

# Changing Lives in

# Puerto Rico



*Plus:*

**Set Free Indeed!**

*page 7*

**Four words no  
parent wants  
to hear**

*page 9*

**Please Take  
our SR  
Survey!!  
see page 10**



## 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)

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# Hurry!!!

The Allegheny Association is planning to host an exciting **Church Planting Conference** next year in late April.

Some friends at "**Christian Calendars 2014**" have partnered to raise funds for the project.

If you buy a calendar from them, the planting conference will get a portion of the sales.

You must use this link: <http://christiancalendars2014.com/?affiliates=10>



Applications for SCSC team members and church projects have been posted! Go to [scscstainedglass.com](http://scscstainedglass.com), click on the main "SCSC" sub-head, and please watch "How Do I Apply for SCSC?" Read all the information and send completed application forms to: SCSC Committee, PO Box 1678, Janesville WI 53547-1678. **PLEASE NOTE** this new address.

Student applications must be post-marked by **January 10, 2014**. All church applications must be postmarked by **January 31, 2014**— NO Exceptions.

Please note: Students are limited to only two weeks of camp. Training dates are June 18-26. This will be a 3-week on-site project, with General Conference as the fourth week of project with the PDs supervising if possible. See the website for further information.

You may contact the SCSC Committee at the address above or at [SCSC@seventhdaybaptist.org](mailto:SCSC@seventhdaybaptist.org).



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# Spreading my spiritual wings in Puerto Rico

by Ruth Russell  
Albion, Wis.

June 15, 2013 was a very special day. It was Sabbath—which is always special—but this day contained an added blessing.

This Sabbath after worship, Pastora Judith Houts and I drove over to the town of Moca, 30 minutes from Bo. (Barrio) Hoyamala where our SDB church is located.

The time had come to celebrate a graduation party for the students who had been attending the “Primera Clase Biblica, Division Moca” (First Bible Class Moca Division) in Puerto Rico. We enjoyed cake, juice and music on the porch where we had taught the class. A generous family had let us use their porch and we set up a canopy tarp in their driveway for the graduation.

Each graduate received a beautiful certificate with their name and a gift bag containing:

**Small cookies** =

Sweetness of God’s love

**Toy animal** = To remember

God created everything

**Scripture bookmark** =

To learn God’s Word

**Decorative party horn** =

To make a joyful noise

**Balloon** = With Jesus,

our spirit soars and  
our prayers rise up to God



*Proud owners of Bible Class certificates. Pastora Judith Houts (far left) and Ruth Russell (far right) taught the people about Jesus.*

This being the rainy season, dark clouds loomed overhead as we drove to Moca. We prayed that God would hold back the rain until after our celebration. He did.

A Bible class graduation is a common enough occurrence in many churches across America and perhaps the world. But this graduation will always be a special memory as God brought me from a tiny town in Wisconsin to this island called Puerto Rico to teach these children.

It took weeks to actually locate where these children were and how to get to that barrio. I did not know Spanish and the children did not know English; quite a challenge, but God works everything out.

Here is how the challenge began. Pastora Judith’s mother was very ill and bedridden, so the Pastora could not go with me to start the class.



*Ruth Russell (background) had to cross more than physical fences to reach these people for Christ.*

She told me to go in Jesus' name, play the music and that the children would come. I did and the rest is history—Praise the Lord!

A very kind grandfather and grandmother let me use their porch to set up the flannelgraph board and play our little CD player. By using a lot of sign language, bilingual story books, coloring pages with memory verses in Spanish, and the curiosity of children, a Bible class grew.

The students' ages were 2-1/2 years up to the grandparents. Attendance ranged from four to 15 in the class, depending on how many could get there. Attempts at getting a translator were not successful, so God provided visitors that "happened to be there" when we were having class and knew a small amount of English. They always knew the few important words that were needed.

The rainy season continued, and with no place to have class indoors it made it necessary to adjourn classes until later this year. Members



*Pastora Houts helps the children at craft time.*

***The expression of joy and excitement on each face could not help but touch our hearts.***



*Continue to pray for our friends in Puerto Rico!*

of the class spoke to Pastora Judith after our graduation celebration because they were very concerned that we might forget about them. They wanted to know where they could get the music CDs to be able to sing and learn the songs in Spanish and English.

These people (of all ages) are hungry for the Lord. I thank God for bringing me to Puerto Rico, a place I knew almost nothing about and did not know the common language. I thank Him for putting it in my heart to stay here a bit longer than planned so I could plant seeds for Him in these barrios. As the students were given their certificate of graduation, the expression of joy and excitement on each face could not help but touch our hearts.

In addition to this Bible class, we also had two children's classes that met in Bo. Hoyamala two evenings a week. We were able to combine these classes into one that met at the Ministry house. By joining these two classes it gave the children (from 7-11 years old) a chance to learn with others outside of their own families.

We utilized the same teaching supplies and media that we used at Moca. Since these classes are held

at the Ministry—in a room especially prepared for children—the weather did not impede our teaching. Attendance of this class varied from two to nine children.

Those seven months were such a great experience for me. I thank God for giving me the choice to accept the challenge of leaving all that I know (my comfort zone) to go where everything was different. God called me to a task, I accepted, and He made everything work out.

In the process I have grown in understanding of God's Word, of people and their culture. My spiritual wings were stretched and knowledge increased. As long as it is His will, I plan to continue "planting seeds" back here in the States and everywhere I go.

Many thanks to all who prayed, sent letters, made calls of support and financial gifts to help with class supplies. May God richly bless you.

My prayer for you is that you will say "Yes" to God and let Him help you grow. I especially thank Pastora Judith for being a spiritual guide, teacher, mentor and example for me while I was in Puerto Rico. **SR**

# Mid-Continent Association meets to serve

by Linda Harris  
Colorado Springs, Colo.

“A Servant’s Heart” was more than the theme chosen by President Danny Lee for Mid-Continent Association in Colorado Springs, October 11-12, 2013. In addition to the messages on the theme (seminary student Philip Lawton on Friday night and Pastor John Pethtel on Sabbath morning), over a dozen attendees went to Crossfire Ministries on Sabbath afternoon to deliver warm blankets and hats as well as to sort and label winter coats and sweaters. Those who were able to go truly exhibited servant hearts.

Crossfire Ministries has been the focus of outreach ministry by the SpringsLife SDB Church as well as Springs Rescue Mission. Crossfire offers a pantry of food, clothes, toiletries, and necessities; a mission thrift store; outreaches to men and women; a quilting ministry; and several outreaches to foreign missions. Crossfire is located about a mile from the church.

Throughout the weekend, our Association pastors were honored. Co-president Danita Lee encouraged the lay people to serve the pastors, but it ended up that the pastors did more serving! In addition, Pastor John Pethtel was installed as the pastor of the SpringsLife church. Pastors Steve Osborn and Scott Hausrath officiated the communion service on Sabbath morning.

Pastor Steve James, next year’s Conference president, gave a presentation about Conference, including a video about the venue at Bethel University in St. Paul, Minn. We talked about making the right choices. The Conference theme song, “As for Me and My House,” was debuted by the praise team and we were treated to a video of the song in the afternoon.

Mid-Continent Association 2014 will be held in Boulder, Colo. **SR**



*Top two photos: Association attendees unloaded the clothing donations.*



*Let the sorting and tagging begin!*

Photos by Steven James

# Set Free Indeed!

by Pastor George Lawson  
Colton, Calif.

