



# The Sabbath RECORDER

*Inside:*

Conference  
Registration  
Forms

May 2013

*News for and about Seventh Day Baptists*

## PRO & CON



A brief study on the  
Sabbath question

***Plus:***

**Why do  
SDBs  
observe  
the  
Sabbath?**



## 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)

## Flying to Conference?



Our 2013 General Conference will be held on the campus of the University of Colorado in Colorado Springs. The Host Committee will provide transportation to the campus from Colorado Springs Airport.

If you choose Denver International Airport instead, you may arrange a ride with the Colorado Springs Shuttle (\$50 one way/\$90 RT) to the Academy Hotel where we can pick you up. For shuttle service info please go to [www.coloradoshuttle.com](http://www.coloradoshuttle.com) or call 877-587-3456.

See page 23 for more Conference info.

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

**Pinterest:** [www.pinterest.com/7thDayBaptists](http://www.pinterest.com/7thDayBaptists)

**Twitter:** [www.twitter.com/7thDayBaptists](http://www.twitter.com/7thDayBaptists)

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**Tumblr:** [7thdaybaptists.tumblr.com](http://7thdaybaptists.tumblr.com)

**Vimeo:** [vimeo.com/7thdaybaptists](http://vimeo.com/7thdaybaptists)

Oh yeah, and we're still on **Facebook** at

[www.facebook.com/7thDayBaptists](http://www.facebook.com/7thDayBaptists)

## Want to get the weekly SDB E-newsletter?

Keep up with the latest SDB news by e-mail!

Contact [social@seventhdaybaptist.org](mailto:social@seventhdaybaptist.org)

to be on the mailing list. Send news to the same address so everyone can be informed!

The suggested date for this year's

**Sabbath  
Renewal  
Day**

**is May 18**

*Packets are being mailed to every church. Let's celebrate together!*



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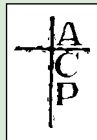


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by Dr. Paul Manuel

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*Based on a popular tract, a look at facts about the Sabbath and Sunday, and some of man's excuses and God's answers. Don't miss the "Buy 2 get 1 Free" offer for the tract!*

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# Why do Seventh Day Baptists observe the Sabbath?

*by Dr. Paul Manuel  
Salemville, Pa.*

Seventh Day Baptists keep a day for worship different from that of most other Christians. Instead of gathering on the first day of the week, Seventh Day Baptists meet on the seventh day of the week, the biblical Sabbath.

Why would they choose to separate themselves in this way? What scriptural reasons are there for worshipping and resting on the seventh day rather than on the first day?

## Seventh Day Baptists keep the Sabbath because...

### 1. THEY NOTE GOD'S EXAMPLE, FOR HE OBSERVED IT AT CREATION.



By the seventh day God completed His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. [Genesis 2:2]

For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth... and rested on the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. [Exodus 20:11]

### 2. THEY RECALL GOD'S DELIVERANCE, FOR HE INSTITUTED IT AFTER THE EXODUS.



See, the LORD has given you the Sabbath; therefore He gives you bread for two days

on the sixth day. Remain every man in his place; let no man go out of his place on the seventh day. [Exodus 16:29]

You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out of there by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm; therefore the LORD your God commanded you to observe the Sabbath day. [Deuteronomy 5:15]

### 3. THEY OBEY GOD'S PRECEPT, FOR HE COMMANDED IT ON SINAI.



Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. [Exodus 20:8]

Observe the Sabbath day to keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you. [Deut. 5:12]

### 4. THEY RECOGNIZE GOD'S DESIGNATION, FOR HE APPOINTED IT FOR WORSHIP.



For six days work may be done, but on the seventh day there is a Sabbath of complete rest, a holy convocation. [Leviticus 23:3a]



**5. THEY ACCEPT GOD'S INVITATION, FOR HE OPENED IT TO GENTILES.**

Also the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD... everyone who keeps from profaning the Sabbath... I will bring to My holy mountain and make them joyful in My house of prayer.... for My house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples. [Isaiah 56:6-7]

**6. THEY JOIN GOD'S PEOPLE, FOR HE GAVE IT TO ISRAEL.**

...speak to the sons of Israel, saying, "You shall surely observe My Sabbaths; for this is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am the LORD who sanctifies you." [Exodus 31:13]

...you, being a wild olive, were grafted in among them and became partaker with them of the rich root of the olive tree. [Romans 11:17]

**7. THEY SEEK GOD'S APPROVAL, FOR HE LINKED IT TO REWARD.**

If because of the Sabbath, you turn your foot from doing your [own] pleasure on My holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy day of the LORD honorable, and honor it, desisting from your own ways, from seeking your own pleasure and speaking [your own] word, then you will take delight in the LORD, and I will make you ride on the heights of the earth; and I will feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken. [Isaiah 58:13-14]

How blessed is the man... who keeps from profaning the Sabbath.... [Isaiah 56:2]

**8. THEY ANTICIPATE GOD'S KINGDOM, FOR HE DEMANDS IT IN TRIBUTE.**

"And it shall be from new moon to new moon and from Sabbath to Sabbath, all mankind will come to bow down before Me," says the LORD. [Isaiah 66:23]

**9. THEY FOLLOW GOD'S SON, FOR HE KEPT IT ON EARTH AND EXPECTED IT FROM DISCIPLES.**

...as was his custom, he entered the synagogue on the Sabbath... [Luke 4:16]

Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. [Matthew 5:19]

...teaching them to observe all that I commanded you.... [Matthew 28:20a]

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**10. THEY COPY GOD’S CHURCH,  
FOR EARLY BELIEVERS—  
JEWS AND GENTILES—  
CONTINUED TO KEEP IT.**



It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God.... For Moses has been preached in every city from the earliest times and is read in the synagogues on every Sabbath. [Acts 15:19, 21]

**11. THEY AWAIT GOD’S HEAVEN,  
FOR IT IS THE ULTIMATE  
RELEASE FROM THEIR  
LABOR.**



So there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God. [Hebrews 4:9]



Seventh Day Baptists do not keep Sunday because there is no biblical evidence that God changed His appointed day or that the earliest believers observed another day. In fact, there are only three New Testament references to Sunday, none of which gives that day priority over the Sabbath.

• Jesus rose on the first day, but only after he rested in the tomb on the seventh day.  
*But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. [Luke 24:1; cf. vv. 13, 21, 46]*

• Paul preached on the first day, but it was a final (not a regular) meeting before he left the area.  
*On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul [began] talking to them, intending to leave the next day, and he prolonged his message until midnight. [Acts 20:7]*

• Corinthians set aside money on the first day, but it was a private savings not a public collection.  
*On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come. [1 Corinthians 16:2]*

The shift from Sabbath to Sunday followed an influx of Gentile converts that changed the demographic makeup of the church, leaving Jewish believers a marginalized minority. Because the Law did not have the same status among non-Jews as it did among Jews, there was less concern for



*There is no  
biblical evidence  
that God  
changed His  
appointed day.*



keeping it. Sunday, the day of Jesus’ resurrection, became the preferred day of worship, a practice the Emperor Constantine promoted in the 4th century and subsequent church councils prescribed.

Although some Jewish believers (those who managed to avoid assimilation) continued to keep the Sabbath, Gentile Christians generally did not. Seventh Day Baptists arose in the mid-17th century with a renewed recognition of the Sabbath’s importance.

The primary difference between the two days is that Sabbath observance is based on Biblical teaching, whereas Sunday observance is based on church tradition.

“How blessed is the man... who keeps from profaning the Sabbath.” **SR**

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*This article is found at Jim Skaggs’ blog “One Eternal Day” ([www.one-eternal-day.com](http://www.one-eternal-day.com)). Jim also administers some of Pastor Paul’s studies and lessons at [paulwmanuel.blogspot.com](http://paulwmanuel.blogspot.com).*



[This feature is based on one of our popular Sabbath tracts called “Pro & Con.” Please see the end of the article for a special discount on these tracts.]

*“The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.”*  
(Mark 2:27-28)

*“You are my friends if you do what I command.”* (John 15:14)

### Facts About the Sabbath

[Please use a Bible to look up the following Scripture references and receive the full benefit of this tract.]

God made the Sabbath at creation for all people, and not for Jews only.

—Gen. 2:2-3; Exod. 20:11; Mark 2:27

It was observed before the Law was given on Mt. Sinai.

—Exod. 16:23-30

The command to observe the Sabbath is associated with nine moral precepts, placed in the heart of the unchangeable Law.

—Exod. 20:8-11

It is a sign between God and His people.

—Exod. 31:17; Ezek. 20:20

Wrath came upon ancient Israel for breaking the Sabbath.

—Neh. 13:15-18

If the Sabbath had been kept, Jerusalem might not have been destroyed.

—Jer. 17:24-25

Christ observed the Sabbath.

—Mark 1:21

He called Himself its Lord.

—Mark 2:28

It was His custom to worship in the synagogue on that day.

—Luke 4:16

**cont. next page**

**More Facts about the Sabbath...**

The disciples rested on the Sabbath while Christ was lying in the grave. —*Luke 23:56*

Matthew, Mark, and Luke, who wrote after the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ, spoke from first-hand experience when describing the Sabbath as an existing institution.

