

The Sabbath RECORDER

February 2013

News for and about Seventh Day Baptists



Closing the **Back Door**

How to involve:

- Newcomers
(p.4)
- Young adults
(p.6)
- Children
(p.9)
- Those far away
(p.11)



Who are Seventh Day Baptists?

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

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

The seventh day

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

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

Missionary Society Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the SDB Missionary Society will be held at the Society Office, 19 Hillside Ave., Ashaway, R.I., on Sunday, March 17, 2013, at 2:00 p.m. for the following purposes:

–To elect voting members, a Board of Managers and officers to hold office until the next annual meeting and until their successors are elected.

–To hear and act upon the reports of the Board of Managers and officers for the fiscal year 1/1/12, to 12/31/12.

–To ratify the appointment of independent public accountants for the current fiscal year.

–To consider and act upon such other matters as may properly come before said meeting or any adjournment thereof.

The Board of Managers has fixed the close of business on February 28, 2013, as the time at which members entitled to notice thereof and to vote at the meeting and any adjournment thereof shall be determined.

—*Kathy Hughes, Secretary*

Robe of Achievement 2013 Nominations

The Robe of Achievement Committee of the SDB Women's Society is seeking nominations of a woman who is a member of an SDB Church and 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.

Deadline is **March 31, 2013**. (No need to wait until the last minute—we'll accept your submission any time!) If you would like to re-nominate someone whom 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 to the previously completed resume.

Submit the Robe resumes to:

Karen Payne

13528 595th Street, Claremont MN 55924

Or, by email to: karenpayne@hotmail.com

*A nomination form is available
at SDBWomen.org*



Establ. 1844

February 2013
Volume 235, No. 2
Whole No. 6,991

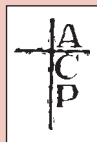


A Seventh Day Baptist publication
SabbathRecorder.org

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

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

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



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ⓔ = Editor's Circle members

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

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CLOSING the BACK DOOR

*by Pastor Bill Shobe
Dodge Center, Minn.*



One of the saddest occurrences in the life of a congregation is to realize that someone we had hoped would become a vital part of our church life has “disappeared.”

We look for them on a Sabbath day and find they are not sitting in their usual spot. Then we discover that it’s been weeks since anyone has seen them. Calls to inquire about them go unanswered, and we realize that we have again lost potential members.

This scenario is not unique to any church or denomination, and is far too common among most. What can we do to close the “back door” to the church and help people find reason to become and remain active in our congregations?

We are relational! Maybe too much?

In Ephesians 4:16 the Apostle Paul wrote about the church body: “...being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.” I believe that Paul was noting the important role that healthy relationships have in the growth of the church. God created mankind for relationship, and growing congregations are held together by healthy relationships.

I was recently surprised when a steady newcomer to our congregation commented that our people were not very friendly. Finding the comment hard to accept, I began to look more closely at the situation. The problem I discovered was not an issue of friendliness, but rather of being relationally closed.

Many of the church members are “lifers,” having grown up and lived in the congregation for more than 30 years. When they arrive for services each week they come with a full “dance card”—meaning that they have mentally scheduled each available moment on Sabbath morning with people they need to connect with. As a result they hardly even notice the visitors and newcomers; they have their own people to see!

Um, perhaps some other time?

Many of these connections could be made on other days or at other times, but Sabbath morning has become convenient

because they can take care of all their relational business at church. We must choose to seek out those “new people” before we attempt to act on our own agenda, or we will lose them. We need to ask, “Who would You have me talk with today, Lord?” as we arrive at church each week.

I am also convinced that we cannot build the deep relationships that God expects merely in the

How 'bout them young adults?

The college and career-age group is another one that too often slips out the “back door.” These young adults are in a season of significant transition, especially with respect to their relationships.

Many of them finish high school to go off to college, returning home for holidays and summer break. We welcome them back, still relating to them as our “children”—failing to acknowledge their growth and maturation. In addition, their pri-

We cannot build deep relationships merely on Sabbath mornings. We need to open our lives to our visitors at times other than Sabbath.

time we share together on Sabbath mornings. We need to open our lives to our visitors at times other than Sabbath. Perhaps that will involve inviting a newcomer to a Bible study, to join in a ministry group, to simply meet for coffee or come into our home for a meal. For new believers, perhaps a mentoring relationship can help them develop a more dynamic Christian experience.

According to several studies I have read, those who have three or more meaningful relationships in a congregation are the most likely to stay. Sharing “common convictions” or theology alone will not keep people engaged in our churches.

mary relationships with peers in the church undergo real stress as they spend months separated from each other and grow apart because of their differing experiences.

Virtual communication methods (Facebook, Tweeting and texting) are not sufficient to maintain relationships that need real “face time” to prosper. Others remain in the community to start careers, get married and begin families.

They are a-changin’

All of these life dynamics contribute to their own growth and personal change. We as congregations need to respond to the changes in their lives by appro-

priately validating their transition from youth to adulthood, and adjusting the character of our relationships with them. Otherwise we can unintentionally alienate them and discover—some months down the line—that they have slipped out that back door.

I recently looked across our congregation on a Sabbath morning and was surprised by the lack of participants aged 20-45. There were some present, but the majority were of my age group or older, and our grandchildren. Where have all the younger people gone?

Later on I reflected on those who were missing—the children of the church members—and realized that most of them are still following the Lord but living in a different part of the country. While there is some comfort in that, there are still too many others who remain in the community and not involved in any congregation. What can we do to prevent this?

Redefine those relationships

We can start by redefining our current relationships or by developing new relationships with these transitioning young adults. If we have known them for most of their lives we need to consciously begin to see them not as children and youth, but as adults. We should engage them in our ministries in ways that will involve them actively in the work of the church, while allowing them to continue to mature before placing them in roles of full responsibility.

Perhaps they can be invited to partner in your work on a com-

cont. next page

mittee, to team teach a children's class, or to go out with you to make visits to the homebound or new church visitors. They may have traits that make them effective in greeting people on Sabbath morning, in serving with the music ministry, or in maintaining the church facility.

Then we can begin to reach out to them as adult friends, inviting them into our homes for meals, spending time with them in activities where we have mutual interest. Or perhaps we might invite them into a mentoring relationship, or to be a prayer partner, where a real spiritual connection can be made.

Steps I have taken

I have begun to invite the students who attend college locally to a meal/fellowship time at my house on Sabbath afternoon each month. Participation varies and is informal. One week we may talk about the spiritual opposition they find on campus as we enjoy a bowl of chili,

while the next month we may plan a movie marathon with pizza.

I am hoping our time together will help them through some of the pitfalls of this transition season and also allow me to sow some good spiritual seed into their lives. And of course it's helping to build healthy relationships that can keep them following Christ and engaged in the life of the church.

I believe the key to locking the "back door" to the church is to build



and maintain meaningful relationships in our congregations. It must become an intentional priority, or we will continue to lose those whom Christ is sending to add to our churches. **SR**

How can we keep our young adults involved?

by Pastor John Camenga
Agape SDB Church of the South
Kissimmee, Fla.

Salvation is a gift from God. It is available free for the asking.

Salvation comes through acceptance of Jesus Christ by personal decision. It is not a group decision. It is not a family decision. It is personal. The New Testament consistently presents this fact.

Demands can lead to rejection

This same New Testament also explains that life as saved people will be demanding. It includes **self-denial** ("If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow

Me." —Luke 9:23). It includes **continued effort** within salvation; what Paul described as working out our own salvation "with fear and trembling." (Philippians 2:12).