With the prevalence of guest speakers and special performances already scheduled, President Ralph Mackintosh wanted to squeeze more SDB pastors into his Conference program. He challenged a handful of our guys to preach an 8-minute message. Here is one of them.

In America, early July is a time of reflection on our nation's beginnings. We hear a lot about freedom and living in a country where we are free to choose and free to speak. We are free to go where we want, free to worship or not worship, and free to decide many things for ourselves.

At the close of an important speech to Congress on January 6, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt shared his vision of the kind of world he wanted to see after the war in Europe was over.

He spoke of four basic freedoms which should be enjoyed by all people: Freedom of Speech, Freedom of Worship, Freedom from Want, and Freedom from Fear. Freedom has been a part of our thinking throughout history.

Some think *lack* of freedom is the essence of Christianity. They picture God sitting up in heaven on His throne issuing rules like a trial judge—"Do this! Don't do that! And don't you *dare* have any fun!"

What a tragedy! God is all about freedom. In fact, it's only through

Him that we can experience real freedom!

Consider two statements in Psalm 119—

"I run in the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free." (v. 32 NIV)

"I will walk about in freedom, for I have sought out your precepts." (v. 45 NIV)

Both of these two statements connect freedom with God's Holy Word. One says that because we are free, we are able to keep the commands of God. The other says that since we seek out the precepts of the Scriptures, we are able to live in freedom. Freedom and the Word go hand in hand.

We certainly know people who consider the Bible as restrictive. They reason that if they were to really follow it then they wouldn't be free to do what they and their friends want to do. But is freedom from God and His Word really freedom? Not at all! Do you know what Jesus called that? Slavery.

In John 8, he contrasts true freedom from the slavery of rejecting God's Word—

*"To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, 'If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.' They answered him, 'We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?'"* (John 8:31-33)

Jesus' listeners totally understood where He was heading with the discussion. They bristled at the suggestion that they were slaves to anyone. Politically, and spiritually, they prided themselves for being fiercely independent.

But Jesus then went on to explain how they were really slaves.

*"Jesus replied, 'I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.'"* (John 8:34-36)

So what is this freedom we're talking about?

I believe it goes beyond the freedom to attend church or not attend. It goes beyond our freedom to read the Bible, to choose the denomination we prefer, and to speak out about our faith. When Jesus sets us free, it makes such

*cont. next page*



Pastor George Lawson

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## Set Free Indeed! cont. from page 7

an impact on our personal lives that we are “free indeed” to live overcoming, productive lives.

The story is told about a covey of quail at a little village farmer’s market, walking in circles around a pole. They had strings attached to their legs, and they continued to walk around and around the pole hour after hour. A man came into the market and asked, “How much will you take for all of them?”

He paid the owner the agreed-upon price and then began to cut the strings off of their legs.

“What are you doing?” the salesman asked in unbelief.

“I paid for them, and I’m setting them free,” said the new owner.

But in spite of the strings being cut—giving the quail their freedom—they continued to walk around the pole in the same old circle. Until they were finally shooed away, they didn’t even realize that they were free and that they could go in a different direction.

What does this freedom include? Here are just three of those freedoms:

### 1. Freedom from the Guilt of Sin

A gentleman wrote the IRS: “Enclosed you will find a money order for \$150. I cheated on my income tax return last year and have not been able to sleep ever since. If I still have trouble sleeping I will send you the rest. Sincerely, A Taxpayer”

God’s Word says we can do something about true guilt. We go to Jesus and simply say, “I’m guilty. I’ve sinned. Forgive me.”

1 John 1:9 says, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”



### 2. Freedom from the Consequences of Sin

Sin has consequences. Most of the time we can’t go back and erase the results of our actions. Sometimes we can’t repair the damage done in relationships. Sometimes we can’t just “fix” things because sin has consequences. But thank God we can be free of the *final* consequences of sin.

Romans 6:23 says, “The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Galatians 5:1 tells us, “It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.”

### 3. The Freedom to Be All that God Wants You to Be

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.” (John 10:10)

I don’t know about you, but I

don’t want just a life... I want this *abundant* life!

What is the truth? Scripture tells us that Jesus himself is the Truth that sets us free. In John 14:6 Jesus said, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

He didn’t say, I HAVE the Truth or I KNOW the Truth... but rather I AM the Truth.

Jesus frees us to BE all that God wants us to be. Through His Word we can begin to experience a new life because of His guidance and direction in our everyday lives.

Of course, the world has never achieved Roosevelt’s dream. Even if it had, we would still need another freedom the President didn’t mention: Freedom from Ourselves and the tyranny of our sinful nature.

God’s Word says that this kind of freedom is only available through Jesus Christ. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. **SR**



# Four words no parent wants to hear

by *Jim Lyke*  
Milton, Wis.

“Your child has leukemia.”

I sat numb in the hospital room as the doctor explained that my 21-year-old daughter’s blood test contained cells that 95% of the time are an indication of acute leukemia. He assured us that the diagnosis wasn’t a death sentence, that treatment had advanced in the last decade, that there were lots of reasons to be optimistic.

Of course, there was still a 5% chance that her illness was an infection of some sort, so an MRI was scheduled for the next day, not to mention a spinal tap and a bone marrow biopsy. The bone marrow biopsy was the critical test, the one that would positively confirm (or rule out) leukemia.

Various thoughts swirled. How do we tell our son? How do I tell my mother? If she needs a bone marrow transplant, can I be the donor?

How quickly things had changed in the span of about 60 hours. Two days before, Corrine had been at a farm in northern Minnesota, the site of her summer employment, when she suddenly passed out. It was the culmination of a week in which she experienced progressive symptoms that included headaches, fatigue, insomnia and night sweats.

My wife and I dropped everything on a moment’s notice and drove over 13 hours to bring her home.

Obviously something was wrong, but leukemia? We weren’t prepared for that, and we are a family that’s had our share of cancer. My mother-in-law lost her battle with it last fall. It also struck my children’s other three grandparents, with only one



surviving the ordeal. And just the week before, my wife’s sister had a melanoma removed from her leg.

Leaving our daughter at the hospital, my wife and I went home—scared, tired and stressed. We stood together and prayed. I stood hand-in-hand with Linda as she prayed that the bad blood cells would disappear.

I’m a believer in prayer, but I found myself doubting that such an outcome was possible, and that we needed to be concerned now with healing. I kept those thoughts to myself as she prayed and then emailed our church’s prayer chain, requesting that everyone ask for the same miracle.

The following day, the bad cells disappeared.

All of Corrine’s subsequent blood tests showed no evidence of the cells that led to the initial leukemia diagnosis. We didn’t know for certain until the biopsy results confirmed it, but within a day of that terrible news, several signs gave us confidence it wasn’t cancer. Instead, it was a nasty virus that should have no long-term effects.

So was it a miracle? Did God

answer the prayers that we and so many others had made on my daughter’s behalf?

Non-Christians—and perhaps many Christians—will say it was pure coincidence; that it was simply a case of medical personnel misreading the first blood test and drawing an incorrect conclusion.

Others may say we’re being presumptuous. Why are we so special that God would answer our prayers and not those of others? Only God can say why some prayers are answered with a yes, and others are not.

We don’t know His plans for us, but the Bible is peppered with verses that encourage us to pray and to offer petitions. Those passages are obviously there for a reason.

Some think I should be incredibly incensed that on the basis of one initial test, a doctor told us with almost absolute certainty that my daughter had cancer. It would be easy to feel that way. His explanation and his delivery of the news was not handled well. Based on what he had seen, however, that was the logical conclusion.