—*Matt. 24:20; 28:1; Mark 16:1; Luke 23:56*

It was Paul's manner to make the Sabbath a preaching day. —*Acts 17:2*

The Gentile believers also observed the Sabbath. —*Acts 13:42-44*

Paul preached by a riverside, where there was no synagogue, on the Sabbath. —*Acts 16:13*

He reasoned in the synagogue at Corinth "every Sabbath." —*Acts 18:4*

He continued there a year and six months, "teaching them the word of God." —*Acts 18:11*

If *Revelation 1:10* refers to any day of the week, it must be that day of which the Savior spoke in *Mark 2:28*.

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**Facts About the First Day  
of the Week, or Sunday**

As the beginning of that day approached, the women came to the tomb.—*Matt. 28:1*

On it, our Lord's resurrection was discovered.—*Mark 16:2,9; John 20:1*. But the Bible does not say that it was therefore the Sabbath, nor that He rose on that day.

The women brought spices to the empty grave on that day (*Luke 24:1*), something they would not have done on the Sabbath. (*See Luke 23:56*.)

Christ appeared to His disciples while the doors were shut for fear of the Jews.—*John 20:19*. They were not assembled to celebrate Christ's resurrection, for some did not believe it had occurred. He came to prove it to them.

Paul preached once on the evening of the first day, our "Saturday night."—*Acts 20:7*. But the next morning, he continued his journey toward Jerusalem.

The Corinthians were commanded to set aside gifts for needy believers on the first day.

—*1 Cor. 16:2*. This was *not* a public collection, but a *private* business transaction at each home.

These are all the texts which speak of "the first day of the week"—just eight of them. What do they prove? Nothing at all, in favor of Sunday. Carefully examined, they support the reverse.

The Bible declares that, "Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness."—*1 John 3:4*. But what law do we break when we work on Sunday? If someone can find a text which says, "You shall not do any work on the first day of the week," or "Remember Sunday by keeping it holy," then Sunday observance, in place of God's Sabbath, will stand the test of righteous and loving obedience; otherwise, it will not.

"Blessed are those who wash their robes [do his Commandments], that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city."—*Rev. 22:14*. But where is any Commandment that speaks about Sunday?



## Man's Excuses and God's Answers

**“It’s not convenient to keep the seventh day.”**

Matt. 16:24

**“I have a family to support; it will interfere with my business.”**

Matt. 16:25-26, also 6:26; 1 Tim. 4:8;

Psalm 37:3; Isa. 58:13-14

**“It causes trouble and division.”**

John 15:19; 17:14; Matt. 10:34-39;

1 Kings 18:17-18

**“Everybody keeps the first day.”**

Matt. 7:13-14; Exod. 23:2; John 21:22

**“Great men teach that it’s right.”**

Hosea 10:13; 1 Cor. 1:25-27; Prov. 19:27

**“Civil law demands it.”**

Acts 4:19; Dan. 3:16-18; 6:10

**“The Sabbath cannot be restored.”**

Jer. 32:17,27; Matt. 5:17-19

**“I will be persecuted.”**

Matt. 5:11-12; Luke 6:22-23,26; 1 John 4:4

**“It makes no difference what day I keep, if I keep it right.”**

Exod. 20:9-10; Matt. 15:3,9. To keep any day right is to keep it as God’s law directs; otherwise, His law is not right.

**“I don’t think those old laws are binding.”**

Jer. 6:16—“This is what the LORD says: ‘Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths...’”

(Compare Jer. 2:11; 18:15.)

Matt. 5:17-18—“‘Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them...’”

**“I’m afraid of new doctrines.”**

Gen. 2:2-3; Exod. 20:11

**“The apostle teaches that old things are passed away.”**

2 Cor. 5:17—“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” The *man* becomes new—not the law.

(See Rom. 3:31.)

## Authorities Contrasted

**God commands us to keep the Sabbath.**

Popular custom commands us to trample on it.

**God sanctified the Sabbath, and Christ the Savior of men kept it.**

Traditions of men have pushed God’s sanctified day aside and exalted a human holiday in its place.

That’s a brief look at some questions concerning the Sabbath and Sunday. We hope everyone will search the Bible to see whether these things are so. (See Acts 17:11.) **SR**

**Have we got a deal for you!!**

**Buy 2 get 1 Free!!**

Now’s your chance to stock up on these attractive and convincing tracts. These “Pro & Con” four-panel tracts usually sell for 8 cents each (our cost). For a limited time, when you buy two we’ll add one for free! So if you order **100** tracts for \$8.00, you’ll get **150** for the same price.

Each piece is 3-3/4 x 7 inches with a full-color cover (as pictured on page 7).

Contact [media@seventhdaybaptist.org](mailto:media@seventhdaybaptist.org) and mention the “Buy 2 get 1 Free” special on “Pro & Con.”

We’ll let you know the shipping costs before sending your order.



by Executive Director  
Rob Appel

## Faith — Not emotion

*In September 2012 I took a spiritual retreat in the Rocky Mountains and was wondering how God was going to speak to me during this special time. On the morning of September 27th, in the lodge of Camp Paul Hummel, 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 five in a series from this great devotional.*

What is it like to see with the eyes of faith? I ask that because it seems that *not* having spiritual sight is the norm these days.

We are sometimes under the impression that faith is a condition, or a component, of our spiritual life that is hard to define. Nevertheless, the Bible commands us to live by faith. But what exactly does that mean, to “live by faith”?

The apostle Paul exhorted the believers in Corinth to make a distinction between the way they used to live and their new way of life, now that they are walking with Jesus. “We live by faith, not by sight.”

If we are to live by faith, we must then have a very good idea of how a life of faith ought to be lived and what this new life looks like. What is faith? What does it involve?

To start with, we need to know what faith isn’t, to help get to what faith is.

Faith is **not**:

- What we experience Sabbath Day, only to have it disappear on Sunday or Monday when we go to work.
- Works, and therefore we do not need to separate ourselves from the real world and seclude ourselves in order to become what God expects of us.
- Blind Belief in whoever and whatever God might send our way.

The faith that God expects from you is not only to believe, but rather it is to be lived. Abraham was called a man of faith. What attributes of faith did Abraham have that we must also have and emulate?

1. **Believing** – “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”

2. **Obeying** – There cannot be

faith in God without obedience. Faith has to prompt you to obedience. There cannot be faith unless that belief is followed with action.

3. **Doing** – Some have found a conflict between faith and works. It has been the result of misunderstanding what faith is all about. Some read Romans 4:1-4 to mean that faith and works cannot coexist. But once you have obtained salvation by faith and you live a life of obedience, this will lead you to work for the Lord by *doing*. (James 2:14-22.)

The Bible tells us that we must walk by faith. This doesn’t mean that we must disconnect from the world. Jesus came that we have life and life abundant. This means a life worth living not separated from the world, but rather making a difference through God’s blessings, while we are in the world.

We can live by faith if we believe, if we obey, and if we act. **SR**

Next Month: ***The Conditions of Discipleship***



Women's Society page by Katrina Goodrich  
[www.sdbwomen.org](http://www.sdbwomen.org)

## Servants to the Corps

The SCSC/Stained Glass 2013 teams have been put together! **Summer Christian Service Corps** (SCSC) and **Stained Glass** are programs sponsored by the SDB Women's Board dedicated to nurturing servant leadership in young adults and providing them with leadership training and a mission field (aka "project") to practice in.

Students are required to complete assignments designed to help them drive deeper into their faith and understand the roles of leadership that Christ has in store for them. Through assignments and a week-long training just prior to project, students are challenged to expand their knowledge and equipped with tools to help them be servant leaders during the summer and in life after project.

Following training, students are sent out to projects all over the United States. They will be camp counselors, VBS workers, evangelists, musicians, participate in community service and church services, etc. The students' last week of project will be served at General Conference where they will perform duties like helping the Host Committee to Children's Conference. (\*Reason no. 9 to attend Conference: Meet with SCSC/Stained Glass students and learn what God is doing through SDB young adults and the Women's Board!)

The Women's Board is pleased to announce that this year we have 14 SCSC and 6 Stained Glass students.

**(PD- Project Director, R- Rookie, V- Veteran)**

### ASHAWAY, RI

Lindsay Crouch (V- Bay Area, CA)  
 William Villalpando (R- Colton, CA)

### BATTLE CREEK, MI

Nathan Crowder (V- Boulder, CO)  
 Jennifer Brown (R- Ashaway, RI)

### BOULDER, CO

Caleb Gammons (V- Texarkana, AR)  
 Tacy Camenga (R- Milton, WI)

### COLTON, CA

Daniel Lovelace (V- Metro Atlanta, GA)  
 Karissa St. Clair (R- Milton, WI)

### NORTH LOUP, NE

Stephen Lawson (V- Colton, CA)  
 Danielle Hazelton (V- New Auburn, WI)

### SEATTLE, WA

Lauren Telford (V- Texarkana, AR)  
 Austin Lotts (R- New Auburn, WI)

### SHILOH, NJ

Logan LaGesse (V- New Auburn, WI)  
 Rebekah Hargett (R- Metro Atlanta, GA)

### **"Stained Glass"**

Gabriela Alonzo- SDB Christian Church, VA;  
 Cheyane Blevins and Alexandra Rudawski-  
 Milton, WI; Aaron Andries- Washington, D.C.;  
 Lance Greene- Dodge Center, MN; Tim Lawton-  
 Ashaway, RI, sound.

### **Training Staff**

Jane Mackintosh, Helen Goodrich, Andrew  
 Camenga, Wayne North, Linda Lawton,  
 Marian van Dalen-Anderson

In Ephesians 6:18-20, Paul exhorts us to pray for God's people and pray for His ambassadors presenting the Gospel. With any endeavor people seek to make in the name of Jesus, there needs to be an abundance of prayer and petition on its behalf.