Various things lead to the current rejection of church involvement by many young adults:

- “Easy-believe-ism” may make Christianity seem insignificant.
- Lack of doctrinal clarity seems to say that it doesn’t really matter what you believe, as long as you believe something.
- In many cases the young adults are building on the example of parents whose attendance patterns were not consistent.
- Financial and moral scandals in many denominations have been viewed as an indictment of all organized religion.

Each of you could undoubtedly add to this list.

Parents: How committed are you?

A genuine Christian lifestyle requires conviction that Christianity continues to have significance and meaning. The same is true for our position regarding the Sabbath of the Bible. Why observe God’s Sabbath unless we believe it continues to have meaning and significance in the 21st century?

Parents have a key role in helping children understand these principles. When those children become young adults they will be equipped to make wise personal decisions about involvement. So, we must ask: “What example and explanations are parents providing?”

Having been far from perfect in my own Christian living, I offer the following observations not as criticism of parents past or present, but as challenges for all of us to consider. They relate to both church involvement in general and Sabbath observance in particular.

Involved—when convenient and inconvenient

When children grow up seeing how important involvement with other Christians is to parents, they are more likely to value involvement. Someone has said Christianity is “caught” more than taught. Live it and the next generation will be more

likely to live it, too. Some young adult “drop-outs” are continuing a pattern started by their parents.

The importance of Sabbath-keeping is not demonstrated by what we do when it is convenient to observe Sabbath. Our Sabbath conviction is shown (and sown) at the times when it is inconvenient, difficult or expensive.

Is the Sabbath important enough for the young athlete to give up football and other sports when practice and games usurp any part of the 24 hours God declared holy? When a father substitutes a round of golf for being in church with his family, what does it say about the value he places on Sabbath? What does it say when someone takes that promotion or better job when it will include Sabbath conflicts?

It also says something important when a parent is willing to drive a high school student 200 miles to take the SAT test on Sunday, when it would have been more convenient to “make an exception” and take it at the local test center on Sabbath.

More than just going to church

Church programs supplement a process that must begin at home.

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Our faith is portable. It functions best in fellowship with like-minded people, but it can and should survive anywhere.

Employment took my childhood family away from Seventh Day Baptist contacts. Sometimes Dad was too tired to take on three more hours so we could be in our home church each week, but Sabbath always included home Bible study, uplifting music and family time. Part of the need for fellowship was supplied by involvement in the local Baptist church.

By example and teaching my parents declared the importance of serving Christ as Savior. That service included observance of the Sabbath. Our faith is portable. It functions best in fellowship with like-minded people, but it can and should survive anywhere.

What's a parent to do?

Today's young parents can do some things to help reverse dropping out in the future:

- Live it yourself.
- Explain it. Remember the wonderful words of the shema: "Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. And you shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates" (Deuteronomy 6:4-9). Placement of God's Word between the eyes and on the hands

symbolizes knowing and doing what God's Word proclaims.

- Remember that the fourth commandment places household observance squarely on the parents. Sabbath observance is to include all "within your gates." The next generation can make their own decision once they have their own "gates" – their own household. (It is far easier to maintain this standard when the example and explanation have started far before "issues" arise. Be consistent!)
- Be sure of your own faith. It is hard to explain what we do not know personally.
- Observe the Sabbath when convenient. Make an even greater effort to observe the Sabbath when it is inconvenient.
- Take your children to church with you.
- Involve your kids in whatever youth activities your church provides. Challenge your church to offer more if outside influences are "alluring."
- Attend Association and Conference. Get the kids to church camp and retreats (including Pre-Con). Make sacrifices to make it happen. Demonstrate that involvement with "our people" is important. Your children will value it more. These memories will help them as they make faith their own personal property, and not just something handed down to them.
- Accept the fact that not all young people will respond to this or any approach.

Dealing with drop-outs

These suggestions may be helpful for a generation that is not yet "young adult." What do we do with those who are drop-outs out now? This is not a new problem. Only the percentage of drop-outs has changed.

There is the return phenomenon—people in their 30s and 40s coming back to church. We can develop methods to make the return easier. (The Prodigal's father patiently watched and welcomed. We must avoid acting like the elder brother in that story.)

Make the return worth it

We can make the return more significant as we preach and teach the enduring values of Scripture to a generation that is hungering for meaning. We must also accept the fact that not all people make the decision to accept Christ as personal Savior, nor to keep the Sabbath. (The descendants of just one SDB couple in the year 1700 should account for a membership of around 100,000 in our churches today!)

It is sad, but God provides each person the opportunity to say "No" as well as "Yes."

As the old gospel hymn declares,
More like the Master
is my daily prayer,
More strength to carry
crosses I must bear;
More earnest effort
to bring His kingdom in,
More of His Spirit
the wanderer to win.

If our church involvement and Sabbath observance demonstrate significance and contribute to a joy-filled life, it will attract the "wanderers" to return home. **SR**

How do churches hang on to their children?

Follow Jesus!!

by Charlotte Chroniger
Shiloh, New Jersey



They were seeing how someone's faith (or lack of it) was impacting day-to-day life.

what the Bible said, as well as be examples to them of what living for Jesus was all about.

Good examples from my past

As children were growing up, I had good examples of how I should relate to my children as their mom. I thought of my own mother's example to my brother and me when we were little. My mom prayed with us each morning and each night. My mom took us to church and Sunday School (I hadn't heard about Seventh Day Baptists yet!), and she stayed herself.

There was never any discussion of whether or not we would go to church, or youth group, or Bible School—it was what we did. Her relationship with the Lord was important to her, and she showed that by her faithful example.

Psalm 127:3 says that "Sons are a heritage from the Lord, children a reward from Him."

Four of the greatest blessings in my life have been our children Tyler, Jordan, Bethany, and Jessica. I was struck with wonder when they were little that God should give Don and me these young lives to raise, love, and care for.

I realized that our children were "on loan" to us from God, and that He was expecting us to teach them

Good examples from SDBs

I had good examples in our New Auburn, Wis., and Shiloh SDB congregations. Those churches had women and men who took seriously the responsibility of raising children in the Lord and of being good examples of the Christian walk. They were willing to invest in the children and youth with their time, their prayers, their money, and themselves.

They were willing to provide meals for the youth meetings, take off work to spend a week at camp, drive kids to a youth retreat, provide financial help for someone who wanted to go to Conference or Pre-Con, teach a Sabbath School class. There were people who prayed and prayed for the children and youth, people who had a word of encouragement rather than a word of complaint.

There were people who did as much as possible to provide opportunities for the children and youth to learn about God and His Word, to hear about God's plan of salvation through Jesus, to see the importance of growing in faith in Christ. There were people who showed the importance of being part of a local church, and the joy and blessing of contributing to the ministry so others could hear about Christ.

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They are watching!

By watching Christians around me, I discovered very quickly that my children and the youth of our churches were learning things by watching Don and me in our spiritual walk, how we reacted to life's challenges, and how we related to the people in our congregations. They were also watching the Christians who crossed their paths. They were observing the testimony and consistency of those claiming to believe in Jesus. They were seeing how someone's faith (or lack of it) was impacting day-to-day life.

The kids were noticing those individuals who had the joy of the Lord and were happy and excited to serve Jesus and His people. They also were noticing those individuals who seemed to have lost their joy in serving Jesus.

Let them know they are loved

I wanted my children to know that they were loved, and that they were loved a lot. I wanted them to know that they were a priority in my life. I wanted them to know that my decisions and actions were based on my love for them, and my wanting the best for them.

When they were young, we would read Bible stories before bedtime. We would pray before our meals. We would take them to church and Sabbath School, and we would stay! They would go to Bible school, camp, and Conference. We didn't talk about *if* they would be going, but rather that they would be going. I wanted them to have many opportunities to hear about Jesus, and to rub shoulders with other believers.