Regardless, what the doctor said to us in that hospital room is not important now. What is important is that my child does not have leukemia.

And, that 95 percent is still less than 100. **SR**

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*Jim and Linda Lyke are members of the Milton, Wis., SDB Church. This first appeared in The Janesville Messenger, August 18, 2013.*

# The **SABBATH** RECORDER



## SURVEY



To help direct our time and publishing resources more efficiently, the Tract Council would love your feedback on our magazine. Send your response by **JANUARY 31, 2014**. Thank you!!

Please fill out the Survey and mail to: **Sabbath Recorder**, PO Box 1678, Janesville WI 53547  
Or FAX the completed form to: 608-752-7711  
Or take the survey ON-LINE at: [www.surveymonkey.com/s/SRSurvey2014](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SRSurvey2014)

1. How often do you read your *Sabbath Recorder*?

Every issue  Occasionally  Seldom

In what format do you read it? Print  On-line  Both

If you're not reading the *SR* regularly, why?

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2. Do you find the articles engaging? Yes  No

Any particular issue or theme stand out for you? \_\_\_\_\_

Which "Department" pages do you read?

Family news  Kevin's Korner  History  Health  Women's

Christian Ed  Missions  Alliance in Ministry  Reflections

President's  Council on Ministry  Beacon  Young Adult

3. Have you used the *SR* as a tool for outreach?

Whole issue  Single articles  On-line features  On-line links

If not, why? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. What kind of articles would you like to see in future issues? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. Please **RANK from 1 to 6** (1 being most important)

what you see as the *Recorder's* primary purpose:

To build community \_\_\_\_\_ Read church news \_\_\_\_\_ Connect to Conference \_\_\_\_\_

Sabbath education \_\_\_\_\_ Encouragement \_\_\_\_\_ Evangelistic outreach \_\_\_\_\_

6. Would you be willing to pay a modest minimum donation to continue to receive the *SR*?

Yes  No

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# 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*

## So, why on December 25th?



As Christians, we recognize “Jesus is the Reason for the Season” when Christmas rolls around. Yet, how many of us actually know the history of the word, “Christmas,” and why we celebrate it on December 25?

Using various sources—and quoting the late radio broadcaster, Paul Harvey—“Here’s the rest of the story.”

Christmas is an annual holiday that celebrates the birth of Jesus. It refers both to the day celebrating the birth, as well as to the season that day initiates. One source noted that Jesus’ baptism was originally seen as more important than his birth, because that was when he started his ministry. However, people soon wanted a separate day to celebrate his birth.

No one knows Jesus’ *actual* birth date, since no date is given in the Bible. Thus, the day most people celebrate as Jesus’ birthday—December 25—is solely “traditional.” Many historians believe Jesus was born between 7 and 2 BC.

The Western Catholic Church didn’t randomly choose December 25 as Jesus’ birthday. One theory is that date was close to the Winter Solstice, the shortest day of the year with the longest night. After that, days began lengthening. That meant spring was on its way. During the Winter Solstice, European pagans worshipped the sun for winning over the darkness of winter.

Just like today, when many non-believers celebrate Christmas as a secular observance, the early Church recognized that people would continue to celebrate the solstice. By selecting December 25 as Jesus’ birth date, it gave them a completely *different* reason for the celebration. In today’s society, few people think of Christmas as a pagan feast day.

Another ancient festival occurring around December 25 was the Dies Natalis Solis Invicti, translated as “Birthday of the Unconquered Sun.” It celebrated the “birthday” of Mithra, the pagan sun god. Early Christians may have helped to give this festival new meaning by celebrating the birth of the Son of God as “the unconquered Son.” (Malachi 4:2 refers to Jesus as

“the *sun* of righteousness.”)

One early Christian tradition holds that, on March 25, Mary received the news she would give birth to a special baby. Nine months later, on December 25, Jesus was born.

The first recorded date of Christmas being celebrated on December 25 was in 336 AD, during the time of Constantine, the first Christian Roman emperor. A few years later, Pope Julius I officially declared the birth of Jesus would be celebrated on December 25. The prominence of Christmas Day gradually increased after Charlemagne—a medieval emperor who ruled much of Western Europe—was crowned on Christmas Day in the year 800.

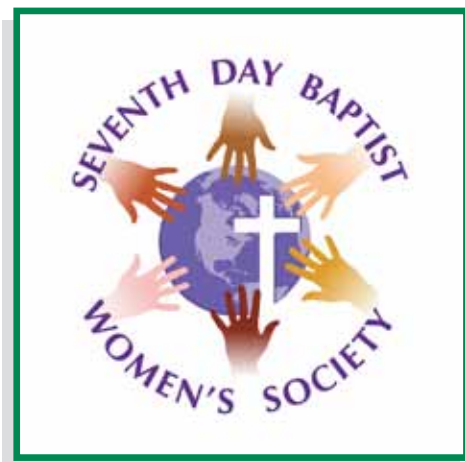
The word “Christmas” means “Christ’s Mass” and is from the Middle English word, “Christemasse.” That term was first used in Old English (“Christes moesse,” meaning the mass or festival of Christ) around 1038. Although many people think it’s sacrilegious to use the abbreviation Xmas, the “X” is actually the first letter [chi] of the Greek name for Christ.

A Lutheran pastor in Kentucky, Dr. Richard P. Bucher, pointed out that early Christians “considered the Mass (Lord’s Supper) to be the most important part of the celebration of Christ’s birth, hence it came to be called Christmas.”

Although many people celebrate Christmas Eve on December 24 and Christmas Day on December 25, those dates vary, depending on which calendar a country uses: the Gregorian, the Julian, or the revised Julian calendar.

So, in addition to December 25, some people also celebrate Christmas on January 6 or 7. Several countries where its residents celebrate Christmas in January are Ethiopia, Russia, Georgia, Ukraine, Serbia, the Republic of Macedonia, and the Republic of Moldova.

Now, you know “the rest of the story.” **SR**



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

## Intentional acts of kindness

Evangelism. Not many words strike fear into the hearts of Christians quite like this one. The stigma attached, especially in today's society, is not all that favorable.

We talk about evangelism and how we need to do it. We take seminars that teach the 24 different approaches to sharing the Gospel in an attempt to demystify evangelism and find the best way for us to personally share our faith.

There isn't anything inherently wrong with talking about evangelism or going through a course to learn about presenting the Gospel to others. But when you've done those things, what happens? Maybe you get "on fire" for a while, but most of the time it wears off. Why is that?

I think we often make the mistake of putting evangelism in a box, relegating it to a certain time at certain points in our lives. When we do that, it becomes easy to forget that evangelism isn't just talking about Jesus; it's about following in his footsteps.

Look at what Jesus did. Yes, he preached, but most of the time he used parables, stories relating to the general public for easy consumption. And *most* of the time he didn't preach—he healed, met the needs of people and then invited them to follow him. He talked about himself and what he meant, but most of the time that was confined to the disciples, people who already knew him (John 14, Matthew 13, etc.)

So maybe we don't have to memorize all 24 perfect presentations of the Gospel in order to be perfectly prepared to present the Gospel in any situation. Perhaps there is a better way than talking.

People today tend to hear the name of Jesus and be instantly turned off by preconceived notions about who Jesus is and probably by some poor experiences

with Christians. We are so afraid of evangelism because people are turned off by religious Christianity. The reality is that I could probably talk to someone till I'm blue in the face, but where is the evidence that I'm sincere?

