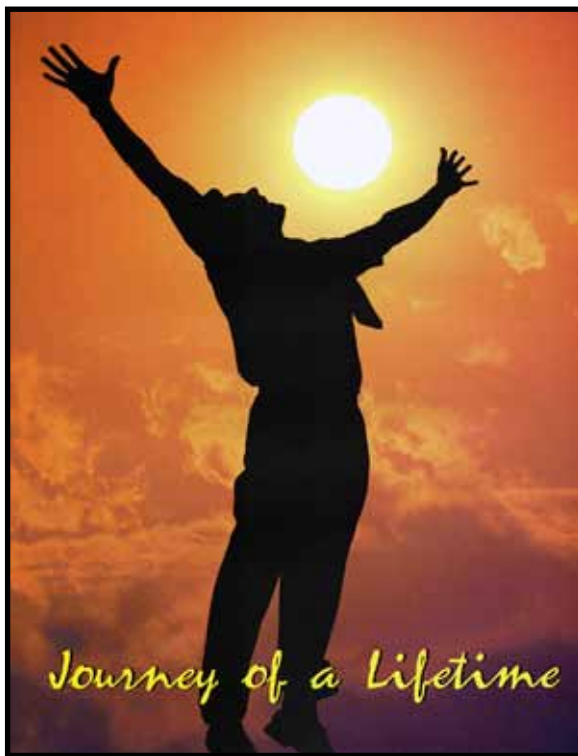
If you've never read *The Sabbath Recorder* before, you might be wondering who Seventh Day Baptists are. Like other Baptists, we believe in:

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

### The seventh day

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

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



## Share the Journey

*If you enjoy religious allegories, you'll enjoy reading our full-color special issue "Journey of a Lifetime." And after you read it, how about sharing the story with neighbors and friends?*

To receive copies of this special outreach issue, contact us at the **Seventh Day Baptist Center, PO Box 1678, Janesville WI 53547**. Our phone number is **608-752-5055**, and our e-mail is **media@seventhdaybaptist.org**.

Individual copies are free. We will need to add shipping charges for larger quantities. Please contact us for those costs.

We pray that the Lord will bless this story of our beliefs, and many others will join us on our "Journey of a Lifetime."



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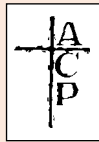


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# What I did on my “summer vacation”

## Testimonies from our SCSC students

The **Summer Christian Service Corps** training program provides a variety of learning and ministry experiences for college-age students. **SCSC**—a ministry of the SDB Women’s Society—has operated every summer since 1964. It has been the inspiration of many future pastors and church leaders.

We wanted to share some testimonies from our latest group of student servants.

## Lessons learned:

### Problem-solving, perspective and placement

by Logan LaGesse  
New Auburn, Wis.

For Summer Christian Service Corps in 2012, I was part of “Team Spirit” with Allison Johnson. We were sent to White Cloud, Mich., for our project. We stayed at Pastor Bernie Wethington’s house along with his mother Mema, wife Patti, and dog Brillo.

The first two weeks we were camp counselors, followed by a week of painting and miscellaneous stuff, and then worked at the National Baby Food Festival in Fremont for the last week.

Overall, SCSC was a great experience for me. I had my ups and downs but ended up learning some very important things including: how to effectively work with someone who is very different from myself, the importance of maintaining

a discerning spiritual focus, and that we should stay planted where God has called us. As I share my experiences from the project, I hope you can see how they helped teach me these lessons.

#### Working effectively with someone quite different from myself

Allison and I are very different. We have different gifts, interests, and personalities. I think we were both kind of concerned that we might have a hard time cooperating and accomplishing our given tasks.

We basically approach problems differently—Allison carefully plans, and I am more of an “on the go” type of guy. So, when given an assignment you would usually see Allison whip out a notebook and start plugging away at it, while I



*Logan LaGesse (l.) teamed with Allison Johnson (r.) and Project Director Angel Floyd.*

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was more apt to give it some thought and then forget about it until the time came to do it.

I learned that even though we approach things very differently, neither way is better or worse—they're just different. We can still effectively complete tasks working together.

### Maintaining a discerning spiritual focus

I wish I had learned this while I was still on project, but it took some thinking and discussing before I fully understood how this one applied to my summer.

I had a lot of opportunities to minister in White Cloud, whether I recognized it at the time or not. There were several incidents that reminded me of the importance of staying in close communication with God, and I'm thankful for those. But I wish I had had that attitude the whole time because I think that I would have been much more effective.

I once heard a quote that went

“  
**Several incidents reminded me of the importance of staying close to God.**  
”

something like: “A man is only as strong as his prayer life.” This was clearly portrayed in me during project. If I had more actively sought to be in close union with the Holy Spirit while in White Cloud, I would have had a lot more ministry opportunity.

It's hard to fully portray the importance of constantly seeing the spiritual side of things, but I've become convinced that I need to keep myself positioned in this point of view. I don't want to miss an opportunity because I am out of tune with God.

### Staying planted where God has called us

Since I just graduated high school, I have a lot of decisions coming up—college, career, etc... I've wrestled with many different ideas from moving to South Carolina for a year, to doing ministry with a non-denominational church, to the Marine Corps, to playing college basketball. In all of these decisions, the number one deciding factor is to go where God wants me to be (not where I think I want to be).

I heard John Bevere say that moving from where God has planted you is just like uprooting a plant; it will still live in its new location, but it won't be as healthy or produce as much fruit.

White Cloud was a place that made me think about *all* these decisions in front of me. I've realized that even though there are a lot of things I want to do, ultimately I *will* do what God wants me to do because that's the most important thing a person can do. **SR**

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## Watching God do His work

God did a lot of amazing things this year.

Since we were staying at our home church as dedicated service workers, my team partner (Allie Rudawski) and I had been working for five months on Vacation Bible School details. We had to plan everything: write curriculum, plan the schedule, crafts, groups and food, and find staff.

This was a huge task, but when

you have that much time, and when God is in the picture, it didn't seem that big. I try to focus on where God wants me to go and the next step He wants me to take to get there.

We were blessed to have a wonderful, experienced mentor from Milton. She taught us *how* to do everything. We did the work, but she was a constant support. She helped us understand, “Now you are here, and this is where you go next.”

After we finished training, we had just three days before VBS started. It was incredible to watch how God made everything fall into place. I specifically remember our all-staff meeting two days before things got started, and we lost a staff member we really needed. It was literally a matter of only a half-hour before God provided us a replacement.

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*I try to focus  
on where God wants  
me to go and the next  
step He wants me  
to take to get there.*

”

## Week 1

VBS went so well, especially the first day. It was almost surreal. Everything was on schedule, the leaders were wonderful, and the kids were fabulous. They loved everything we planned and they understood what we taught them—and that’s the important thing.

## Week 2

Junior High camp was the second week of project. Allie and I were staff members, chore group leaders, and we also led small groups, games, devotions and occasionally worship.

In small groups, we talked about the main lesson, and got the kids to go in-depth with the content. We tried to make sure they “got” it, since in large groups it’s sometimes hard to be sure they understand and ask questions about the topic.

What really impressed me was the content and how easy it was to take some things that are not always easy to grasp and get the kids involved and relating. I think it was the Holy Spirit working in the kids, preparing them for what was presented.

## Week 3

Intermediate Camp was the third week of project. One thing that all of the SCSCers there got to do was to teach two lessons. I mean the “meat and potatoes”—doing the

actual teaching. I had the first two days of lessons and that was pretty intimidating to me because I had never worked with that age group before. Although I understood what I was teaching them, I wasn’t sure how much to share and how to relate the content. Aside from VBS it was the first time I had to make a lesson plan, and implement it with the campers.

It was as though I got to watch God do His work. I was scared, but I watched the kids take an interest in what I was saying and to really think about it. Seeing that was such a good thing for me because—along with VBS—I realized the potential God has put in me. I hadn’t seen it before because I was so concerned about doing the right thing. I didn’t always remember that God is the one who does the work.

## Week 4

During the last week of project we visited some of the older church members. This was one of my favorite weeks because it made me realize how often we forget about the older generation. Society today separates people into age groups and you tend to only associate with your peers. Being able to talk with seniors and seeing how God had used them and changed their lives, made me remember how much I have in common and that they are just as much people as I am.

During that week, we visited a woman who was absolutely lovely. While we were there we found out her 88<sup>th</sup> birthday was at the end of the week. We mentioned that we should visit her then because it was our last day of project and we would have free time.

When the time came around we surprised her with a little cake and a small present. The joy that she got out of that was incredible. It made me remember how much “just being there” can do. Showing you care even in the small things—like stopping by to say “Happy Birthday”—can mean so much to someone who might not have family nearby. Showing that you care about someone is incredibly important.