We show by example how Jesus has made a difference in our lives.

We show by example that following Jesus is the best thing that ever happened to us.

How to get them interested

So what can we all do to help our children and youth get interested in spiritual things? We start when they are very little and expose them to the Lord and the Bible. We provide opportunities for them at our churches through learner's worship, Sabbath School, Bible school, etc., to hear the Good News.

We play Christian songs in our homes. We watch Christian DVDs. We provide meaningful learning experiences at Conference or Association. We pray, pray, pray for them.

What can we do to help them *stay* interested in spiritual things? We help the children and youth feel like we want them to be a part of our church family. We provide a good example of being a Christ follower and we provide opportunities for them to hear the salvation message.

Get them involved!

Once a child or youth accepts Jesus as their Savior, we encourage them in their spiritual growth. We call them or drop them a note from time to time. We provide transportation for them to attend worship, Sabbath School, or youth group.

We encourage them to get involved in the ministry of our local churches. We let them help with camp or Bible school. We ask them to serve as ushers or sing in the choir. We invite them to go on a mission trip with us.

We show by example how Jesus has made a difference in our lives. We show by example that following Jesus is the best thing that ever happened to us. We pray, pray, pray for them.

May God help us to be faithful and consistent examples of following Jesus. **SR**

Church Membership: The precious gift of belonging

by Jeanne Yurke, Boise, Idaho
Member at Raritan Valley SDB Church
in Bridgewater, New Jersey

The late Don Sanford used to say that there is no such thing as “a lone Sabbathkeeper,” because Seventh Day Baptists are a covenant people. Every SDB is part of a covenant fellowship, a local church.

Moving many miles away from one’s church to a place where there is no SDB church might make a person feel isolated, but it need not cut off the person from the church.

In previous centuries such a physical move would have signaled the start of a new SDB church. Seventh Day Baptists tended to keep their membership papers in their back pockets and planted churches when they moved beyond the boundaries of existing churches.

The 21st century, however, has the technology and social media needed to keep long-distance memberships intact. A college student many states away from her home church can still worship with her family via live streaming. *Facebook* prayer pages bring together church members from all over the world, reminding them that no matter how far away they may live, work, or travel, they can be instantly connected. Even I remain an active part of my home church 2,400 miles away, thanks to high-tech communications.

The challenge we face is making sure that covenant relationships are nourished when members are no longer physically present and their circumstances do not allow them to make use of all the new-fangled gadgetry. What does a church do when a senior member moves to a nursing home out of state? How

Do we need to establish some sort of remote Sabbathkeepers’ network in which pen pals and friendly callers might check on

those who are considered inactive?



does a small church with no high-tech resources stay connected with its military members overseas? These are two common scenarios facing our churches, and covenant relationships require creative responses in order for them to be met in loving, helpful ways.

In some churches the deacons and deaconesses are assigned specific members to watch over, but many of our churches function without this kind of diaconate care system. Old-fashioned letter-writing and telephone calls may make the difference between relegating some members to an “inactive” list and engaging ALL members in the life of the church.

It would be great if every church looked over its membership list and took whatever actions might be necessary to maintain communication with each member.

Unfortunately, it’s likely that some will still get dropped.

If individual churches cannot keep the lines of communication open with everyone in their covenant relationship, how can sister-churches, Associations, and even General Conference help to bridge the gaps? Do we need to establish some sort of remote Sabbathkeepers’ network in which pen pals and friendly callers might check on those who are considered inactive?

We have a denominational magazine that provides a common connection for many. How can *The Sabbath Recorder* do more to help bind us together in Christian love?

Belonging is a precious gift. Our churches are uniquely set up to foster such belonging. May we be true to our covenant calling as we watch over one another for good. **SR**

NOT the last chapter...

*A church may close its doors but
its faith and influence live on*

Late last year, members of the Nortonville, Kansas, SDB Church voted to close their doors as of December 31, 2012. As word spread and the date approached, retired Pastor Edgar Wheeler, age 92, sent this letter to his friends and relatives in Nortonville.

Daughter Annita Wheeler Parmelee provided us the transcript of the original which Edgar composed on an old manual typewriter. It is nothing short of inspired, with uplifting words that should be shared with all churches facing similar circumstances. —Editor

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We have received word that you are "closing the doors" of the Nortonville Seventh Day Baptist Church. As you prepare for closure, we encourage you to remember that the body of the church remains alive and vital so long as you each personally live out and speak out the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Only the formal institution will be gone.

It has always been the nature of the church's life that its members individually have "struck out on their own" to promote the Gospel message. This has been true especially when the church has encountered resistance and has appeared to be restricted. So share the light wherever you are!

From my earliest memory the Nortonville church has nurtured my faith and life. It was a mainstay for my parents in rearing their family. It has clearly accomplished the same in many other families, as evidenced in faithful sons and daughters. We praise God that we are among those so blessed.

By God's grace you will remain a true fellowship in Christ, building up the faith in each other--one by one. The Gospel breaks down barriers so that we are one in spirit with all believers, and we may be at liberty to worship and serve with all who seek truth and love the Lord.

We pray that in the end the discouragement of the present will coalesce into a larger faith that will permeate the community of believers and those who are onlookers.

The future will be shaped by the prayers and actions of the faithful. The church as the body of believers will live on.

—Edgar F. Wheeler



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

Women Revitalized!

by Nadine Lawton
Ashaway, R.I.

One of the daily themes for Conference in 2012 was "Are you ready to revitalize?" This topic sparked the Women's Interest Committee to discuss revitalization of our local women's groups.

Not only do we want to encourage current and active members of these groups, but how do we get the "younger women" to join in? Discussion with women across the country revealed that one important factor keeping women from participation in local women's groups is **scheduling**.

Women are busy. So how do we convince them to add another thing to their schedule?

One solution to scheduling issues would be to **communicate** outside of the meetings—what is going on, when it is going to happen, where help might be needed, and what might be the goal of this activity. People don't attend if they don't know what is going on.

Another possible solution to the scheduling difficulties is **flexibility**. Don't hold on to the traditional meeting format! Your meetings don't *always* have to be on the same day and the same time.

Nor do they have to be "all business." If your bylaws state that the ladies aid will meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 1:00, the bylaws could be changed to say that the group meets once a month at the call of the Chairlady.

Perhaps your women's group would prefer pursuing a **specific interest**. One church has a prayer quilt ministry. You could start your group as a service project ministry—volunteering at the local food bank, visiting nursing homes, a ministry with animals, or maybe your group

“

Not only do we want to encourage current members, but how do we get the 'younger women' to join in?

”

wants to go deeper in a Bible study. Find others who are like-minded and work together.

Mentoring might be another activity for your women's group. In Titus 2:3-5, we are told that older women should mentor the younger women. What skill do you have that a younger woman might be interested in learning? Is there something you could learn from that younger woman?

Don't be opposed to learning from a younger generation. Perhaps they have a computer skill that you'd like to learn or with which they could help you. Or maybe their insight on a verse in Scripture can help us see the Lord in a new light. Be willing to **listen** even if you are the mentor.

Be intentional about taking an interest in a younger woman, checking to see how they are doing throughout the week. What's causing them stress? How can you relieve some of that stress or show them a way to relieve it?

What have you learned about being a wife, mom, or the contentment of being single with the Lord by your side? Is there someone in your church, a younger woman or even a peer, that could use an accountability partner?

Try something **new!** Is there a coffee shop, tea house, or restaurant you could invite others to meet at for a time of fellowship? Perhaps you could choose a different restaurant each month that you've always wanted to try. Or make it the same place where you can sit in the corner, **encourage and exhort one another in the Lord**.