I feel as though evangelism sometimes comes off as an infomercial; trying to sell people something that will improve their lives. How many people trust infomercials? We don't need to *sell* the Gospel, it sells itself—oftentimes by the evidence of its work in our lives.

Recently, my sister had the opportunity to participate in performing random acts of kindness in honor of a loved one who had passed on. The family and my sister spent the day handing out bracelets, brownies, little pumpkins, and smiles in an effort to commemorate the person.

I'm sure people were curious about what was going on and why they were doing these things. They didn't have to drum up interest. Isn't this every evangelist's dream?

So what if we took random acts of kindness and applied them to evangelism? What if Christians just ran around doing nice things for people without expecting anything in return? What if, in order to commemorate the most important person who ever lived, we went around doing good, following Jesus' own example?

'Tis the season we celebrate the birth of the greatest gift this world has ever known: Jesus. This is a perfect time to begin *intentional* acts of kindness.

Be the evidence of Christ. Go through your day looking for ways to do something kind for people you come into contact with. It doesn't need to be big or planned. All you have to do is keep your eyes open and pay attention to your surroundings, looking for opportunities.

If they ask why, simply tell them you're doing your best to honor the life of a very important person in your life: Jesus. At this point if they have more questions, those 24 different ways to present the Gospel *might* come in handy. **SR**



*What if we took random acts of kindness and applied them to evangelism?*





## Where we all begin

*“In every conceivable manner, the family is link to our past and bridge to our future.” –Alex Haley*

*“This is the written account of Adam’s family line.” (Genesis 5:1 NIV)*

*“This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of Abraham, the son of David.” (Matthew 1:1 NIV)*

When I was 17 years old, I decided to sit down and attempt to write my autobiography. The logic behind this curious decision seemed sound: I wanted to write down the important events of my first 17 years before I forgot them.

As I tried to write about myself, however, I discovered a rather troublesome problem. I couldn’t say anything about where I came from without describing my family. In an attempt to scale back my project from detailing all the history requisite for my existence, I decided to start talking about my parents. Unfortunately, I wasn’t skilled or disciplined enough in my writing to avoid talking about my grandparents, since I knew that some of their influence passed down through my parents to me.

I couldn’t escape from telling the story of my family before I tried to make sense of my own story.

I suspect that this truth I stumbled across in my teenage years is true of all of us, no matter the specifics of our family background. All of us are indebted to the people who gave birth to us and raised us in very important ways. This may be why the Bible itself takes such pains to record the stories of where everyone comes from.

The book of origins, Genesis, takes its name from the Greek word from which we get the word genealogy. That book contains ten accounts which describe the growth of the families of humanity, from Adam to Jacob.

At the beginning of Matthew’s gospel, Jesus is introduced by way of a genealogy. It appears because of God’s promises to the patriarchs and the subsequent

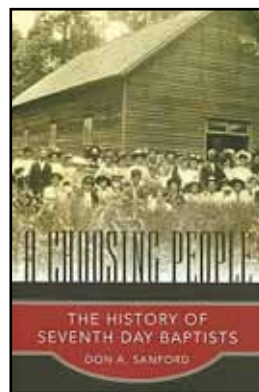
generations of God’s people. Where Jesus came from, family-wise, makes a difference in how we are to understand him.

No matter our family backgrounds, our own stories are tied up in where we come from, and, more important, WHO we come from. As believers in Jesus, all of us are children of God, adopted because of the gift of the only begotten Son. And in our covenant communities, we are families of faith, no matter who our earthly parents are.

This profound mystery is part of what we celebrate when we remember the birth of Jesus to a virgin. The obvious questions of Jesus’ parentage are part of the core of what we celebrate as believers—that through Christ we also can be called “Children of God” (1 John 3:1).

This season, as you consider what the Lord has done for us, remember not only your story, but the story of the generations which have come before you. Your story is given meaning, at least in part, by theirs. Ultimately, all of our stories find their source in the God who gives life, and then when we fail, saves us with His own blood. **SR**

***Our own stories are tied up in where we come from, and, more important, WHO we come from.***



**Now Available:**  
eBook versions of ***A Choosing People***, by Don A. Sanford, for both Kindle and Nook. Search at Amazon or Barnes & Noble to get yours today!



# Seminarian Profile

## Seminarian Profile



**Name:** Michael G. Spearl

**Birthdate and place:**

July 10, 1954 Limestone, ME—stayed there 2 months;  
Home base for the other 59 years: Florida  
Family: Widower (wife Marilyn died 4/28/13);  
Son, Samuel and his wife, Kristi;  
3 grandsons: Ayden, Eli, & Caleb

**Education:**

Miami Killian Sr. High School  
University of the Philippines, BS Chemistry  
Florida International University, BS Electrical  
Engineering  
University of Central Florida, MS Electrical Engineering  
Columbia (S.C.) International University, current  
seminary. I'm halfway through the seminary program.

**Ministry experience:**

Deacon at SDB Church of Daytona Beach, FL  
Multiple mission trips to the Philippines  
Pastor, Bradenton (FL) SDB Church, Nov. 2006–  
present

**Non-ministry experience:**

US Navy, 1972-1976  
Drug Toxicologist, 1980-1985  
Electrical Engineer, 1986-1998  
Electronics Instructor, 1999-2005

**Favorite Bible passage:** Galatians 5:6b *“The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love”* (NIV)

**Favorite authors:** John Stott; Apostles John, Peter, and Paul (with ample guidance from Holy Spirit)

**If given a \$10,000 check I would:** give \$5,000 toward a church facility in Bradenton, FL and \$5,000 toward a church facility in Daet, Camarines Norte, Philippines—a sister church of Bradenton SDB.

**A great answer to prayer was:** In February 1980, my wife’s doctor advised us to abort her pregnancy because the doctor was certain the pregnancy was actually a hydatidiform mole. This is a condition in which tissue around a fertilized egg develops as an abnormal cluster of cells in the uterus after fertilization. We prayed about it and decided against the abortion. Our son is now 33 years old. My wife never conceived again.

**A project I’m excited about:** Our ministry band, “This Train,” plays in local nursing homes and at various events. It’s wonderful to sing about our Lord Messiah Jesus and be appreciated for it, too!!

**My vision for SDBs:** Many of us have a keen desire to help our fellow man have a better quality of life. We desire to serve and to share our resources and touch the sick, but our ultimate hope in so doing is that people will see Jesus in us. One author has said, “The world is not looking for a life-changing message; rather the world is looking for a life that’s been changed by the message.”

My vision is that SDBs will recognize the opportunities they have to show others that asking Jesus to become the Lord and Master of their lives is the most valuable decision a person can ever make. **SR**



## Kurt Berg named Teacher of the Year

Kurt Berg is the 2013 Sabbath School Teacher of the Year. A member of the Riverside, Calif., Seventh Day Baptist Church, Kurt has served for more than 20 years as a Sabbath School teacher for adults.

Each year the Board of Christian Education seeks nominees whose outstanding teaching skills have contributed to the Christian nurture of Seventh Day Baptists. Because we choose only one person as the Crystal Apple recipient each year, there are many teachers worthy of recognition who are not identified and honored. Nevertheless, we seek to honor one teacher on behalf of the many who have shared Christ and His teachings.

One of Kurt's students stated that "to be a truly effective teacher of the Word of God, you must not only master the Word, but be mastered by it." Kurt's life and teaching demonstrate that reality. This student was impressed by his teaching style. "There are no special tricks, no gimmickry, no special programs or systems. There is just the Word and Kurt's love for the Word, week after week, month after month, and year after year."