I pray that I always remember 2012 and watch God at work! **SR**



*Sydnee  
Palmer (l.)  
and Allie  
Rudawski (r.)  
were led by Project  
Director Liz Green.*

## Music and ministry—

# *More than a feeling*

by Lance Greene  
Dodge Center, Minn.

This is my second year in the “Stained Glass” musical outreach ministry.

I really didn’t know what to expect going into this summer because of how amazing last year was. God sure took my faith to the next level.

I’d been praying a lot about growing closer to God and for Him to give me the faith to believe that nothing is impossible. I saw things happen that I really hadn’t seen before. We were given the opportunity to pray for people, which was really exciting for me. One person that I prayed for actually received healing—that was amazing! It really pushed me to believe that nothing is impossible.

Another thing learned was that I need to know that God is there for me even when I don’t feel it emotionally. I discovered that I was relying on God to show me through my emotions that He loved me.

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***I realized that I needed to have faith that God loves me even when He doesn’t exhibit that through my feelings.***

”

When God stopped giving me those emotional touches, I began to feel abandoned. I started to talk to Him and realized that I needed to have faith that He loves me even when He doesn’t exhibit that through my feelings. This realization has pushed my relationship with the Lord to the next level. I no longer feel abandoned and alone, but instead learn and grow closer to Him through the dry times.


Although I’m amazed by what God did for me I’m also amazed by what He did *through* us. A lot of people were touched by our music. I was encouraged a lot by the re-

sponse I saw from those who came to the concerts.

A lot of the kids that I saw were really moved by our music. They would come up to us after we finished and I could see the spark in their eyes. They didn’t really say anything about God but I just prayed for God to bless them. Some of the kids even opened up to me and talked about their home life. I took the time to listen to them and tried to make them feel as loved as I could.

We also played at a couple of nursing homes, and that was really awesome. There were some people there who hadn’t opened their eyes for months and were just down in the slumps. During our concert they opened their eyes and actually had a smile on their face. God touched them and that was incredible.

At another nursing home a man came up to me and thanked me. He told me with a tear in his eye that it was the best worship he had had in a long time. That was really humbling to be used in that capacity.

I pray that God continues to use “Stained Glass” for His glory. 



*Stained Glass 2012. Lance is second from the right.*

# Church is more than just a once-a-week thing

by Stephen Lawson  
Colton, Calif.

As soon as last summer was over I knew that I wanted to do Summer Christian Service Corps again this year. The impact that it has had on my walk with God is amazing. In the past two summers my spiritual life has grown exponentially and SCSC has been instrumental in that.

When I found out I was going to New Auburn, Wis., for the project I was a little nervous, to say the least. I felt it would be such a culture shock to live in a town of 500 people for four weeks.

After I got there, I was put at ease. The hospitality and warmth of all the people in the church was just amazing.

One big thing that God laid on my heart was the idea of being patient and doing things in *His* perfect timing—compared to running things on my schedule. I learned so much while serving in New Auburn this summer, and I plan to take all of it home and apply it to my daily life.

Another big thing that had an impact on me spiritually was the closeness of the church members and all



Stephen Lawson (l.) left the big city to serve in New Auburn, Wis., this summer with Caleb Gammons (r.).


of the different ministries that were constantly going on there.

I realized this summer that “church” and coming together to talk about and praise God should not just be limited to a few days a week. Instead, it should be happening constantly on a daily basis. I have found that it can be hard to walk with God six days all on your own. Coming together with fellow believers on a regular basis (instead of just weekly) is a strong

component in spiritual growth.

I am excited to go back home and share this revelation with my church. I believe that there is much that we are not doing as the body of Christ, and this is a big hindrance in our growth inwardly as well as our growth outside of the church.

A person told me something on project that I have found to be bluntly truthful: “If *you* don’t even want to do things with your church, then why would someone else?” That really struck me because sometimes I’ll choose watching a movie over a church event, and then the next day I’ll get frustrated when our church won’t grow and nobody shows up to things. If *I* don’t even want to attend church events then how could I ever expect nonbelievers to?

Let’s do things together for His glory and do them more often! 

“

***Coming together with fellow believers on a regular basis is a strong component in spiritual growth.***

”



# ON FIRE— to save others from the fire

by *Patty Petersen*  
Boulder, Colo.

*“...And how shall they hear without a preacher?” (Romans 10:14)*

As Seventh Day Baptists gather from all parts of the USA and Canada (and Australia and Guyana), Conference is a great time to learn new skills. This summer, 19 brave souls decided it was time to learn a practical way to share the Good News. This happened despite very real fears: “What if I do more damage than good?” “How do I bring the conversation around?” “How do I avoid arguments?” “I feel terrified.”

By the end of the week, these newly-trained fishers of men went out, two by two, and had many conversations with local people about their need for the Savior. How did this transformation come about?

For an hour each afternoon on Monday through Thursday, we explored personal evangelism. We considered how unthinkable it would be for a firefighter to arrive at a house fire with people trapped inside, yet never get out of his truck. His job is to save people out of the fire—and so is ours.

If we lack essential skills, we need to train and practice so we can be effective. Concern for the fate of the lost became a motivation stronger than our fears.

Then we looked at how Jesus and the apostles interacted with unbelievers, often reminding people of their sins by referring to the moral law. A person will not welcome treatment by a doctor if he believes there is nothing wrong with him. But if the doctor explains some exact symptoms that point to a terminal



*Conference attendees trained and ready to head out. Patty is second from the left.*

illness, the patient will welcome the cure, knowing it's his only hope.

If people do not feel guilty and repentant—knowing they offended God by breaking His laws—they will not feel grateful for the costly gift of forgiveness offered through Christ's suffering and death on the cross. They will not experience new life through the resurrected Christ. Even if they “pray a prayer,” they will not be converted. (Romans 2:4-5; Psalm 51:1-4)

We learned a dialogue to guide a conversation, beginning with the question, “Do you consider yourself to be a good person?” It helps people see their sinful state, and be ready to hear the good news of what God did for them so they don't have to face eternity in hell. (For the full dialogue, search on YouTube for “Are You a Good Person, Way of the Master.”)

Come Friday, donning hats and sunscreen and armed with a supply of Gospel tracts, we braved the heat and humidity to visit with people holding yard sales nearby. One student complained we quit too soon; she was just getting started!

One pair witnessed to three fire-

fighters until the fire chief told them it wasn't allowed while they were on duty. Later, they met a man who used to profess Christ but wasn't sure now what he believed. They prayed with him and all felt God's presence very strongly.

Another pair talked with four teenage girls who listened politely, but their grandfather turned out to be the one more interested in the Gospel. They also talked to a colorful married couple, together for 50 years, who were sure they were going to heaven because of their many good deeds. The husband had been a firefighter and saved people from death!

The witnessing pair tried to show them, “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy, He saved us.” (Titus 3:5)

Fishing, firefighting, interacting. However you label it, now is the time to share the Good News of our Master. **SR**

*If you want to learn more about this evangelism method, please contact me, [ppetersen57@hotmail.com](mailto:ppetersen57@hotmail.com), or friend me on Facebook.*

# Pastor Ken goes to Washington

## *Prays before House of Representatives*

*by Rev. Dr. Kenneth Chroniger  
Alfred Station, N.Y.*



On May 17, 2012, I had the privilege of opening the noon session of the United States House of Representatives with prayer. This privilege was provided by our Heavenly Father through Representative Tom Reed of New York's 29<sup>th</sup> District.

Thanks to the kind of "community" we have among Seventh Day Baptists, I was not alone—you were also present. Editor Butler has generously allowed me to share this experience with you.

How did this come about? While he was candidating for his seat in Congress, Tom Reed was invited to

serve at our soup and pie fundraiser. During his visit, a relationship was built between Mr. Reed, myself, and members of our congregation.

After being elected, Congressman Reed came back the next year to serve again at our fundraiser. At that time he mentioned to his District Director, Joe Sempolinski, that I would make a good candidate for Guest Chaplain of the House.

Each Representative is allowed to nominate one pastor per term to serve as Guest Chaplain. Both a biography and nomination were submitted by the Congressional office

to the Chaplain of the House of Representatives. Once the request was approved, the Congressman's office and the Chaplain's office chose a date that was available for both the Congressman and myself. After that date was set, the official letter of acceptance was sent with the guidelines and parameters for the prayer and the visit.

The prayer could be no more than 150 words, could not be controversial, had to be sensitive to the variety of faiths held by House members, and had to be submitted for approval by the House Chaplain.