You could hold a mother-daughter banquet, bringing your biological or spiritual daughter, or even just a woman you want to get to know better. You might even want to plan a retreat for ladies in your church or Association.

Our busy schedules should not keep us from encouraging one another. Don't let scheduling conflicts get in the way of fellowship with the other women in your church. Let's continue encouraging and building one another up, so that no one feels left out of the family of God or the church family! Invite everyone and keep at it. **SR**



Evaluating some thoughts of “A CANDID READER”

In the early years of the 20th century, the pages of the *Sabbath Recorder* sometimes carried anonymous articles or letters affixed with a pseudonym. These writings can provide fascinating insights into the life of Seventh Day Baptists, as they reveal the unspoken mindsets, ideologies, and fears of the times from which they spring.

On December 28, 1908, an article by an anonymous columnist—who went by the name “A CANDID READER” (ACR for the remainder of this column)—was published in the *Recorder*. It compared Seventh-day Adventists to Seventh Day Baptists. The article has been repeatedly brought to my attention because of numerous requests for it from Seventh-day Adventist leaders worldwide.

It is frequently requested alone, without any additional information or context. This has caused me some consternation due to the article’s anonymous authorship. The author also makes sweeping generalizations about both movements that he identifies as facts without citing any other resources to substantiate the claims beyond his own experience—two big red flags. “ACR” identifies himself as a Seventh Day Baptist, and cites a litany of factors to compare SDBs most unfavorably to SDAs.

The central thrust of the article coalesces around what ACR identifies as malaise and sloth among Seventh Day Baptists to live up to their own beliefs. He cites widespread and diligent work by all Adventists as a main reason for their growth, as well as their unwillingness to compromise their distinctives for ecumenical purposes. He goes so far as to suggest that their willingness to be disliked by Sunday keepers is a reason for their growth and brings “greater favor with God.”

ACR seems to have disdain for the pride which the SDBs of his time had in their history, favoring instead SDAs, who in his opinion, “are out... making history.” In sum, ACR seems to think the predominant reason for the growth of Seventh-day Adventists was because

of the attitude of its people, and that the attitude of Seventh Day Baptists needed to be readjusted.

After distributing this article several times during my tenure, I have been left with one central question: was A Candid Reader correct? Reading through the article and considering carefully its claims, I believe that the author was frustrated with his fellow SDBs and wanted to affect an attitude adjustment. To make this argument more forceful, ACR used hyperbole, generalizations, and loaded language to try and cajole the reader into agreement with his assessment.

There may well have been a mindset that was im-


peding the work of Seventh Day Baptists in this period, but I doubt very much if it was as dire and widespread as this article makes out.

“These writings can provide fascinating insights as they reveal the unspoken mindsets, ideologies, and fears of the times.”

Likewise, I am less confident than ACR that things were as rosy with the Adventists as he portrays.

In his final analysis, ACR tells the readers what he wants Seventh Day Baptists to take from the Adventist example in that period: “...their zeal, their courage, their devotion, their consecration, and upright character... which bear testimony to what their religious faith does for them.”

I don’t know if this article brought about the change that A Candid Reader hoped to see among SDBs in his day, but I do know that this final list of traits is vital to the life of the Conference today, combined with clear doctrine as revealed by the Scriptures. If we are to be what God calls us to be, we too need to have a firm resolve marked by zeal, courage, devotion, consecration, and godly character. We must avoid drawing unnecessary conclusions from our limited experience which cause us to see things in a distorted way, or using extreme language to try and bully people into holding our pet positions.

Faithful living consistent with our historical roots is the way for us to write the next pages of our shared story. 

Seminarian Profile

Seminarian Profile



Name: Joshua W. Michaels

Birthdate and place: June 29, 1983
Bennington, VT

Family:

I have wonderful parents who have been married for over 50 years. My parents have 13 children, of which I am the youngest—just after my twin brother, Jonathan. I grew up as an uncle with now over 30 nephews and nieces; some of these nephews and nieces have children of their own now.

Education:

Berlin (NY) High School 2001
Houghton (NY) College 2005
Currently at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary,
Hamilton, MA
I expect to graduate in August 2013.

Ministry Experience:

Associate Pastor—Berlin SDB Church
Camp Director for five years
SCSC for two years

Non-ministry experience:

In a retail setting for five years, two of them as a manager. I have detailed cars and cooked in a kitchen. I currently substitute teach at a local school to supplement my income and have more face time with the community youth.

Favorite Bible passage:

Galatians 2:20, a reminder that the life I am to live was bought with a price; it is no longer my life but Christ's, who gives meaning and purpose to my existence.

Favorite author:

Just one? I really enjoy reading Ravi Zacharias, John Piper, and John Jefferson Davis.

If given a \$10,000 check:

I should say that I would pay on student loans. If I wanted to do something other than that, I could pay for a place to live in a new area to aid in planting a church, or buy a new guitar and share the rest with others who wanted something. Some might say that I could use \$10,000 to buy presents for my nieces and nephews for a year.


A great answer to prayer was:

When I got my acceptance letter to Gordon-Conwell Seminary. I have been greatly blessed by the tutelage of my professors and support from fellow students.

A project I'm excited about:

New church plant opportunities and ministries that are coming over the horizon.

My vision for SDBs:

I would like to see a Seventh Day Baptist church in every major city with a plan to plant in surrounding communities. 



Will you pray with me?



For the last year, I've been praying that God would grant opportunities to speak His Good News into the lives of people who don't yet know Him. The obvious result in my life is a growing conviction that this needs to be my prayer right now.

God has brought passages of Scripture to my mind in new and very personal ways. This has rung true from the obvious call of the Great Commission to the poignant "How beautiful are the feet of him who brings good news."

Surprisingly, it has also rung true for the command to always be ready to defend with gentleness the hope I have to anyone who asks.

I have been ready to give that defense. My parents and churches taught the Gospel message well and in a way that was deeply internalized. I learned the Romans Road by heart early in life, and have been ready to use John 3:16 in a conversation if it seemed merited. In preparation for dedicated service and my year in SCSC, I developed and honed a "three-minute testimony" that I still

use. My heart and head resonate with the ringing words of 1 Corinthians 15 that "Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he rose again on the third day according to the scriptures, and that he was seen..."

In addition to that preparation, you can layer on top the years of praying, listening, Bible Study, theological training, preaching and teaching, praying, singing, and more listening. I've devoured tracts (4 Spiritual Laws, Steps to Peace with God, One Verse Evangelism), books (*How to Give Away Your Faith*, *Just Walk Across the Room*, *Tell The Truth*, *The Master Plan of Evangelism*), sermons, and lecture series—all designed to encourage and equip people for evangelism. I have significant knowledge.

Beyond that, I have experience. I have talked with people about their faith. I have presented the Gospel in situations where people don't know Christ. Before I started the job I have now, I worked side-by-side with people who rejected Jesus and talked deeply about who Christ is and how He has influenced me. As I left those jobs, I was told a couple of times, "I've watched you over the past few years and I know that Jesus makes a difference in your life."

So, why am I praying that God will grant opportunities to speak His Good News into the lives of people who don't yet know Him? Because

He has laid the concern on my heart. Because our Conference has been focused on church planting. Because my Association has been focused on outreach. Because I've been wrestling with evangelism materials in developing a workshop.

Because God has been softening my heart.

In Matthew 23, we hear the heart of Christ desiring to gather in all of Jerusalem rather than to pronounce woe for rejecting the way of God (v. 37). The sentiment proclaimed there is echoed throughout Scripture. And God has been calling my heart to hear that echo and yield to that sentiment. God wants to gather people to Himself and He has chosen to use us in the process.