Simply showing up for Sabbath School class—having read the Scripture and completing the needed research—isn't enough to be a great Sabbath School teacher. You have



***"There are no special tricks, no gimmickry... There is just the Word and Kurt's love for the Word."***

to love those God has brought to your class. Kurt shows this love.

"All are really dear to Kurt," and his "is a class of acceptance and collaboration, a place where all are valued and none are shunned." One student, having observed Kurt's teaching for quite some time summarized the way he loves his students as "unconditional."

One city advertises itself with the slogan, "What happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas." While there might be times in life where we wish a statement like that could be true, Sabbath School class is not one of them. Teachers and students should

grow in grace and knowledge, and this should be seen in all of life. We want to be able to say, "What happens in Sabbath School, sticks with you forever."

If this is going to be true, it has to start with the teacher. Kurt doesn't just talk. "He is no 'Saturday only' believer, but a 24 hours a day, seven days a week Christian."

Knowing the Word, loving the students, and living God's call are three important ingredients in being a great Sabbath School teacher. A fourth is encouraging and inspiring students to do the same things. This characteristic showed in the testimony that accompanied Kurt's nomination. His service as a teacher was said to have "changed lives" and to help keep people anchored to the Lord and His Word. Kurt's desire to know and follow God's Word was called "infectious" (in a good way).

We thank Kurt for his years of faithful service to the Riverside, Calif., SDB Church.

As this calendar year ends, consider your Sabbath School teachers. Some of them provide excellent lessons week after week and demonstrate a commitment to His calling year after year. Let them know that you appreciate their hard work. Let them know that their effort is helping produce the fruit a teacher longs to see: lives changed for God's glory. **SR**





# FOCUS on Missions

# Missionary Society Christmas Gift List!

The response from SDB families to the Gift List last year was so encouraging that we have modified it and are making it available again. Please pray about adding some of these to your Christmas list this year. Our brethren ministering around the globe look to us to help them better share the Gospel or minister in Christ's name to those of their community in greatest need.

### Emergency Relief Funds

- #1 - Life Saving **Food** (Suggested Gift: \$35)
- #2 - Emergency **Medicine** (Suggested Gift: \$60)
- #3 - Clean **Water** for a Family (Suggested Gift: \$15)
- #4 - Emergency **Relief Supplies** urgent need (Suggested Gift: \$45)

### Orphans and Widows Ministries

- #5 - **Shoes and Clothing** for poor (Suggested Gift: \$25)
- #6 - Provide Help for an **Orphan's urgent needs** (Suggested Gift: \$35)
- #7 - Buy **Seeds** for an Orphanage Garden in Uganda (Suggested Gift: \$25)
- #8 - Dengue- and malaria-preventing **Mosquito Nets** (Suggested Gift: \$10)

### Gifts Under \$15

- #9 - Hot **Meals** (Suggested Gift: \$7)
- #10 - **Soccer Balls** for Young Adult Ministry (Suggested Gift: \$8)
- #11 - Life saving **medicine** (Suggested Gift: \$12)
- #12 - Missionary Society **Membership** for a friend (Suggested Gift: \$10)

### Evangelism and Discipleship

- #13 - Evangelist/Pastor **training Bibles** in Kenya or Guyana or Haiti (Suggested Gift: \$25)
- #14 - Share of an Evangelist's **motorcycle** in India (Suggested Gift: \$110 / Share the Cost: \$11)
- #15 - Shipping **Christian Literature**, urgent need in S. Sudan (Suggested Gift: \$15)

### Construction Projects

- #16 - Freshwater **Wells** (Suggested Gift: \$400 / Share the Cost: \$40)
- #17 - **Metal roof** on a constructed church (Suggested Gift \$1,200 / Share the Cost: \$10/sheet)
- #18 - **Lumber Mill Saw** for church & ministry building (Suggested Gift: \$3,000 / Share the Cost: \$30)
- #19 - Build a **Church** for struggling congregation (Suggested Gift: \$8,000 / Share the Cost: \$75)
- #20 - Build a **House** for a low-income pastor's family (Suggested Gift: \$6,500 / Share the Cost: \$75)



We have enacted some new practices to help us better witness for our brothers and sisters in ministry. Two persons are required to be in communication on the receiving end when funds are transferred. Also, photo evidence is required of projects and receipts so that we can testify on behalf of the ministry.

I hope that you will prayerfully consider how the blessings you have received may help you be involved in God's ministry through the Missionary Society. And remember, if you send the gift in the name of someone else, we can contact that person with a thank you letter letting them know how their gift was put to use. **SR**

Contributions for Gifts can be sent to:

**SDB Missions**

**19 Hillside Ave., Ashaway RI 02804**

or give on-line at

**[www.SDBMISSIONS.org](http://www.SDBMISSIONS.org)**



Your Brother in Christ,

Clinton R. Brown, *Executive Director*  
Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society