Since there were no restrictions

on the number of people who could attend the session that day, 22 members of my family traveled to Washington, D.C., to be in the gallery during the prayer. We all gathered at the Congressman's office where we met his amazing staff.

When introduced to Congressman Reed's Chief of Staff, Jay Dutcher, my wife thought he looked familiar. We discovered that Jay and Peggy went to Salem (W.Va.) College at the same time. While the family had to sit in the gallery, I was given floor privileges for the day.

Prior to going before the House to lead them in prayer, I was introduced to the House Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, and the current Speaker of the House, Mr. John Boehner.

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*Pastor Chroniger (r.) met House Speaker John Boehner before entering the chamber to lead in prayer.*

Our Congressman walked with my family as we delivered baskets of New York goodies to the Speaker of the House, and Minority Whip Steny Hoyer. The baskets included maple syrup handmade by church member Lyle Sutton of Friendship, N.Y.; a Camp Harley Sutton mug and pen; a Gideon Bible from the local group; and athletic letters from the local Alfred-Almond Central School.

What a feeling to be walking the halls of this great building with my Congressman and being introduced to other Congressmen as a friend and “brother”! It seemed as if Congressman Reed was as proud to know a Seventh Day Baptist as I was to be one that day.



*Chaplain Rev. Patrick J. Conroy (l.), Congressman Tom Reed (middle) and Pastor Ken Chroniger enjoying the moment.*

As we met Congressman Joe Wilson from the 2<sup>nd</sup> District in South Carolina, we discovered that we both have sons in the military and a good discussion led to a promise to pray for our sons. Another memorable meeting in the halls was a young man also wearing a bow tie who recognized me (by my bow tie) as “the man who prayed today.”

Seventh Day Baptist Church” in the Congressional Chamber confirmed that we are a people whom God has preserved for such a time as this. To know that the prayer was broadcasted on C-Span and placed in the Congressional Record gives hope that others will know of a people called Seventh Day Baptists. **SR**

Many have asked what it was like to be there. It was a moment in time that blended together and yet stood still. It was moment to ask our Heavenly Father’s blessing on those whom He has raised up.

Standing behind the State of the Union Presidential podium was overwhelming. Hearing the words “The Alfred Station

***Pastor Ken Chroniger’s prayer before Congress on May 17, 2012:***

**Heavenly Father,**

**In this moment we wait on You. We take a deep breath and try stopping the rush and the hurry of life. For an instant, we ask You to lift the weight of government and the burden of our role in it from our hearts, minds and souls. We accept what we read: “Come unto me all you that labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.”**

**With the pressures of living in the House fishbowl, give grace and mercy to receive favors, limit mistakes made simply because we are human. Like those who have preceded within these chambers, give wisdom to govern. Fill us with faith and hope that what we do here is not running on a treadmill, but encouragingly touching the lives of the people at home.**

**Teach us, as we serve, to care for one another. In Jesus’ name, Amen.**



# 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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## A scalpel and a hammer

As I related last month, I underwent brain surgery on June 18th. It was originally scheduled for June 6.

Like most people, it's difficult for me to "wait"—whether I'm standing in line to buy ice cream or waiting for a surgeon to cut open my skull. The waiting was made a little easier because God constantly reassured me of His presence.

I shared in the last column that God sometimes "caressed my worried brow with a feather-like touch," but He also "hit me over the head with a hammer" to get my attention. It was like my Heavenly Father was an exasperated earthly father, scolding his anxious, doubt-filled, tied-up-in-knots child to stop worrying.

"I told you I'm with you always, no matter what. Don't you believe Me?"

Actually, God "hammered" me twice.

When I was diagnosed with an aneurysm, I met with Dr. Christopher Sturm, a neurosurgeon at Janesville's Mercy Hospital. Immediately, people began advising me to have my surgery in Madison. But I wanted to have it locally, and I liked Dr. Sturm from the start. (In addition to his wonderful bedside manner, he wore cowboy boots, just like my first husband, Denny.) I soon learned he was listed among the top-ten neurosurgeons in Wisconsin.

Then came the hammer. Besides being an excellent surgeon, he was a Christian who didn't hide his "light"

under a basket. The large painting outside his office door—of Jesus guiding a surgeon's hand—sealed the deal for me.

Prior to the surgery, I tried to relax at night by listening to Southern Gospel songs on a little CD player that I propped on my stomach.

Many of the songs were inspirational but far from relaxing as my toes kept time to such classics as, "I'll Fly Away." Then I came across a song from my childhood: "What a Friend We Have in Jesus."

My eyes filled with tears as I listened—really listened—to the words of that familiar hymn: "Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere? We should never be discouraged—Take it to the Lord in prayer. Are we weak and heavy-laden; Cumbered with a load of care? Precious Savior, still our refuge—Take it to the Lord in prayer."

As those comforting words washed over me, I thought, *Why not ask if that song could be the closing hymn on the Sabbath before my surgery?*

Then I realized it was too late to submit my request; that week's bulletin was already printed.

Two days later, I entered church, picked up a bulletin, and sat down in a pew. God "hammered" me again.

Upon opening the bulletin, my eyes filled with tears once more. The closing hymn of the worship service was—you guessed it—"What a Friend We Have in Jesus."

Following the service, I learned that earlier in the week, Pastor George [Calhoun] was on his way



*The painting "Chief of the Medical Staff" by Nathan Greene.*

to Madison to visit a hospitalized parishioner when the church secretary phoned and informed him he had forgotten to choose the opening and closing hymns. George ended up calling back and informing the secretary of his choices.

"But, ...but, you didn't know what song I wanted," I said to Pastor George, still feeling dumbfounded.

"God knew," he replied with a sly smile.

Then I added, "That hymn was my mother's favorite. Her second favorite hymn was, 'In The Garden.'"

Pastor George smiled a second time and remarked, "That was the *other* song I was thinking of choosing."

Sometimes, God uses a "hammer" to let us know He's with us. It's a way to get our attention. And He certainly got mine! **SR**



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

## Welcome home those veterans (from SCSC)

Leadership. It's a valuable quality that people actively seek out in organizations, businesses, and most importantly, in churches. Churches need leaders like crops need water to help them grow. The problem is that leaders in a church—like water in a drought—can be difficult to come by.

It's been said that "leaders aren't born, they're made." So the essential question becomes how does a church discover their leaders and help encourage and support those people so they can realize their potential?

Luckily for Seventh Day Baptists, our denomination already has a program supported and run by the Women's Board tailored to equip young adults with the tools and experience to become leaders at church and in the world.

Summer Christian Service Corps (SCSC) is a service opportunity where young adults can develop leadership skills while serving a host church in our denomination. This program provides a chance for students to step up and step out in their faith.

I remember the SCSC teams that came to my church when I was a child. They seemed larger than life to me. I knew that someday I wanted to be in SCSC just like they were.

Eventually, it was my turn. I was a student with SCSC four summers and recently had the opportunity to be a project director for the program at

my home church in North Loup, Neb. I can say that there was never a summer during that time where I wasn't stretched spiritually. SCSC puts you into specific situations that are meant to be good catalysts for developing leadership skills.

SCSCers are trained and sent out to use their training on the project,



but SCSC doesn't end when project is over. The training received and experience gained continue to evolve and grow and will be with you forever, in any situation.

The biggest challenge for me was answering the question, "How are you going to use what you've learned in SCSC in your own church?" SCSC isn't meant to be something that you just "do" for a summer; it's meant to be a transformative experience giving a young adult the tools and experience to walk into any situation and function as a leader in your church, even if that means following someone else's directions. But I was never sure how I was going to make a difference at home apart from my preexisting church functions.

That's where I needed help.

It seems much easier for me to walk into a room full of people who I don't know and lead. But how do you go to your *home* church and tell people who've probably changed your diapers, literally and spiritually, that you're ready to take on a little more responsibility? SCSC equips you with all of these great tools preparing you for leadership. However, unless you have the opportunity to use them it doesn't really mean a whole lot. Even though I'd acquired all these very helpful tools and experience, I needed some encouragement to use them at home.

Perhaps you say to yourself, *SCSC is a nice program. It's good that a bunch of young adults are doing service projects in different churches for the summer and growing spiritually.*

You're missing the point. Yes, what SCSCers do during the summer is important, but most SCSCers are also looking for ways to help out in their own churches afterward. We just need to be shown how.

Do you know a Summer Christian Service Corps veteran in your church, or someone involved with the program? When they come home, encourage them, talk to them about their summer, be engaged. Let them know they are a valued member of your church and help them continue learning how to be a leader at home.