What the Women's Board and summer students need from you is prayer. At its minimum, this will cost you a little bit of your prayer time. Ask God to bless all those involved with the program. Pray for protection and guidance. Pray early! Pray often! Pray every day! Pray for students, PD's, training staff, and people they will come into contact with!

I'm challenging you to look at this as more than a mere news release, but a call to prayer and a prayer list. **SR**



Colorado Springs, CO

July 28–Aug. 3, 2013



**The President's Page**  
by Ralph Mackintosh

## 7 Other Reasons to Follow HIS Footsteps to Colorado

Here are seven more compelling reasons you shouldn't miss this year's General Conference meetings in Colorado Springs.

**Reason #4:** While we listed in April's *Recorder* three nationally known speakers, the list doesn't stop there. Our keynote speakers will include contributions from Rev. Rob Watkins from Yucca Valley, California—a man of most unusual talents for the Lord (see Reason #7)—and a number of other talented and inspiring men of God, especially several of our own SDB pastors.

**Reason #5:** Seminars are being planned to emphasize teacher training, children's work, creative ministries, missions, and evangelism. Experienced teachers, noted experts and seasoned trainers will share insights and practical techniques that you can use in your local church.

**Reason #6:** Wednesday morning will see the inaugural GospelFeet 5k run/walk. This will be your chance to join the SDB Missionary Society in raising money for bicycles for the Congo churches by taking a little stroll in the morning. Attendees of all ages and abilities will enjoy the beautiful Colorado morning, getting in some exercise and making a difference in spreading the Gospel. I expect to see a large contingent of SDBs at this fun event.

**Reason #7:** In something that we will publicize to the Colorado Springs and university community, we will hear the Gospel shared in very unusual ways. On Wednesday, a number of Christian performers will present an evening program like nothing ever seen at a General Conference. David and Teesha Laffin are full-time illusionists engaged in Christian ministry throughout the country. David Cain bills himself as a "Juggler for Jesus" and holds numerous professional awards, as well as being listed in the Guinness Book of Records for his juggling feats. Outstanding ventriloquist Rev. Rob Watkins is lauded in the secular entertainment world as well as in the Christian community for his extraordinary talents. Our hope is that it will be an evening of evangelism to the community as well as an entertaining and uplifting event.

**Reason #8:** About 20 years ago a vision was rekindled to again have an SDB singing group from among our many talented young people. For nine years Stained Glass crisscrossed the nation singing in churches, inspiring our youth and ministering to communities. Conference week will be a reuniting of many of the original Stained Glass members from those early years. On Friday evening we

will hear from them again as they lead us in vespers and song. Don't forget that the new Stained Glass will be with us too, sharing their musical talents during the week and in a Saturday night concert.

**Reason #9:** If you haven't noticed by now, this year's General Conference is located in a gorgeous setting at the foot of the Rocky Mountains. The words of Psalms 121:1 will greet you every day as you gaze at the majesty of His towering creations. Colorado Springs is a sought-after vacation spot with amazing recreational opportunities and interesting sites to be explored. The resort hotels book months in advance to this popular region, so a better option is to take advantage of the campus housing and meal plan.

**Reason #10:** We are continuing to add new twists to standard activities as well as dream up additional new touches that may never be repeated. Come be surprised, inspired, and taught! Sing with us, worship with us, and fellowship with us! See something new, learn something new, and be renewed.

I promised you 10 reasons to come to Conference and you've now seen them. However, I hope when you go home from Conference 2013 you will have your own list of highlights. Most of all, I hope you will have encountered God, experienced Him a little deeper and moved Forward in HIS Footsteps. **SR**

# CONFERENCE is MING to LORADO

Your 2013 Conference Host Committee invites you to join us **July 28 – August 3** at the **University of Colorado, Colorado Springs**. President Ralph Mackintosh has planned an outstanding program.

Contact us at: [2013hostcommittee@seventhdaybaptist.org](mailto:2013hostcommittee@seventhdaybaptist.org) or call the SDB Church of Boulder @ **303-541-9097**. See our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/SdbGeneralConference2013InColoradoSprings](http://www.facebook.com/SdbGeneralConference2013InColoradoSprings).

## Host Committee Members

**Chair** – Pastor Steve Osborn  
**Assistant Chair** – Gretchen Zwiebel  
**Registrar** – Jan Graffius (After May 1,  
you may reach Jan at 304-641-7619  
or registrar@seventhdaybaptist.org)  
**Treasurer** – Cletus Severance  
**Facilities Coordinator** – Patrick Skaggs  
**Transportation** – Bert and Valerie Heath

**Nursery Coordinator** – Tabatha Pethtel  
**Medical Coordinator** – Dr. Adam Mackintosh  
**Publicity Coordinator** – Darwin Steele  
**Exhibits Coordinator** – Tom Muniz  
**Signage Coordinator** – Deb Skaggs  
**Receptions/Banquets** – Pat Williams  
**Stage Managers** – Michael and Sanja Looper  
**Youth Representative** – Michaella Osborn

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## Expected Conduct at General Conference

*This must be read, then noted on-line or at the end of the paper form on p. 16*

We desire to maintain our witness for Christ. Part of this witness is our ability to live as a community that recognizes the responsibility to think of others. One such responsibility is a demonstration of respect for those who need a good night's sleep. We also want to spare our people from social pressures that might encourage inappropriate activity.

1. Local rules of the school and facility are binding on all who attend Conference unless changed by the Host Committee or the General Council.
2. All socializing between males and females (except husband and wife) shall be limited to public areas, or personal rooms (except during quiet hours) in which the doors are completely open.
3. Quiet hours are from 12 midnight to 6 a.m. each night of Conference. During quiet hours no excessive noise will be permitted. No talking will be allowed in hallways, and no music (such as instrumental, vocal, or from a stereo) will be permitted except where used with personal

headphones. Quiet talking will be permitted in lounges, or in personal rooms with the doors closed (same gender only and spouses).

4. A Disciplinary Council shall be established before Conference convenes.
5. The Disciplinary Council shall meet at the call of the chairman to deal with infractions of these conduct guidelines. Discussion shall be confidential and shall include input from the person(s) involved.
  - A first offense of the rules will result in a written notice of warning. In the case of a youth being in violation, copies of the warning shall be delivered to both the youth and sponsor.
  - A second offense of the rules will require that a violator (and sponsor, if appropriate) meet with the Disciplinary Council to work out an agreement of what type of service or restitution would be an appropriate consequence for the violation. In the case of youth offenders, the sponsor will also monitor the service of the youth.

•A third offense is punishable by a fine of \$50. In the case of a youth offender who is unable to pay, the youth's sponsor will be responsible for the fine.

- If the offense warrants, the violator will be sent home at their own expense (or the sponsor's expense in the case of a youth).
6. All unmarried young people under 18 years of age will need to have their own parents, or a sponsor over 25 years of age, attend the Conference. **ALL YOUNG PEOPLE will be assigned to rooms on the same floor of the same dorm as their sponsors.**
  7. Parents or sponsors assume full responsibility for the conduct and discipline of the young people whose sponsorship they accept. Such responsibility does not extend to direct supervision when youth are engaged in a scheduled Conference activity.

**PLEASE SIGN this understanding** on the on-line form or on p. 16 of the paper form in this issue. **SR**

## 2013 CONFERENCE

July 28 – Aug. 3

Registration  
Instructions

Univ-CO/Colo. Springs  
1420 Austin Bluffs Pkwy  
Colorado Springs, CO 80918  
(719) 255-8227

Registrar Jan Graffius

(304) 641-7619

registrar@seventhdaybaptist.org

Send forms to: Boulder SDB Church  
6710 Arapahoe Rd  
Boulder CO 80303

### •ONLINE REGISTRATION ENDS JUNE 30! \*

Early **ONLINE Registration discount**: Register **online** by **June 30** & **SAVE \$2** per person/per day! You may pay now or upon arrival. (It's very helpful if you can pay early, either by mailing a check or using PayPal.) You may also pay by PayPal on campus. Just bring your sign-in information.

#### •On-Campus Registration

Follow the signs & come to the upper floor of **The Lodge**, using **Parking Lot L**, on Sunday, July 28, from 12 noon to late evening. If arriving after 11:00 pm, please call the Registrar ahead to make arrangements.

•**Registration** on Mon.-Fri. is 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. & after the evening service.

Look for us at a table outside the meeting hall, or in the Conference office in The Lodge; or call the Registrar.

#### •If you are coming just for

**Sabbath, Aug. 3**, please pre-register if you can. We will ask you to register on-site with a donation, so you will be covered by Conference insurance, and we can have an accurate count!

#### •About the Form ~ One family per form ~ One form per family

(1) Please list **all names** as you want them to appear on the official name tags, last name first. Ages must be given for those under 18, as well as last school grade completed as of June 2013. First-time Conference attendees, please identify yourself. There is **no charge** for children 0-3 years. However, **ALL NAMES must be listed** to ensure that everyone is covered by insurance. **(2a) & (2b) FULL WEEK RATES:** On Campus or Off Campus **(3a) & (3b) DAILY RATES:** On Campus or Off Campus We have **consolidated the costs into packages**. On-Campus packages **include** the registration fee. If choosing daily rates, please indicate days you will be attending.

•**Registration:** Everyone attending Conference (ages 4 & up), full- or part-

time, is required to pay the registration fee. It covers the use of college facilities, materials that are produced, and insurance on each individual at Conference activities.