# Kids— You can color this page!!

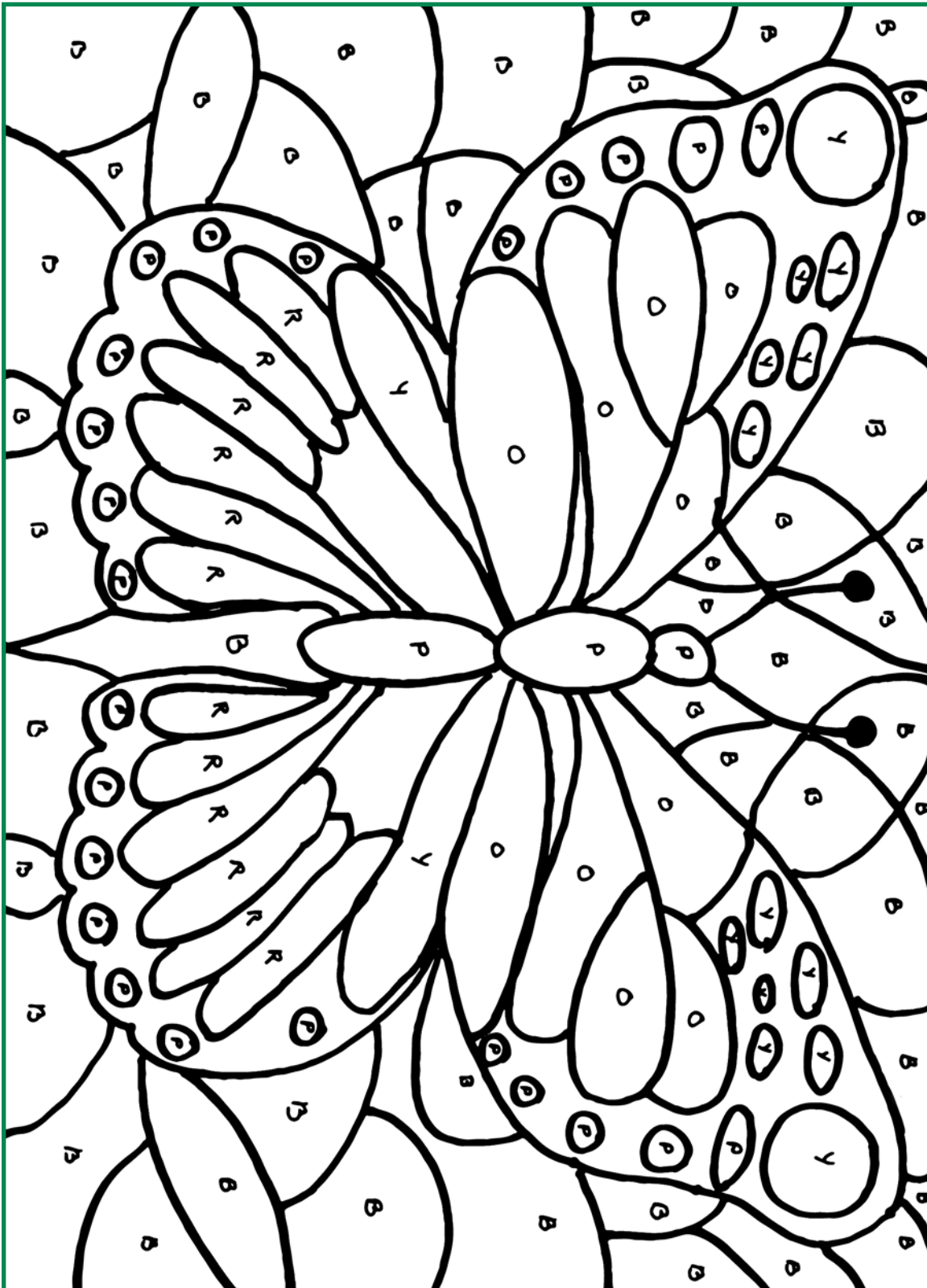


Did you know that beautiful butterflies come from unattractive caterpillars? That is an example of God turning the ordinary into something really great. Can you think of other ways that God makes things great?

Color this picture using the following code:

B=Blue    Y=Yellow    P=Purple

R=Red    O=Orange





# the BEACON

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

December 2013

## My most important reading assignment

by Rebecca Olson  
Berlin, N.Y.

It's my junior year of high school, and you all know what that means. Work. Lots of work.

I've been so swamped with homework, I've barely had time for anything else. But I've tried to make time for one thing: reading my Bible. And I actually have been!

This is my longest streak for reading my Bible daily. (I may have missed a few days here and there, but I've been trying, and I'm pretty proud of how often I've been reading it.) Anyway, I just wanted to share some of the things God's been teaching me.

The first Bible passage I was convicted by was right before I went to school. I really didn't want to return, so I had been in a miserable mood for a few weeks. At that time I read Proverbs 31, the chapter about the ideal wife. Verses 25 and 26 read, "She is strong and is respected by the people. She looks forward to the future with joy. She speaks wise words and teaches others to be kind."

These verses really struck a chord with me. They described an attitude that a godly woman should have—and it was pretty much the opposite of the way I had been acting. I was being whiny and childish. I was dreading the future, and even worse, complaining about it every chance I got.

I was speaking without thinking, wasting my words to gripe and moan rather than to build people



up and be useful. I was teaching those younger than me that it's okay to complain and argue, which is exactly the opposite of what God wants us to do.

It hit me then that I needed a major attitude check. I prayed about it, and from that moment on I worked really, really hard to change the way I was acting.

It wasn't easy. Being grumpy had become a habit, and it took the rest of the summer to break that. But I slowly became a more encouraging, agreeable person, and I went into the school year with a much better attitude.

Once school began, I came to another realization. I'm scared of *everything*. I had never really thought about it before, but as I

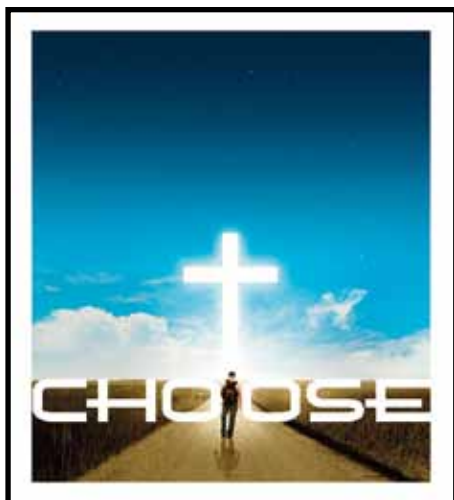
started to get more opportunities to step out and talk about my faith, I realized how scared of that I really was. I was worried about judgment more than anything else. I was scared of being that "weird Christian girl."

One day, my youth leader told me that he could see my faith deepening, and that he was hoping I'd step up to have more of a leading role in our youth group. He wasn't asking me to do anything difficult, just to speak up more and help guide some of the newer Christians in the group. And yet the thought really scared me.

When I went home that night and read my bible, I came across Psalm 91:4. "He will cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you can hide. His truth will be your shield and protection." (ESV) This verse was an absolute comfort to me. "He will cover you with His feathers." Doesn't that just sound like the best, most comforting hug in the universe? That verse reminded me that I need to step out in faith more.

God's always protecting me. He helps me be ready for whatever life throws my way, and He's there to shield me when I get scared.

I picked those two verses because they've had a pretty dramatic impact on me. They have definitely become two of my favorites. I'm excited to see what else God has in store for me, and what other bits of biblical wisdom I'll pick up along the way. **SR**



St. Paul, MN July 27–Aug. 2, 2014

## *The President's Page*

by Steven James



# Choose... Good News!

*This good news needs to be expressed to others so that its power can be experienced and its priority extolled.*

In early November, voting took place across the U.S. as people chose leaders, laws and various amendments that many hoped would affect our land in positive ways. The season of fall brings with it this season of choosing.

However, on the heels of this season comes winter and the season that brings the reason for choosing that which will bring about real change—the good news of Jesus Christ!

Choosing to look to any other source of hope, health and happiness will only result in cosmetic and temporary change. Choosing to look to Jesus and the Good News surrounding Him brings lasting change to the very core of our hearts. That change will then spill out into our homes and the homeland for many of us here in North America, until that day when the reality of “heaven” comes to earth in all of its reality!

Why should we choose this news of and about Jesus Christ? Why is it “good”? Perhaps looking at what the messengers, both angelic and earthly, had to say about this good news will help us to choose it afresh this season.

In the Gospel of Luke, we see the angel’s declaration to the shepherds on the hillside many centuries ago. The angel gives us several reasons to choose this good news:

- It’s news that takes away our fears. The angel said, “Don’t be afraid, for I bring you good news...”
- It’s news that brings joy to our hearts. The angel said, “I bring you good news of great joy...”
- It’s news that is for everyone, not just for a few people here and there. The angel said, “...which will be to all people.”
- It’s news of salvation. The angel said, “For unto you is born this day... a Savior.”
- It’s news of new, true and righteous leadership. The angel said, “...Who is Christ, the Lord.” Those two titles—representing dynamics of leadership, or lordship—are used more than any other title for Jesus, including Savior, in the New Testament.

Jesus Himself indicated the impact for good that this news could have on those who heard and held to it. In Luke 4:16-19 we read that closely linked with the sharing of the Gospel is:

- the anointing of God’s Spirit
- the encouraging of people’s spirits
- the healing of broken hearts
- the breaking free from anything that holds us prisoner
- the restoration of clear vision
- the lifting up of those who’ve been pressed down, and
- the forward look to God’s rule over all.