SCSC is helping raise up the next generation of Seventh Day Baptist leaders. Let's support the work SCSC is doing by finding ways to raise leaders up at home, too. **SR**



## The Future of the Past

**“...what’s past is prologue”**  
—Antonio in Shakespeare’s  
*The Tempest*, Act II, Scene 1

What will become of our history in the future? This question has long driven the historical work of Seventh Day Baptists.

In 1863, the General Conference entertained a resolution “to take into consideration the propriety of organizing a Seventh Day Baptist Historical Society.” After a committee considered the matter, they advised that a standing committee be formed instead, with one member of each of the four existing Associations constituting the committee. They chose Alfred University as the repository for the collected documents, and the committee was charged with reporting to the General Conference each year.

For nearly 150 years since, our history has been preserved—first by the four-person standing committee, then by a larger committee of five, and finally (since 1916) by the current Historical Society. Emerging needs have driven all these transformations of the Conference’s historical work.

In 1916, the Historical Society incorporated so they could enter into an agreement to purchase the historical collection of Julius Sachse, which included a large number of items from the Ephrata (Pa.) Cloister. The Society needed to incorporate because at that point the General Conference was not incorporated, and thus not able to finalize the arrangements. One of the strengths of our historical work has been a keen impulse to carefully and thoughtfully respond to present circumstances to provide for the future of our work.

Present needs once again press on the Society as we consider the future. Since 2005, the Society has employed a full-time employee (me!) in an effort to accomplish several large projects: automating the collection’s card catalog, a new edition of *A Choosing People*, a website, and other projects. The Society decided to complete

“

***One strength is a keen impulse to carefully and thoughtfully respond to present circumstances to provide for the future.***

”

these projects knowing that it would deplete their resources, and so the window to complete the envisioned work was limited. As a result, there has been considerable urgency surrounding our work for the past several years.

The window for the Society continuing to complete projects in this same way appears to be closing. While the Society will still receive income from endowments, that income alone will not support a full-time employee, and we face a time of transition sometime in 2014.

With this in mind, the Society voted to appoint a “Historical Society Futures Task Force” to consider carefully how the Society will be best situated to conduct our work after that transition. The Task Force will explore budgetary and personnel matters associated with achieving the Society’s vision, and also a potential corporate merger with the Conference.

This final consideration is in response to Conference action over the past several years, but also because it may bear on the Society’s ministry and how it is accomplished in 2014 and into the future. We request your prayers for the work of this Task Force as they carefully consider a pathway forward.

This fall, you will receive a fundraising appeal from the Historical Society. This appeal will give further information about the Society’s mission, vision and ministry, as well as suggestions of future projects that require continued support.

If you value the work of the SDB Historical Society and want to see it continue as it has for the past several years, responding to the appeal letter is one way to do so. Joining the Society or making a donation through that mailing will help to ensure a “robust future of remembering” among Seventh Day Baptists! You can also make a donation to the Society any time on the General Conference’s webpage ([www.seventhdaybaptist.org](http://www.seventhdaybaptist.org)), and the Historical Society’s webpage ([www.sdbhistory.org](http://www.sdbhistory.org)). May God always provide for the future of our past! **SR**



# SDB PASTOR'S RETIREMENT FUND

## SUPPORTING THOSE WHO GAVE SO MUCH

Rev. C. Rex Burdick was born in Boulder, Colo., in 1922. At age 11 he was baptized and joined the De-Ruyter, N.Y., SDB Church. He went to Salem College in Salem, W.Va., and at the beginning of his senior year married Bette Lippincott.

After college at Salem, Rex attended the Alfred (N.Y.) School of Theology for one year and then transferred to Faith Theological Seminary in Elkins Park, Pa. There he earned a Bachelor of Theology and a Master of Sacred Theology while serving full-time at the Marlboro, New Jersey, SDB Church. He was ordained to the Christian Ministry by that church in 1948 (where he served for eight years) and was also accredited by the General Conference that year.

Bette and Rex had five children—Douglas, Norman, Carole, Martha and Pamela—in 10 years. While they were serving the SDB Church in Riverside, Calif., Bette died. Late in the following year he married Joyce Sholtz from Verona, N.Y.

Rex served six SDB churches over a 40-year period: Independence, N.Y.; Marlboro, N.J.; Salem, W.Va.; Verona, N.Y.; Riverside, Calif.; and Berlin, N.Y.




*Rev. C. Rex and Joyce Burdick*

Pastor Rex was President of the General Conference in 1964, serving on Commission for three years. He edited a special issue of the *Sabbath Recorder* in 1958 and was the Editor of the *Helping Hand* 1990-1992. He was a member of the American Sabbath Tract Society while in Marlboro, and served on the SDB Council on Ministry from 1978-1984. The *Sabbath Recorder* records his participation in at least ten ordinations for pastors.

While in Berlin, he functioned in a bi-vocational role, driving school bus and substitute teaching in the high school.

Pastor Rex and Joyce retired from Berlin to Verona in 1985 where they continue to be active in the SDB family. Under the “old” retirement plan, he receives funds based on his

years of pastoral service. The monies raised by the old “PROP” campaign are gone, and we need to continue supporting these faithful servants of the Lord. (Please see the April 2012 *SR* for more details.)

The Committee on Support and Retirement has a goal to raise \$25,000 per year to help our retired pastors. Can you please do your part? Your tax-deductible gifts can be sent to the SDB Center (address on page 3), or we can arrange a monthly automatic gift. Make your check payable to COSAR, with “Pastor’s Retirement Fund” in the memo line. Thanks so much! 

**Please see page 26 for some important messages from the Center on Ministry**



## 2012 Scripture Memorization participants

*Are You Ready?* was the theme for the 2011-12 Scripture Memorization Program. Just over 200 Seventh Day Baptists completed the program and 30 churches participated. The participants are listed here as an example to encourage others to hide God's Word in their hearts. The **Alfred Station, N.Y.**, Seventh Day Baptist Church had the largest number of participants complete the program this last year, so they will hold and display the Mary G. Clare Scripture Memorization Bowl for the year.

The 2012-2013 memorization program was listed in last month's *Sabbath Recorder*. Brochures were mailed to churches in August. In addition to or instead of those verses, you may participate in this year's program by memorizing Psalm 119:33-44. Additional copies are available from the Board of Christian Education. (607) 587-8527; [sdbbce@educatingchristians.org](mailto:sdbbce@educatingchristians.org); <http://EducatingChristians.org>.

The following people are recognized for completing the 2011-2012 Scripture Memorization Program:

### **Agape SDB**

#### **St. Albans, NY**

Dorothy Beaumont  
Eileen Brown  
Sylvia Clarke-Smith  
Amy Damon  
Venita Damon  
Clothilde DeSantos  
Joyce Fenderson  
Ann Granville-Carter  
Remona Shakespeare  
Ronald Smith  
Jacinta Sterling

### **Alfred Station, NY**

Mae L. Bottoms  
Elaine Brundage  
John Brundage  
Linda Butts  
Ivan Cherry  
Nancy Cherry  
Elianna Chroniger  
Kenneth Chroniger  
Madge Chroniger  
Katy Elliott  
Luan Ellis  
Abigail Noel  
Melissa Noel  
Abigail Quick  
Samantha Quick  
Eden Rao  
Beronica Rogers  
Cierrah Rogers

Sarah Torkaman

Amber Trudell  
Morgan Trudell  
Austin Whitney

### **All Nations**

**Gardena, CA**  
Gwendolyn Ewen  
Vivian Lynch  
Louise Oliver

### **Battle Creek, MI**

Lorrie Bird  
Nadia Bordun  
Caron George  
Tiffany Geske  
Beth Jones  
Judy Parrish  
Maryellen Wilkey

### **Bell SDB**

#### **Salemville, PA**

Esther Baker  
Leland Bond  
Lettie Bond  
Beth Boyd  
Lon Calhoun  
Eileen Claycomb  
Robert Claycomb  
Darlene Dimond  
Lois Fletcher  
Dwight Kagarise  
Jeannie Kagarise

Floyd Roberts

Ruthanna Roberts  
Ed Sutton

### **Berlin, NY**

Gabby Bink  
Josephine Cumminga  
Evelyn Davis

### **Boulder, CO**

Geneva Ferrera  
Valerie Heath  
Patricia Karlin  
Gregory Looper  
Jason Looper  
Nicholas Looper  
TJ Looper  
Darrian Muniz  
Luka Muniz  
Patrick Muniz  
Stephen Osborn  
Doris Rood  
Cletus Severance  
Keith Severance  
Matthew Severance  
Adalia Stephan