•**Housing:** On-campus housing consists of all-suite dormitories; most have 2 rooms with 2 beds each, with a bathroom & small living area between; some suites have more beds. **Two children (ages 10 & under) are allowed to sleep on the floor at no charge in each suite** (6 persons total per suite). No dorms are air-conditioned; however, each room has a fan. (Average temperature is 56 at night, & 83 during the day, with little humidity!) **There are elevators in all of the dorms.**

•**Linens are included at no extra cost**, & will consist of towels, washcloths, pillow, sheets & comforter. (May be exchanged on Wed.) Remember to bring your own bedding for children on the floor.

•**Special Requests:** Please indicate if you need handicapped access; willing to be placed in a "higher tolerance" dorm; preference for who occupies the adjoining room; etc.

•**All unmarried young people under the age of 18**, if not attending with a parent, must have a sponsor over 25 years of age in attendance at Conference. Sponsor must be listed on the Registration form; young people will be assigned a room on the same floor of the same dorm as sponsor.

•**Room Keys:** There will be a **\$60 fee** for each lost room key!

•**A Recreation Center is available free of charge for those staying on campus!** It includes a fitness room, pool with slide & play area, & spa. Those NOT staying on campus must pay \$4/day to use the facility.

•**Meals:** Meal tickets for the entire week are a GREAT deal & include supper Sunday, July 28, through breakfast Sunday, August 4. "Lunch & Supper" meal tickets include supper on Sunday, July 28, through supper Sabbath, August 3. Children ages 3

& under are free. Individual meals may be purchased in the meal line at a much higher rate: Breakfast \$9.99; Lunch \$12.49; Supper \$14.99; children half price. There are some "snack bar" options on campus, as well as many restaurants nearby.

•**Parking:** We are required to pay for all parking on campus. However, those **STAYING ON CAMPUS** will receive one FREE pass per vehicle. If you are commuting, you will have to **BUY** a weekly pass, or daily passes. Also, one floor of the parking garage & certain lots have self-pay machines (cash or credit card) for shorter periods.

#### (4) & (5) Banquet Tickets

Please register for Banquets so we know how many to plan for. Prices are discounted with meal tickets. **Indicate if you prefer vegetarian.**

(6) **Off-campus Housing:** Please indicate a phone number (cell or other) where you can be reached.

(7) **Transportation:** Attendees will be picked up **in Colorado Springs only**. If you require transportation to or from airport, bus or train stations, please indicate arrival & departure times by pre-registering by **June 30**. **There is a PICK-UP FEE.** If flying into Denver, check with the shuttle companies for discounts for multiple travelers or children, & ask about being taken directly to the campus of UCCS.

•**NOTE: NO RV spaces are available on campus.** It's a good idea to make your reservations elsewhere immediately.

•**Nursery Services:** Provided one floor above the meeting hall throughout Conference week. Hours of operation will be posted. Parents using the nursery are asked to help for half a day some time during the week.

•**ALL ATTENDEES** should read & sign the Expected Conduct Statement on p. 13. Those registering online will mark a box indicating that they have read it & agree to abide by it. Young people under age 18 must make a copy of the completed Health Form (see BCE website) for their sponsors.

# 2013 SDB Conference Registration — Univ. of Colo./Colorado Springs, July 28 – Aug. 3

(1) NAME: LAST	FIRST	INIT. G	SEX	AGE	(Information for your name tag)	
					SDB CHURCH (or Organization representing)	CITY/STATE if different from below
Need more room? Use another sheet					Mark if your first Conference	
Child's School Grade completed					Phone ( )	

Address \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Spec. Requests (**Higher tolerance** dorm; \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Sponsor (All youth under 18) \_\_\_\_\_  
 roommate request)

**Fees:** Adults (Age 11 and over); Children (Ages 4-10); [Children, 3 and under, FREE—please list ALL names above]

(2a)	FULL WEEK RATES ON CAMPUS*	How many?	Rate	Amount	(2b)	FULL WEEK RATES OFF CAMPUS	How many?	Rate	Amount
------	-------------------------------	-----------	------	--------	------	-------------------------------	-----------	------	--------

**Parking on Campus:** Vehicles \_\_\_\_\_ x FREE \_\_\_\_\_  
 Vehicles \_\_\_\_\_ x \$35 = \_\_\_\_\_

•**Adults (age 11 and up)**  
 Room (bed), All Meals \_\_\_\_\_ x \$448 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Room (bed), Lunch/Supper only \_\_\_\_\_ x \$406 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Room (bed), No Meals \_\_\_\_\_ x \$329 = \_\_\_\_\_

•**Children (age 4-10)**  
 Room (bed), All Meals \_\_\_\_\_ x \$240 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Room (bed), Lunch/Supper only \_\_\_\_\_ x \$219 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Room (bed), No Meals \_\_\_\_\_ x \$172 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Room (floor), All Meals \_\_\_\_\_ x \$126 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Room (floor), Lunch/Supper only \_\_\_\_\_ x \$105 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Room (floor), No Meals \_\_\_\_\_ x \$63 = \_\_\_\_\_

•**Children (3 and under)** \_\_\_\_\_ x FREE \_\_\_\_\_  
**TOTAL (2a)** \_\_\_\_\_

\* (On-campus rates incl. registration) **TOTAL (2a)** \_\_\_\_\_

•**BANQUETS**  
 (4) Women's \_\_\_\_\_ x \$11.00 w/meal tkt \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20.00 w/out tkt  
 # of Vegetarian meals (4)  
 (5) Youth \_\_\_\_\_ x \$7.00 w/meal tkt \_\_\_\_\_ x \$17.00 w/out tkt  
 # of Vegetarian meals (5)

All attendees **MUST** be registered or listed!  
 Please read the "Expected Conduct" statement on page 13  
 and sign the statement at the bottom of the next page

[You may register on-line at [www.seventhdaybaptist.org](http://www.seventhdaybaptist.org)]

**(3a) PER DAY RATE ON CAMPUS \***

**(3b) PER DAY RATE OFF CAMPUS**

How many? # days Rate Amount

<b>Parking on Campus:</b> Vehicles _____ x _____ x _____ = _____	<b>Parking on Campus:</b> Vehicles _____ x _____ x _____ = _____
<b>•Adults (age 11 and up)</b> Room (bed), All Meals [Circle days: M T W Th F Sa] _____ x _____ x _____ = _____	<b>•Adults (age 11 and up)</b> Registration, All Meals [Circle days: M T W Th F Sa] _____ x _____ x _____ = _____
Room (bed), Lunch/Supper only [Circle days: M T W Th F Sa] _____ x _____ x _____ = _____	Registration, Lunch/Supper only [Circle days: M T W Th F Sa] _____ x _____ x _____ = _____
Room (bed), No Meals <b>•Children (age 4-10)</b> Room (bed), All Meals [Circle days: M T W Th F Sa] _____ x _____ x _____ = _____	Registration, No Meals <b>•Children (age 4-10)</b> Registration, All Meals [Circle days: M T W Th F Sa] _____ x _____ x _____ = _____
Room (bed), Lunch/Supper only [Circle days: M T W Th F Sa] _____ x _____ x _____ = _____	Registration, Lunch/Supper only [Circle days: M T W Th F Sa] _____ x _____ x _____ = _____
Room (bed), No Meals Room (floor), All Meals [Circle days: M T W Th F Sa] _____ x _____ x _____ = _____	Registration, No Meals [Circle days: M T W Th F Sa] _____ x _____ x _____ = _____
Room (floor), Lunch/Supper only [Circle days: M T W Th F Sa] _____ x _____ x _____ = _____	<b>•Children (3 and under)</b> _____ x _____ x _____ = _____
Room (floor), No Meals <b>•Children (3 and under)</b> _____ x _____ x _____ = _____	<b>TOTAL (3b)</b> _____

**TOTALS**

**Regis., Housing, Meals, etc =** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Less amount prepaid =** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Balance Due =** \_\_\_\_\_  
 Checks to: "SDB Host Committee"  
 Send form to: **Boulder SDB Church**  
**6710 Arapahoe Rd**  
**Boulder CO 80303**  
**(registrar@seventhdaybaptist.org)**  
 Jan Graffius (304) 641-7619

How many? # days Rate Amount

<b>Parking on Campus:</b> Vehicles _____ x _____ x _____ = _____	<b>Parking on Campus:</b> Vehicles _____ x _____ x _____ = _____
<b>•Adults (age 11 and up)</b> Room (bed), All Meals [Circle days: M T W Th F Sa] _____ x _____ x _____ = _____	<b>•Adults (age 11 and up)</b> Registration, All Meals [Circle days: M T W Th F Sa] _____ x _____ x _____ = _____
Room (bed), Lunch/Supper only [Circle days: M T W Th F Sa] _____ x _____ x _____ = _____	Registration, Lunch/Supper only [Circle days: M T W Th F Sa] _____ x _____ x _____ = _____
Room (bed), No Meals <b>•Children (age 4-10)</b> Room (bed), All Meals [Circle days: M T W Th F Sa] _____ x _____ x _____ = _____	Registration, No Meals <b>•Children (age 4-10)</b> Registration, All Meals [Circle days: M T W Th F Sa] _____ x _____ x _____ = _____
Room (bed), Lunch/Supper only [Circle days: M T W Th F Sa] _____ x _____ x _____ = _____	Registration, Lunch/Supper only [Circle days: M T W Th F Sa] _____ x _____ x _____ = _____
Room (bed), No Meals Room (floor), All Meals [Circle days: M T W Th F Sa] _____ x _____ x _____ = _____	Registration, No Meals [Circle days: M T W Th F Sa] _____ x _____ x _____ = _____
Room (floor), Lunch/Supper only [Circle days: M T W Th F Sa] _____ x _____ x _____ = _____	<b>•Children (3 and under)</b> _____ x _____ x _____ = _____
Room (floor), No Meals <b>•Children (3 and under)</b> _____ x _____ x _____ = _____	<b>TOTAL (3a)</b> _____