As I drive through cities and by single houses in the woods, I am becoming more aware that there are people God would gather to Himself who need to hear His call, His words, His life, His love. At this moment, I cannot point to events or encounters that have happened as a result of my prayer. But as God grants life and health, He will grant the desire of my heart—to be in tune with His desire and speak His words at the right time to the right person.

God is changing me to be ready for the encounters He has planned. Will you pray with me? Will you ask God to grant you opportunities to speak His Good News into the lives of people who don't yet know Him? If you do, be ready to speak. Be ready for changes He may make in your heart, head, and life. **SR**



FOCUS on Missions

“Missio Dei” in Ireland

by Clinton R. Brown
sdbmissions.org

While in Ireland, driving the wedding party to the site of my daughter’s ceremony, the classic Beatles 1967 song “All You Need Is Love” came on the car radio. I would not have characterized the Beatles as great guides to a life philosophy, but that song focused on what I was going to talk about as my family blessed and confirmed the covenant Amanda and Kory were pledging to each other on the Irish seacoast.

As I thought about it, I realized “All You Need Is Love” is the only message I’ve preached as I have visited congregations around the world for the past year. I have tried to make others know I’m not talking about some romantic infatuation or attraction that people have for each other. They need to know I am talking about the sacrificial commitment to other people’s good.

It’s the kind of love that God demonstrated throughout the Bible and culminated in the ultimate sacrifice of His Son. It was His commitment to be in a life-changing and saving relationship with each of us—for eternity.

I have been trying to impress on people, and myself, that John 3:16 is about a God that has been on a mission to bring people to Himself in that kind of relationship since before time began. In theological studies they call this *Missio Dei*, or the “mission of God.”

So often we get it backwards and try to get God to bless and equip our mission activities. However, as Alan Hirsh said in a 2010 church planters conference, “The church does not have a mission, the mission has a church.”

Remembering that God is Love (1 John 4:8) and we are seeking to be conformed to the image of His Son (Romans 8:29), then being about His mission to reach

*“The church does not
have a mission,
the mission has a church.”*

the unreached should be our priority.

But we need to remember it is not *our* mission. He gives us air to breathe, food to eat, designed us from the subatomic particle up, yet we often have the audacity to

act like we in some way own His mission. We should not just seek Him for our daily bread and forgiveness of our trespasses, but should earnestly pray that He equip us to join in *HIS* mission of bringing His Kingdom to the hearts of those who live lives of futility. We should be loving others towards the relationship that ultimately matters.

All of our “solo” efforts are like little noises in the symphony of God’s orchestrated plans and movements. For us to be part of the *Missio Dei* we really need God to be part of it. NO, that’s not right. We need God to be the beginning, middle and end of what we do.

Now let’s do the math and see if the Beatles got it right. God is ALL we need. God is Love. All we need is Love. *SR*

I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. (John 15:5)



*The rocky coast of
Ireland near the site
of Clint’s daughter’s wedding.*



the BEACON

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

February 2013

Worried? Stressed? Try this

by Seth Osborn
Boulder, Colo.

I've been reflecting on the fact that I've already finished up the first semester of my 11th grade year. This is pretty big: I'm more than halfway done with my high school career.

After three more semesters, I'm going to be off to college. That sounds like a long time when I say it, but thinking back, it really wasn't all that long ago that I started to learn how to navigate my maze of a school. If two and a half years have gone by so fast, then one and a half more surely can't be that long, can it?

Honestly, thinking about this can be a little stressful. I need to make sure that I keep my grades up so I can get into a good college. I also need to look for somewhere that doesn't have too high of a tuition so my parents and I can afford it.

And this whole situation is just one of the things to be stressed out about in my life. What could I possibly do to help relieve some of this stress? Where could I possibly go to find encouragement to not worry?

If you guessed something along the lines of "read the Bible," then you probably remembered that this is a Christian publication and jumped to the most logical conclusion. Good job!

Philippians 4:6-7 tells us, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving,



present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." In other words, we should ask God for help with our problems, and not waste time feeling stress over them. If God is all-powerful, then He can help, can't he?

Another verse with a similar message is one I mentioned in my first article. 1 Peter 5:7 says, "Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you." Sometimes we might feel like our problems aren't important enough for God, but He made us and loves us. If He loved us enough to send His son to die for us, then I think He'll probably be willing to help us out with some smaller things along the way.

In Matthew 6:25-27, Jesus says, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you

will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?" This is a good insight. God made man in His own image (Genesis 1:27), so we're obviously more important to Him than anything else in Creation.

God will take care of us, even if it doesn't seem like it. Worrying won't do us any good; it only makes us waste time wondering what to do instead of actually doing something. This passage concludes with one of my favorite Bible verses, Matthew 6:34—"Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

Max Lucado once said, "No one can pray and worry at the same time." So take the advice of these verses! Next time you're feeling anxious about something, take that time you were going to use to worry and use it to pray. Tell God what's going on in your life, and ask Him to help you through it.

Things might not seem to get better right away, but you can be sure that everything will work out in the end. **SR**

The Meaning of Life

by Torie Flinton
Grand Rapids, Mich.

For many, there comes a time when a subtle feeling of meaninglessness can creep into their thoughts; a time where one's purpose is lost in the confusion of a cruel world.

I must admit that I've "been there" before. I took a step back to get a better look and found that I didn't like what I had seen. There are so many questions that run through my head daily that I wish God would answer. "What is the meaning of life?", or as Hamlet stated, "To be or not to be: that is the question."

This comes up in conversation as a joking phrase, but have you seriously contemplated the implications? Have you looked in the eyes of an unsaved friend who is truly the kindest person you've ever known, knowing that if she refuses to profess the name of Christ, her soul will rest in Hell? Then there's you—whose mind is tainted, whose thoughts are spotted with perversion and judgment, who cuts down the defenseless. You proclaim Jesus in your heart, so you'll rest in Heaven.



People are killed every day, thrown into prison in other countries for possessing a small portion of the Bible, but I, the "good American Christian," might not be a proper representative of the love that Christ had put in my heart.

Some see life as a sinful disaster. "No one wants me; they'd be better off without me; I'd rather be in Hell." The devil is a constant voice etched in the periphery of their thoughts.

At one point, for me it all seemed inescapable. I even hated God for a while. It got to the point where I found myself screaming at the top of my lungs in the pouring rain asking why the world was such a cold, dark place filled with deceit and pain. I pleaded to God for an answer.

The answer to my question was that we need to see the product of sin in our lives to fully grasp the concept of grace. I had every right to hate myself. I was an "awful" person. My unsatisfied want for love had turned into bitterness. Why did it take me falling to my knees for me to find the missing piece?

I was once told that you don't know the use of an umbrella unless you've taken a walk in the rain. I learned that I couldn't make myself better.

I had to pray good and hard, and did things grow

"If I have a hope, it's that God sat over the dark nothing and wrote you and me, specifically, into the story."

better? Yes, but better doesn't always mean good. I came to realize that I wasn't as near to God as I aspired to be.

At Conference in 2011 some of the young people were discussing what Christ-less youth were doing (for example drinking, gang violence, etc.). And then Brooke North said something that just pulled it all together: "What would we be doing right now if we didn't know Jesus?" There would always be an emptiness; meaninglessness.

I read this passage from the book *A Million Miles in a Thousand Years*: "If I have a hope, it's that God sat over the dark nothing and wrote you and me, specifically, into the story, and put us in with the sunset and the rainstorm as though to say, 'Enjoy your place in my story. The beauty of it all means you matter, and you can create within it even as I have created you.'" —Donald Miller.

What is the meaning of life? I'm not sure, but what I do know is that I matter. I am a fingerprint. I leave my mark everywhere I go.