### **Bradenton, FL**

Richard Bond  
Susan D. Bond  
Keith Finley  
Laura Mirabal  
Mike Spearl

### **Central SDB**

#### **Mitchellville, MD**

Aaron Alonzo  
Cliff Gordon  
Pam Gordon  
Margaret Taylor  
Lydia Thompson

### **Daytona Beach, FL**

Brenda Harris  
Everald Kelly  
Leora Pinder  
Peaches Winborne

### **Dodge Center, MN**

Maria Bonser  
Karen Payne  
Josiah Robinson  
Dale Rood

### **Edgewater, FL**

Gail Jones  
Clayton McCall Jr.  
Caitlyn McCall  
Joanne McCall  
Keith McCall  
Linda McCall  
Norman McCall

### **First Genesee**

#### **Little Genesee, NY**

Elisa Camenga  
Kristin A. Camenga

Emma Palmiter

Olivia Palmiter

### **First Hebron**

#### **Hebron, PA**

Pearl Brock  
Cindy Greene  
Luke Greene  
Samual Greene  
Seth Greene  
David Hauber

### **First Toronto**

#### **Toronto, Canada**

Norma Anderson  
Natasha Reynolds  
Ashley  
Herlitz Condison  
Merlin Condison  
June Dillon  
Osbourne Dillon  
Marva Edwards  
Winsome Gilmore  
Debralee Gooden  
Sinclair Gooden  
Herman Grant  
Hermine Hunter  
Lorette Hunter  
Winston London  
Debranique Matthews  
Debroy Matthews

*cont. on p. 26*





## FOCUS on Missions

# Africa lesson #1: Time

by Clinton R. Brown  
sdbmissions.org

Returning from eastern Africa, I had many people ask me, “What was a standout moment for you?” Like most mission-type activities, it’s not what you contribute that seems to make the greatest impact, but the relationships you make and lessons learned that you carry away. These lessons improve your ministry and bring you to a better understanding of God and a closer walk with Him. The lesson on this trip was that **people are more important than schedules.**

For me this is a particularly good lesson to learn. Just a few months ago, I wrote on the importance of budgeting the time given to us and actually scheduling time to be with God, and doing the things that we are convicted He wants us to do. Where I may not have placed enough emphasis is that keeping schedules should only be done to *enhance* relationships, never at their expense. Love always trumps time. Time, like any other resource, is just a tool to bring people (including ourselves) into a closer walk with Jesus.

I was afforded an opportunity to consider this in a remote village near the border with South Sudan in western Ethiopia. The time was running out for us to make our flight back to the capital and our connection to Malawi. Noting that my guides were not very concerned, I tried to make sure as clearly, but politely as I could, that they were aware of the hour. They confirmed that they knew, but those we were visiting had prepared a simple meal for us and we should eat with them.

I gulped down my portion with thanks and readied myself to leave while those I traveled with casually enjoyed their fare and conversations. With difficulty I weakly masked my anxiety about the prospect of missing my flight and I politely conversed with the local brethren. After what seemed a very long half hour, we were making our way to the airport.

It turned out that our taxi had engine trouble anyway and we missed the flight boarding by quite a bit. Since that flight only flew every three days, I had a two-day bus ride to contemplate the preceding events. As a practicality, I determined to give my guides a much larger window of departure which kept me from missing any further flights and lowered my stress about boarding times.

However, more importantly, I had time to reflect on my shameful behavior in that village. I was sure



*Sharing a simple meal and meeting new friends in Ethiopia.*

my hosts had hoped to treat me as an honored guest and it was hard to imagine they could not “pick up” on my desire to be somewhere else. Indicative of their way of life, those I traveled with demonstrated that *relationships* have a much greater importance than timetables. For me to show so little regard for their feelings—just because of the position of the hands on a clock—had to affect my witness for them.

**I know that God is relational.** The Bible reflects His commitment to reconciliation, even at the expense of His only begotten Son’s blood for our atonement. If I am going to reflect the Savior in my walk, I need to better weigh the importance of being somewhere else and the value of the relationship I am experiencing.

I am not going to recant the importance of making time for God and His purposes, but I am going to try to be more intentional about respecting the value of time spent in relationships compared to making the next appointment on *my agenda*.

*“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” (2 Peter 3:9) SR*



# the BEACON

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

October 2012

## Could summer get any worse?

by Seth Osborn  
Boulder, Colo.

Hello! My name is Seth Osborn. I live in Boulder, Colo., I'm in the 11th grade, and I am the new *Beacon* editor. I'm very happy to have this job, and I can't wait to see what experiences I'll gain from it.

I'd like to talk about my summer. When I went to camp in 2011, our theme verse was Jeremiah 29:11—“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” I could tell that God was really testing me this year to see if I remembered and truly believed that.

My summer in 2012 started off with my first attempt at getting into a relationship. I told her how I felt, and suffice it to say that she didn't feel the same way towards me. Not

only that, but on the same day I found out that I hadn't made it into the choir that I wanted to.

That may not seem like much, but at the time, I felt that singing was really the only thing I was good at. Those two events occurring on the same day completely devastated me.

A month later, when the opportunity arose to be a junior counselor for my church's camp, I took it. I'm not completely sure why, but I'm glad I did. I went into it thinking, “Sweet, I get to help teach a bunch of third- to sixth-graders about God!” Who would have thought that I would end up learning some lessons of my own?

We had six verses that week, all of which applied to the events going on in my life at the time. I could type them all out, but I think I'll let you practice your Bible verse finding skills, and just give you the references and the general message that the verse gave.

First up was Isaiah 41:10, which lets us know that God is with us. Next was 1 Peter 5:7, which says that God cares for us. Philippians 4:19 says that God will give us what we need. John 3:16 tells us that God will save us. (I bet you didn't even have to look that one up.) 1 John 5:14 was the last daily verse, which says that God will answer us. And finally, the theme verse for the week—Hebrews 10:23—

lets us know that God is faithful.

Wow. I was astounded every day when these verses that were being aimed at these kids ranging from 8 to 12 years old were also helping me. Yeah, sure, I was feeling down, but God is with me and He cares for me. If I ask God for something, I can rest assured that He'll hear me.

God will give me what I need, so I guess I didn't really *NEED* a girlfriend or to be in my school's jazz choir, did I? God will save me, so I don't need to worry about the stuff that happens in the meantime.

And finally, I know that God is faithful. If I combine that with Jeremiah 29:11 from senior camp the year before, then I can feel at peace knowing that God's plans don't end with me feeling down in the dumps.

Senior Camp taught me plenty, too, and I had some great experiences there. (I don't know if I'll ever again feel as enlightened as I did when we all spent three hours alone with God at the end of the week.) Even Pre-Con taught me some great stuff. But there's nothing quite as humbling as learning at the camp you went to teach at.

God used this summer to help me grow a lot in Him, and I am very grateful for that. I just pray that He can help me to continue to grow spiritually, because I still have a long way to go. **SR**



One of these men is the new *Beacon* editor.

## A summer of “Intense Love”

by Nathan Crowder  
Boulder, Colo.



This year was such a blessing for me. As a member of the Summer Christian Service Corps (SCSC), I went to Colton, Calif., with Danielle Hazelton. Our team name was “Intense Love,” based on Romans

12:9-21. It’s quite a passage, because it truly describes the love God commands us to show to others.

Danielle and I have both been touched by God’s love and I hoped we could share that love with others over the summer. God sure enough opened so many opportunities for us!

The first major highlight of the trip was going to the LA Union Rescue Mission Center. It is a place where homeless people can become rehabilitated and learn to support themselves again. The coolest part was that it is a Christian organization that shares Jesus with those who show up.

We mostly prepared and served food, and we also had the opportunity to talk to a lot of other volunteers. The most striking conversation for me was when someone asked me why I was doing this SCSC thing. I remember thinking about it for just a little bit and then I knew. Before my first year in SCSC I thought it was simply a way to serve the church and get to know the denomination. Now it has become so much more than that. It has become about “finding yourself” with God. It has become my identity.

Yeah, it is a way to serve others but it is also preparing me to be a part of the denomination and to be involved in the community. It has changed my life and my view of God.

Another task on the project was to distribute flyers and cookies. We handed out close to 350 cookies to the businesses around the Maranatha Community Church, pastored by George Lawson. We also delivered 1,200 flyers about the Vacation Bible Schools we planned on hosting, along with 500 food collection flyers. We collected 157 pounds of food and got many new families interested in the church.

What was really special was how blessed we were through prayer. We surrounded everything we did with prayer. We prayed over each flyer and we prayed over the cookies; not only that they would be fruitful, but that they would open people’s eyes to God. We also prayed blessings over everyone who donated the food. Another event was on the 4th of July when we went to fire stations and police stations to hand out veggies and information about the church. It was so cool to see a prison cell and the fire trucks.