\*(On-campus rates incl. registration)  
**(6) If housing off-campus, Location:** \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
**(7) Transportation assistance needed between** \_\_\_\_\_ (air) \_\_\_\_\_ (train) \_\_\_\_\_ (bus) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Colo. Springs and the campus.  
 Arrive: Air # \_\_\_\_\_ Bus # \_\_\_\_\_ Train # \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_ time \_\_\_\_\_ (a.m.) \_\_\_\_\_ (p.m.) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Depart: Air # \_\_\_\_\_ Bus # \_\_\_\_\_ Train # \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_ time \_\_\_\_\_ (a.m.) \_\_\_\_\_ (p.m.) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Pick-up costs: One way \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20/person = \_\_\_\_\_ Round trip \_\_\_\_\_ x \$40/person = \_\_\_\_\_

**Expected Conduct document on p. 13**

I/we, the undersigned, have read and do understand the "Expected Conduct at General Conference."  
 Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parent \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Youth \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

As the parent of \_\_\_\_\_, I further agree that my child is legally responsible to the undersigned sponsor, and that said sponsor may also make any necessary decisions regarding medical services.  
 Parent \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Youth \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# 2013 YOUTH PRE-CON CAMP REGISTRATION

Forms, On-Line Registr., Driving Directions, Info:  
<http://EducatingChristians.org/PreCon>  
**Youth, ages 15 (or completed grade 9) – 18**  
**Camp Paul Hummel, Boulder, CO**  
4:00 p.m., July 24 – 1:00 p.m., July 28, 2013

**Cost: \$130.00 on or before June 30, 2013**  
**\$150.00 after June 30, 2013**  
(Register by deadline. Please pay on-line or at camp.)  
Send Pre-Con registration and medical form  
[but NOT Conference registration forms] to:  
**SDB Pre-Con, P.O. Box 115**  
**Alfred Station, NY 14803**  
**Fax: (866) 571-5879**

*Please Bring*—Bible, notebook, flashlight, sleeping bag,  
personal items, one-piece bathing suit, towel, jacket.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender:  Male /  Female Age (at Pre-Con end): \_\_\_\_\_  Planning to fly.\*

**\*If you are planning to fly, and expect transportation to the  
Pre-Con site, please follow the directions provided at  
<http://EducatingChristians.org/programs/precon>**

***Medical/Health form must be completed. Form is available for download  
from the BCE website, or at your request from 607-587-8527.***

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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# YOUNG ADULT PRE-CON RETREAT REGISTRATION

Forms, On-Line Registr., Driving Directions, Info:  
<http://EducatingChristians.org/PreCon>  
**Young Adults, ages 18-29**  
**University of Colorado, Colorado Springs**  
4:00 p.m., July 24 – 1:00 p.m., July 28, 2013  
**\*\* must be at least 18 to attend \*\***

**Cost: \$200.00 on or before June 30, 2013**  
**\$220.00 after June 30, 2013**  
(Register by deadline. Please pay on-line or at Retreat.)  
Send Pre-Con registration  
[but NOT Conference registration forms] to:  
**SDB Pre-Con, P.O. Box 115**  
**Alfred Station, NY 14803**  
**Fax: (866) 571-5879**

*Please Bring*—Bible, notebook, personal items, bathing  
suit, and jacket. **Linens** are provided.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender:  Male  Female Age (at Pre-Con end): \_\_\_\_\_  Planning to fly.\*

I have a medical condition requiring special care. I will bring the appropriate medications and will  
inform the staff of possible special needs.

**\*If you are planning to fly, and expect transportation to the  
Pre-Con site, please follow the directions provided at  
<http://EducatingChristians.org/programs/precon>**

*I will make certain that I am in good health before leaving for Pre-Con. I will not unnecessarily risk the wel-  
fare of others or myself. I agree to abide by the rules established by the college and director. I give permission  
to the SDB General Conference USA and Canada, Ltd., and its agencies for photographs and audio/video  
recordings of me to be used for news, publicity, and promotional purposes.*

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## The long journey to unity in Christ

*“The journey of a thousand miles begins beneath one’s feet.”*  
—Chinese Proverb

From our origins in England more than 350 years ago to the present, Seventh Day Baptists have grown from a small group of English dissenters to a world-wide movement which spans six continents. That expansion has led Seventh Day Baptists on a journey into the world’s wonderful diversity of cultures and ethnicities.

Our churches have been enriched by the broadening of our perspectives, as God prepares us for a day when representatives of every nation, tribe, people and language will worship the Lord Jesus in perfect unity. (See Revelation 7:9)

That journey has not been without its failures and successes. But happily, perhaps because of our own historical sense of being an underappreciated religious minority, Seventh Day Baptists have been ahead of many others on this journey, and our churches have been eager to extend fellowship to people regardless of their cultural orientations.

One reminder of this came recently, as we were asked for information about ethnically black members of the Friendship, N.Y., SDB Church. The Friendship church was organized in 1824. In the records of the church, we find some of the usual SDB names: Crandall, Green, and Ayars. But we also find a family with the name “Wigden”—Benjamin, Mary, and Benjamin Jr.

Benjamin Wigden was a former slave who fought in the Revolu-

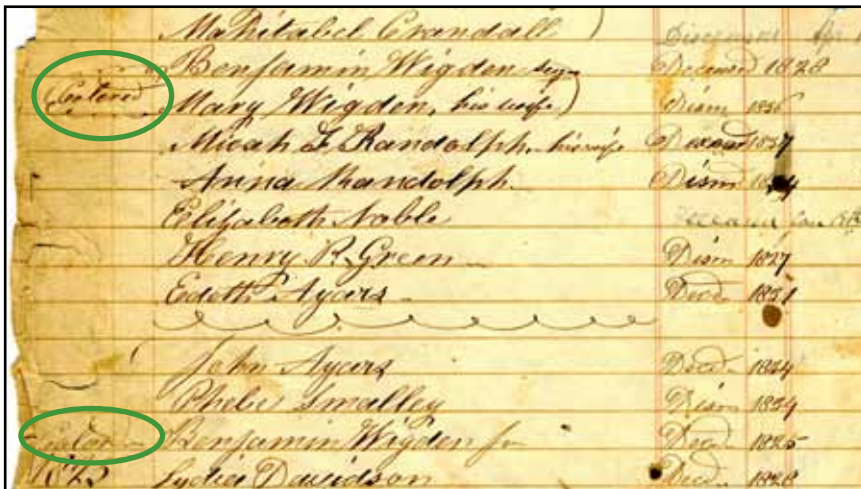
tionary War, and reached the rank of sergeant. The researcher who contacted us believed that Wigden, along with members of his family, migrated to the area and helped found the church after leaving New Jersey.

Interestingly, the Wigdens are listed intermingled with the other members, which was not a practice always done in church records of that time. In some Baptist records, the members are segregated. That the Friendship church’s records are not, 40 years before the Civil War, indicates something about where they were on their journey to unity in Christ.

Unfortunately, that is not the only hint to the location of the Friendship church in their journey. The Wigden family is separated out in the records a different way. Next to their names in the church records is affixed the word, “Colored.” The word is also highlighted by some flourishes from the pen of the clerk.

For whatever reason, the fact that the ethnicity of the Wigden family wasn’t the same as the other members of the church was made a part of the official records. For their time, the Friendship church appears to have been far down the road in their journey to the unity we will all realize finally in Christ. But even those who have traveled far down that road can travel farther, a lesson we would do well to apply to our own lives and churches.

We have come a long way since 1824, but not as far as we must ultimately go. **SR**



The SDB Church in Friendship, N.Y., designated some of its members as “Colored” in 1824.



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## FOCUS

on Missions

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# “Here I am” — An introduction

by Garfield Miller  
sdbmissions.org

“Dear Pastor Garfield Miller—Greetings in the name of our Lord, Jesus! I am writing with some good news. On behalf of the SDB Missionary Society Board of Managers, I would like to offer you the position as Missions Coordinator...”

I was being called to a more challenging service. “Here I Am,” a favorite song of mine by Morris Chapman, permeated my thoughts: **“Here I am and I long to do your will, Here I am I’ll follow your command, Here I am until my calling is fulfilled, Here I am, Here I am...”**

### Past Preparation –

I developed resilience and tenacity growing up in less than desirable circumstances as God’s mercies kept me. After getting married, my wife (Diane) and I pledged to start attending church. Truthfully I had no such intention, especially since the church of choice was a Sabbathkeeping church.

Miraculously though, after just one visit to Greater Portmore SDB, Jamaica, I was convicted of Christ and was baptized August 1999. A few years later, after working with an engineering company for 13 years, I was in the third year toward my engineering degree when God placed it upon Diane’s heart for me to leave engineering. I did and was labeled crazy. God called! Where to? I had no idea.

I then went to seminary and was installed as a pastor by the Jamaican Conference in 2008. I couldn’t believe it! From a sinner to a servant of Christ, I was delving into the Lord’s work while singing... **“Gladly will I bow down as your servant, Gladly will I wait for your command, I commit my trust to you for you deserve it, I delight within the guidance of your hand.”** Then this job offer came.