One “earthly” messenger, the apostle Paul, stresses why we should choose this good news:

**Its power.** Paul states that the good news of Jesus Christ has the power to save everyone who believes. (Romans 1:16)

**Its priority.** Paul says that the most important topic—the teaching that was of first importance, when it came to touching lives forever—was the good news of Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:1-5)

**Its proclamation.** Paul stresses that this good news needs to be expressed to others so that its power can be experienced and its priority extolled. (Romans 10:17)

I don’t know about you, but there are lots of reasons for me to choose God’s good news this season in fresh and lasting ways! How about for you? What’s one reason to choose God’s good news this season? **SR**



by Executive Director  
Rob Appel

## It Hurts So Good

### “The Cost of Following Jesus”

*While on a spiritual retreat in the lodge of Camp Paul Hummel last fall, God spoke to me through an old familiar book. I picked up a copy of My Utmost For His Highest by Oswald Chambers, and opened it to one of the pages. It turns out it was one of the 12 dog-eared pages of that copy. This month is number nine in a series from this great devotional.*



As they were going along the road, someone said to Him, “I will follow You wherever You go.” And Jesus said to him, “The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.” And He said to another, “Follow Me.” But he said, “Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father.” But He said to him, “Allow the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim everywhere the kingdom of God.” Another also said, “I will follow You, Lord; but first permit me to say good-bye to those at home.” But Jesus said to him, “No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.” (Luke 9: 57-62 NASB)

Oswald Chambers writes, “The words of the Lord hurt and offend until there is nothing left to be

hurt or offended. Jesus Christ had no tenderness whatsoever toward anything that was ultimately going to ruin a person in his service to God. Our Lord’s answers were not based on some whim or impulsive thought, but on the knowledge of ‘what was in man.’ If the Spirit of God brings to your mind a word of the Lord that hurts you, you can be sure that there is something in you that He wants to hurt to the point of its death.”

Jesus’ words are strong. He is telling the people, “Here is what it will cost you to follow after me. Bottom line: it will cost you EVERYTHING.” Jesus summons us to commit ourselves completely to Him, and hold nothing back!

Market researcher George Barna has collected data and trends of Christians and the church for over 25 years. One of the trends shows that North Americans are showing a much more limited or softer commitment to faith. Barna explains, “Americans are willing to expend some energy in religious activities such as attending church and reading the Bible, and they are willing to throw some money in the offering basket. Because of such activities, they convince themselves that they are people of genuine faith.”

People want to be “spiritual”—they even want to have God’s favor—but they don’t want Him taking

control of their lives. After all, we have “an image” to maintain and outcomes to control. The outcome is less than a full commitment to Jesus Christ.

Jesus’ response to each of the individuals in the Luke passage reflects the idea that a true commitment requires a great sacrifice!

Commitment to Jesus:

- requires a willingness to put aside worldly security.
- must take precedence even when it competes with other loyalties.
- involves us stepping out on faith to serve Him, without looking back.
- means total dedication, not halfhearted commitment.

Jesus says to these men on the road: “**Count the cost.**” But if you were to consider the Cost of *not* following Jesus it would mean:

- **NO Eternal Life**
- **NO Holy Spirit Guidance**
- **NO Opportunity to Glorify God**

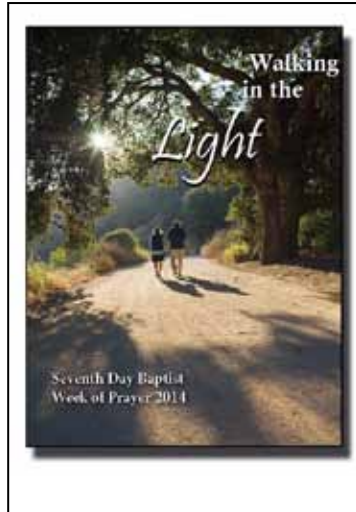
What about you? Has the Holy Spirit convicted you of something that hurts because it is so true? It will hurt for a while. But if you listen and change from this, it can hurt so GOOD! **SR**



Next time: “**The Ordinary**”

## Week of Prayer starts January 5

Seventh Day Baptists the world over will begin 2014 with prayer. The SDB World Federation is once again sponsoring the **Week of Prayer** to be held **January 5-11**. Bethany Chroniger of Shiloh, New Jersey USA has written the daily meditations. Prayer booklets will be mailed to each church in December.



*Please remember to take up a special offering  
for the World Federation on January 11.*



Be part of this new Gospel magazine “**ARYZE**” by sending articles, testimonies, encouragements or advertising your business. Contact [venvibes@yahoo.com](mailto:venvibes@yahoo.com), call 347-299-7258 or visit [www.vnashanil.net](http://www.vnashanil.net). Published by SDBs in the NY City area.



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# Thankful for Ten Years

*Fort Lauderdale celebrates first decade*

*by Lauren Kinlocke-Philibert*



On August 2, 2003 the Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Seventh Day Baptist Church was launched. Under the guidance of our Lord and Savior, this launch began through the efforts of Pastor Andrew Samuels, four lay leaders, 26 charter members, and the prayers of many.

With great enthusiasm Sabbath School was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Sister Claudia Davis. Worship service followed with 47 congregants in attendance and Deacon Ewart Rose delivering the first of many sermons.

With the Lord on our side we became a member of the South Atlantic Association on November 6, 2003. Gladness continued to fill our hearts as we dedicated our church to the Lord on November 22, 2003 under the theme “Going Forward in Faith.” It signaled the beginning of many firsts.

Two weeks later, we welcomed through baptism our first three new members to our list of 26: Brother Andre Edwards, Sisters Gina Ford and Candy Knight.

Approximately six months after opening our church doors—January 24, 2004—our first formal business

meeting was held. Reports were presented pertaining to the work being done by all ministries of our church. On August 22, 2004, we had our first calling of two sisters (Sister Evelyn Reid and Sister Cynthia Miller) to the diaconate, and in August 2005 we obtained membership in the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference.

In December 2005, our founding pastor, Andrew Samuels, stepped down to become interim pastor. This provided the opportunity for another to lead this great flock as we continued “Walking in the Light.” With only two years under our belt we formed a Pastoral Search Committee and continued full speed ahead. Despite the hiccups of relocating four times, loss of members due to relocation, death and economic decline, our church continued to grow—thanks be to God.

On November 4, 2009 Pastor Norman Fearon accepted the call to our church and was installed as the pastor of Fort Lauderdale Seventh Day Baptist on February 26, 2011.


Ten years later, on August 2,

2013, found us with more than 60 members and an average of 75 congregants in Sabbath attendance. On August 31, 2013 we celebrated a vibrant 10 year anniversary service under the theme “Greater Things Are Yet to Come, Greater Things Are Still to Be Done.” It was held at our present worship location at 965-971 S.W 71st Ave, North Lauderdale, Florida.

The service was called to order by our very own Pastor Norman Fearon with approximately 200 in attendance. For the anniversary service, attendees enjoyed a video presentation of the church’s 10-year history and highlights of our ministries. Pastor Wray Winborne—attendant at our church dedication service in 2003—brought the message entitled “Hopes and Dreams.”

The youth of the church, ranging from 5 to 23 years old, emphasized not just in presence but in their voices the awesomeness of God as they sang “The God of This City,” “Jesus Loves Me” and “Carry Your Candle.”

The choir and other musical groups under the guidance of Sis Thelma Maxwell shared the melodious renditions of “We Have Come This Far by Faith,” “I Never Lost My Praise,” “Didn’t I Walk on the Water” and “Lord, I Love You” as congregants watched and praised the Lord.

We give thanks to God for keeping us as a church for the last decade. He has done great things for us and greater things are yet to come. Praise His Holy Name! 

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## Reflecting God's Heart at West Virginia retreat

by Susie Fox  
Pataskala, Ohio

Nearly two dozen women from Ohio, Indiana, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Tennessee, and Kentucky met together at Camp Joy in Berea, West Virginia on September 27-29, 2013 for the annual Appalachian Women's Fall Retreat. This year's program, planned by the Pataskala (Ohio) church, used the theme "Reflecting God's Heart." The 21 ladies had sessions on seeing God's heart through Variety, Love, Worship, Forgiveness, Miracles, Laughter, and Persistence.