I want to love and live out my story with integrity knowing that I am a slave to righteousness, and not to my own earthly desires (Rom 6:16). That is where I am in my life. **SR**



Colorado Springs, CO

July 28–Aug. 3, 2013



The President's Page

by Ralph Mackintosh

Experiencing God at a Higher Altitude

When my grandfather came to America in the 1880s he worked his way west until ending up in Colorado. There he labored constructing railroads, coal mining, gold and silver mining, harvesting timber and hard rock drilling. While working in the rough mining and lumber camps he began to seriously study the Bible, discovered the Sabbath, and found his true calling as a minister of the Gospel.

Growing up in Wales in a non-churchgoing family, my grandfather found the Welsh Baptist church as a child and walked the three miles by himself to attend services. However it wasn't until he came to the Rocky Mountains that he went from a church attendee to a real student of the Scriptures.

Coming to the realization that the prophecies and words of the Bible were relevant today, he arranged to be made the camp cook so that when the laborers went out to work he could spend much of his time in Bible study. There on the high slopes of the Rockies he immersed himself in the Word of God and reoriented his life goals and purpose.

Over the next 10 years, with no formal theological training, Malcolm Mackintosh planted dozens of churches, preached and ministered in

cities and town throughout Colorado. Later he went on to start churches in Missouri, then Saskatchewan, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island in Canada.

I don't know what it is about the mountains and the outdoors that often bring us to a new awareness of God. Is it the towering majesty of God's wondrous creation that awakens a sense of awe? Is it the retreat from our normal busy lives and the time to concentrate on spiritual things?

Is it replacing the rush of traffic with the rushing of mountain streams that allows us to listen quietly for God to speak? Is it the climb to a higher altitude that lets us feel closer to God and rise above the worries and cares that sometimes drag us down?

This summer you'll have the opportunity to follow in my grandfather's footsteps as we seek to discover where Christ's footsteps are leading us today and experience God at a higher altitude. With our General Conference site nestled at the foot of the grandeur of the Rocky Mountains, there will be opportunity to climb (or drive) to some impressive vistas of magnificent scenery. But even more importantly there will be opportunities to have

mountaintop experiences with God in our worship, music and study during Conference week.

I recently read that the Colorado state motto "Nil Sine Numine" translates from Latin as "Nothing Without the Deity." How appropriate for our General Conference meetings, as truly we can do nothing without the Deity. We are dependent on God's inspiration and guidance to direct our paths and reveal His perfect will.

Let's move Forward Together in HIS Footsteps, and I pray your footsteps will carry you to Colorado this summer. **SR**

Historical note: My grandfather, Malcolm Mackintosh, met my grandmother in the mountain town of Florence, Colo., and my father, Albyn, was born in that small town in 1908. My father always planned on retiring to Colorado but it was two generations later before the Mackintoshes returned to the state where my sons Jonathan and Dusty, their wives and five of my grandchildren now reside. Dusty graduated from Denver Seminary and serves as assistant pastor of the Next Step Church in Thornton, Colo.



by Executive Director
Rob Appel

Standing for God— “The Hardship of Service”

In his book, *My Utmost for His Highest*, Oswald Chambers responds to the passage found in 2 Corinthians 12:15, “And I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I am loved.” Chambers’ response is called, “The Destitution of Service”—

Natural human love expects something in return. But Paul is saying, “It doesn’t really matter to me whether you love me or not. I am willing to be completely destitute anyway; willing to be poverty-stricken, not just for your sakes, but also that I may be able to get you to God.” “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor...” (2 Corinthians 8:9).

And Paul’s idea of service was the same as our Lord’s. He did not care how high the cost was to himself—he would gladly pay it. It was a joyful thing to Paul. The institutional church’s idea of a servant of God is not at all like Jesus Christ’s idea. His idea is that we serve Him by being the servants of others. Jesus Christ actually “out-socialized” the socialists. He said that in His kingdom the greatest one would be the servant of all.

The real test of a saint is not one’s willingness to preach the Gospel, but one’s willingness to do something like washing the disciples’ feet—that is, being willing to do those things that seem unimportant in human estimation but count as everything to God. It was Paul’s delight to spend his life for God’s interests in other people, and he did not care what it cost.

We must take seriously Paul’s statement, “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me!” This must be our cry of faith as well!

Whatever we cling to or feel called to do out of self-service, that has become our stumbling block. We must give up with joy anything that has taken our attention off Him, to become all that Christ wants to give us.

Today, the message of submission has been so watered down that people take it to mean something completely different. We seem to have the idea that surrendering everything is a “concept” and not a reality.

In order to be Jesus’ disciples, we must deny ourselves, pick up our cross and follow Him. However, people seem to skip over that first part about denying ourselves!

Question: “*But what do you mean Rob? I have to deny what?*”

Answer: “*Umm, everything!*”

Question: “*To deny ourselves, what does that mean? Deny ourselves of what?*”

Answer: “*Umm, EVERYTHING! Every sin, every desire, dream, want, and every circumstance.*”

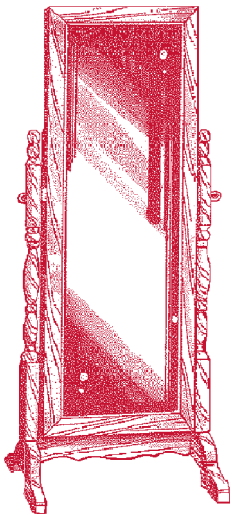
It is no longer how we want it, but it’s how God wants it! And it doesn’t end there. Not only can we go through what God asks us to go through (those times where we surrender and submit to His will), but we can also go through this with true joy and peace. It all depends on our attitude in our heads and our hearts.

This is not joy or peace from ourselves or our circumstances, but true joy and peace that only comes through Jesus in our lives. When every circumstance pulls against us, when everything seems to be wrong, we can still have True Joy and Peace!

Oswald Chambers summed it up this way, “*But the apostle Paul had no conditions or reservations. Paul focused his life on Jesus Christ’s idea of a New Testament saint; that is, not one who merely proclaims the Gospel, but one who becomes broken bread and poured-out wine in the hands of Jesus Christ for the sake of others.*”

Does that describe you? I pray that it does! **SR**

Next month: **Be Faithful to the Ministry
You Receive**



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*

Pick a card— or a day

As most people know, Valentine's Day is observed in the U.S. on February 14th each year. The original "St. Valentine" was a liturgical celebration of early Christian saints named "Valentinus." Several martyrdom stories were invented for these various saints and added to later martyrologies. In 1969, Pope Paul VI deleted this celebration from the General Roman Calendar.

Several centuries after these initial celebrations, poets began adding modern romantic connotations. Geoffrey Chaucer and others in his circle were among the first to associate romantic love with the celebration. This was during the High Middle Ages, when the tradition of courtly love flourished.

By the 15th century, Valentine's Day had evolved into an occasion where people expressed their deep love for each other by presenting flowers, offering "confectionery," and sending greeting cards—which became known as "valentines."

Modern Valentine's Day symbols include doves, winged cupids, and various heart-shaped designs. Since the 19th century, handwritten valentines have given way to mass-produced greeting cards.

When it comes to how many valentines are bought in the U.S. each year, the numbers differ widely. One estimate is "over 10 million," while another says one billion cards are sold annually. (Half of those

are sold the week of the holiday, while the largest—and most elaborate cards—are sold 48 hours prior to Valentine's Day.)

There are a number of other occasions when people send cards. These include Christmas, Hanukkah, Easter, Thanksgiving, Halloween, birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, first Communion, baptisms, Confirmation, retirement, and graduation. Let's not forget get-well cards, thinking-of-you and thank-you notes, baby and wedding shower cards, congratulations-on-the-birth-of-your-baby cards, and sympathy cards.