### Present Experience –

As I travelled to the states, I recalled that since becoming a Christian I have had an unquenchable fire to spread the Gospel and display the Lord’s power. I am presently in Rhode Island being trained by our Executive Director, Clint Brown. I recall feeling inadequate for the job, but God reminded me that it is *His* work and I am only a vessel. I whispered, “Use me Lord!”

So far, my limited exposure to our operations has left me with mixed feelings; more positives than



*Pastor Garfield Miller*

negatives. I am in awe of the rich heritage of Seventh Day Baptists, and our genuine love for each other. Of our major attributes, I am now convinced that second to our firm doctrinal foundation, is our fellowship. I am however, saddened about the closure of churches across the Conference in the last two decades, as well as those on the path to being closed. (If a church is not growing, it will eventually DIE.)

Amidst the concerns, because God is able I just cannot stop singing... **“For you have placed your Holy Word within me, Your Book of truth is living in my heart, Written on each page from the beginning, There’s a call for me to play my part.”**

### Future Vision –

In many countries of the world people are waiting to be ministered to and be saved. As the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society repositions itself, once again, to answer this call, strength must come from our individual Seventh Day Baptist churches. We must pray and stand ready to respond to God’s instructions to address our own needs, including re-evangelizing, as we launch out and beyond.

What a vision! I am on this journey that started from birth and I have come too far to listen to my fears of the unknown, too far not to know that I can do all things through the Almighty. **“Here I am and I long to do your will, Here I am I’ll follow you command, Here I am until my calling is fulfilled, Here I am, Here I am...”** *SR*



# the BEACON

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

May 2013

## Don't doubt doubt's duty

by Seth Osborn  
Boulder, Colo.

Doubting or questioning God seems to be a touchy subject among Christians. We just don't like to talk about it. And yet, in my experience at least, it seems to be a big part of having faith in Him.

If the Bible is any indication, I'm not alone. Many passages question God. In Psalm 88:13-14 the writer says, "But I cry to you for help, LORD; in the morning my prayer comes before you. Why, LORD, do you reject me and hide your face from me?"

The author of Psalm 73 questions why he—a faithful man—suffers, while wicked people seem to prosper. And the Psalms aren't the only places we see uncertainty in the Bible.

An angel came down to tell Gideon that God wanted him to lead the Israelites to victory over the Midianites. Gideon replied, "If now I have found favor in your eyes, give me a sign that it is really You talking to me." (Judges 6:17). Gideon came back with an offering, and the angel instructed him to put it on a rock. The angel then made fire come from the rock and consume the offering.

Still, Gideon wasn't sure. "Look, I will place a wool fleece on the threshing floor. If there is dew only on the fleece and all the ground is dry, then I will know that Israel will be saved by my hand, as You said." (Judges 6:37). When he woke up to

“

*God can use  
our doubt as a  
way to lead us  
to trust Him.*

”

find the fleece soaked in dew and the ground dry, he was still unsure. Next, he asked God to let the fleece be dry, but the ground covered in dew. Only after God had proven Himself to Gideon three times was he willing to lead the Israelites into battle.

When God promised that Abraham and Sarah would have a child, Abraham fell facedown, laughed, and wondered to himself, "Will a son be born to a man a hundred years old? Will Sarah bear a child at the age of ninety?" (Genesis 17:17). God responded by reassuring him that Sarah would in fact bear a son, and they would name him Isaac, which translates to "he laughs." Ouch.

A scarily similar story occurs in Luke, when an angel appears to Zechariah to tell him that his wife, Elizabeth, would give birth to a son who they would name John. In Luke 1:18, Zechariah asked the angel, "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man, and my wife is well along

in years." Because of his lack of faith, the angel caused Zechariah to be mute until the child was born and named John.

Doubt is a big part of faith. God is incomprehensible, and when He acts in a way we don't understand, we have to choose to either trust or doubt Him. In its own way, though, this doubt can be beneficial. When we doubt God, He can use our doubt as a way to lead us to trust Him.

When we doubt God, it means we have some sort of idea of what He is supposed to do or what He is supposed be like. Thus, when we doubt God, we actually doubt our own expectation of God. We doubt an *image* of God we have made to fit ourselves.

This doubt lets us examine how we think of God, and how we may be wrong. It also helps us to learn to trust God, and let Him take us where His plans need us. God uses doubt to take us out of our comfort zone, but then leads us to realize that this comfort was actually keeping us from growing closer to Him.

So next time you find yourself questioning God's methods, realize that this is God's way of helping us to trust Him more. We won't always understand what God is doing and why, but we can still trust that He knows best. **SR**

# SCSC, Veteran Style

by David Pottinger

For those of you who don't know, "SCSC" stands for Summer Christian Service Corps. Summer Christian Service Corps is a leadership program for SDB high school graduates and college-age students that is sponsored by the SDB Women's Society.

This program has been designed to develop spiritual growth, promote emotional stability, and support the growth of leaders in our denomination. It equips accepted students with skills needed to be a leader in any environment as well as a server to those in need.

Now that you know what SCSC is, you probably want to know who I am. My name is David Pottinger. I'm a member of the Southeast Atlanta SDB Church and I'm an SCSC veteran. I've participated in SCSC consecutively for five years, so you could say that I'm "well-seasoned."

Participating in SCSC was one of the best things that I could have done for myself. I look at my participation in the Corps as a long-term investment which has already begun to yield fruitful results in my life.

For each project that I was assigned to, I was placed in a completely new environment where I had to adjust to the norms and practices of people who were around me. At times this was difficult because I grew up as an only child who was always introverted.

In my mind each project seemed to produce ever-present shockwaves that caused me to lose my balance in "my world" that I thought I controlled. This instability, however, allowed me to see my vulnerabilities for what they were, and it gave me an opportunity to see God work in my life in a new way.

I know everyone has been there; that moment when your heart is in your throat and you say, "They want me to do what?! I'll pitch over before I even open my mouth!" That was me when I was asked to preach at the Seattle Area SDB Church during 2012 SCSC training.

I couldn't believe that I was asked to give a sermon! This was *entirely* out of my comfort zone and this request was presented to an individual who didn't even like to sit in front of a church. To be totally honest, I felt completely defeated the moment my project director asked me to take on the task. So I thought to myself, "Okay, I'll see what happens."



***"They want me to do what??!  
I don't even like to  
sit in front of a church."***

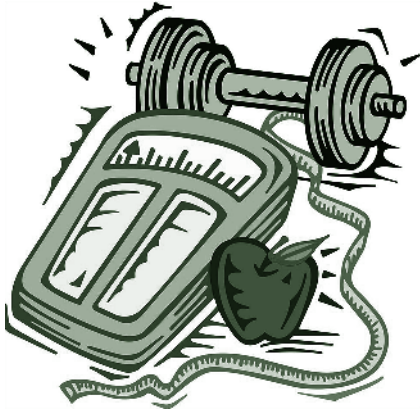
Let's fast forward to the week that my sermon was due. I began to gather my notes. As I prepped myself, I realized that God started showing me areas in my life that I needed to change. One area was my attitude towards individuals who were unkind or just plain-out abrasive to me.

Everyone in the work world can relate to this. As I paid more attention to this self-inspection process I saw that I had forgiven the people who had hurt me, but I still laughed at jokes that were made about them on the job. This was not Christ-like, and as a Christian, it was my responsibility to always be the salt in every situation.

So as I continued to prepare the sermon I realized God showed me an area in my life that I could use as a practical example on how to be Christ-like in the work world.

Just so you know, my sermon went well, and I was able to get over my fear of speaking for an extended period of time in front of large groups. One of my favorite Christian rappers, Andy Mineo, made a Facebook quote that I thought was quite profound. He said, "Pray for your enemies. Even if they never change, you will."

Displaying this kind of humility is what God requires of us in our everyday lives, and we should always remember to be the salt wherever we go. SCSC, Veteran Style. **SR**



## When can you start Palliative Care?

by Barb Green, Parish Nurse  
Milton, Wis.

Palliative care is comfort care given to a patient who has a serious or life-threatening disease, and is provided from the time of diagnosis and throughout the course of illness. A palliative care specialist will work with a team of health care professionals such as doctors, nurses, dietitians, pharmacists and social workers.

This should not be confused with hospice. Palliative care is offered earlier in the disease process and is given along with treatment for the disease. The goal is to maintain the best possible quality of life. (Hospice care is a form of palliative care that is given when therapies are no longer controlling the disease and the diagnosis is terminal.)

Palliative care focuses on relieving the symptoms, pain and stress of serious illness and is widely available. About two-thirds of hospitals with 50 or more beds offer these services.

Patients who get this type of care may not only enjoy improved quality of life but may even live longer than those who do not get these services. Medicare or private health insurance usually covers the cost.

Many physicians may be unfamiliar with palliative care or fail to recommend it because they equate it with hospice or end-of-life care. This

is not true. You can receive palliative care along with treatment. You don't have to be dying to get it; anyone with a serious illness is eligible.

This team-based approach works with your family and doctors to coordinate treatment, provide services that ease suffering, and offer counseling. These services address:

- Physical concerns: pain, fatigue, loss of appetite, nausea, shortness of breath, insomnia
- Emotional and  coping concerns: depression, anxiety and fear
- Practical concerns: financial, insurance questions, completion of advance directives
- Spiritual concerns: struggles with doubt and values, and finding peace and acceptance

If your doctor doesn't suggest palliative care, ask about it. He or she should be able to offer a referral. Usually these services are administered through a hospital, hospice program or independent agency.