The rest of the mission was mostly spent on VBS. That is where the big blessings started to happen! With 46 children enrolled, it opened up so many opportunities to speak about Jesus Christ. The hard part came when we found out that many of them had never really heard of God before, let alone Jesus. It made me very sad that even in America some people aren’t reached.

God was opening huge doors for us. We were blessed with the opportunity to tell these kids about God and Jesus for the first time. It was terrifying, but somehow it just happened. God completely took control and He touched lives through us. It was so amazing! I pray continually for two kids in particular who seemed most affected. I just pray God’s blessings over *all* of those kids and their families.

God worked so incredibly this summer and He blessed so many people—not only through the project in California, but all over SCSC. I heard many good stories at Conference and Pre-Con about God’s mighty work. I can’t wait for next year and the great things God will do. Until then, God Bless You and stay strong in Him! **SR**



Colorado Springs, CO

July 28–Aug. 3, 2013



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

by Ralph Mackintosh

## **Are we on the same page?**

In addition to the incredible athletic feats and broken records at the 2012 Olympics in London, there were some lesser-known events that caught my attention. I was struck by the amazing precision and timing exhibited by the synchronized swimming competition.

I know it's not the most popular event for North American audiences but the dedication, practice and timing was impressive. Each woman had to execute the precise maneuver at the exact moment to coordinate with the other swimmers—they had to “be on the same page” of the script at all times.

For you football fans, when the quarterback calls a play, every man in that huddle has to know what page of the playbook he is referencing and what they are expected to do when the ball is hiked. They have to be on the same page.

God has a plan and playbook for His people, but I wonder if we are always on the same page. I tend to wander “off script” or fail to recognize what play is being called. As a church, are we synched together with God's plan for our local church body? As an association of churches called Seventh Day Baptists, are

we moving in a coordinated effort toward the same goal?

As Baptists we have long treasured our sense of independence of thought and local autonomy. But this “freedom of conscience” has to be tempered with a responsibility to actively seek and conform to God's will. There is no option to call our own play at the line of scrimmage or to choose to wander off on our own path.

God will guide us as we seek to follow His way. David in Psalm 16:11 recounts how God guides: “You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.” Proverbs 4:11 tells us that we will be led along straight paths, our steps will not be hampered, and when we run we will not stumble.

It is in light of these promises that I have chosen the theme, “Forward In HIS Footsteps” for the coming year. “Forward” because it is the only direction to stay on the path to furthering His Kingdom, and in “HIS Footsteps” because he is our Shepherd and Guide.

In an effort to help us—as individuals, churches and a denomination—get on the same page, I am asking every Seventh Day Baptist

to read a book this year. (I know it will be a miracle if I can get all SDBs to do *anything* all together but I'm going to give it my utmost effort.)

The book is *Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing the Will of God* by Henry and Richard Blackaby. I'm not asking you to read this because I think it is the perfect book, or because we will agree completely with every detail the authors write. I'm asking you to read this book to help us all get on the same page together.

As we read, study and apply the concepts, it is my prayer that we will begin to synchronize our wills with God's will; that we will seek and find His plan for our individual lives and our churches; and that we will be able to share as a denomination how God has been working and where we can join Him in His ongoing work.

If you need a copy of *Experiencing God* and can't locate one or can't afford one, please contact me and I will see that you receive a copy free of charge. Study guides are available for those who would like to use the book during a Sabbath School class or as a Bible study. My e-mail is [ralph.mackintosh@hoag.org](mailto:ralph.mackintosh@hoag.org) or contact me on my cell phone at (949) 394-7651. **SR**



by Executive Director  
Rob Appel

## Conformed? Transformed!

*“So here’s what I want you Seventh Day Baptists to do: with God helping you, I want you to take your comings and goings—your working, sleeping, eating, schooling, and everyday life—and give it to God as an offering. Accept what God does for you! And please don’t become so well-adjusted in your way of life that no one notices Jesus in your day-to-day life! Instead of focusing on your culture, give your attention to what God wants and soon you will be changed from the inside out. Please understand what God wants from you, and then respond to it... and do it QUICKLY! Don’t let the world around you drag you down to its level of immaturity and garbage. Because God can and will bring out the best of you, and He will develop a spiritual maturity in you!”*

*(Romans 12:1-2, My paraphrase for SDBs of Eugene Peterson’s paraphrase, The Message)*

Are you accepting of this world (conformed)? Or have you been renovated in this world (transformed)?

To be conformed means you mix right in and you look just like everyone else. You do what everyone else is doing, and you think just like everyone else is thinking. These days, that happens to also include promiscuous relationships, viewing pornography, inappropriate language, improper contact, malicious gossiping—basically ignoring God’s laws and decrees, and following man’s laws and disease!

But here’s the thing in Romans 12. The Apostle Paul is telling us *not* to mix right in with the world. Instead, as Christians—as Seventh Day Baptist Christians—we are to be transformed, converted, RENOVATED... we are to have a **make-over!**

Do you realize that being transformed means that we are being up-graded? We’ve been upgraded in this world and therefore we are not a part of this world anymore!

But it seems that the hardest thing for us Christians (us Seventh Day Baptist Christians) to learn today is how to live a Godly and Christian life in this earthly world.

There are too many times we let Satan throw situations at us and then we feel justified in our sinful nature to act just like non-saved people. There’s nothing wrong with us thinking those thoughts because that’s our natural fleshly nature. But instead of being conformed to the world of sin, we should rather be convicted of those thoughts and be transformed of this world! Why? Because this world is full of sin and destruction and death! I don’t want any part of that, do you?

I need to explain why I chose such a touchy subject to write about this month. There are so many situations that have come to light recently that demonstrate how many of us, myself included, don’t remove ourselves far enough away from this world. *This world corrupts and changes God-fearing people into worldly people.* This is a HUGE concern when the community of Seventh Day Baptists becomes so accepting of sinful behavior that we start mimicking what we see and hear.

Folks, we Seventh Day Baptists are not parrots programmed to imitate what is said around us! We are *God’s* people! After all, He has called us to higher ground—so let’s live like we are on the mountaintop, and not in the gutter!

When Christ comes to take us home, He’s not taking the **world** with Him. He’s taking the **CHURCH** with him! He’s taking the saved, the anointed and those who have had their sins washed away.

Jesus is not taking this world, He’s taking *us!* I’m glad we are a part of His plan! And being a part of that plan we should live seriously and honorably in this present world. So, are you conformed or transformed? Is your walk fed by the things of this world, or by the respect and awe of Christ? My prayer is the latter! **SR**



# Stewardship, Tolkien and a ukulele

by Morgan Shepard

I was recently asked to speak about stewardship. While I was not able to give that talk it did give me pause to think. I'm familiar with the word and have used it before, but I must admit I hadn't studied it much.

So, like any good student I searched the internet which confirmed my initial belief. (If it's on the internet it must be true, right?) I then decided to "Google" a little deeper and research "Christian Stewardship." *Gold Mine!* But I'm getting ahead of myself.

Before we talk about stewardship we need to understand what a steward is. A steward is someone who has charge of another's property until their return. My first recollection of the concept of a steward comes from J.R.R. Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings*. (Yes, I'm a LOTR geek.)

The Stewards of Gondor had been maintaining the throne for so long that they had forgotten the line of kings and were not receptive to "The Return of the King." The ruling Steward at the time, Denethor II, recognized the king's right and authority but was not ready to freely give it up.

God owns everything. God spent six days creating EVERYTHING and then He gave it all over to Adam to "...have dominion over ...subdue it ...rule over" (Genesis 1:26-30). God put Adam in the Garden of Eden "...to work and take care of it" (Genesis 2:15). Adam was the first steward.

Now what does "everything" mean? Well, I like to keep things simple, so for me everything means

EVERYTHING. It's not just the stuff lying around at the time of creation. Look around you—that's everything!

And it's not just the physical things. "Everything" includes your time, your talents, and your thoughts. Most importantly, it includes His grace and salvation. Get the idea? EVERYTHING.

*"This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and **stewards** of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it is required of **stewards** that they be found faithful."*

*1 Corinthians 4:1-2 (ESV)*


**stew•ard** *noun*

1. A person who manages another's property or financial affairs; one who administers anything as the agent of another or others.
2. A person who has charge of the household of another, buying or obtaining food, directing the servants, etc. (*Dictionary.com*)

## So, to review...

- God created and owns everything.
- God made us stewards of everything until His return.

We, like the Stewards of Gondor, are awaiting the return of the King. What are we *doing* with what He has given us? That is "stewardship," and that is next month's topic.

But where does the ukulele come in? Like any good *Lord of The Rings* movie you're going to have to wait for the sequel. 