We were blessed throughout the weekend with yummy food, beautiful weather, good music, refreshing fellowship, and powerful prayer during this time away from our usual daily lives. We even had a special guest from Wisconsin (formerly from Ohio) who shared



*This group of happy women came from seven different states to enjoy yet another successful retreat at Camp Joy.*

an informative dinner presentation on eating food the way God made it.

We were inspired by the way the Lord orchestrated the weekend and

provided several "God moments" to reinforce what we were talking about. Everyone left the retreat looking forward to next year! **SR**

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## "Pastor Vic" at 95



Retired Pastor Victor W. Skaggs, of Longmont, Colo., celebrated his 95th birthday in October this year.

God has blessed him with an active mind and good health. He recently reduced his teaching from two mid-week Bible Studies to just one. He still regularly attends the worship services at the Boulder SDB Church where he teaches a Sabbath School class.

His Bible Study books on First and Second Peter have been published by the SDB Board of Christian Education and are available at our E-store at [www.seventhdaybaptist.org](http://www.seventhdaybaptist.org). The studies are titled, *Faith Proved Genuine: Faithfulness in Hard Times* and *Growing your Faith: Building Discerning and Waiting*.

The Committee on Support and Retirement (COSAR) rejoices in Pastor Vic's continued ministry and good health. **SR**

Your generous gifts can help support those who gave so much, and continue to give, and their survivors. Please make your check out to COSAR, with "Pastor's Retirement Fund" in the memo line, and send it to the SDB Center, PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547. A monthly automatic gift can also be arranged. Contact the SDB Center at 608-752-5055 for details.



## Births

**Rood.**—A daughter, Kalisa Jael, was born to Tim and Kelly Rood of Castle Rock, CO on September 5, 2013.

**Rudolph.**—A daughter, Hannelore Joy, was born to Nate and Talia Rudolph of Colorado Springs, CO on September 5, 2013.

**Lewis.**—A son, Caden Andre, was born to Rohan and Misty Lewis of Hatfield, PA on October 4, 2013.

**Kappa.**—A son, Tyler James, was born to Andy and Krystal Kappa of Colorado Springs, CO on October 23, 2013.

**Ziemba.**—Twin sons, Colton and Chase, were born to Mike and JoAnne (Johnson) Ziemba of North Adams, MA, on November 5, 2013.

**Kersten.**—A daughter, Zoey Temperance, was born to Nicholas and Brittany (Schumitsch) Kersten of Milton, WI on November 6, 2013.

## Robe of Achievement 2014 Nominations

The Robe of Achievement Committee of the Women's Society is seeking nominations of a woman (member of an SDB Church) who has had an influence or contributed "beyond the limits of her own community and church."

A complete resume must be submitted containing a life history including her achievements and activities.

The deadline is **March 31, 2014**. If you would like to re-nominate a person you have nominated within the last 2 years, you do NOT have to complete a new resume form. Simply notify Karen Payne (email below) that you wish to re-nominate the person and send any updates. Submit resumes to:

Karen Payne, 13528 595th Street  
Claremont, MN 55924

Or, by email to [karenpayne@hotmail.com](mailto:karenpayne@hotmail.com)

A nomination form is available at [SDBWomen.org](http://SDBWomen.org)

The **Texarkana, Arkansas, SDB Church** is praying for God's leading in their search for a pastor to lead, teach and train this flock.

For further information please contact Dan Richards at 903-824-1920 or [dricha2524@cableone.net](mailto:dricha2524@cableone.net).

## New members

### Colorado Springs, CO

*John Pethtel, pastor*

Joined by letter

John Pethtel

Tabatha Pethtel

Joined after testimony

Karen Fiedel

James Hamm

### Little Genesee, NY

*Kevin Palmiter, pastor*

Joined after baptism

Karen Bowman

Sidney Feldbauer

Stewart Fuller

Joined by letter

Tim Palmiter

### Metro Atlanta, GA

*Luis Lovelace, pastor*

Joined after testimony

Marie Bullmer

Linda Waters

## Death Notice

**Doris Lenore Goodrich Barber**, 96, of Garden City, KS passed away on October 30, 2013.

## Summer Institute 2014

"Sabbath Theology"

Register [www.sdbministry.org](http://www.sdbministry.org),

Oct 1–Jan 15

Online participation,

Feb 2–May 23

On Campus, June 8-13

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# KEVIN'S

## ORNER

### It's time

I'm not sure how else to say it, so I'll just run the press release/blog from October 28, 2013:

The American Sabbath Tract and Communication Council announces that the Director of Communications, Rev. Kevin Butler, has decided to step down effective June 30, 2014. Butler has served as Director of the ASTCC and Editor of *The Sabbath Recorder* magazine since January 1989.

At the end of June, Editor Butler will have overseen more than 275 issues of the *Recorder* and served the longest tenure of any *SR* Editor. "I never expected to be here at the Center much beyond three to five years. It has been an unbelievable and tremendous honor to serve with these wonderful people, doing what I could to keep up with the changing technology."

Kevin conveyed that the June 2014 date would allow him to help prepare many things for the summer Conference in Minnesota—the promotion, the registration forms, the printed program, order logo items—but he believes that "25 straight years of covering the event is plenty." Kevin's chronic back condition has made the physical demands of the annual meetings a huge stressor, and he stated that he is "more than happy to turn all the 'fun' over to someone else."

As of now there are no "new job" plans for Kevin after June 30 (he says that maybe he will take a sabbatical), and the Butlers would like to stay in the Janesville area. He will do what he can to help with the transition.

Butler closed his weekend announcement with, "Thank you for your prayers; please know that you have mine."

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When I first made the announcement to my new bosses on the General Council, I included "with a sad but relieved heart."

This was not an easy decision, but the time has come to move on. I need to heal up—physically and men-

tally—and would love to enjoy that improved health with my wife, kids and grandkids. The constant push to make each deadline, while ignoring personal pain (and sometimes family needs), has taken its toll. As I wrote to the Council, "The current and upcoming changes in our structure and the proper need to make adjustments will take new perspective and new energy, things I don't believe I have 'in' me at this stage."

Plus, maybe it's a culmination of a prophecy uttered nearly 20 years ago.

Have you seen those new hands-free cell phone watches? When we celebrated the *Recorder's* 150th anniversary back in 1994, I made some bold predictions about the publishing industry. By today's standards, we were fairly "primitive" back then. From the June 1994 special *SR*:

"One day, instead of delivering a large box of pasted-up sheets to the printer, we will hand

our sales rep a thin computer disk with all he needs for printing the *Recorder*. That will be replaced by simply phoning it in to the printer via a high-speed modem."

We've done that, and more. I dared to go on.

"Next? How about us downloading all the magazine info into your home computer, or you accessing just certain portions at your convenience from your voice-activated wristwatch satellite transponder."

While the terminology of the devices might not match up exactly, the technology is certainly with us today.

It's time for a new dream and a new dreamer.

As Rod Henry challenged us at Conference last August, let's pray that the Lord "show us a more preferable future," and then walk in it—together.



## Help us spread the Good News!

Since 1844, the American Sabbath Tract Society/Council has published *The Sabbath Recorder*, sharing news for and about our Seventh Day Baptist churches. Your year-end, tax deductible gift will help keep us connected.

## Thank You!

*Editor Kevin Butler*



And please take a few  
minutes to answer our  
SURVEY on page 10



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