To get the most from palliative care, talk to the program coordinator about what your loved one needs most. Is it relief from pain, nausea or other symptoms? Help managing side effects of drugs or the stress of illness? Guidance about treatment options?


Making the transition from curative treatment to end-of-life care is a key part of palliative care. The

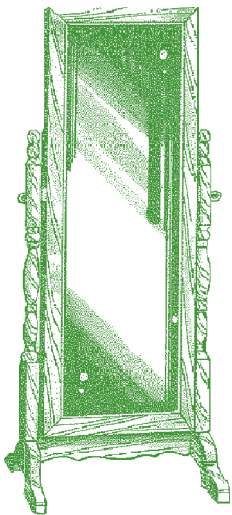
team helps patients and their families prepare for physical changes that may occur near the end of life and for emotional issues that arise about leaving loved ones behind. The team also helps families decide when to withdraw treatment, when to transition to hospice care and when to seek grief counseling.

Research shows that palliative care and its many components are beneficial to patient and family health and well-being. Patients whose symptoms are controlled and who are able to communicate their emotional needs have a better experience with their medical care. Their quality of life and physical symptoms improve. They also have lower hospital costs than those who don't have this type of service.

The palliative care team helps determine treatment priorities and helps patients avoid unnecessary tests and procedures. One study found that those who receive palliative care spend \$6,900 less per hospital admission than those who have aggressive treatment.

Palliative care is a relatively new addition to medical treatment. If given the choice, most of us would choose quality of life over quantity. No one wants repeated hospitalizations that really don't solve the underlying problem.

As you make decisions concerning your own health or that of a loved one, remember to make palliative care one of your options. 



# Reflections

by Leanne Lippincott-Wuerthele

*"Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror;  
then we shall see face to face."—1 Cor. 13:12*

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## Epitaph epilogue

In last month's column, I shared some actual tombstone epitaphs. Here are a few more.

This poetic epitaph appears on an 1880s-era grave in Nantucket, Mass.: "Under the sod and under the trees, lies the body of Jonathan Pease. He is not here, there's only the pod. Pease shelled out and went to God."

Auctioneer Jedediah Goodwin was born in 1828 and died in 1876. His tombstone reads, "Going! Going!! Gone!!!"

American television host Merv Griffin died in 2007 at age 82. His epitaph reads, "I will NOT be right back after this message."

Mel Blanc, the voice of such Looney Tunes characters as Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck, and Porky Pig, is buried in Hollywood Forever Cemetery. His tombstone reads, "Mel Blanc, Man of 1,000 voices—Beloved husband and father, 1908-1989." Also engraved are the words, "That's All Folks."

For a hanged sheep rustler buried in Larne, Ireland: "Here lies the body of Thomas Kemp, who lived by wool and died by hemp."

A gravestone in Woodville, England, reads, "The dust of Melantha Gribbling, swept up at last by the Great Housekeeper."

Seen on a dentist's grave in Edinburgh, Scotland: "Stranger tread this ground with gravity. Dentist Brown is filling his last cavity."

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*TV host  
Merv Griffin's  
epitaph reads:  
'I will NOT be right  
back after  
this message.'*

”

A coalminer's grave has this succinct inscription: "Gone Underground for Good."

Here's another brief but informative epitaph: "Here lies the body of good old Fred... a great big rock fell on his head."

This appears on a gravedigger's tombstone: "Hooray my brave boys, let's rejoice at his fall. For if he had lived, he would have buried us all."

Revivalist Leonard Ravenhill (1907-1994) was born in Yorkshire, England, but is buried in Garden Valley, Texas. The phrase, "Carried by Angels," appears at the top of his marker. Underneath Rev. Ravenhill's name are these thought-provoking words: "Are the things you are living for worth Christ dying for?"

Captain Thomas Coffin, a fisherman, died in 1842 at age 50. His epitaph in New Shoreham, R.I., reads, "He's done a-catching cod and gone to meet his God."

American singer Rick James, who died in 2004 at age 56, had many ups and downs during his life, including prison time and battling drugs. His tombstone at the Forest Lawn

Cemetery in Buffalo, N.Y., reads: "I've had it all, I've done it all, I've seen it all, it's all about love... God Is Love."

The headstone of Dr. Joseph Rudolph (1917-2003) reads, "Beloved husband, father, grandfather, beloved physician, teacher, friend. A man who practiced chesed [a Hebrew word commonly translated as loving kindness] and loved his fellow men. Goodnight Sweet Prince."

Singer Johnny Cash and his wife, June Carter Cash, died within four months of each other in 2003. John's tombstone is engraved with Psalm 19:14: "Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength and my redeemer." June's tombstone quotes Psalm 103:1: "Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me. Bless His holy name."

A tombstone that brings tears to my eyes displays two pictures—an oval-shaped photo of a little girl and another photo with her older brother's arm resting on her right shoulder. The epitaph reads, "Leeanne Tia Niello, May 21, 1998 – Jan. 20, 2003. And Jesus said, 'I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise' Luke 23:43."

That marker also has this statement engraved on it: "Jesus will take care of me, and he will take care of you, too." Those bittersweet words are followed by Leanne's actual signature, written by that little girl who died a few months short of her 5th birthday.

Will *your* epitaph be as inspiring? **SR**



# SDB PASTOR'S RETIREMENT FUND

## SUPPORTING THOSE WHO GAVE SO MUCH

*The Retirement Fund provides monthly support to retired SDB pastors or their widows. The following provides some background on Pastor John and Joyce Conrod.*

John Conrod was born in Chicago, Ill., in 1940. He accepted Christ at church camp and decided he wanted to be a missionary—inspired by Elisabeth Elliot's book *Through Gates of Splendor* recounting her husband's diary entry, "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."

John worked at the Chicago Rescue Mission while in his teens. While at Northern Baptist Seminary he served the Chicago SDB church (part-time) 1957-59. He graduated with a BA in business in 1961 from Seattle Pacific University, where he met Joyce. They married in 1961 and had two children, Michael and Philip.

John and Joyce wanted to be more involved in church ministry so they accepted a call to serve at the Kansas City SDB Church 1963-64 (part-time). John obtained his M.Div. from Eastern Baptist Seminary in 1969. He completed his SDB Summer Institutes during that time.

He served as student pastor at the Washington, D.C., SDB Church (1964-65), and the Salemville, Pa., SDB church (1965-66), and then full-time at the Marlboro, N.J., SDB Church (1966-69) where he was ordained. They accepted a missionary call for a minister and accountant to serve in Malawi, Africa from 1969-72.

John studied linguistics at the University of PA and then both attended the Washington School of Missions before leaving for the mission field. While in Malawi, John

wrote a series of *Sabbath Recorder* articles about their work, and translated a tract "It is Your Decision" that he wrote in 1964. Joyce home-schooled their children, wrote Malawian Youth lessons for one quarter, and several articles about her experiences.

John was appointed Field Pastor of the Pacific Coast Association, serving 1972-74. He then accepted the Denver SDB Church call to serve full-time 1974-76. Joyce enjoyed teaching at camp, Vacation Bible School, Sabbath school and giving children sermons.

After serving in Denver, John worked full-time and part-time in various accounting positions for secular and Christian organizations. He wrote the tract "I Have a Hole in my Heart" in 1976, edited a revision of "You and Your Church," and wrote various lessons for *The Helping Hand*. John and Joyce wrote the Week of Prayer booklet for the World Federation in 1982. They became SDB Missionary Society ambassadors to promote the Society's work in 1982.

After John's Multiple Sclerosis confined him to a wheelchair, he together with Joyce wrote two computer Bible game books (1983-84). They volunteered on the Colorado Disabilities Community internet bulletin board. In 1995 the Mid-Continent Assn. of SDBs sponsored the Conrods' "New Covenant Ministries" evangelism on the internet. He became a cyber-scribe for the Savior with extensive Internet sites for Seventh Day Baptists. John had a mailing list of about 300 persons at the time of his death in 2005.

John felt, "This could be the very reason I have MS as I do not like



*John and Joyce Conrod*

being this limited physically, and the Lord knew this would be the only way I could serve him in this unique way." Joyce did the graphics for all the websites and set up the accessible computer equipment for John.

Joyce cared for John and her invalid father for many years, and then her mother until her death in 2012. She worked with her son Mike in electronic repair business for several years. She has four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Joyce now lives in Wheat Ridge, Colo., and does volunteer visitation at a nearby Baptist Nursing home. She participates in as many of her retirement community activities as her health permits. **SR**

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*Your generous gifts can help support those who gave so much. Please make your check out to COSAR, with "Pastor's Retirement Fund" in the memo line. PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547. Or we can arrange a monthly automatic gift. Contact the SDB Center at 608-752-5055.*



## Births

**Ryschon.**—A son, Holden Levi, was born to Jordan and Kristan Ryschon of North Loup, NE on February 14, 2013.

**Baker.**—A daughter, Madison Rae, was born to Ben and Nicole (Musselman) Baker of New Enterprise, PA on March 18, 2013.

**Clark.**—A daughter, Aria Isolda, was born to Brett and Liana (Stillman) Clark of Boston, MA on March 26, 2013.

**Harris.**—A son, John Franklin, was born to Josh and Margot (Walker) Harris of Janesville, WI on April 17, 2013.

## New members

**Metro Atlanta, GA**  
*John Pethtel, pastor*  
Joined after testimony  
Marie Bullmer  
Linda Waters

**Texarkana, AR**  
*Mynor Soper, pastor*  
Joined after testimony  
Jerry Littles

## Obituaries

**Day.**— Fern Day, 91, entered into her Lord's arms December 6, 2012 in Wheat Ridge, Colo. She was born in Baca County, Colo.