## New position for new media filled

by Rob Appel

The Seventh Day Baptist Conference is happy to report that Jeremiah Owen, of the Foothill Community Church (SDB) in Montrose, Calif., has agreed to take on the position of Emerging Media Director. Jeremiah has the educational background as well as the hands-on knowledge and abilities in this expanding field. Better yet, he has the passion to see new areas of media succeed in communicating the message of Christ and SDBs.

Jeremiah will be responsible for development across the current


platforms of media—like Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube—as well as up-and-coming platforms. He will form and implement strategies and partnerships

to position Seventh Day Baptists into emerging technologies, markets, and content distribution platforms.



As someone who enjoys connecting with and working with people, Jeremiah will be an enthusiastic “Desk Missionary” doing the Lord’s work from his computer, smartphone or tablet, or whatever new technology comes down the road.

Please help me in welcoming Jeremiah into his new role as Emerging Media Director, and I also ask that you keep his ministry in your prayers.

Like us at [facebook.com/7thDayBaptists](https://facebook.com/7thDayBaptists) and follow on Twitter @7thDayBaptists. 


## Institute held in August

The conference room chairs, historical library tables, and hallways were all busy on August 13-17 as **Summer Institute 2012** was hosted at the SDB Center in Janesville, Wis. The Center on Ministry (COM) administers the annual class geared toward seminary and T.I.M.E. education students and is required for Conference ministerial accreditation.

This year’s class was on SDB History. Many of the class assignments were done during the year

prior to the gathering for lectures and discussion.

Standing in the photo (left to right): Librarian-Historian Nick Kersten, students Luis Lovelace and Chuck Meathrell, COM Executive Gordon Lawton, students David Fox and Carl Greene, and main instructor Janet Thorngate.

Seated: Students Veryln Hanson, Phil Lawton, Missionary Society Executive Clint Brown and Jeff Bloedel. 




## Grace appears in Twin Cities

by Dale Rood

There is a brand new SDB group meeting in Minnesota’s Twin Cities area. Grace Seventh Day Baptist Church is renting facilities at Emmaus Lutheran Church, 8443 Second Avenue South in Bloomington.

Worship is at 10:00 a.m. every Sabbath, followed by a fellowship meal where everyone is invited to remain. Members of the church conduct Bible studies and offer other opportunities during the week. This group has been meeting since mid-July of 2012.

The contact person is church president Greg Olson at 3131 Juniper Lane, Unit E, Woodbury, MN 55125-9562. Rev. Dale Rood, retired pastor of the Dodge Center, Minn., Seventh Day Baptist Church, is assisting Grace SDB in its services. Emmaus Lutheran’s facilities are located 3 blocks east of Nicollet Avenue in Bloomington, not far from the Mall of America. 

## Births

**Rogers-McCoy.** A daughter, Brynnlei Lorraine, was born to Alex McCoy and Hannah Rogers of Kearney, NE on May 1, 2012.

**Alonzo.**—A son, Sebastian Levi, was born to Joel and Laura Alonzo of Silver Spring, MD, on June 1, 2012.

**Bland.**—A son, Castiel Asa Layne, was born to Gary and Courtney (Taylor) Bland of Salem, WV, on August 27, 2012.

## Marriages

**Lewis – Armstrong.** Rohan Andre Lewis and Misty Reine Fogg Armstrong were married on July 28, 2012 at the Philadelphia (PA) Seventh Day Baptist Church. Pastor Kenroy Cruickshank officiated.

## Death Notices

**Ricardo M. Gaskin**, 42, of Willow Grove, PA, died on August 2, 2012.

**Katherine (Durham) Rousseau**, 97, of Paint Rock, AL, died on September 2, 2012.

**Frederick A. Spencer III**, 49, **Dixie Lee (McCullough) Spencer**, 47, and **Patience Josette “PJ” Spencer**, 9, all of West Union, WV, died on September 3, 2012.

## New members

**Alfred Station, NY**  
*Kenneth Chroniger, pastor*

Joined after testimony

Amy Morris  
Robert Dana  
Nancy Dana

**Battle Creek, MI**

*Kory Geske, pastor*

Joined after baptism

Brandon Medrano  
Joined after testimony  
Garret Makuch

**Marlboro, NJ**

*Robert Babcock, pastor*

Joined after baptism

Sarah Cruzan  
Mary Dumas  
Ajea Dumas  
Mildred Gibe  
Paul Kraszewski  
Katie Moncrief

**Milton, WI**

*George Calhoun, pastor*

Joined by testimony

Shelly Frank  
Hayley Griffin  
Zach Groelle

## Obituaries

**Cavinder.**—Bettie Isabelle (Woodcock) Cavinder, 86, died on April 28, 2012 at Evergreen Senior Care in Battle Creek, Mich.

Bettie was born November 1, 1925, the daughter of Albert and Elizabeth (Talbot) Woodcock. She came to Battle Creek as a young adult with her sister Lois, and worked at Kellogg's for a number of years before marrying Max D. Cavinder on September 2, 1950.

Surviving are her children, Sandy Shaver of Eaton Rapids, Mich., and Randy Cavinder and Christy Blanchard, both of Battle Creek; her beloved grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and her brothers and sisters in Midland, Mich. She was preceded in death by her husband, Max, in 1987, and a granddaughter, Nicole Shaver, in 1979.

A private memorial service was held at a later date.

**Fatato-Hoebeke.**—Freda M.

Fatato-Hoebeke, 81, died on May 25, 2012 at Oaklawn Hospital, Marshall, Mich., following a long illness.

Freda was born July 10, 1930, the daughter of William and Ellen (Spry) Curry in Verdunville, W.Va. She graduated from Lakin High School in Salem, W.Va., and received her Master of Arts degree from Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo. Freda worked at the American Locomotive Company in Schenectady, N.Y., from 1951 until 1954. She served as a pastor's wife from 1954 until 1970, moving to the Battle Creek area in 1962.

In 1968, she began a 26-year career as a teacher at Bellevue (Mich.) High School, retiring in 1994. She was a member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Battle Creek; Kellogg Jet Flying club (1972-1982);

*cont. next page*



and a member of both the Michigan and National Education Associations. Freda enjoyed reading, sewing and crafts, travel and flying, but her passion was spending time with her family.

In 1948, Freda married Eugene N. Fatato in Schenectady; he preceded her in death in 1971. She then married Donald F. Hoebeke Sr. in 1976 in Battle Creek; he preceded her in death in 1993.

Surviving are two sons, Paul G. Fatato of Battle Creek and Rev. Nicholas W. Fatato of Boston, Mass.; a daughter, Mary Ellen Travers of Battle Creek; a foster daughter, Charlene Snyder of Battle Creek; a step-son, Donald Hoebeke Jr. of Battle Creek; a step-daughter, Janet James of Whitehall, Mich.; a brother, Claude R. Curry of Lorado, W.Va.; 14 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Besides her husbands, Freda was preceded in death by sisters Faye Williamson, Marie Ronas and Irma Jean Hampton, and brothers Cleve and Harrison Curry.

A funeral service celebrating Freda's life was held on May 29, 2012 at the Farley-Estes & Dowdle Funeral Home in Battle Creek, with her son, Rev. Nicholas W. Fatato, officiating. Interment was in Viewland Cemetery, Schenectady, N.Y.

**Sanford.**—Gordon L. Sanford, 89, of Little Genesee, N.Y., passed away at home on June 25, 2012 with his loving wife beside him.

He was born April 26, 1923 in the town of Genesee, to Mark R. and Edna (Burdick) Sanford. He graduated from Bolivar Central School in 1941, and from Alfred Agricultural and Technical Institute in 1943. On August 7, 1943, at Scott Field, Ill., he married Wilma Siedhoff of Salem, W.Va.

Gordon served in the U.S. Army Air Corps for three years in World War II. He returned to farm in partnership with his father until

1954. He was then employed for 30 years by the Farmer's Production Credit and Federal Land Bank Association.

For more than 70 years, he was a dedicated member of the First Seventh Day Baptist Church of Genesee, where he served as deacon, moderator, trustee, Sabbath School teacher and youth activity assistant. For 19 years, he served, with assistance of his wife, as denominational treasurer of the SDB Conference of the United States and Canada.

Gordon had been active in local agricultural groups; president and member of the Bolivar Central School Board; served on the Allegany County Planning Board and the Alfred State Council; and was president of the Genesee Library for many years.

He was a member of the American Legion and the Air Force Association; Masonic Macedonia Lodge 258; and the Olean YMCA, where he was a lap-swimmer for over 25 years. In his retirement, he and his wife enjoyed reading and traveling, visiting all 50 states.