Then there's Mother's Day, Father's Day, Sweetest Day, Pastor Appreciation Day, Secretary's Day (now Administrative Professionals Day), and Grandparents Day.

Speaking of Grandparents Day, the now-deceased SDB Senator from West Virginia, Jennings Randolph, introduced a resolution to the Senate in 1973 to make Grandparents Day a national holiday, but it died in committee. (Marian McQuade of Oak Hill, W.Va., was the actual founder of the day.) Senator Randolph, with other senators, introduced a Joint Resolution in February of 1977, and President Jimmy Carter signed it, officially proclaiming the first Sunday after Labor Day as National Grandparents Day.

In this country, every month also has special designations, some significant and some silly.

For instance, February is known as American Heart Month, An Af-



fair to Remember Month, Black History Month, Canned Food Month, Creative Romance Month, Great American Pie Month, National Cherry Month, National Children's Dental Health Month, National Grapefruit Month, and National Weddings Month. The third week of February is designated International Flirting Week.

Some of February's special days include: National Freedom Day, Feb. 1; Ground Hog Day, Feb. 2; The Day the Music Died, Feb. 3 [Buddy Holly, Richie Valens, and the Big Bopper died in a plane crash on that date in 1959]; Thank a Mailman Day, Feb. 4; Boy Scout Day, Feb. 8; Toothache Day, Feb. 9; Don't Cry Over Spilled Milk Day, Make a Friend Day, and White T-Shirt Day, all Feb. 11; Abraham Lincoln's Birthday, Feb. 12; Valentine's and National Organ Donor Day, both Feb. 14; Do a Grouch a Favor Day, Feb. 16; Cherry Pie Day, Feb. 20; Be Humble Day, Feb. 22; and National Tortilla Chip Day, Feb. 24.

No matter how a month or a day is designated, Christians need to focus on one simple but profound truth: "This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it" (*Psalms 118:24*). **SR**

Robe travels to Florida

On October 12, 2012 many friends and family members joined with the Daytona Beach, Fla., SDB Church family to witness Marjorie Jacob receive the 2012 Robe of Achievement. The Robe (awarded by the national SDB Women's Society) was first presented to Marjorie during General Conference meetings in Buckhannon, W.Va., in the summer.

Daytona Pastor Wray Winborne read the recipient's history of local and denominational accomplishments, which included testimonies by two of her children, Matthew Jacob and Marian Fick. Matthew then read and presented Margie with the beautiful plaque given for this recognition, and assisted Marian with putting the Robe on their mom. Congratulations, Marjorie and family! 



Front row (l. to r.): Toriana and Matthew Jacob, James and Marjorie Jacob, Marian Fick and Sandra Polke. Back row: Carolyn and Timothy Jacob, Carla Jacob, Ewald Fick, Pastor Wray Winborne, Greg Fick, Linda Victoria Fick, and Douglas, Timothy, Shawn and Russell Polke.



Matt Jacob and Marian Fick place the 2012 Robe of Achievement on their mother Marjorie Jacob.

Update from Washington State

by Stan Fox

The Central Washington Seventh Day Baptist Church is doing well and moving ahead in ministry in Yakima. While not growing by great numbers we still have an opportunity to share the Word of God with a number of visitors and show forth the love of Christ.

This past Thanksgiving we had our annual joint service with a Pentecostal church. We have done this for some years now and it is always a blessing.

At Christmas time we went to a low-income facility in the city to sing carols and serve refreshments while handing out Gospels of John.


We also take reading glasses to give to those who need them. They are always appreciative. The one-on-one visitation causes blessings to flow in both directions.

The building and land still has some work to be done but it is progressing. We have always been determined not to go into debt and have been able to maintain that goal so far. Our former building was sold and is being used by a Korean church. It is good to see that it's still in use for God's work.

We are blessed to have good neighbors to help watch over the building when we are not there.

One even does the snow plowing for us without cost.

Our Pastoral Search Committee is doing a good job in their search. We would like to see some serious SDB candidates respond.

In reading SDB history, one of the reasons for the decline of Seventh Day Baptists in England was the lack of solid SDB ministers to pastor the churches. A goal from the onset of becoming a Sabbath church (we were a Sunday group) was for a strong SDB church in Yakima—that is still our prayer. Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers. 

The General Council is a group of 5 people elected by the SDB General Conference to act on their behalf for denominational matters between sessions of General Conference. According to the SDB Bylaws, "the General Council shall provide creative leadership and initiative for Seventh Day Baptists." Your feedback to the following questions will help us know what we are, can, and should be doing to support you and your local SDB church.

Send your response BY **MARCH 15, 2013** to sdbgc@seventhdaybaptist.org -or- mail paper responses to Susan Fox, 1722 Taylor Station Road, Blacklick OH 43004. Thanks for taking the time to let us know what you think! (If you are a Pastor, please share with your church members as well.)



*General Council Members:
Dannette Montague, Susan Fox,
Dale Thorngate, Rod Noel,
and John Pethtel (chair)*

Save time and a stamp! Go to www.surveymonkey.com/s/WKZ29XR

- ▶ Please rank each of the following to indicate which you think are most important for the five elected members of General Council to focus their attention. (1 = most important, to 5 = least important)
- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>_____ Long term strategy</p> <p>_____ Fund raising</p> <p>_____ Visit churches & Association meetings</p> <p>_____ Promote evangelistic outreach activity</p> <p>_____ Support & encourage Pastors</p> <p>_____ Other (describe): _____</p> <p>_____ Other (describe): _____</p> | <p>_____ Review & Accountability of SDB employees</p> <p>_____ Prioritize Board/Agency time and spending</p> <p>_____ Start new projects</p> <p>_____ Facilitate Communication</p> <p>_____ Develop tracts, periodicals, teaching materials</p> |
|---|---|

▶ How often do you attend SDB General Conference Sessions? Why or why not? What changes would increase your ability to attend SDB General Conference Sessions more often? _____

▶ Is there any additional (new or improved) service or assistance that the SDB denomination could provide to you or your church? _____

▶ What would you like the new members of General Council to know about you or your church? _____

▶ Are you interested in receiving SDB communication and other materials through the internet? _____

New members

Alfred Station, NY
Kenneth Chroniger, pastor
Joined after testimony
Brad Morrison
Colleen Morrison

Bloomington, MN
(Branch of Dodge Center, MN)
Joined after testimony
Greg Olson
Carol Olson

Daytona Beach, FL
Wray Winborne, pastor
Joined after testimony
Judith Boudreau
Nancy Sanders
Beverly Skervin

Nortonville, KS
Steve Saunders, pastor
Joined after baptism
Sunni Marie Stanley

Marriages

Crosby – Neher.
Aaron James Crosby and
Micayla Chera Neher were
united in marriage on July
28, 2012 in Elgin, MN. Pastor
Jason Berry officiated.

Wangsness – Osborn.
Erik Clayton Wangsness and
Jennifer Beth Osborn were
united in marriage on November
24, 2012 at the Dodge Center
(MN) SDB Church. Pastor Bill
Shobe officiated.

Obituary

Haire.—Rosemary Arlene (Cavinder) Haire, 91, died on December 6, 2012 at the Sojourner House of Kalamazoo, Mich.

Rosemary was born April 30, 1921 in Jackson Center, Ohio, to Grover and Rosa Ann (Richards) Cavinder. She was a 1940 graduate of Battle Creek (Mich.) Central High School. She had been employed as an executive secretary at Olivet (Mich.) College.