Fern was preceded in death by her husband of 54 years, Lee, for whom she was also caretaker for 33 years. She lovingly sheltered and cared for her various family members throughout her life. She was a member of the Denver (now Next Step) Seventh Day Baptist Church.

She is survived by her daughter Joyce Conrod of Wheat Ridge and her son Larry Day, of Missouri; sisters, Mary Springer and Alice May Hirt; seven grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren.

**Shaw.**— Edwin "Ed" E. Shaw, 83, of Milton, Wis., left this world to be with our Lord and Savior, at the Edgerton (Wis.) Care Center on March 7, 2013. Ed was born on March 10, 1929 in Janesville, Wis., the son of Elston and Emma (Maxson) Shaw.

He graduated from Milton Union High School in 1947 and from Milton College in 1956. Ed served in the Army during the Korean Conflict from 1951-1953, and married Martha

A. McCumber on October 13, 1951. He worked at General Motors in Janesville, at the Beloit Corp, in Beloit, Wis., and the Sharon (Wis.) Foundry, retiring in 1994. He was a life-long member of the Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church.

Ed sang for several years with the Chordhawks of Janesville and the Blue Notes of Milton, along with a barbershop quartet, The Forte Four. He was active in the Boy Scouts and Explorers of America for many years.

He is survived by his wife, Martha; his three children: Dennis Shaw, Dawn Scoville, and Teresa Kersten; eight grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren; a brother-in-law, William McCumber; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and step-mother, Dorothy (Maxson) Shaw; two brothers-in-law, Raymond and Robert McCumber; a sister-in-law, Corrine McCumber; and several aunts and uncles.

Funeral services were held on March 11, 2013 at the Seventh Day Baptist Church, Milton, with Pastor George Calhoun officiating. Burial with full military rites was in the Milton Cemetery.

**Wethington.**— Rev. Bernie E. Wethington, 64, beloved pastor of the White Cloud, Mich., SDB Church passed away on March 19, 2013 at his home following his battle with cancer. Pastor Bernie was born on December 28, 1948 in Durham, N.C., to Laurie and Margie (Elliott) Wethington. He joined the U.S.



**"Pastor Bernie" Wethington**  
1948 – 2013

Marine Corps and served during the Vietnam era. Bernie married Patti Marie Gill on June 22, 1974 in Long Beach, Calif.

He started his ministry with

*cont. next page*

Campus Crusade for Christ in California, and later became an ordained minister in 1978. He pastored for several years in the San Diego area until moving to White Cloud in 1995 to become pastor of the Seventh Day Baptist church there. Bernie also helped found the White Cloud Teen Center, "A positive place for teens." He enjoyed reading, learning new trivia and history, and was well known for finding the positive in any situation.

Pastor Bernie truly had a passion for connecting with people and for building relationships. He had

## Death Notices

**Ralph H. Weber**, 84, of Lafayette, LA, passed away on February 14, 2013.

**Lois K. Fletcher**, 80, of New Enterprise, PA, died on April 1, 2013.

a great love of God and would often say, "I am too blessed to be stressed." His unconditional love of Christ, which he kept close his entire life, truly meant to him: "God Wins."

Surviving are his wife, Patti, of Big Rapids; son Sean of Big Rapids, and daughters Leanna of Fremont, Mich., and Jenna Killingbeck of Reed City, Mich.; a grandson, Barrett; his mother, Margie Worley of Big Rapids; a brother, Michael Wethington of Montgomery, Ala.; a step-sister, Linda Bearden of Greenville, S.C.; father-in-law Robert Gill of White Cloud; and four nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was held on March 25, 2013 at the White Cloud United Methodist Church with Pastor Nate Crandall officiating. Burial was in the White Cloud Cemetery.

**Young.**— Maurice M. Young Sr., 89, of Westerly, R.I., passed away on March 20, 2013, at home with his family at his side. He was the son of the late Frederic C. and Katherine L. Young. Maurice attended Westerly High

School before enlisting and training at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London, Conn. Serving in World War II, and while stationed in Wildwood, N.J., Maurice married the love of his life, Georgia Bramble, on September 8, 1944.

Maurice worked for 44 years at The Westerly Sun newspaper and another 20 at his retirement job at McQuade's Marketplace. Maurice was very active all his life in both Hopkinton and Westerly, giving of his time, talent and treasure. Maurice strived to serve the public's best interest politically, professionally and educationally in whatever he endeavored.

Maurice and Georgia were lifelong members of the Pawcatuck Seventh Day Baptist Church, where Maurice served as an ordained deacon for 66 years. He sang in the Sea Notes and most loved the barbershop quartet that performed around the community. You could always find Maurice singing a tune or grabbing a coffee and donut at a local shop. He loved God, people, his family, his life, and the living of it.

The great passion of his life was mentoring young people. He enjoyed his job at McQuade's most of all because it was there that he had the opportunity to mold young men's hearts.

Survivors include his wife Georgia; three children, Eileen Strawderman, of Hamilton, N.J., Maurice Young Jr., of Central Village, Conn., and Janet Russo, of Westerly; with seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

A celebration of Maurice's life will be held on May 5, 2013 at the Pawcatuck SDB Church in Westerly. Private burial will be in Hopkinton, R.I. **SR**

## Marriages

**Page – Stillman.** Jason Paul Page and Christine Catharine Stillman were united in marriage on December 29, 2012 in Missouri City, TX.

**Killingbeck – Wethington.** Caleb Justus Killingbeck and Jenna Lynn Wethington were united in marriage on February

24, 2013 at the White Cloud, MI, SDB Church. Rev. Bernie Wethington, father of the bride, officiated.

**Diederich – Stillman.** James Diederich and Danielle Miriam Stillman were united in marriage on April 6, 2013 in New Orleans, LA.

# KEVIN'S

## ORNER

### Of rings and reminders

Reminders.

*“Remember the Sabbath Day by keeping it holy.” (Exod. 20:8)*

*“What do these stones mean?” (Joshua 4:6)*

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

On our way to Hawaii this past February I noticed a small advertisement in the airplane magazine. It featured some beautiful rings that were made and sold in Hawaii.

The ad said that the designer uses koa wood (native to the 50<sup>th</sup> state) and places it in a titanium setting. The wood against the silver tone looked striking. Some of the rings also had inlays of colorful Australian opal along with the wood.

Having once visited Australia, this piqued my curiosity, but I eventually set aside the magazine to do some other reading (or napping).

A few days later, while on a short flight between islands, I saw the same ad. This time I copied down the address. There was my reminder.

Following a fun day of touristy stuff, we arrived at the jewelry store in the late afternoon. I asked the congenial young man behind the counter about those koa wood rings. Chad knew just what

and where they were. It turns out that he was the store owner.

When I saw the rings with the fancier stones, I felt a bit put off by the busyness of the design—and the price was certainly a deterrent. But the ones with the simple wooden band still intrigued me. I guess I was in the market for a special souvenir.

After several fittings, we finally settled on my finger size (I haven't worn a ring on my right hand in years) and discovered that there was one of those “plain” rings in stock. I tried it on. I liked how it looked. Then Chad added some information that sealed the deal for me.

“These rings are made one at a time here in Hawaii. Other stores offer similar ones, but they're cranked out every night by dozens of Asian workers somewhere else. This one was handmade by an aerospace machinist.”

So the ring on my finger would not only be a memory of our vacation, but also of my father, who was a retired aerospace engineer. He passed away last July.

It is a daily reminder of our great vacation together, of the state of Hawaii, of my Dad, and of God's goodness in granting the desires of our hearts and allowing Janet's dream getaway to come true.

After I'm gone and when the kids go through my stuff, will they remember the story of the ring?

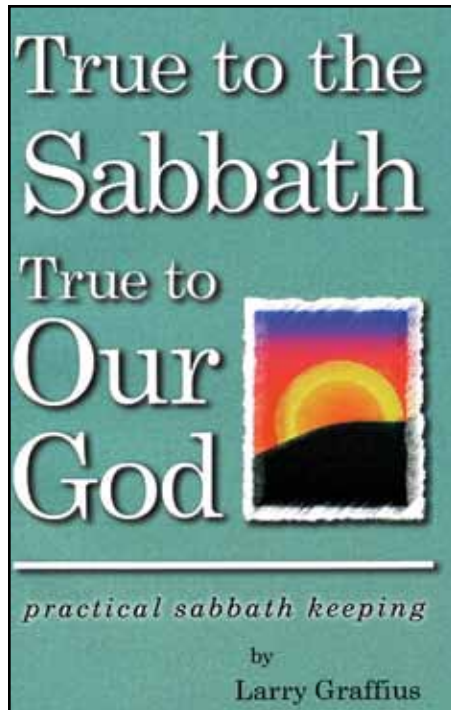
Do we remember the markers God sets out for us? Every week, the Lord provides a *special reminder* of His creation, His provision, His liberating freedom and His rest. As we remember each Sabbath and keep it holy, He is faithful in granting us a time of communion and renewal.

May you be blessed this Sabbath, and may His presence be as familiar as the back of your hand.



*A special “tiger stripe” ring made of Hawaiian koa wood.*





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for believers?**

**What does it mean to  
keep the Sabbath  
Holy?**

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