Due to complications from Parkinson's disease and other health problems, travel and activities in recent years was restricted. Gordon was especially proud of the accomplishments of his children, their spouses and his grandchildren. He was dearly loved by his family.

He is survived by Wilma, his devoted wife of 68 years; two sons, David of Wyomissing, Pa., and Stephen of Owings, Md.; two daughters, Cynthia Matthes of Springfield, Va., and Teresa Ploetz of Little Genesee; nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

Gordon was predeceased by his brother, the Rev. Don Sanford; his stepmother, Grace Burdick Sanford; and a grandson, Richard Ploetz.

A memorial service was held on

August 11, 2012 at the First Seventh Day Baptist Church of Genesee with Pastor Pat Bancroft officiating. Burial will be in Bowler Memorial Cemetery.

**Guyer.**—Carol Louise (Kagarise)

Guyer, 89, died on July 11, 2012 in Conneautville, Pa.

She was born February 4, 1923 in Salemville, Pa., daughter of Sherman and Julia R. (Thorngate) Kagarise. Carol married Axthle Guyer and together they had four children: Wanda Ness, Sherman Guyer, Janice Weatherby and Wendell Guyer.

As a career, teaching was first and foremost. Most of her adult life she worked with children with learning difficulties. One of her longest teaching times was with the Calvary Baptist Fellowship Christian School in Mercer, Pa. She was a member of the Bell Seventh Day Baptist Church of Salemville, Pa., and was still true to her home church at the time of her death.

Her final years were spent as an active member of the Rolling Fields Eldercare Community in Conneautville. There, Carol remained involved by leading prayer groups and doing a weekly story time with the staff daycare children. She also participated in the Red Hat Society and was a mentor to summer camp children. She continued to be an active part in pageants, plays, dramas and musical programs until she was physically unable.

Carol is survived by sons Sherm and Wendell, and a sister, Denise Green of Milton, Wis. She was the proud grandmother of 15, and a great-grandmother many times over. She was predeceased by her husband, Axthle, her daughters Wanda and Janice, and sister, Jean.

A funeral service was held at the Bell SDB Church of Salemville on July 14, 2012 with Pastor Ed Sutton officiating. Interment was at the Salemville, Pa., Cemetery. **SR**

## Memorization participants, *cont. from p. 16*

Florence Reynolds  
Linnette Reynolds  
Lorna Samuels  
Elon Sinclair  
Evelyn Taylor

**Little Rock, AR**  
Donna Monroe  
Sarah R.J. Monroe  
Susanna Monroe

**Marlboro, NJ**  
Marie Davis  
Sharon Davis

**Metro Atlanta  
Hiram, GA**  
Debbie Hargett  
Anna Ruth Lovelace  
Daniel Lovelace  
Joanna Lovelace  
Jonathan Lovelace  
Josiah Lovelace

Michael Lovelace  
Bettie Pearson  
John J. Pethtel  
Tabatha Pethtel  
Xavier Pethtel

**Middle Island  
New Milton, WV**  
Roberta Ash  
Aubrey Dawson  
Powers Dawson  
Clara Glover  
Cora Mae Lough  
Eudora Lough  
Emily Robinson  
John Robinson  
Heaven Smith

**Milton, WI**  
Kecia Thompsongordon

**New York City, NY**  
Beverly Alexander

Linda Anderson  
Jean Barrett  
Michael Barrett  
Cailin Bell  
Dawn McLean-Bell  
Ita Cox  
Clive Fairclough  
Avis Gayle  
Inez Gray  
Robert Jackson  
Lisa Moore  
Blanche Williams

**North Loup, NE**  
Ron Cargill  
Shirley Cargill  
Trevor Cargill  
Phyllis Clement  
Lexi Haglan  
Teri Morgan

**Portland, OR**  
Doris J. Bruce

Deb Stein  
Jon P. Wheat

**Raritan Valley  
Bridgewater, NJ**  
Jeanne W. Yurke

**Salem, WV**  
Cate Camenga  
Cathy Camenga  
Eve Camenga  
Johnmark Camenga  
Jonah Camenga

**Seattle Area  
Auburn, WA**  
Daniel Borek

**Shiloh, NJ**  
Jan Bond  
Phillip Bond  
Sharon Campbell  
Joshua Coleman

Nancy Davis  
Brandon Glaspey  
Meghan Glaspey  
Suzanne Glaspey  
Alex Hitchner  
Clara Mulford  
Holly Probasco  
Liam Probasco

**Verona, NY**  
Mayola Warner

**Washington, DC**  
Gabrielle E. Andries  
Trinity Saltibus

**White Cloud, MI**  
Millie Bleiler  
Carol Cruzan  
Cathy Cruzan  
Ed Cruzan  
Sheryl Deehan



## COM updates

by Gordon Lawton, Dean  
Director of Pastoral Services

### New Salary Guidelines

The 2013 "Salary Guidelines for Pastors" have been posted at:

<http://www.sdbministry.org/Pastors.htm#vj>

### Seminary Education

Students in the Seminary Education Program will again be fundraising for the program this fall. COM is encouraging them to make their contacts in 2012. The Memorial Fund Trustees have agreed to continue matching two dollars for every dollar raised by the students. We thank them and you for your prayers and other support.

We now have 11 in the Seminary Education Pro-

gram following the graduation of David Stall in May 2012 from Alliance Theological Seminary in Nyack, N.Y. Charles Meathrell will graduate from Columbia International University's seminary in December. At least two more are on track for graduation in May 2013. There has been interest from possible new students. When applications arrive and are approved, we will let you know.

### Pastoral Changes

Johnmark Camenga was called to the Lost Creek, W.Va., SDB Church and officially began September 1, 2012. **SR**

# KEVIN'S

## ORNER

### A legacy that's out of this world

A recent news release from NASA (the National Aeronautics and Space Administration) noted the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their launching the Voyager spacecrafts.

Voyagers 1 and 2 left this planet in 1977, and are just now reaching the outskirts of our solar system. Amazingly, they are still sending data back to eager scientists. The old Voyager program is listed as a "Current Mission" at the NASA website.

"Even 35 years on, our rugged Voyager spacecrafts are poised to make new discoveries as we eagerly await the signs that we've entered interstellar space," said Ed Stone, Voyager project scientist in Pasadena, Calif.

The twin explorers brought Jupiter and Saturn and their moons into sharper focus, and gave us the first up-close glimpses of Uranus and Neptune. At about 10 billion miles away from the sun (in different directions) it takes awhile for their signals to reach us, but scientists continue to listen for them every day. While the energy sources on the spacecraft are diminishing, they expect to keep communicating through the year 2020, possibly through 2025.

Why should we care about this? Any fan of Star Trek, or Star Wars, or star gazing can appreciate that search for knowledge and going "where no man has gone before..."

Why should I care about this? Because my Dad, while an engineer at General Electric, was in charge of the computer command module on the Voyager 2 spacecraft.

It's part of his legacy. Howard Eugene Butler died on July 20.

His legacy also includes developing the Sidewinder air-to-air missile technology in the '60s that is still used on military aircraft.

His legacy includes 15 years of working evenings and weekends to earn a doctorate degree.

His legacy includes managing the command computers for the earlier Viking spacecraft. The Viking achieved the first-ever soft landing on Mars, and garnered Dad NASA's Public Service Medal. He traveled to Pasadena to accept the award. Not bad for a guy from a little village in upstate New York.

His legacy includes being retained after his retirement to mentor promising young executives for GE. For writing a guidebook during that time, he received a personal thanks from CEO Jack Welch. Dad retired in earnest in 1988.

When Dad's health started failing in the past year, he recognized that he might need to leave his assisted living apartment and move to nursing care. His biggest concern? How much it would cost and how much it would deplete his savings.

He told my sister, "I want to leave you kids a legacy."

When Kim shared that with me, I wanted to yell, "A legacy is more than money!!"

Dad's legacy was having all of his grandchildren—none with extra time or finances—travel from various places around the country to attend the calling hours and funeral.

Dad's legacy was the line of people visiting the funeral home to console and reminisce.

Dad's legacy was the amazed response from those who read his obituary, not realizing the huge accomplishments in military defense and space exploration—only knowing him as humble and soft-spoken "Gene." (At work, he was "Howard" or "Dr. Butler"; with friends and family, he was "Gene"—and always a gentleman.)

We knew a great and highly-honored electrical engineer, but had an even better father. That's his legacy.

Godspeed, Gene Butler.  
Godspeed.



*Lift-off of Voyager 2. (NASA photo)*





## The Offer of Salvation

Vibrant artwork lays out seven Facts to real—and eternal—life. Powerful Bible references point readers to their need for Christ and his sacrifice, ending with an invitation to become part of the closest SDB congregation.

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