She is survived by daughters Karen Thorngate and Dorrie O'Connell of Kalamazoo; grandsons Jeffery Thorngate of Kalamazoo and Larry Ward of Slidell, La.; four great-greatchildren and a great-great-granddaughter; sisters June Gardner

and Janet Needham of Marshall, Mich., and Beth Jones and Barbara Vantrease of Battle Creek; and many step-children, nieces and nephews. Rosemary was preceded in death by a young son David C. Pratley; a foster son Phillip R. Cavinder; former husband Carl A. Pratley, and husbands Jules R. Roelly and Edwin I. Haire; brothers Raymond, Lisle, and Max; and sisters Doris Cavinder and Jean Spindlow.

Funeral services were held at the Battle Creek SDB Church on December 10, 2012 with Pastor Kory Geske officiating. Interment was at Blue Ridge Memorial Gardens, Pisgah Forest, N.C. *SR*

Births

Neher.—A son, Oliver William was born to Jeff and Naomi (La Croix) Neher of Dodge Center, MN on September 24, 2012.

Holbrook.—A son, William Mathew, was born to Ryan and Kathleen (Sanford) Holbrook of Milton, WI on December 25, 2012.

Cougoule.—A daughter, Madison Stella, was born to Tony and Heidi (Crouch) Cougoule of Santa Barbara, CA on December 31, 2012.

Mackintosh.—A son, Collyn Luke, was born to Adam and Rachel (Parker) Mackintosh of Sterling, CO on January 9, 2013.

SDB Pastors Conference

is coming
April 23-27, 2013.
Encourage your pastor
to attend this time
of learning
and fellowship.
Special guest will be
Dr. Ralph Mackintosh,
SDB General
Conference President
and illusionist.

(See
www.medmagic.org)


Center to be Shepard-less



Morgan Shepard, Financial Director for the Seventh Day Baptist Memorial Fund since September 2004, is leaving the SDB Center in Janesville to take a position with L3 Communications Stratis in Molesworth, England.

He announced this move to the General Council and CLT in early December 2012. Morgan had served on two deployments (in 2005 and 2010) as an active duty Navy Officer, but this new job will be as a civilian with L3. He will work for the U.S. Government in military construction, programming and planning. RAF Molesworth is a Royal Air Force station located about 70 miles north of London.

Morgan's last official day at the SDB Center was January 4, and traveled to his new position in mid-January. Ron Ochs of Milton, Wis., is working part-time with Jan Ehlers and Jeremy Howard at the Center during the transition. Morgan's wife, Kate, and their three boys plan to move to the UK in the spring.

We are grateful for Morgan's faithful service to Seventh Day Baptists and ask that you would join us as we pray for a safe and positive move for the Shepards. 

Our Retired Pastors THANK YOU!

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!! You have helped **COSAR** (Committee on Support and Retirement) reach and exceed their goal of raising an additional \$25,000 to supplement the old retirement plan funded by the Pastors Retirement Fund (formerly P.R.O.P.). Thanks to some especially generous gifts, COSAR has not had to begin borrowing from the Memorial Fund to meet this obligation. It looks like that will be delayed until the end of March for the April checks.

And... the COSAR goal for fundraising in 2013 is another \$25,000. Let's see if we can meet this goal once again. **Thank you** for your prayers, and consideration of this need.

For those branching out beyond Facebook, here are some other ways to connect with SDBs:

Pinterest: www.pinterest.com/7thDayBaptists

Twitter: www.twitter.com/7thDayBaptists

Google+: gplus.to/7thDayBaptists

Tumblr: 7thdaybaptists.tumblr.com

Vimeo: vimeo.com/7thdaybaptists

Oh yeah, and we're still on **Facebook** at www.facebook.com/7thDayBaptists

Rez Connection outreach

The Lord is at work on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota! Is He calling you to join Him for a week of ministry in early April?

The week will include evangelism training, outreach to Native Americans, organic gardening, team chores, and time alone with God. Families are welcome, and individuals 18 and older. We will be housed in a church building, next to the Marks family farm. There are also motels nearby in Martin, S.D.

Contact trip leader Patty Petersen at 720-320-3418 (ppetersen57@hotmail.com), or the SDB Missionary Society at 401-596-4326 (info@SDBMissions.org).

KEVIN'S

ORNER

So many choices!

Radios.

They've been a big part of my life for as long as I can remember.

I guess I got the "radio bug" when I watched my Dad set up the heavy, multi-tubed Heathkit shortwave radios on the dining room table. Turning on the stereo console behind him, he would drop the needle on the spinning record, and do his best to learn Morse Code from those LPs. (Even with his sharp mind, he didn't have the time to master the code and never got his ham radio license.)

But he would continue to listen to AM radio. We would hear the local news and market updates. After Dad went to work, Mom would keep the radio on. My younger sister and I hold fond memories of Arthur Godfrey entertaining us on the school days we pretended to be sick...

Now, I'm surrounded by devices that can pick up just about any radio signal you can imagine. Multiple radios in our house (okay, my room) can receive the couple dozen local AM and FM stations. I bought one special HD desk radio before I found out there are no HD stations nearby. Yes, I even pay extra for satellite radio (at home and in the car) that can pull in over 140 channels of music, sports and all kinds of audio wonders.

Shortwave? You want shortwave? With its nine different bandwidths and the right antenna and time of day, I can listen to many, many more commercial and amateur broadcasts from all over.

Atmospheric conditions and even sunspots can cause the reception to drift, but with some adjustments I can generally tune in the strongest signal.

And now I have stand-alone internet radios pulling in stations worldwide that choose to 'stream' their programs on the web. (I love the radios that promote their ability to receive over 17,000 stations, and then they give you a paltry 10 memory presets...)

Add to all this the internet music streaming services like Pandora and Spotify, plus all the computer and iPod music apps, plus the near-infinite supply of music stored in those mysterious "clouds," and there's no lack for sound options.

Why so many? I guess with 7 billion people on this planet, it makes for a ton of different tastes and preferences. So we have a lot of radio options.

And we have a lot of church options. Many people have many different tastes and beliefs.

Do we choose a local church the way we approach our radio listening?

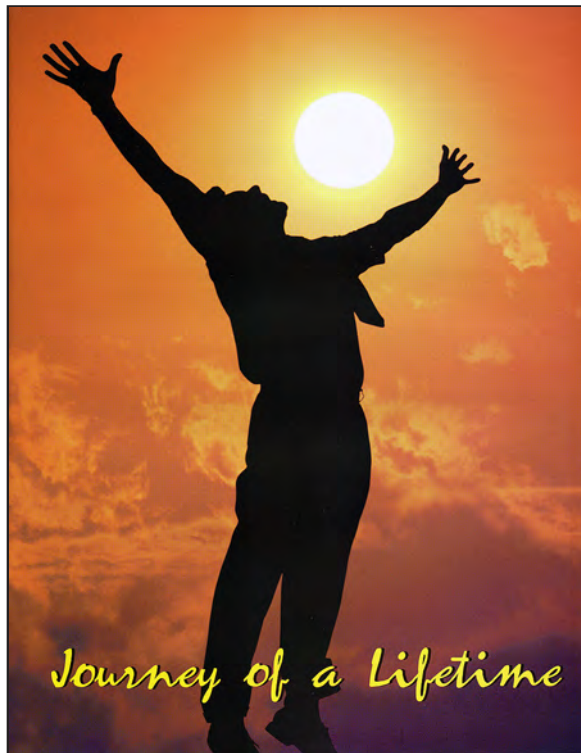
Your church might not always provide you with the strongest signal to God. The leaders might not always offer your favorite style and taste in music or preaching. Some of the "commercials" might even get distracting.

But you belong to that church for many other positive reasons. Why drift away to find another channel on the church dial? Doesn't your conviction strengthen your connection? Do what you can to make some adjustments and be in tune with the Source.

My prayer is that you keep that church as your #1 preset and give praise to God where He's planted you!



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."